

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

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Helping small businesses
start, grow and succeed.



Your Small Business Resource

E200 GRADUATION & SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC SURVIVAL EXPO—1/14/2009



SBA will honor the participants in its *Emerging 200* Initiative (e200) at a graduation ceremony on January 14, 2009.

In June of 2008, SBA's e200 program identified 200 inner-city businesses across the nation that demonstrated a high potential for growth. It then provided these small businesses with a free, six-month course of in-depth business education.

The 20 businesses from Boston who will be honored at the graduation ceremony include:

A.J. Cleaning	Massachusetts Local Telephone Company, Inc.
Ameri-Print Network, Inc.	MSS Business Management, Inc.
Audissey Guides	Onyx Spectrum Technology
Balloon City of Boston, Inc.	Peninsula of Boston, Inc.
Boston Green Building, Inc.	Rare Find Contracting, Inc.
Chan Insurance Agency, Inc.	Signal Graphics
Cliff & Sons Electric Contractors, Inc.	tCognition, Inc.
Cottonfield, LLC	Thomas Construction Company, Inc.
Fire Code Design LLC	TummyToys
Fortunato & Associates	Vici Slayman Associates, LLC

The Boston e200 effort was a collaborative one. Joining the SBA in bringing e200 to Massachusetts were:

- The City of Boston
- The Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Boston
- The Massachusetts Small Business Development Center (MSBDC) State Office
- The MSBDC Boston Regional Office/Minority Business Center

When: January 14, 2009 8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. Graduation

Where: Tip O'Neill Federal Building Auditorium
10 Causeway Street, Boston

Contact Anna Outerbridge at 617-565-8510 with any questions.

See page 2 for information on the Small Business Survival Expo!

Lenders to exhibit at the Small Business Survival Expo include:

- Bank of America
- Boston Private Bank
- Century Bank
- CIT
- Eastern Bank
- Fidelity Bank
- First Trade Union Bank
- Middlesex Savings Bank
- New England Certified Development Corp.
- Sovereign Bank

Also of note...

Upcoming Web Chat—Thursday, January 15, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

The SBA's Web Chat series starts the new year with a focus on small businesses and the credit crunch. SBA Associate Administrator for Capital Access Eric Zarnikow will help small business owners and entrepreneurs get answers to their questions about credit and borrowing and other resources to help them access credit.

Chat participants will have direct, real-time access to the Web chats via questions they submit online in advance and during the live session with instant answers.

Participants can join the live Web chat by going online to www.sba.gov and clicking "Online Business Chat." You may post questions for Zarnikow before January 15th by visiting <http://app1.sba.gov/livemeeting/jan09/>, and posting their questions online.

Free Online Training Courses Available!

"Surviving in a Down Economy," "Strategic Marketing: How to Win Customers in a Slowing Economy," and "Retool & Reposition your Company—How to Prepare a Business Plan." These courses are available at:

www.sba.gov/services/training/onlinecourses

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE MASSACHUSETTS SBA SMALL BUSINESS SURVIVAL EXPO—JANUARY 14, 2009

A **Small Business Economic Survival Expo** will follow the e200 graduation ceremony. Find out what resources are available to help you and your business in these economically challenging times! Lenders, technical assistance providers and community organizations will be available to speak with you.



Organizations to exhibit include:

- **ACCION**- affordable microfinance solutions to small business owners who need them; a dynamic organization that reaches deeply into the communities served and has helped thousands of small business owners grow and thrive.
- **Center for Women and Enterprise** – dedicated to helping women start and grow businesses and to empower women to become economically self-sufficient.
- **City of Boston Department of Neighborhood Development - DND** provides services and programs to the City's neighborhoods through eight operating divisions: Administration & Finance, Director's Office, Homebuyer Services, Homeowner Services, Neighborhood Housing Development, Office of Business Development, Policy Development and Research, Real Estate Management & Sales.
- **Hispanic-American Chamber of Greater Boston**—represents businesses, individuals and institutions and is committed to the economic development and success of the Hispanic business community in Greater Boston.
- **IRS** - offers a broad range of industry/profession specific information for self-employed entrepreneurs, employers and businesses.
- **Massachusetts Export Center** - offers a range of targeted, customized services to Massachusetts businesses at any stage in the export process. Whether you are a small business just thinking about exporting or an experienced exporter, the Massachusetts Export Center stands ready to help with services suited to your needs.
- **Massachusetts Office of Attorney General** – Business, Technology & Economic Development Division
- **Massachusetts Office of Small Business & Entrepreneurship** - works with the Commonwealth's many service providers of technical assistance and financing, as well as directly with small businesses to provide an atmosphere of success.
- **Massachusetts Small Business Development Centers**—provides high quality, in depth counseling, training, and access to capital by their highly skilled fulltime professional staff.
- **Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC)** provides client firms with opportunities to receive an understanding of contracting requirements and the know-how to obtain and successfully perform federal, state and local government contracts.
- **SCORE**—Counselors to America's Small Business – offers free counseling to entrepreneurs and would be entrepreneurs from counselors who have been in business, at over 30 locations in Massachusetts.
- **State Office of Women and Minority Assistance** -SOMWBA certification is **a marketing tool** used to enhance a firm's ability to do business in public markets. More than \$240 million is targeted to SOMWBA certified minority and women businesses. Becoming SOMWBA certified can help firms seeking contracts with the government.
- **US Census Bureau** – The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting temporary part-time census takers for the 2010 Census. The pay is good, the hours are flexible, and the work is close to home. Census taker jobs are excellent for those who want to work part-time, those who are between jobs, or just about anyone who wants to earn extra money while performing an important service for their community.

When: January 14, 2009 10 a.m.—12 noon Expo

Where: Tip O'Neill Federal Building Auditorium
10 Causeway Street, Boston

Contact Anna Outerbridge at 617-565-8510 with any questions.