



ALABAMA MINORITY VENDOR CONFERENCE

September 14-15, 2023

Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex - Third Floor Forum Building
Birmingham, Alabama

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

8 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Forum 3 rd Floor	Conference Registration
8 - 9:30 a.m.	Forum 3 rd Floor Lobby	Minority Vendor Showcase Set-up
10 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Forum K	
1 – 2:20 p.m.	Forum J	Conference Opening Luncheon Keynote Address: Malik Yoba, Founder/CEO, Yoba Development Moderator: Shelia Smoot, JD, News Director Summit Media
2:30 – 3:20 p.m.	Forum J	Plenary Session <i>Diverse Stories, Strong Brands Let's Talk Marketing</i> Gilberto Herrera, Gilberto Herrera Enterprises Danny Markstein, Founder & Chairman, Markstein Chasiti Shepherd, President, BGrace Media
3:20 p.m.	3 rd Floor Lobby	Munch & Mingle Networking Break
3:30 – 4:20 p.m.	Breakout Sessions	
	Forums H/I	Architecture, Engineering & Construction Session 1: <i>The 5 B's of Business Engineering & Construction Business Management</i> Victor C. Tyler, P.E., President & Principal Engineer, Tyler Engineering
	Forum G	General Business/Food & Retail Session 1: <i>Strategies for Success: The Business Owners' Playbook</i> Abe Harper, President, Harper Technologies Dr. Iyishia Jones, Owner, ISHI? Boutiques Essence Phenix, Franchise Owner, Smoothie King Chef Beverly Russell, Owner, Olivia's Transit Cafe and The Six Sixteen Restaurant and Bar Joshua Sahib, Director, Lowder Center for Entrepreneurship Moderator: Alisicia Adams, Realtor, A&A Corporate Housing

4:30 – 5:20 p.m.	Breakout Sessions	
	Forums H/I	Architecture, Engineering & Construction Session 2: <i>Easy Access to Surety Bonding</i> Mr. Peter Gibbs, President, Foundation Surety & Insurance Solutions
	Forum G	General Business/Food & Retail Session 2: <i>Unlocking Financial Opportunities: Positioning Your Business for Funding Success</i> Heather Jones, SBA Lender, Synovus Bank Samuel Kellett, Chief Operating Officer, Sabre Financial Cameron Ricks, Vice President Commercial Banking, ServisFirst Bank Amelia Thomas, Managing Partner, Empire Capital Ventures Willie E. Watson, Commercial Loan Officer, Hope Credit Union Moderator: Austin Goble, Director, REACH Women’s Business Center
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Forum J	Networking Reception

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

7:30 – 11 a.m.	Forum 3 rd Floor	Registration
8:30 – 9:40 a.m.	Forum J	Breakfast Bytes Plenary <i>Leveraging the Power of AI to Grow Your Business</i> Alicia Lyttle, Founder, Monetized Marketing
9:50 – 10:30 a.m.	Interactive Panels & Workshops: Group 1	
	Forum G	<i>Accessing Government Contracts</i> Cornell Wesley, Director, City of Birmingham – Dept. of Innovation and Economic Opportunity Christine Cook, State Procurement Officer, Alabama Department of Finance Mike Self, Consultant, ALDOT/EEO Network & Solution Moderator: Valton Johnson, CEO, The Johnson Management Group
	Forums H/I	<i>Breaking Barriers, Building Visions: Leading the Enterprise</i> Charlotte Shaw, Chief Executive Officer, Birmingham Jefferson County Transit Authority Moderator: Jennifer Anderson, JSA Consulting

10:40 – 11:20 a.m.	Interactive Panels & Workshops: Group 2	
	Forum G	<i>Primed for the Prime: Straight Talk on Doing Business with Large Contractors</i> Caddell Construction Dunn Building Company Hoar Construction Turner Construction Moderator: Shelia Smoot, JD, News Director Summit Media
	Forums H/I	<i>The Legal ABCs of Small Business</i> Terri Sharpley Reynolds, Principal & Managing Attorney, Levitate Legal
11:20 a.m.	3 rd Floor Lobby	Munch & Mingle Networking Break
11:30 a.m.– 12:10 p.m.	Interactive Panels & Workshops: Group 3	
	Forum G	<i>Building for Success: Construction Contractors Connect & Share</i> Liz Mason, President, Elm Services Jimmy Morris, Owner/Managing Member, Morris Builders Karen Stanley, Vice President, Finance and Marketing, Stanley Construction Company Moderator: Valton Johnson, CEO, The Johnson Management Group
	Forums H/I	<i>Mindful Leadership: Nurturing Mental Wellness</i> Ce Anderson, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Revita Therapy and Wellness
12:10 – Until	Forum K	Post-Conference Gathering

*Schedule subject to limited changes.

CONFERENCE SPONSORS



Caddell Construction

GMC | Goodwyn Mills Cawood

HPM | Hoar Program Management

The Caring Foundation of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama