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The California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA) supports economic growth and innovation statewide. CalOSBA's core mission is to provide resources to all California small businesses, disabled veteran business enterprises (SB/DVBEs), minority and women-owned businesses, and those individuals who own and operate businesses located in low-wealth, rural and disaster-impacted communities.

CalOSBA supports outreach and engagement efforts through advocacy, sharing resources, and building resilience through programs and our Technical Assistance Network that supports growth and business sustainability.

This month's newsletter highlights the ecosystem and CalOSBA's efforts to serve California businesses statewide.

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[**Governor Newsom Proclaims May Small Business Month**](#)



On May 1st, Governor Gavin Newsom issued a proclamation declaring May 2023, as “Small Business Month” in the State of California.

[View the Governor’s Proclamation here.](#)

CalOSBA Celebrates Small Business Month 2023

Throughout May, CalOSBA is celebrating the entire small business community of entrepreneurs, startups, hardworking small business owners, technical assistance partners, and more! Director Gray, and additional CalOSBA staff, are traveling throughout the state to meet with and honor local businesses.

Schedule of Events

Check out the schedule of events the office is attending during Small Business Month below. We hope to see you there!

May 1st - 2023 Stockton Small Business Week



Time: 9:30 a.m. - Noon

Location: Stockton City Hall, 425 N. El Dorado St., Stockton, CA, 95202

The City of Stockton and local business service organizations join the national effort to celebrate and support America's small businesses through the 2023 Stockton Small Business Week. The event kicked off with Director Tara Lynn Gray and other officials attending the ribbon cutting on May 1st.



The entire 2023 Stockton Small Business Week event will last until May 6th! To learn more about the event, [click here](#).

May 3rd - PitchFest Live Pitch Finals at the 2023 Showcase Sonoma County Business Expo



Time: 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Location: Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, 50 Mark West Springs Rd., Santa Rosa, CA, 95403

Like the popular show "Shark Tank," this event provides a platform for local startups and entrepreneurs to pitch their ideas and businesses live to a panel of judges and an audience of potential investors, customers, and supporters.

[Learn more](#)

May 4th - Caravanserai Project SEED 2.0 Graduation



Time: 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Location: Annenberg Theater, Palm Springs Art Museum, 101 North Museum Dr., Palm Springs, CA, 92262

The SEED Lab Pre-Accelerator culminates in an exciting pitch competition and graduation of its 5th cohort of mission-driven entrepreneurs. This event will showcase the work of this inspiring group of change-makers who spent the past eight months advancing their for-profit and non-profit mission-driven ventures. Join us and vote for the audience favorite. [Get your free ticket to attend here.](#)

May 6th - Grand Re-opening of Coastside Bakery



Time: 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Location: 127 Main Street, Half Moon Bay, CA, 94019

Coastside Bakery has been in business for decades. On May 6th, CalOSBA will celebrate the business's grand re-opening under new owners, Salomon and Carmela Silva, who have worked as employees of the bakery for the past 10+ years.

May 12th - SF Small Business Week - Small Business Leadership Forum



Time: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Location: Southeast Community Center, 1550 Evans Avenue, San Francisco, CA, 94124

SF Small Business Week will feature two informative panel discussions. The first panel will explore the ethnic experiences of small business owners in San Francisco. In contrast, the second discussion will feature agency leaders discussing their commitment to small business participation from an equity lens.

Join us as we talk about why bridging the gap between aspirational goals and small business participation in contracting opportunities is crucial. [Learn more](#)

May 15th – 16th - National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) Propel Your Business Conference

PROPEL 2023
2023 WOMEN'S BUSINESS CONFERENCE

NAWBO CALIFORNIA
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMAN BUSINESS OWNERS

MAY 15 & 16, 2023

SHERATON GRAND SACRAMENTO, CA

NAWBOPROPEL.ORG

- HOW TO PREPARE TO BID AND WIN GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS
- RESOURCES AND AREAS OF FOCUS FOR GROWTH AND ADVOCACY
- OPPORTUNITIES FOR NON-TRADITIONAL, STARTUPS, AND SMALL BUSINESSES

Tara Lynn Gray
Director, Office of the Small Business Advocate (OSBA)

Arveice Washington
Deputy Director, Department of the Navy - Office of Small Business Programs

TITLE SPONSOR: BANK OF AMERICA

Time: May 15th (6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.) | May 16th (8:30 a.m. - Noon)

Location: Sheraton Grand Sacramento, 1230 J Street Sacramento, CA, 95814

The "Propel Your Business Conference" features fabulous speakers and breakout sessions that will inspire and inform your business growth strategies. Network with business owners, leaders, and executives from across California, including honorees for NAWBO's 2023 Woman Business Owner of the Year.

[Learn more](#)

May 20th – Lemonade Day

Lemonade Day!
SACRAMENTO

**LEMONADE DAY
SACRAMENTO IS
SATURDAY MAY 20,
2023!**

Time: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Location: Sacramento Children's Home, 2750 Sutterville Rd., Sacramento, CA, 95820

Lemonade Day in Sacramento is here! Join CalOSBA, and the leaders of Lemonade Day, as we continue to help empower today's youth to become tomorrow's entrepreneurs. [Learn more](#)

For more small business resources and information, visit calosba.ca.gov

No-cost and low-cost training is available through Technical Assistance Centers across the state. Browse the training schedule on the CalOSBA website by [clicking here](#).

[Submit a request to CalOSBA](#)



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