



FREDERICKSBURG | 2023 GOVERNOR'S

SMALL BUSINESS SUMMIT

*Celebrating women-owned
small businesses & entrepreneurs!*

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023
FREDERICKSBURG

HOSTED BY

THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AND SPONSORED BY:





WELCOME



Small businesses are the backbone of the Texas economy. More than 9 in 10 businesses in Texas are small businesses, and they employ nearly half of all working Texans.

Men and women willing to take a risk, dig deep into their own pockets, and stake their future on an idea have long written the story of Texas. That pioneering spirit still fuels our shared prosperity today.

Texas continues to be a top state for women-owned, minority-owned, and veteran-owned businesses. We are proud to be home to 1.25 million women business owners as well as 1 in 5 of the nation's Hispanic business owners, 1 in 10 of the nation's Black business owners, and nearly 1 in 10 of the nation's Asian American business owners. Not to mention, we are the #1 state for jobs created by Black women business owners, Hispanic women business owners, and veteran women business owners. Small businesses drive our state's strong economy, helping to grow more than 2 million jobs since I took office in 2015.

The 2023 Governor's Small Business Summit – Fredericksburg is designed to help small business owners and entrepreneurs take their businesses to new heights. Co-hosted by my office, the Texas Workforce Commission, the Governor's Commission for Women, and the Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce, this event helps businesses at every stage of development find answers on accessing financing, hiring skilled employees, bidding on government contracts, marketing your business, and more.

Featuring a wide range of tracks and expert speakers, the Summit provides a great opportunity for small businesses and entrepreneurs like you to network and connect with industry specialists, government officials, resource providers, and other regional businesses. I invite you to take advantage of all the resources being shared at this event.

When small businesses succeed, Texas succeeds.

That's why I continue to fight back against runaway regulations at the federal, state, and local level that disproportionately hurt small business job creation. And that's why the Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Education Agency, and Higher Education Coordinating Board are working together to place our education system on a pathway to meet the growing needs of Texas employers and our state.

My goal as governor is to help small businesses grow even faster in Texas. Working together to support small businesses and boost our state's world-class economy, we can build an even brighter Texas of tomorrow for all.

Governor Greg Abbott



AGENDA

- 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM **Registration and Networking**
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- 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Nathali Parker, Chairwoman & Commissioner, Governor's Commission for Women
Annie Dennis, Deputy Director, Business & Community Development, Texas Economic Development & Tourism, Office of the Governor
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- Networking break (10 minutes)*
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- 10:40 AM - 11:20 AM **Workforce Recruitment & Retention**
Moderator: Jinous Rouhani, Commissioner, Governor's Commission for Women
Amanda Beaver, Director of Human Resources, Albert Hotel
Dr. Celia Merrill, Director, Regional Campuses Fredericksburg and Highland Lakes at Texas Tech University
Katie Milton Jordan, Director of Business Development, Entrepreneurship & Talent, Kerr Economic Development Corporation
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- Networking break (10 minutes)*
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- 11:30 AM - 12:10 PM **Business Growth**
Moderator: Nathali Parker, Chairwoman & Commissioner, Governor's Commission for Women
Margaret Wilson-Anaglia, Director, LiftFund Women's Business Center
Lynn Hodde Blue, Deputy Chief Procurement Officer, Texas Department of Information Resources
Sarah Washburne, Owner & Co-Founder, Side Street Hospitality
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- 12:10 PM - 12:20 PM **Lunch with Guest Speaker**
Cecilia Abbott, First Lady of Texas
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- 12:20 PM - 12:45 PM **Keynote Panel**
Moderator: Annie Dennis, Deputy Director, Business & Community Development, Texas Economic Development & Tourism, Office of the Governor
Gina Bellinger, Founder & Owner, Just Pots
Nancy Garrison, Co-Founder, Garrison Brothers Distillery
Kela Nabors, Founder & CEO, Organically Bath & Beauty
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- Networking break (10 minutes)*
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- 12:55 PM - 1:35 PM **Marketing & Social Media**
Moderator: Maru De La Paz, Commissioner, Governor's Commission for Women
Margo Richards, Vice President of Community Resources, Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA)
Melissa Drewitz, Owner, Chic Punk Love Social
Cathy White, Chief Marketing Strategist & CEO, White Cat Marketing
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- Networking break (10 minutes)*
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- 1:45 PM - 2:25 PM **Finance & Funding**
Moderator: Amy Henderson, Vice Chairwoman & Commissioner, Governor's Commission for Women
Chris Smith, Regional Lending Manager, North Texas, PeopleFund
Lucinda Vela, Senior Certified Business Advisor, University of Texas—San Antonio Small Business Development Center
Leticia "Tish" Perez, Regional President, Securities State Bank & Trust
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- 2:25 PM **Governor's Small Business Awards Presentation**
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- 2:45 PM **Beacon State Fund Pitch Competition**
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- 3:00 PM **Closing Remarks**



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



Cecilia Abbott **First Lady of Texas**

Cecilia Abbott's story reminds us all that the American Dream is alive and well in Texas. The granddaughter of immigrants from Mexico, Cecilia was raised in San Antonio by parents who were both educators, and who instilled in Cecilia, her sister and two brothers a love of learning and helping others.

Cecilia took their lessons to heart, earning three degrees from the University of St. Thomas in Houston. Cecilia then devoted her life to serving others. She has been a teacher, vice-principal, and principal at several Catholic

schools across Texas, and later went on to another noble calling working in senior health care services.

But Cecilia hasn't only devoted her professional life to helping others – she's done the same thing in her personal life. She currently serves on the board of several educational organizations and is an active member of many philanthropic groups.

Cecilia believes strongly in giving back. Her signature initiative as First Lady combines the two things that she is most passionate about – Texas and philanthropy. She calls it Texanthropy, and through it she promotes volunteerism and service to others across Texas. Cecilia has also partnered with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services on a similar initiative – Network of Nurture – to raise awareness about the ways Texans can support the children and families in the state's child welfare system. She also collaborates with the Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team, DFPS, and a diverse group of faith leaders across Texas working together to develop effective strategies to end human trafficking through the Governor's Response Against Child Exploitation (GRACE) initiative.

Cecilia is a devoted wife to her husband of 42 years, Texas Governor Greg Abbott, and a proud mother to her daughter, Audrey, and dogs Pancake and Peaches. With her husband's election as Governor, Cecilia made history by becoming the first Hispanic First Lady of Texas.



Annie Dennis **Deputy Director of Business and Community Development Texas Economic Development & Tourism, Office of the Governor**

Annie Dennis is the Deputy Director of Business and Community Development in the Office of the Governor, Texas Economic Development & Tourism. She is responsible for assisting the Director of BCD with the management of the Offices' Existing Industry, Small Business, International, Marketing, and Research Teams,

and has specific oversight of the Business Recruitment and Community Relations teams.

Annie has 11 years of Economic Development Experience. She has been with the Texas Governor's Office for 5 years and previous to this role worked for 6 years in Washington DC in International Economic Development.

She holds a Master's Degree in International Administration, Policy, and Intelligence Analysis from The Joseph Korbel School of International Studies in Denver, CO. And as part of this degree program she served for two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer working with Internally Displaced Person in the Nation of Georgia.

Annie lives in Austin with her husband, 7-month-old son, and their King Charles Cavalier.

KETNOTE SPEAKERS



Gina Bellinger **Founder & Owner, Just Pots**

Gina Bellinger of San Antonio serves as the founder and owner of Just Pots, a San Antonio-based wholesale and retail pottery business. She is also the founder and former President of Food Safety Net Services, a nationwide food safety and consumer products testing company with 20 locations in North America. Bellinger is co-author of several noted publications concerning the control of pathogen in food processing operations and has been involved in the food industry for 30 years. She is a sustaining member of the National Charity League and has supported local San Antonio charities in various roles.

Bellinger received a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology from Texas A&M University and continues to support her alma mater by serving as a Scientific Advisor for the Food Science Department. She is married to her husband, John, and has two children.



Nancy Garrison **Co-Founder Garrison Brothers Distillery**

Nancy and her husband, Dan founded Garrison Brothers Distillery in 2006 located in Hye, Texas. Their first bottled bourbon went into the market in 2010. As co-founder, Nancy hosts bourbon dinners across the nation, works hands-on with the sales and marketing teams, and, in the last few years helped create a new expression of honey infused Garrison Brothers bourbon called HoneyDew. It has become one of Garrison Brothers' bestsellers and is now distilled and sold year-round.

She is an important voice in her local community. Nancy recently received the 2021 Outstanding Alumni Award from Moody College of Communications at University of Texas, Austin. Nancy currently serves on non-profit boards in Austin including being a founding member of Good Bourbon for a Good Cause and previously for The Trail Foundation.

Nancy is the proud mother of two and relishes family time spent traveling and hiking the trails of beautiful Colorado. Sometimes called the Queen Bee of Garrison Brothers, Nancy enjoys her bourbon most often, neat.



Kela Nabors **Founder & Owner Organically Bath & Beauty**

Kela Nabors is the Founder & CEO of Organically Bath & Beauty Inc and OBB Creative Hour. Founded in 2016, Organically Inc. is a successful retail line of organic bath and beauty products.

Kela sparked an interest in skincare when her daughter's struggle with eczema launched her into a world of research and classes. Her daughter Jordan's eczema began to take a toll, but Kela was weary of a long-term medication regimen. Kela developed products for her daughter and family and now has transformed her home-based business into a successful retail line.

In 2016 Kela launched her online store and in less than two years opened her physical location on Broadway in San Antonio. Her products have been included in Macy's "The Market" at North Star Mall and are now sold on Target.com and Walmart.com.

In 2021, Kela received San Antonio's "Top 40 Under 40" award. Kela holds a Bachelor and Master of Social Work from Loyola University Chicago.



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RESOURCE PROVIDERS



Department of Labor - Wage and Hour Division

Goldman Sach's 10,000 Small Businesses

LiftFund Women's Business Center

PeopleFund

Security State Bank & Trust

Texas Department of Agriculture

Texas Department of Insurance - DWC

Texas General Land Office (GLO)

Texas Rural Development

Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC)

**Texas Workforce Commission -
Employer Engagement & Community Outreach**

**Texas Woman's University -
Jane Nelson Institute for Women's Leadership**

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

UTRGV Veterans Business Outreach Center



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