

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Erica Bethe Levin
Founder and CEO, Globowl

Three-time founder and food-industry expert, Erica Bethe Levin is the founder and CEO of Globowl, a baby and toddler food company focused on early allergen introduction through internationally-inspired meals. Erica was named one of Today's Chicago Woman's Top 100 Women Making a Difference.

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CHICAGO SMALL BIZ EXPO

EVENT AGENDA

September 20, 2025
8:30am - 1:30pm
Malcolm X College



AGENDA

- 8:30 AM** Attendee Registration & Expo Area Opens
- 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM** Expo Welcome & Networking Breakfast (Exhibitor Hall Closed)
- 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM** Exhibitor Hall Reopens
- 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM** **Keynote Address in Auditorium** (Exhibitor Hall Closed)
- 11:30 AM - 12:15 PM** **Workshops in rooms 1106 and 1103** (Exhibitor Hall Open)
- Financial Management for Small Businesses
 - Introduction to Government Contracting
- 12:15PM - 12:45 PM** Exhibitor Hall stays open
- 12:45 PM - 1:30 PM** **Workshops in rooms 1106 and 1103** (Exhibitor Hall Open)
- From Vision to Action: Building Your Winning Business Plan
 - Steps to Obtain a City of Chicago Business License
- 1:30 PM** Expo Concludes

WORKSHOP DETAILS

Financial Management for Small Businesses (room 1106)

Presented by: Wintrust

The Financial Management for a Small Business module provides an overview of business financial management and is designed to help participants to understand how financial management can benefit their business.

Introduction to Government Contracting (room 1103)

Presented by: Women's Business Development Center

This workshop will focus on how to do business with the city of Chicago and state of Illinois. And, where to find procurement opportunities to help you grow your business with government contracts!

From Vision to Action: Building Your Winning Business Plan (room 1106)

Presented by: 36Squared Business Incubator

Learn the key steps of business planning — from market research to financial projections — and walk away with a clear roadmap to grow your business. Whether you're just starting or looking to take your business to the next level, this session will help you create a roadmap for success.

Steps to Obtain a City of Chicago Business License (room 1103)

Presented by: The City of Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection

Learn the steps for obtaining a business license; from registering your business to license application, inspections, and license issuance. If you already have a license, this workshop will show how you can maintain and renew your license.

EXHIBITORS

Business Counseling

- 36Squared Business Incubator
- Arab American Business and Professional Association
- Belmont-Central Chamber of Commerce
- Center for Changing Lives
- Chicago Chinatown Chamber of Commerce
- Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council
- Chinese Mutual Aid Association
- Lawndale Business Renaissance Association
- Logan Square Chamber of Commerce
- Mt. Greenwood Community and Business Association
- New Covenant Community Dev Corp
- North Branch Works
- North River Commission
- Quad Communities Development Corporation
- SCORE Chicago
- South East Chicago Commission
- Sunshine Enterprises
- West Side Forward
- Wicker Park Bucktown Chamber of Commerce
- Women's Business Development Center (WBDC)

City of Chicago Departments

- Chicago City Treasurer Office
- City of Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP)
- City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE)
- City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development (DPD)
- City of Chicago Department of Procurement Services (DPS)
- City of Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation (DSS)
- City of Chicago Department of Water Management (DWM)

Finance

- Allies for Community Business
- CIBC Bank USA
- SomerCor
- Wintrust Bank NA

Legal

- Institute for Justice Clinic on Entrepreneurship

Other Government Agencies

- Chicago Park District
- Cook County Office of the Chief Procurement Officer
- Illinois Secretary of State
- Illinois State Comptroller
- Illinois State Treasurer's Office
- Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
- Small Business Administration (SBA)
- State of Illinois Central Management Services Bureau of Strategic Sourcing