



# Upcoming Events

○ Apr 2025

Asian Contractor Association  
13785 Research Blvd, Suite 125  
Austin, TX 78750  
[www.acta-austin.com](http://www.acta-austin.com)

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## **Build Your Business with the SURE™ Program – Info Session**

**Tuesday, April 22 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. In-Person**

600 Soledad Street #1st Floor San Antonio, TX 78205

Are you starting a new business or ready to grow your current one? Join us for an informational session and workshop on the Stimulating Urban Renewal through Entrepreneurship (SURE™) program — now offered in San Antonio through UTSA's Alvarez College of Business and the Small Business Development Center!

SURE™ is a nationally recognized, award-winning program originally launched at the University of Houston. It empowers entrepreneurs with the knowledge, tools, and mentorship to successfully build and grow businesses. Nearly 700 businesses have been created through SURE™, with 77% led by Black or Latino entrepreneurs.

### **At this session, you'll learn:**

- What the SURE™ program is and how it works
- What you'll gain from participating (mentorship, planning tools, strategy, and connections)
- How to apply and what's expected of you as an entrepreneur
- How SURE™ can help you turn your business goals into a profitable reality

### **Program Highlights:**

- 12 evening sessions at UTSA's Downtown Campus
- Hands-on support from instructors, professional mentors, and student consultants
- Free to entrepreneurs
- Certificate of completion from an award-winning business education program

Whether you have a business idea or are already up and running, this is your chance to explore how the SURE™ program can help take your venture to the next level.

If you have any questions about the program, you can reach out to Christa Luna, Program Manager @ [christa.luna@utsa.edu](mailto:christa.luna@utsa.edu)

[Register here](#)





### **Online - Navigating Contracts**

Secure your business's financial future.

Date and time

**Wednesday, May 7 · 12 - 1pm CDT**

Location

Online

About this event

Event lasts 1 hour

Understand and manage your contracts confidently. Join us as legal and contract experts give advice on contract review, understanding deliverables and timelines, and safeguarding your business interests. Come prepared with your questions to make the most of this informative session.

[Register here](#)



### **Small Business Office Hours**

Part of the [2025 Small Business Office Hours](#) collection

**Get your small business questions answered**

By **Small and Minority Business Resources (SMBR)**

**Date and time**

**Wednesday, May 14 · 12 - 2pm CDT**

**Location**

**Menchaca Road Branch, Austin Public Library**

5500 Menchaca Road Austin, TX 78745

**About this event**

- **Event lasts 2 hours**

Are you the owner of a certified firm, a small business owner, or resident interested in starting a small business? Join us at City of Austin Small Business Office Hours to connect with resources, programs, and services. Participating departments include Economic Development, Financial Services, Austin Public Library, Austin Energy, and Small and Minority Business Resources. Staff will be on hand to answer questions and make referrals to available programs and services offered by City departments and local business support organizations. No appointments necessary - just show up! Please complete our short survey so we can have the right staff on hand.

[Register here](#)





### **Meet the Prime: Vertical Construction**

This is your chance to make connections and forge partnerships with the industry experts and professionals transforming Austin's skyline.

By **Small and Minority Business Resources (SMBR)**

**Date and time: Wednesday, April 23 · 9:30 - 11:30am CDT**

**Location: University Hills Branch, Austin Public Library**

4721 Loyola Lane Austin, TX 78723

### **Meet the Prime: Vertical Construction**

Are you looking for a chance to foster connections with prime contractors in vertical construction and professional services? If so, then this is the perfect networking opportunity for you!

### **What to Expect**

Attendees can directly engage with some of Austin's biggest prime firms to explore upcoming opportunities. You will gain insights into emerging contracting opportunities, supplier diversity initiatives, scopes of work in forthcoming solicitations, and project timelines. The event will also feature open space and time dedicated to fostering new partnerships and cultivating opportunities for you and your firm to grow.

**Meet the Prime: Vertical Construction** is a **no-cost event**, but registration is required. To ensure an inclusive experience for all attendees, we kindly request that each firm sends a maximum of two (2) representatives.

Additionally, please come ready to make a lasting impression. We encourage all participants to bring the following items to make a positive impression and effectively connect with potential partners.

- Business Cards
- Company Brochure or Flyer
- Capabilities Statement
- Elevator Pitch
- Portfolio

[Register here](#)



### **Starting Your Own Small Business with Vicky Valdez**

**This three-hour session is eligible for the City of Austin Business Skills Certificate.**

**By City of Austin Economic Development**

**Date and time**

**Monday, May 5 · 9am - 12pm CDT**

**Location**

**5202 E Ben White Blvd suite 400**

5202 East Ben White Boulevard #suite 400 Austin, TX 78741

**About this event**

- **Event lasts 3 hours**

This 3-hour course is for aspiring entrepreneurs in the Austin area. Participants will learn how to file the required paperwork and gain a clear understanding of the steps required to launch a new small business in Texas. Clear, simple guidance will help you get started quickly, keep costs down, and prepare you to overcome common challenges. The class includes a helpful Toolkit with templates, guides, forms, and more to support your journey. This course is eligible for the City of Austin Business Skills Certificate program. The instructor is Vicky Valdez, Professor of Entrepreneurship at ACC & former Director of Small Business for City of Austin.





## **Vicky Valdez**

**Professor & Assistant Department Chair  
for Entrepreneurial Studies at ACC**

Vicky Valdez has a wealth of experience in economic development, small business development and finance. For ten years she managed the City of Austin's Small Business Program and now serves as a Professor & Assistant Department Chair for Entrepreneurial Studies at Austin Community College. She is the founder of LoneStar Foundation, a Texas nonprofit that provides resource grants for small businesses. Vicky has developed and managed nationally recognized programs that provide local business owners with strategic planning, marketing, financial management, expansion, new markets, and procurement opportunities.

**[Check out other sessions](#) the Economic Development Department offers to celebrate Austin Small Business Week.**

*The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request - including translation and interpretation services. For assistance, please contact the Economic Development Department at 512-974-7819. The City receives and accepts Video Relay Service (VRS) calls from people who are Deaf or hard-of-hearing through Relay Texas 7-1-1.*

**Economic Development Department Small Business Division**

**5202 E. Ben White Blvd., Suite 400**

**[Register here](#)**

## Explore Funding Options for Your Small Business

This three-hour session is eligible for the City of Austin Business Skills Certificate.

By City of Austin Economic Development

**Date and time: Monday, May 5 · 1 - 4pm CDT**

**Location: 5202 E Ben White Blvd suite 400**

### About this event

This 3-hour class is designed to help you get clear on the funding your business needs to start up or grow. In Explore Funding Options for Your Business, you'll learn about working with investors, crowdfunding, various lending options—including Community Lending—and even grants. With straightforward guidance and a Toolkit full of resources, you'll discover many options to fund your vision. This course is eligible for the City of Austin Business Skills Certificate Program. The instructor is Julie Niehoff, Co-Founder & CMO of Distance Learning Media.



## Julie Niehoff

Co-Founder & Chief Marketing Officer  
Distance Learning Media

Julie Niehoff, Co-Founder & CMO of Distance Learning Media, has managed the firm's contract to provide City of Austin small business skills training since 2021. She has more than 20 years in tech training and marketing education, was Director of Education for Constant Contact from 2006-2016, and has trained more than one million small business and nonprofit professionals in live, online and on-demand classes since 1995. She is a co-author of *Demystifying Ai: Leverage New Tech for Professional Growth at Lightspeed* (Summer 2025). Julie is also Co-Founder of Transition Skills Training, a 501c3 nonprofit that provides free job skills training and other supports for veterans and their families.

**Economic Development Department Small Business Division**

**5202 E. Ben White Blvd., Suite 400**

[Register here](#)



## Unlock Access to Capital with SBA Loan Expert Sue Malone

Learn from SBA loan expert Sue Malone about small business funding trends and how to secure unsecured loans from \$25K-\$150K.

Date and time

**Tuesday, May 6 · 1 - 4pm CDT**

Location

Economic Development Department Small Business Division

*This class does not apply to the Business Skills Certification.*

Join us for an insightful session with **expert U.S. Small Business Administration Lender Sue Malone** as she shares invaluable knowledge on securing capital for small businesses.

**What to Expect:**

- **Latest Trends in Small Business Funding** – Gain insights into the evolving landscape of accessing capital and the best financing options available for entrepreneurs.
- **Understanding Unsecured Working Capital Loans** – Explore the key details of unsecured loans ranging from **\$25,000 to \$150,000**, including eligibility requirements, application considerations, and what lenders look for in a successful application.
- **Expert Strategies for Success** – Whether you're a **startup, existing business, or franchise owner**, this session will equip you with actionable strategies to secure funding and fuel your growth.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn from one of the top experts in small business lending. **Reserve your spot today!**

Economic Development Department Small Business Division

5202 E. Ben White Blvd., Suite 300

[Register here](#)

## Austin Small Business Week: May 5-9

Celebrate Austin Small Business Week with us from May 5–9! Join free classes on funding, bookkeeping, marketing, and more. [Register today](#) to grow your business skills and connect with local entrepreneurs!

[Check out other sessions](#) the Economic Development Department offers to celebrate Austin Small Business Week.



## **25 Years of Empowering Entrepreneurs—Let's Celebrate!**

This year, we're celebrating 25 years of the City of Austin's Small Business Division supporting local entrepreneurs and driving innovation. Join us on **Tuesday, May 6, from 9–11 a.m.** at the Austin Central Library for breakfast, networking, and inspiring stories of impact. Don't miss this special event—[Register today!](#)

## **Upcoming Small Business Classes**

Take advantage of our in-person and online catalogue of classes – new offerings are available every month!

April 16 – [Discover the Benefits of Worker Co-ops](#)

April 17 – [Test Before You Invest: Business Model Canvas](#)

May 14 – [BizAid Business Orientation](#)

May 20 – [BizAid Business Orientation \(on Zoom\)](#)





### **Runway to Opportunities: Journey With AUS Workshop**

**All construction businesses are welcome! Network with our partners to explore opportunities—small & minority firms welcome!**

#### **Date and time**

**Tuesday, April 22 · 9am - 12pm CDT. Doors at 8:45am**

#### **Location TCEA**

3100 Alvin Devane Boulevard #building b Austin, TX 78741

#### **Free venue parking**

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) is expanding, and we want your business to soar alongside us!

Join us for the Runway to Opportunities Workshop, specifically designed for construction subcontractors—including small and minority-owned businesses—to connect with our prime firms and Journey With AUS partners. This event offers a valuable platform for networking and learning as you explore collaboration opportunities with leading firms in the industry.

Multiple projects will be taking place at the airport over the next five years. These projects will need construction subcontractors and related firms, including plumbing, trash hauling, motor and generator manufacturing, welding, electrical, roofing, and more. Take advantage of this unique opportunity to build relationships with our respected project partners: Austin Commercial, Hensel Phelps, JE Dunn, Sundt / Archer Western and Whiting-Turner.

Don't miss your chance to connect, learn, and elevate your business with AUS!

Spanish interpreters will be on-site. Habrá intérpretes de español para asistirle.

**Limit two [RSVPs](#) per firm.**

## **Maximize Your Impact: Leveraging Small Business Certifications for Government Contracts**

Description Whether you're newly certified or have been wondering how to maximize your certifications, the team at B2G Victory will discuss the best ways to get, leverage, and grow your business with certifications. In this session, you'll learn: - Understanding certifications benefits, considerations, and goals - Difference between registrations & certifications - Common prime, corporation, government requirements, and requirements and requests - Ways to market your certification to generate contracts - Mistakes that cost you time, money, and possibly your certifications Join us to unlock the full potential of your certifications and take your business to the next level!

### **When:**

April 25th 2025, 11:30 am **TO** April 25th 2025, 12:30 pm

### **Where:**

ZOOM,

### **Contact Information**

**Name:** Hannah Brock

**Phone Number:** (832) 305-6958

**Email Address:** [speaker@b2gvictory.com](mailto:speaker@b2gvictory.com)

**Website:** [us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_WqYgK5bzR8OS7Hk6FYlq8g](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WqYgK5bzR8OS7Hk6FYlq8g)



### **Texas A&M University - System Wide HUB Expo**

Texas A&M University-College Station will be hosting a Co-Sponsored System Wide HUB Expo at the Memorial Student Center - Bethancourt Ballroom (College Station, TX)

The goal of this event is to increase HUB awareness throughout the university and to provide HUB vendors economic opportunities to showcase their goods and/or services to grow their business.

Texas Certified HUB vendors can register for a booth by contacting Shawna Kennedy at [hubprogram@tamu.edu](mailto:hubprogram@tamu.edu)

HUB Exhibitors booth and parking are FREE!

Registration closes on Friday, March 28, 2025.

#### **When:**

April 22nd 2025, 1:00 pm **TO** April 22nd 2025, 4:00 pm

#### **Where:**

Memorial Student Center, 275 Joe Routt Blvd., College Station, TX, 77843, College Station

#### **Contact Information**

**Name:** Shawna Kennedy

**Phone Number:** (979) 845-3425

**Email Address:** [shawna.kennedy@tamu.edu](mailto:shawna.kennedy@tamu.edu)

**Website:** [hub.tamu.edu](http://hub.tamu.edu)

## **The HUB Blueprint: Contracting & HUB Certification Essentials**

Gain insight into the State of Texas Historically Underutilized Business Program (HUB), designed to promote the growth and success of minority, woman, and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses. Bring your fully charged laptop!! Prepare your company for HUB Certification: - NIGP Codes – Identify the best fit for your company - Texas Highway Districts – Where do you do business - Review of HUB Application - Review of the documents needed - CMBL vs HUB – What is the difference? Research and Marketing - Overview of the HUB program and its objectives - How to find current and past opportunities - What is a Capability Statement - Upcoming events and how to utilize those events Attendees may be eligible for one-on-one consulting with speaker Susan Repka, Certification Specialist, B2G Victory. This is contingent on grant funds. You must be present during the entire class to be eligible.

### **When:**

April 23rd 2025, 10:00 am **TO** April 23rd 2025, 4:00 pm

### **Where:**

7047 Harrisburg Blvd,Houston

### **Contact Information**

**Name:** Hannah Brock

**Phone Number:** (832) 305-6958

**Email Address:** [speaker@b2gvictory.com](mailto:speaker@b2gvictory.com)

**Website:** [b2gresources.com/liftfund-apr23](https://b2gresources.com/liftfund-apr23)



### **Thought Provoking Thursday: Retooling for Success**

The Economic Opportunity Office at Austin ISD invites construction and small businesses interested in bidding work for the 2022 Bond Project to attend our next Thought-Provoking Thursday Webinar Series – “Retooling for Success” Join Joy Miller of City of Austin Small Business Development, Jessica Scanlon of Hot Dog Marketing, Andrew Nash, and Dallas / Fort Worth Minority Supplier Development Council as our subject matter experts, who will provide an overview of successfully navigating the ever-increasing shifting political and economic environments.

**When:**

April 24th 2025, 9:00 am **TO** April 24th 2025, 10:30 am

**Where:**

**Contact Information**

**Name:** Larry Williams

**Phone Number:** (512) 414-1700

**Email Address:** [Larry.Williams@austinisd.org](mailto:Larry.Williams@austinisd.org)

**Website:** [eventbrite.com/e/thought-provoking-thursday-retooling-for-success-tickets-1279585407399?aff=oddtcreator](https://eventbrite.com/e/thought-provoking-thursday-retooling-for-success-tickets-1279585407399?aff=oddtcreator)