

San Francisco Small Business Week Kicks Off for 2015

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (5/19)- Bay Area residents gathered at City View for a gala for San Francisco Small Business Week 2015. According to its website, "The Gala kick-off to San Francisco Small Business Week will once again bring together more than 1,200 Small Business Owners and Community members to celebrate Small Business in San Francisco. Attendees will mingle with Small Business Owners, connect with 70 Small Business resources and enjoy libations and tasty bites from San Francisco culinary entrepreneurs. This event has sold out for the last three years! ..."

Furthermore, "Come celebrate small business and the Champions who support their success! Join the San Francisco Economic Development Alliance (SFEDA), San Francisco Council of District Merchants Association (SFCDMA), San Francisco African-American Chamber of Commerce (SFAACC) and more who work everyday to support Small Business and build community. Mingle with small business merchants, merchant associations, chambers, small business development organizations and micro-businesses who make San Francisco a great place to do business! Come learn about the individuals and organizations championing small business in San Francisco, meet other small business leaders and champions and celebrate Small Business in San Francisco!"

Sherrita Valentine of Hayward, California said, "It's a great networking event, more than anything else. It's also a good social event which opens up different networking possibilities and opportunities..." Michelle Virzi of Oakland, California said of the event, "It's a great way to stay involved and interact with the pulse of the community and to see what people are doing. We work hard and we also deserve to have some fun!"

For some like, Joanna Terry of Souperb from Emeryville, attended the event, "to introduce our extraordinarily good soups!" According to their website, "Souperb handcrafts vegetarian, vegan, and gluten free gourmet soups with a perfect balance of flavors. We are committed to using all natural and honest ingredients in our nourishing, small batch soups. Just heat and serve up our blend of deliciousness and nutrients for an easy lunch or dinner...."

See: <http://www.naturallysouperb.com>

Kate Larson of Capital Access Group said, "It's a great event if only to connect with the small business community..." Cara Rudy chimed in, "It's all about small local businesses..." According to their website, "We have been assisting businesses in meeting their real estate financing needs for nearly 30 years. Experience, responsiveness, and dynamic leadership are just some of the special talents that our team brings to every transaction...."

See: <http://www.capitalaccess.com>

Brigette R. LeBlanc, MTA, Small Business Week Committee Member representing the San Francisco African American Chamber of Commerce (SFAACC) said, "The organization has been on the committee for close to five years. This is a great opportunity for our members to stay engaged. It is also good to remind San Francisco that we are still a vital business organization in San Francisco...." According to their website, "The San Francisco African American Chamber of Commerce (SFAACC) is one of California's most influential minority business organizations, representing and promoting African American business owners in San Francisco. Through advocacy and economic development, SFAACC is creating a firm economic base that supports the self-determination and survival of African American businesses. SFAACC is a non-profit 501c6 corporation...."

See: <http://www.sfaacc.org>

Marie Haller of Impact Hub SF from San Francisco said, "I think it's always important to connect with the small business community. Events like this are essential in providing a venue for the resources and services that are available. We have a lot of small food businesses here. Overall, it's a great way to bring people together..." Their website touts, "Impact Hub San Francisco is a coworking & events space for a membership community of entrepreneurs, activists, creatives, and professionals taking action to drive positive social and environmental change...."

See: <http://sanfrancisco.impacthub.net>

Hint Water representatives echoed many of those sentiments saying, "It's important to support the community. We're a San Francisco-based company, and it's important to support fellow San Francisco-based companies..." On their website, the business touts, "We love our tasty water that's 100% natural goodness. Hint water is water, just more delicious. Hint water and Hint Fizz have 0 sugar, 0 diet sweeteners, 0 stevia, 0 preservatives, 0 calories, and 0 gms. We promote a policy of 0 fake (and we're super proud of it!). Hint is pure wholesome water with nothing but natural fruit oils and essences – now there's a Hintcentive you can happily drink to!"

See: <http://www.drinkhint.com/>

Amanda Burman of First Crush SF from San Francisco said, "As a business owner it's always important to see what is going on in the community, to keep up with the pulse of the community and the industry, and to see whom to conduct business with. Events like this are great. There are some people I would have never met without the Small Business Week..." According to their website, "Our philosophy is simple: to offer hand-crafted, quality food with fresh, local ingredients complemented with a premium, boutique all-California wine list – all served affordably with professional service in a charming, lively environment...."

See: <http://www.firstcrush.com>

Calvin Louie working with Utopia Cafe, San Francisco said of the event, "It's a big group! There are a lot of businesses participating in this week's events. There is a large demand for events like this. Unfortunately there is often not enough food for everyone...." According to their website, "In the heart of Chinatown, smack in the middle between Clay Street and Washington, is the Utopia Cafe! Get a full meal, most for less than ten dollars, at the best traditional Chinese joint the Bay Area has to offer. Join us in our comfortable, intimate dining area for clay pot platters, fried rice, Cantonese dishes, pot stickers, chow mein, classic porridge bowls, and a full line of desserts and tapioca drinks! Our prices are absolutely unbeatable for the quality and freshness of our ingredients, and the speed and consideration of our service. Even if you don't have time to sit down with us, get your order to-go, or order dinner online for our always-for-free delivery. Xiǎngshòu!"

See: <http://www.utopiacafoesf.com>

Britney Tomsula of San Francisco said of the event, "I think it's definitely important to hold events like this. A lot of people have a lot more consciousness of the causes and groups here than I would have expected. People are coming outside of San Francisco in order to come to this event. That is amazing!!"

Professional organizer Judith D. of San Francisco said of the event, "I think it's already a great event. It's a wonderful way to make good contacts for more opportunities and connections who can help each other in the future. It's a big networking event. It looks like there are going to be a lot of opportunities for people..."

Bayard Fong, Office of the City Administrator for San Francisco said, "It's very important to have events like this, since they help the community as a whole. What's good for small business is good for the community as a whole/ Also events like this are important in building bridges and ties with current and future groups. It's good for community growth, it's good for economic growth, it's good for future growth!" According to their website, "The Contract Monitoring Division (CMD) implements and enforces the Chapter 12B Equal Benefits Ordinance, the Chapter 14B Local Business Enterprise Ordinance and the Chapter 14C Benefit Corporation Discounts Ordinance adopted by the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to protect the public interest in equality throughout the City & County of San Francisco's governmental contracting process. In order to provide the highest level of public service, the CMD is committed to providing expert assistance to businesses and City departments to ensure this mandate is accomplished fairly, effectively and efficiently..."

See: <http://www.sfgsa.org/index.aspx?page=6058>

According to its website, "San Francisco Small Business Week (SF SBW) is a partnership that honors and supports San Francisco's small businesses through a series of educational and networking events that inspire, educate and connect the

business community. SF SBW is part of a national celebration of the contribution of small businesses and entrepreneurs. San Francisco takes great pride in being the home to over 75,000 small and new startup businesses. The 10th annual SF SBW, is presented by Bank of America, and produced in partnership with the Small Business Administration, The San Francisco Mayor's Office, Small Business Commission, San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, BizTechDay and the Golden Gate Business Association...."

See: <http://www.sfsmallbusinessweek.com>

- Jose Ricardo G. Bondoc

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