



Updates from the Office of Economic Development

Office of Economic Development Releases 2022 Annual Report

OED is again pleased to provide an annual update on our activities from 2022 as we continue to strive to fulfill our mission as a catalyst for economic activity. To view the report, please click [HERE](#). (Please note the Issuu platform does not support Internet Explorer.)

Community and Business Survey Launched in Support of Economic Development Strategic Plan

The City of Charlottesville has contracted with Resonance Consultancy to assist with the development of a new five-year Economic Development Strategic Plan. This engagement will provide strategic direction for the City by identifying key opportunities for future growth and partnerships. As part of that process, a community and business survey has been developed to help inform the plan and we invite all to share their input by completing the survey. Access the survey [here](#). The survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete. The final Economic Development Strategic Plan is expected to be completed by July 2023.

City and County to Host Business Pitch Competition

The City of Charlottesville Office of Economic Development and Albemarle County Economic Development have joined forces to offer educational programming leading to a pitch competition for local small businesses. Entrepreneurs and small business owners in Charlottesville and Albemarle can apply to participate in the 10-week program including 8 training programs (Business Essentials Training) offered by Central Virginia SBDC and work with a business advisor to hone their pitch and develop a solid business plan. To learn more about the program or to sign up, please visit the [Piedmont Pitch website](#).

Next GO Cook Training Session to Begin March 13

GO COOK
Life Skills Through Culinary Arts
GET TRAINED. GET CERTIFIED. GET HIRED.

**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
REGISTER TODAY**
CULINARYCONCEPTSAB.COM

434-278-2637
info@culinaryconceptsab.com

Register now to attend the next GO Cook Training Session to commence on March 13, 2023. The five-week class prepares you for a career in the culinary field where you will earn your ServeSafe and Certified Cook certifications. The training course includes hands on experience, job shadowing and job placement. Full scholarships are available through a partnership with the City of Charlottesville's Office of Economic Development, Albemarle County and Culinary Concepts AB LLC. Sign up today! Application assistance is available at the Downtown Job Center.

February is CTE Month

Join us as we celebrate Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month! CTE Month is a public awareness campaign, hosted by the Association for Career & Technical Education (ACTE) and sponsored by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), that takes place each February

to celebrate the value of CTE and the achievements and accomplishments of CTE programs across the country. CTE is education that directly prepares students for high-wage, high-skilled and high-demand careers. Charlottesville is fortunate to have several CTE partners who offer an array of opportunities to develop successful career pathways. Start your journey today! Visit [Charlottesville-Albemarle Technical Education Center \(CATEC\)](#), [Piedmont Virginia Community College \(PVCC\)](#) and [Culinary Concepts AB](#) to view the variety of programs and certifications available. Celebrate Today, Own Tomorrow.

Indaco Risk Advisers Listed as Best Places to Work in Virginia

Congratulations goes out to Indaco Risk Advisers for being recognized for the seventh time as one of the best places to work in Virginia. The Virginia Business magazine has released it's 2023 Best Places to Work in Virginia list. You can view the full list here: [2023 Best Places to Work in Virginia](#)

Public Survey for Federal Housing Resources

The City of Charlottesville and the Thomas Jefferson HOME Consortium are making a new plan for its use of federal housing resources and are asking for public input to help identify the most pressing housing and community needs to prioritize limited federal funding for the next five years. Anyone living or working in the City of Charlottesville, or the Counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Green, Louisa, or Nelson are encouraged to complete the [survey](#) now through February 19, 2023. For more information click [here](#).

LaunchPad at the City Market

The Charlottesville Office of Economic Development has partnered with the City Market in an initiative to grow small businesses. City Market introduces *LaunchPad*, an opportunity for affiliated businesses to receive a table at the City Market free of charge. Get your business in front of the community and gain direct feedback from customers. Each week the City Market attracts 2,000 patrons: local families, seniors, students, and tourists. *LaunchPad* will be open to any business type; typical restrictions for only homegrown, homecooked, handmade products do not apply. *LaunchPad* exhibitors will rotate in and out each week to give more opportunity to more entrepreneurs. Exhibitors will receive use of a tent, table and chairs.

Charlottesville City Market prides itself on being an incubator for blossoming businesses. This partnership will expand opportunity for local small businesses to thrive. Launch your business to the next level with *LaunchPad*. If you are interested in being a LaunchPad vendor, click [here](#).

Young, Gifted and Black: Black History Month Event

The Charlottesville Chamber of Commerce will be hosting this event to showcase thought-provoking short talks on Black entrepreneurship and workforce/talent development. For more information on the panelists and to register, click [here](#).

OED Fun Fact

February is Black History Month. In 1921, Dr. Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander was the first African American to receive a Ph.D. in economics. In 1927, she was first woman to receive a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and went on to become the first Black woman to practice law in the state. She was also the first national president of Delta Sigma Theta sorority, serving from 1919 to 1923. Take time this month to learn more about black pioneers like Dr. Alexander by clicking [here](#).

Upcoming Events

[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 [here](#)!



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 [here](#)!

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