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## News from: **Economic & Workforce Development Department**

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Small Business Week Helps Oakland Businesses Emerge from Pandemic and Thrive Week-long celebration features free workshops, resource fair

*Oakland, CA* – From May 1 to 7, 2022, Oakland will celebrate Small Business Week with more than a dozen virtual and in-person workshops and other activities for small business owners and entrepreneurs. See the full schedule and registration links at <a href="https://www.oaklandca.gov/SBW">www.oaklandca.gov/SBW</a>.

"Small businesses are Oakland's heart and soul. Our beloved local enterprises provide goods and services that allow our neighborhoods to thrive, as well as livelihoods for our residents," said Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf. "Small Business Week celebrates the economic, civic, and cultural importance of Oakland's unique businesses with educational opportunities to help everyone prosper as we emerge from the pandemic."

From accessing capital to commercial lease negotiations to online market, the educational webinars and workshops presented by partner organizations are designed to help Oakland businesses to thrive as the economy emerges from the pandemic. Select webinars will be offered in Cantonese, Mandarin, Spanish and Vietnamese. A resource fair highlighting available support services and a workshop on successful legacy businesses round out the week's offerings.

Business owners interested in accessing the City's business support services year-round can schedule a free, in-person appointment at one of six Neighborhood Business Assistance locations at <a href="www.oaklandca.gov/BizHelp">www.oaklandca.gov/BizHelp</a> or (510) 238-7398. In addition to the year-round locations, a special pop-up location has been added on Monday, May 2, during the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Resources Fair. Those who <a href="register and attend the Chamber's Resources Fair">register and attend the Chamber's Resources Fair</a> will be entered into a drawing for a pair of tickets on Southwest Airlines.

Partnering organizations include the Alliance for Community Development, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area, Native American Health Center, Oakland Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, Oakland Indie Alliance, Oakland Latino Chamber of Commerce, Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, TMC Community Capital, U.S. Small Business Administration's San Francisco District Office, and the Unity Council.

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