



BASTROP, TX

HOSTED BY

THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

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WELCOME



From the very beginning, it's been the courage of Texans — individuals who take bold risks, invest deeply, and pour their passion into their ideas — that has long defined the great success of Texas. That pioneering spirit is what continues to propel our shared prosperity today.

In Texas, small businesses are the very heartbeat of our thriving economy. Over 99% of businesses in our great state are small businesses, and they employ nearly half of the Texas workforce. Thanks to the determination of our more than 3.3 million small businesses, "Made in Texas" has never been a more powerful global brand. In fact, small businesses

make up 92% of all Texas exporters, helping to secure Texas' spot as the nation's top exporting state for 23 consecutive years.

Ranked as the Best Business Climate in the nation and the Best State to Start a Business, Texas offers small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs of all backgrounds the tools to succeed. And I'm proud to recognize Texas as the home to more than 1.4 million women business owners, 1 in 5 of the nation's Hispanic business owners, and 1 in 10 of the nation's Black business owners.

To ensure small businesses continue to succeed in Texas, I recently created the Small Business Freedom Council to recommend the elimination of unnecessary rules, fees, and regulations that create barriers to small business growth in Texas. Recommendations provided by state agency heads and hundreds of Texas small business owners were compiled in a comprehensive report for the Texas Legislature to review. And in April, I was proud to sign Senate Bill 14 into law creating the Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office. The law builds on the Freedom Council's recommendations and will slash regulations, put stricter standards on new regulations that could be costly to businesses, and ensure Texas remains the best state for businesses of all sizes.

Today, I welcome you to the 2025 Governor's Small Business Summit — Bastrop, designed to help small business owners and entrepreneurs like you take their business to new heights. Co-hosted by my office, the Bastrop Chamber of Commerce, Bastrop Economic Development Corporation, and Texas Workforce Commission, 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.

With a variety of session topics and expert speakers, this summit offers a unique opportunity to connect with industry leaders, government representatives, resource providers, and fellow business owners. I invite you to take full advantage of the knowledge and resources shared throughout this event.

When small businesses succeed, Texas succeeds. By working together to support small businesses, we will build a stronger, more prosperous Texas than ever before.

Governor Greg Abbott

AGENDA



8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Registration & Networking Breakfast
9:00 AM -	Welcome and Opening Remarks
9:30 AM	Emcees: Becki Womble, President/CEO, Bastrop Chamber of Commerce
	Dori Kelley , Business Attraction, Retention, and Expansion Manager, Bastrop Economic Development Corporation
	Alberto Treviño III, Commissioner Representing Labor, Texas Workforce Commission
	Ishmael Harris, Mayor, City of Bastrop
	Larry McManus , Director, Business & Community Development, Texas Economic Development & Tourism Office, Office of the Governor
	Networking Break (20 minutes)
9:50 AM -	Grow or Go: Knowing When To Scale or Sell Your Business
10:40 AM	Moderator: Dominica McGinnis, CEO, Bastrop Law Group
	Stephen Todee, Co-Owner/Operator, Copper Shot Distillery
	Bryan Bracewell, Owner/CEO, Southside Market & BBQ
	Tim Kimbro, President/Principle, TCS Mechanical
	Networking Break (10 minutes)
10:50 AM - 11:40 AM	Strategies for Growth: Leveraging State & Local Programs
	<u>Moderator</u> : David Elizondo , District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration
	Jon Simmons, Mentor, SCORE
	Shane Wilhelm, Business Development Officer, BCL of Texas
	Kim Dugey, Vice President, Commercial Banker, VeraBank
	Networking Break (10 minutes)
11:50 AM -	Harnessing the Power of Technology for Your Small Business
12:40 PM	<u>Moderator</u> : Traci Rodriguez , Sales Director — Austin & San Antonio, Community Impact News
	Randy Bryan, Founder & CEO, tekRESCUE
	Dr. Meghan Hollis-Peel , Data Management Officer, Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
	Roy Draa, Senior Manager, X Support Center
12:30 PM - 1:00 PM	Networking Luncheon
1:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Keynote Speaker
	Introduction: Sylvia Carrillo-Treviño, City Manager, City of Bastrop
	Clint Howard, Sculptor/Owner, Pyrology Foundry & Studio
1:30 PM	Closing Ceremony
	Jarvis Brewer, Small Business Advocate, Texas Economic Development
	& Tourism Office, Office of the Governor



GUEST SPEAKERS



Alberto Treviño III Commissioner Representing Labor Texas Workforce Commission

Alberto Treviño III serves as the Commissioner Representing Labor for the Texas Workforce Commission. On January 9, 2023, Governor Greg Abbott appointed him to the three-member Commission and confirmed by the Texas Senate on March 15, 2023.

Prior to his appointment, Commissioner Treviño of Harlingen served as a retired U.S. Border Patrol agent. Treviño has nearly 33 years of combined law enforcement and border patrol experience, with 21 years of service to Local 3307 of

the National Border Patrol Council (NBPC), where he served as executive vice president, and later, as treasurer.

Prior to NBPC, Commissioner Treviño served as a police instructor, background investigator, and patrol officer for the Harlingen Police Department. He is a 3rd degree knight of the Knights of Columbus, former member of the City of Harlingen Tennis Advisory Board, and former volunteer for Little League Baseball.

Treviño received an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice from Texas Southmost College.



Mayor Ishmael Harris City of Bastrop

Ishmael Harris is a proud native of Bastrop and a 2000 graduate of Bastrop High School. His lifelong connection to the city began early—he was one of the first students to participate in Bastrop's gifted and talented program at just six years old. Growing up here shaped his deep appreciation for the outdoors, a love of horses, and a strong commitment to community.

With over 20 years of experience working in municipal water services for the City of Austin, Ishmael has developed a deep understanding of infrastructure, city planning, and

responsible growth. His passion for serving the people of Bastrop led him to nearly six years on the Planning and Zoning Commission, including a year and a half as Chair. In that role, he worked hard to ensure that Bastrop's development remained balanced and focused on the needs of its residents.

Ishmael believes in preserving Bastrop's small-town spirit while guiding it through thoughtful, sustainable growth. His vision for the city is one where community comes first, traditions are respected, and every resident has a voice in shaping the future.



Larry McManus Director, Business & Community Development Texas Economic Development & Tourism Office, Office of the Governor

Larry McManus is the Director for Business & Community Development in the Texas Economic Development & Tourism Office (EDT), within the Office of the Governor. He is responsible for the management of the Office's Existing Industry and Business Recruitment Activities, Small Business, International, Marketing, Research, and Community Relations initiatives.

Prior to returning to EDT in 2020, McManus served as Senior Director for Rural Economic Development at the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) where he was responsible for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the State Office of Rural Health, and TDA's economic development activities.

GUEST SPEAKERS



McManus' previous tenure with the Office of the Governor had him managing Community Relations and Domestic Expansion and Recruitment (DER) activities whose teams assisted in the announcement of more than 140,000 jobs and capital investment in excess of \$63 billion between January 2005 and August 2015.

McManus has more than 31 years of economic development experience with the State of Texas. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from the University of Texas at El Paso and is a graduate of the Economic Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma.



Becki Womble, CCE, IOMPresident/CEO **Bastrop Chamber of Commerce**

Becki Womble has served as the President and CEO of the Bastrop Chamber of Commerce since August 2014. As a graduate from the Institute for Organizational Management (IOM) and having earned the prestigious Certified Chamber Executive (CCE) designation along with a Four-Star designation from the U.S. Chamber Accreditation, Womble's leadership has brought remarkable advancements to the Bastrop Chamber.

During her time at the Chamber, Womble has overseen a complete CRM system conversion, a re-design of the Chamber's website along with the launch of five additional websites for chamber initiatives, a transition from "Fair Share" to "Tiered Dues" membership investments, board training, strategic planning, and has established herself as the "Voice of Business" by community leaders and government officials. Womble has also been commissioned as a Yellow Rose of Texas by Governor Greg Abbott and has received a Congressional Patriot Award.

She has taken an active role in local politics and community issues and serves on numerous boards including the Texas Chamber of Commerce Executives (TCCE) Board and locally the Bastrop County Cares and Visit Bastrop Board of Directors. Womble also serves on the Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area Board of Directors.



Dori KelleyBusiness Attraction, Retention, and Expansion
Manager **Bastrop Economic Development Corporation**

Dori Kelley is a passionate small business advocate with a deep-rooted commitment to empowering local entrepreneurs and strengthening community-driven economies. With a career built on championing business growth and collaboration, she brings both private-sector experience and public-sector leadership to the table.

Kelley currently serves as the Business Retention and Expansion Manager for the Bastrop Economic Development Corporation, a role she began in October 2024. In this position, she leads strategic initiatives to support small businesses, attract new investment, and create long-term opportunities for local job growth.

Prior to joining the BEDC, Kelley worked for the Bee Cave Economic Development Corporation. She previously served as the President of the Bee Cave Chamber of Commerce, holding multiple roles focused on business engagement, communications, and development.

Her work is driven by the belief that small businesses are the heart of Texas communities, and she remains dedicated to connecting entrepreneurs with the resources, relationships, and support they need to thrive.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Clint Howard Sculptor | Public Art Consultant President, Pyrology Foundry & Studio

Clint Howard is a distinguished American sculptor and the owner of Pyrology Foundry & Studio, a premier bronze casting facility based in Bastrop, Texas. With a formal education in Fine Arts — specializing in sculpture and foundry work — from Texas State University, Mr. Howard has dedicated over 25 years to the creation, production, and advancement of fine art sculpture.

Mr. Howard first came to Bastrop in 1999, to work for — and eventually purchase — what was then Deep in the Heart Art Foundry. This

little foundry was established on Alley A in historic downtown Bastrop in 1980, and under Mr. Howard's leadership, it has grown into one of the largest and most respected fine art manufacturers in the nation and around the world.

In his role as a hands-on owner and foundryman, Mr. Howard has grown this foundry to employ more than 40 full-time team members and service artists and clients from across the globe. During this time, the foundry has produced an enormous number of significant monumental installations, including a herd of life-size dinosaurs by Tom Tischler in Australia, 7 twice-life-size running horses by Texas artist Robert Summers for the city of Baku in Azerbaijan, and the largest contiguous sculptural installation in the United States — The Oklahoma Land Run installation for Paul Moore in Tulsa, Oklahoma, among others. The foundry currently encompasses more than 30,000 square feet of manufacturing space and pours about 25 tons of bronze and stainless steel each year.

A prolific sculptor in his own right, Mr. Howard has also been awarded a number of prestigious public and private commissions, many of which have become cultural landmarks. His notable works include the Texas Department of Public Safety Fallen Officers Memorial (Austin, 2024), the Life-size Buffalo Bullock at the Texas State History Museum (2018), and a life-size bull Moose for the Columbus Ohio Zoo and Aquarium (2007). He is currently working on a monument honoring the individuals of the Texas Game Warden's Association who have fallen in the line of duty, which will be displayed in the grounds of the Texas State Capitol.

Mr. Howard is also deeply engaged in civic and cultural leadership. He has served on the boards of the Texas Society of Sculptors, the Texas Workforce Commission, and Visit Bastrop, and was a founding member of both Bastrop Art in Public Places and the Lost Pines Art Council. Through these roles, he has contributed significantly to the development of public art and arts education in Central Texas.

Clint Howard continues to maintain an active studio practice, offering a collection of limited-edition bronze works alongside his commissioned projects. In addition, he and his wife recently opened Found Fine Art - a world-class sculpture gallery in the heart of downtown Bastrop.

GOVERNOR'S SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE TEAM





Jarvis Brewer Small Business Advocate jarvis.brewer@gov.texas.gov (512) 936-0176



Bryan Roller
Business Assistance Specialist
bryan.roller@gov.texas.gov
(512) 463-8343



David Menchaca Garcia
Business Assistance Specialist
david.garcia@gov.texas.gov
(512) 463-9276



William Taylor
Business Assistance Specialist
william.taylor@gov.texas.gov
(512) 936-0228

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RESOURCE PROVIDERS

Bastrop Chamber & Foundation

Bastrop Economic Development Corporation

Bastrop Main Street Program

BCL of Texas

City of Bastrop

Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce

LiftFund

Economic Development Finance,
Texas Economic Development & Tourism Office,
Office of the Governor

Texas Center for Employee Ownership

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts -Statewide HUB Program

Texas Department of Agriculture

Texas Department of Information Resources

Texas Department of Insurance - OSHCON

Texas Facilities Commission

Texas Veterans Commission

Texas Workforce Commission - Employer Engagement and Community Outreach

Texas Workforce Commission - Tax Department

TxDOT/Hwy. 71

U.S. Small Business Administration San Antonio District Office

Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area

ONLINE RESOURCES



Small Business Webinars & Events Calendar



The Governor's Office of Small Business Assistance hosts a number of informative webinars and in-person events throughout the year to share information about resources for small businesses and entrepreneurs in Texas.



Texas Business Licenses & Permits Guide



Many specific business activities require permits or licenses. To determine which state-level business license or permit is required for your business, please see the 2024-2025 Texas Business Licenses & Permits Guide.



The Governor's Small Business Handbook



The Office of the Governor's Small Business Handbook provides a comprehensive overview of business planning, registration, requirements and financing.



The Governor's Small Business Resource Portal



Whether you are an aspiring entrepreneur or an established business owner, the Governor's Small Business Resource Portal will provide you with the most relevant resources and contacts to help you find success. This important tool offers a customized list of



useful business resources to assist you in starting or growing your business in Texas.



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DON'T FORGET TO TAKE YOUR COMPLIMENTARY HEADSHOT AT THE SUMMIT!



Photos from this event (excluding headshots) will be posted and available to view on our Facebook.





Recorded sessions from this event will be available on our YouTube channel within approximately two weeks. In the meantime, we welcome you to check out previous webinars and videos from our office.



