

Small Business Stories



The **Iowa** Center



Small business gives back.

BLK & BOLD, Des Moines

Pernell Cezar & Rod Johnson founded BLK & Bold Specialty Beverages bonded by years of friendship, a mutual love of coffee and tea, and a desire to invest in community. They started roasting coffee beans in a contract space and came to The Iowa Center for support scaling their small business. BLK & Bold has secured distribution deals with Amazon, Target, and Whole Foods, and their product is available on the shelves of Price Chopper and Hy-Vee stores. BLK & Bold pledges 5% of its proceeds to non-profit organizations all across the country, including the By Degrees Foundation in Des Moines.