



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 14, 2025

**CONTACT:**

Elisa Sledzinska

312.744.1973

[Elisa.Sledzinska@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Elisa.Sledzinska@cityofchicago.org)

**LAST CHICAGO SMALL BIZ EXPO OF 2025 TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL RESOURCES TO  
CHICAGO'S SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY**

*The September 20<sup>th</sup> expo will support entrepreneurial growth and community engagement*

**CHICAGO** – Today, the Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP) announced the last Chicago Small Biz Expo of 2025 will take place on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Malcolm X College. The free expo will kick-off with a networking breakfast sponsored by the Office of City Treasurer, an exhibition hall offering resources from over 30 nonprofit and government agencies, workshops and a keynote address. The keynote speaker will be Erica Bethe Levin, Founder and CEO of Globowl, a baby and toddler food company focused on early allergen introduction through internationally inspired meals. To register and learn more, visit [Chicago.gov/BizExpo](https://Chicago.gov/BizExpo).

“At its core, the upcoming Chicago Small Biz Expo is about investing in our residents' ideas and dreams,” said **Mayor Brandon Johnson**. “We are proud to support the local business owners and entrepreneurs who drive revitalization and strengthen our communities by creating jobs and empowering our residents to build better together.”

“The Chicago Small Biz Expo is a vital resource for current and aspiring business owners looking to start or scale their business,” said **Ivan Capifali, BACP Commissioner**. “The expo offers no-cost resources and support from exhibitors, workshops and more to help turn ideas into action.”

The keynote address will feature Erica Bethe Levin, Founder and CEO of Globowl. Erica founded Globowl out of a desire to bring internationally inspired recipes to a new generation of future foodies. Globowl launches families into a life-long journey of adventurous eating that reflects and respects the many cultures that make up our world. Prior to Globowl, Erica was Director of Global Sales for Coyle Hospitality, a founding employee at Reserve and led growth initiatives before it was acquired by Resy, and first female founder at 1871 where she launched CheekyChicago, an online resource for women. Most recently, Erica was a finalist on the 2024 season of Gordon Ramsay's Food Stars on Fox and Hulu.

“I am honored to speak and connect with the passionate entrepreneurs at the Chicago Small Biz Expo” said **Erica Bethe Levin, Founder and CEO of Globowl**. “I know firsthand

the challenges, and incredible rewards, of building something from the ground up. This expo serves as a space of learning and collaboration, and I look forward to sharing my journey.”

In partnership with City of Chicago Colleges and the Chicago Treasurer’s Office, the upcoming expo is sponsored by CIBC Bank USA, Pursuit, Western Union and Wintrust Bank.

“The expo is about removing barriers and creating real pathways for success,” said **Mario Hernández, Director of Public Affairs at Western Union**. “Business ownership provides stability and generational success, and Western Union is proud to be an expo sponsor as we create a stronger, more inclusive economy for all.”

The Saturday, September 20th expo will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Malcolm X College, located at 1900 W. Jackson Blvd. The schedule is as follows:

8:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.: Registration and Expo Opens

Attendees can visit exhibitors, get expert advice and receive free professional headshots.

9:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.: Welcome and Networking Breakfast

Attendees can participate in a breakfast networking session sponsored by the Chicago Treasurer’s Office.

9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.: Exhibitor Hall Reopens

Attendees can visit exhibitors, get expert advice and receive free professional headshots.

10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.: Keynote Address

Erica Bethe Levin, Founder and CEO of Globowl

11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.: Business Education Workshops

12:15 p.m.-12:45 p.m.: Exhibitor Hall Open

Attendees can visit exhibitors, get expert advice and receive free professional headshots.

12:45 p.m.-1:30 p.m.: Business Education Workshops

To register and for more information, visit [Chicago.gov/BizExpo](https://chicago.gov/BizExpo). For inquiries call (312) 744-2086 or email [BACPoutreach@cityofchicago.org](mailto:BACPoutreach@cityofchicago.org). For information about BACP, visit [Chicago.gov/BACP](https://chicago.gov/BACP).

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