



Updates from the Office of Economic Development

GO Start-Up Fall 2022 Recap

The Charlottesville Minority Business Program would like to recognize the Fall 2022 GO Start-Up participants. GO Start-Up is designed to provide introductory level business concepts and processes potential start up feasibility. A total of nine participants successfully completed the entrepreneurship workshop. We are wishing Wilma Dove, Robert Johnson, Jonathan Vowles, Samuel Bush-Wright, Hyeyon Moon, Signay Shelton, Jahmila Riley, Amber Smith, and Brandon Lee success in their future entrepreneurial endeavors. To learn more about the GO Start-Up program click [here](#).



Free Accessibility Assessments for Hospitality Businesses Offered

The Charlottesville Albemarle Convention & Visitors Bureau (CACVB) has partnered with Wheel the World, a travel solution and comprehensive guide for finding and booking travel experiences based on an individual's accessibility needs, to provide free assessments of local tourist facilities and attractions. This partnership is part of CACVB's larger Tourism for All action plan. For more information about Wheel the World, visit www.wheeltheworld.com or join a webinar on Thursday, Nov. 10, from 12-1:00 p.m. EST for an overview. Partners can [sign up via Zoom](#). Those interested in the assessments can [sign up here](#) before Monday, January 2, 2023.

Downtown Mall Tree Removal Education Session to be Held

The City of Charlottesville Parks and Recreation Division will be removing nine trees on Charlottesville's Downtown Mall. Trees have been selected for removal due to concerns about the health and structural integrity of the individual trees. The fourth and final education session will be held on November 3 at 5:30 PM on the Downtown Mall. Attendees can meet City staff in front of the Parks & Recreation administration building, which is adjacent to the Market Street parking garage. No advanced registration is required.

Talent Supply Connector Initiative

On October 24, 2022, VA Career Works convened regional talent development stakeholders to form coalitions for the Light Manufacturing and Food & Beverage Manufacturing sectors. The kickoff meeting for their Talent Supply Connector initiative was held at the North Fork Meeting Center in Charlottesville. Representatives from local and area businesses, community colleges, adult education, career technical schools, and local government attended to learn more about supporting and expanding internship opportunities, apprenticeship programs and work-based learning experiences. Allyn Sinderbrand, Program Manager for Career Pathways, moderated the discussions and engaged attendees in developing an action plan for next steps. To learn more, click [here](#).

Virginia Named the Top State for Business Climate in 2022

Virginia, a frequent top 10 finisher in Site Selection's annual ranking, beat out eight-consecutive winner Georgia for this year's first place standing. Texas placed third, with North Carolina and Arizona rounding out the top five. To determine the ranking of the best state business climates, surveys were sent to site selectors and an index was created to measure and identify the placings. The executives were also asked to prioritize their site location criteria, which revealed the attributes they considered to be present in the states with a strong business climate. Workforce skills—available today and in the future, was the number one priority, with tax climate and workforce development tying for second. To learn more about the rankings, priorities, and how Virginia is setting itself apart from the rest of the nation, click [here](#).

Virginia Film Festival Returns to Charlottesville

The 35th Annual Virginia Film Festival returns to Charlottesville with more than 100 films and events from November 2-6. This year's lineup includes some of the hottest films on this year's festival circuit along with an array of fascinating documentaries, some of the most awarded films on the international scene and more. This year's highlights include the Opening Night Film, *Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery*, the Centerpiece screening, *Women Talking*, and the Closing Night Film *Empire of Light*, from Academy Award-winning writer/director Sam Mendes. As always, the VAFF will invite audiences to go beyond the screen with fascinating conversations that will highlight some of the most important issues in today's world. For more information or to order your tickets, click [here](#).

Friends of Cville Seeking Volunteers for Holiday Events

Are you looking for a jolly fun way to volunteer in the community this holiday season? Please consider volunteering with the Friends of Charlottesville Downtown's Magic on the Mall. They are searching for "Elves" to help support the Selfies with Santa experience, "Conductors" to drive the Holly Trolley Downtown and "Support Conductors" to facilitate the passenger experience on the Holly Trolley. Holly Trolley Conductors (drivers) must be available to attend a training session on November 22nd at 11:00 AM in front of Central Place Downtown. Please sign up for an event shift [here](#).

OED Fun Fact

Today is National Sandwich Day. The sandwich is believed to be the namesake of John Montagu, 4th Earl of Sandwich, following the claim that he was the inventor of the sandwich. Attribution is also occasionally assigned to Lord Sandwich, a proficient gambler who preferred not to leave the gaming table to eat. Join the celebration with your favorite locally made sandwich today!

Upcoming Events



[CIC10](#)

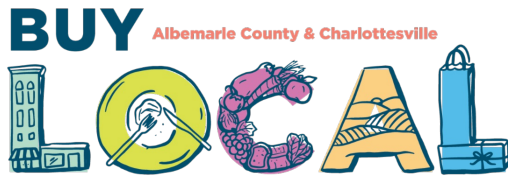
The Community Investment Collaborative 10-year anniversary will be held on Saturday, November 5th 5:00pm-8:00pm at IX Park. The event will consist of an entrepreneur reunion, food, music, and vendors. CIC has been instrumental in providing training for hundreds of aspiring entrepreneurs in our community over the past decade. OED salutes CIC's efforts as a valuable community partner and wishes for continued success. For more information click [here](#).

[CIC Entrepreneur Workshop](#)

Take your business to the next level! This hands-on course enables entrepreneurs to determine whether their business is viable, develop an initial plan for launching or

growing their business and learn the fundamentals of how to act on that plan. Applications are now being accepted for the Spring 2023 class. For more information click [here](#).

Free Business Resources



The Albemarle County & City of Charlottesville Buy Local campaign highlights small businesses within the Charlottesville-Albemarle area through a multi-channel, multimedia promotional and educational campaign. To learn more about the campaign, click on the Buy Local logo above!



The Central Virginia Small Business Development Center is a team of business and technical experts available to advise and assist entrepreneurs, confidentially and free of charge. They offer 1:1 assistance, curated research, access to technical experts and professionals, and timely events/training. To see upcoming SBDC events, click on the SBDC logo above!

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