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ADA's Business Development Trip to India

Under the leadership of ADA Project Manager of Business Engagement Danielle Fernandes, the Innovation Crescent Regional Partnership embarked on a business development mission to India from February 1 - 10. During this trip, the team attended the BIO Asia tradeshow in Hyderabad and met with high-tech and life science companies in Hyderabad, Mumbai and Bangalore.

"During our trip, the Atlanta team learned a great deal about the challenges and growth strategies from the life science sector in India," Fernandes said. "We're thrilled by the responses we got from the companies we met with and their interest in Atlanta."

In addition to attending BIO Asia, the team met with 26 Indian companies that may be interested in entering the U.S. market through Atlanta. Many of these companies will be hosted by ADA in Atlanta over the next several months as we continue to build relationships and present opportunities for business locations here.

"I can honestly say that this was one of the best missions I have attended," says Carol Henderson, director of health sciences and advanced technologies with the Georgia Department of Economic Development. "The amount of work ADA put into qualifying companies resulted in outstanding meetings and good leads. I look forward to partnering with ADA on future missions and projects."

Traveling with Fernandes were: Charles Whatley, Director of Commerce and Entrepreneurship, Atlanta Development Authority; Carol Henderson, Director, Health Sciences and Advanced Technologies, Georgia Department of Economic Development; David Hartnett, Vice President of Technology Industry Development, Metro Atlanta Chamber; and Ritesh Desai, Chairman of the Board, Georgia Indo-American Chamber of Commerce.

Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. Announces New Fellowship Program

Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. (ABI) has launched a new fellowship program to increase the capacity of its staff and provide to invaluable work experience for fellows. The Atlanta BeltLine Fellowship represents a tremendous opportunity to positively impact the way Atlanta will mature as a great city.

The Atlanta BeltLine is the most comprehensive urban redevelopment initiative currently underway in the United States. It will enrich Atlanta's quality of life with parks, trails, transit, economic development, affordable housing and public art, and set a national standard for transformative investment, sustainable growth, and equitable development.

ABI is seeking qualified applicants in the fields of Arts; Community Engagement; Construction Management; Communications; Global Information Systems (GIS); and Law. There is one fellowship available in each field. Additional information regarding job responsibilities and qualifications is available online at www.beltline.org.

Interested applicants should submit a resume and cover letter indicating which fellowship they are interested in to jobs@beltline.org. Deadline for submitting applications is 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 1, 2010.

Georgia SBA Seeks Atlanta Small Businesses for e200 Program

The U.S. Small Business Administration Georgia District office is looking for up to 15 firms to participate in this year's Emerging 200 program, which is slated to begin in Atlanta in late April.

The Emerging 200 (known as e200) is an intensive training initiative to accelerate high-potential small businesses' growth in America's inner-cities. This comprehensive curriculum provides the tools to catapult participating companies to the next level and help them emerge as growing, self-sustaining businesses in their community. Atlanta is one of a handful of cities selected to participate in this program.

Over seven months, participants are required to participate in approximately 60-80 hours of classroom instruction, generally two three-hour sessions per month. The method used is primarily instructor-facilitated discussion of the training curriculum. Outside subject matter experts are included as guest speakers to bring a "real world" perspective. Additionally, class participants meet and work in smaller CEO Peer Mentoring Groups for an additional 15-20 hours during the training period.

In order to successfully complete and graduate from the program, participants must not have more than two unexcused absences from classroom or CEO Peer Mentoring Group sessions. They must also prepare and give a 15-minute presentation at the last class session on a three-year strategic growth plan for their business developed from their learning experience.

The e200 advanced training series is open to the president, managing partner, chief executive officer, chief financial officer, or chief operating officer of small businesses that are located in the city limits of Atlanta; have generated minimum average annual revenues for the past three years of \$400,000; and have been in active operation at least three years. The training is offered at no cost to the participants and will be co-sponsored by the SBA, the Atlanta Development Authority, SCORE Atlanta Chapter and the Atlanta Workforce Development Agency.

"SBA's e200 program is an excellent opportunity to support Atlanta's entrepreneurs," says Charles Whatley, director of commerce and entrepreneurship at ADA. "The e200 program will give these emerging inner-city companies an introduction to management best practices, access to new capital sources, and strategies for government contracting." To be considered for the e200 program, please contact Annette Rodriguez at (404) 331-0100, extension 614, or Vianna Harrison at (404) 331-0100, extension 607.

ADA to Host Homebuyer Seminar; REALTOR Nationwide Open House Weekend

For potential home buyers, the window is rapidly closing to take advantage of the \$8,000 federal tax credit for first-time buyers and the \$6,500 credit for other qualified buyers. The availability of the tax credits, combined with historically low interest rates and the wide variety of home choices on the market, make this an incredible time to buy a home in Atlanta.

On April 10, the Atlanta Development Authority, in partnership with Brock Built and HomeFree-USA, is hosting a free Homebuyer Seminar starting at the Loft at Castleberry Hill to inform the public of this and other downpayment assistance programs.



Over the course of this daylong seminar, participants will learn how to access up to \$60,000 in government subsidy to help with downpayment and closing costs. A bus tour and stops at The Commons at Historic Westside Village, Habershal at West Highlands and Huff Heights will be included in the program. At the end of the day, participants will receive the Homebuyer Education Certificate, a value of \$60. This certificate is required in order to participate in any government homebuyer program. Visit ADA's website or click on the link at the top of this newsletter for more information on this event.

That same weekend, the Atlanta Board of Realtors will participate in the first-ever REALTOR® Nationwide Open House Weekend.



On April 10 and 11, the public is invited to visit open houses across the metro area, where they will be met not with a high-pressure sales pitch, but with an opportunity to meet with REALTORS® and ask questions about the benefits of homeownership, the local real estate market, and the federal homebuyer tax credit.

In addition to the federal homebuyer tax credit, prospective homebuyers may also qualify for the Opportunity Bond or Beltline Affordable Housing Trust Fund mortgage assistance programs, which provide borrowers with downpayment assistance of 10 to 20 percent of the sales price and are managed by ADA and the Urban Residential Finance Authority. For more information about the event and the federal homebuyer tax credit, please visit www.OpenHouseGeorgia.org.

Upcoming Economic Development Events

March 25, **Atlanta Beltline Southwest Study Group: Subarea 1 - Concepts Phase.** 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Kipp Strive, 1444 Lucile Ave SW. To review and discuss concepts and ideas regarding land use, transportation and greenspace. For more information visit www.beltline.org.

March 26, **Environmental Awards.** 7:30-9:30 a.m., Georgia Aquarium. Make the most of this prestigious event to connect with the people and companies driving Atlanta's green initiative. The Environmental Awards honor individuals and companies that are curbing pollution, developing new products, supporting environmental initiatives, and spreading the green word through marketing and education. Winners and finalists will be honored at the big Awards Breakfast at the Georgia Aquarium Keynote speaker Ira Blumenthal, president, captain planet foundation. Tickets \$65. For more information and to register, visit www.chronicle-events.com.

March 26, **The Entrepreneur Symposiums.** 8 a.m. - noon, Ritz-Carlton Atlanta (Downtown). Led by W. Cliff Oxford, CEO of Entrepreneur Advisors, the Entrepreneur Symposiums will teach invaluable lessons on declaring leadership in your market, brand ownership and practical examples on creating opportunities to move the revenue needle - and you'll build key relationships with other entrepreneurs. Tickets are \$85. Register at www.EntrepreneurAdvisors.com.

March 27, **D. H. Stanton Park Groundbreaking Ceremony.** 10 a.m. – noon, D.H. Stanton Park, intersection of Boynton Avenue and Martin Street in Southeast Atlanta. Mayor Kasim Reed, Councilmember Carla Smith and many more will be on hand to celebrate the first BeltLine park groundbreaking of 2010. This event marks the start of construction on the renovation of the eight-acre D.H. Stanton Park. Upon its completion at the end of 2010, it will be the city of Atlanta's first energy-neutral park and will feature a playground, a ball field, a multi-purpose field, a spray pad and a new piece of public art. The event is free and open to the public.

March 27, **Earth Hour Atlanta.** 8:30 p.m. Atlanta's skyline will join buildings around the globe for World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) annual Earth Hour by turning off non-essential lights on Saturday, March 27, at 8:30 p.m. local time. The annual global event organized by WWF is held on the last Saturday of March. Households and businesses are asked to do something quite simple - turn off lights for one hour in a call for action on climate change. Earth Hour 2009 gained support from nearly one billion people in 4,100 cities in 87 countries. Follow Earth Hour Atlanta on twitter at www.Twitter.com/EarthHourATL and find Earth Hour Atlanta updates at www.SoutheastGreen.com.

April 15 - May 4, **Good Urbanism 101: Lessons for designing cities.** 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, 75 5th Street NW (Centergy Building at Tech Square in Midtown). Classes on April 15, 27, and 29 will be held in the 10th Floor conference room. Classes on April 20, 22 and May 4 will be held in the Hodges Conference Room of Suite 380. Good Urbanism 101 is a six-session course on quality urban design. Learn about the history, principles, and current practices of urban design, including an emphasis on walkability, integration of alternative transportation options, sustainability, and the relationship between urban infrastructure and the urban experience. General registration is \$200, and registration for those seeking professional education credits will be \$300. Space is limited. For more information visit www.georgiaconservancy.org.

This newsletter published by the Atlanta Development Authority.

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