



3rd Annual Symposium Focuses on “Powering Economic Growth” for Small Businesses in Chicago’s Southeast Lakefront Communities

CHICAGO (September 14, 2021) – The South East Chicago Commission (SECC) announced the 3rd Annual SECC Regional Economic Development Symposium will be Saturday, October 9, 2021 and presented by **Allstate**. The Symposium, *Powering Economic Growth*, provides inside perspectives on leveraging media and technology, and also spotlights small business challenges in procurement, supply chains and the local job market.

The Symposium’s Keynote Conversation features **Melody Spann Cooper**, President and CEO of Midway Broadcasting Corporation, and **Louis Carr**, President of Media Sales for BET Networks. NBC 5 Weekend News and Lead Sports Anchor, **Siafa Lewis**, will moderate the discussion on entrepreneurship, community transformation, and how media contributes to the success and recovery of small businesses.

“SECC has a long-term commitment to economic development and vitality in Chicago’s Southeast Lakefront communities,” said **Diane Burnham**, SECC Executive Director. “The pandemic continues to be the primary disruptor that we battle on a daily basis. This year’s Symposium provides another opportunity to collaborate and directly address a couple of pain points the pandemic has created in our business districts.”

The Symposium includes two live panel discussions by Chicago community and government leaders. *Procurement Business in the New Normal* features subject matter experts in economic and community development who will provide actionable direction about accessing private and public sector contracts. *Jobs of the Future... How to Prepare Your Business* introduces considerations for developing a qualified workforce and filling jobs to sustain our small business ecosystem.

The Symposium will broadcast online from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm on October 9, 2021. Access is complimentary with [registration](#).

Major contributors include Comcast Business, Comcast NBCUniversal, Charity & Associates, BMO Harris, Gensler, Groupon, CEI Media Group, Clayco, CIBC, Seaway Bank, Cleveland Avenue, Bulley & Andrews, BOWA Construction Company, and Chicago Community Loan Fund. #seccsymposium2021

More info: www.secc-chicago.org/symposium2021

About the South East Chicago Commission

The South East Chicago Commission (SECC) works to facilitate and support economic development within the Southeast lakefront communities. While fostering collaboration and coordination among businesses, organizations, and institutions, SECC promotes job creation, community investment, and economic vitality. SECC is a Neighborhood Business Development Center (NBDC) delegate agency of the City of Chicago. Economic development funders include MacArthur Foundation, The Joyce Foundation, Bank of America, PNC Foundation, and the University of Chicago. www.secc-chicago.org

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