



## IN HONOR OF NATIONAL WOMEN'S SMALL BUSINESS MONTH, CALIFORNIA BANK & TRUST AND NON-PROFITS TEAM UP TO HOST FREE WEBINAR

*The Oct. 26 webinar, titled "She Means Business: A Panel Discussion With Women Entrepreneurs," will feature four female executives from across the state*

**SAN DIEGO – (Oct. 5, 2023) –** [California Bank & Trust \(CB&T\)](#), one of California's leading banks, has teamed up with Accessity and Working Solutions CDFI to host "She Means Business: A Panel Discussion With Women Entrepreneurs," a free webinar in honor of National Women's Small Business Month. The webinar will be held on Oct. 26, 2023, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. via Zoom. [Register for the event today!](#)

The webinar will feature four entrepreneurs hailing from across the state of California. **Leah Kirpalani**, owner of Shop Good in San Diego, will moderate the panel. Panelists include **Joann Guitarte** of J Peach Inc. in Alameda, **Patricia Rodriguez** of SF Parking, LLC in San Francisco, and **Felecia Fisher-Shamu** of Vitality Furniture in Los Angeles. They will be sharing their stories and giving valuable advice for those seeking to start their own businesses.

"We're delighted to hear from successful women entrepreneurs and to be able to see their perspectives and learn from their experiences," said CB&T First Vice President, Community Development Finance Division Lisa Brooks. "At CB&T, we know that diversity creates positive change, and we're proud to support diverse business leaders as they create change. We hope the stories from our panelists will inspire and empower the next generation of entrepreneurs."

CB&T will share additional information on funding for small-business owners through its Diversity Banking Program, along with programs from Accessity and Working Solutions for diverse entrepreneurs. They will share information on funding options available to diverse-owned businesses and how to best prepare to apply for small-business financing.

To learn more about CB&T's Small Business Diversity Banking Program, visit <https://www.calbanktrust.com/campaigns/diversity-lending/>. To stay informed on future events, connect with CB&T on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

### **About California Bank & Trust (CB&T)**

CB&T has been helping Californians and their businesses grow and prosper for 70 years. A division of Zions Bancorporation, N.A. (NASDAQ: ZION), CB&T has been voted "Best Bank" by the San Diego Union-Tribune for 13 consecutive years, and "Best Commercial Bank" for 10 years in a row. Readers of The Orange County Register have also voted CB&T as the county's "Best Bank" for 10 consecutive years; and the group has consistently won the Greenwich Excellence Awards for achievement in Middle-Market and Small Business. Its experienced and professional bankers are backed by major resources yet maintain local decision-making authority and regional market and



industry expertise. Each is committed to providing clients with valuable economic insights and connecting them with the beneficial business relationships they need in order to succeed. To learn more, visit [www.calbanktrust.com](http://www.calbanktrust.com).

### **About Accessity**

Accessity is an independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution organization that provides economic opportunity to entrepreneurs through access to small business loans from \$300 to \$100,000 and a community of support and resources in Southern California. Accessity's mission is to open doors of financial opportunity to those with historically less access to capital and business support: entrepreneurs of color, women, immigrants, and low- to moderate-income entrepreneurs, so they can build prosperous businesses and livelihoods for themselves and their families, while also strengthening communities. Since 1994, the organization has provided approximately \$75 million in loans to small business owners, assisting them in starting, expanding, building self-sufficiency, and supporting the local employment and economy. For more information, visit [accessity.org](http://accessity.org).

### **About Working Solutions CDFI**

Working Solutions is the *First to Believe in Small Business*. As a nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), Working Solutions increases economic opportunity in Northern California by providing small-dollar loans and grants to start-up and early-stage businesses, with a focus on systemically underfinanced communities, particularly lower-income individuals, women, and entrepreneurs of color. To date, Working Solutions has deployed over \$45 million in capital and provided over 40,000 free consulting hours to nearly 3,000 small businesses from Mendocino to Monterey. For more information, please visit [workingsolutions.org](http://workingsolutions.org).

### **Media Contact:**

Sarah Bilyeu  
California Bank & Trust  
[sarah.bilyeu@calbt.com](mailto:sarah.bilyeu@calbt.com)  
(619) 252-9111