



THE OFFICIAL E-NEWSLETTER OF THE 2012 TAMPA BAY HOST COMMITTEE

SMALL BUSINESS NETWORK PROGRAM LAUNCHES

■ An exclusive program to promote and cultivate Tampa Bay's diverse business community representing small, women and minority-owned companies.

The Tampa Bay Host Committee is excited to announce the launch of the Small Business Network. The emphasis of the network is to use the platform of the Republican National Convention to drive interest to and promote local Tampa Bay small business.

"We are releasing what we believe to be an unprecedented effort to market and promote local small businesses for a Republican National Convention. We are committed to seeking opportunities that drive economic development to the Tampa Bay market and this is just one of the programs we believe will help us accomplish this," said Host Committee President and CEO Ken Jones.

The Small Business Network will have multiple components, including educational, marketing and matchmaking opportunities. To participate, local small businesses must be registered and certified by one of the following: [The City of Tampa](#), [City of St. Petersburg](#), [Hillsborough County](#) or [Pinellas County](#).

Tampa Bay Local Small Businesses

Registration will open in mid-January at Forum I of the Small Business Network. Certified small businesses who attend Forum I will be able to register for the Small Business Network and potentially bid on available contracts. Watch for more information to come in the December INSIDER newsletter.

Buyers

Registration is open today! A buyer is a participating business entity, corporation or government agency interested in PURCHASING goods, services or products. Buyers can sign up to submit contracts to local small businesses by following the Small Business Network link at www.2012tampa.com. The registration period will close in January for buyers.

"The objective of this network is to promote our local small business community to large, local and national corporations, to the Committee on Arrangements and to the delegations of the Republican National Convention," said Matt Becker, Chief Operating Officer of the Tampa Bay Host Committee. ■

THANK YOU CORNER

The Host Committee is proud to support Tampa Bay's small and local business community. A special thank you goes out to locally owned Botanica International Design Studio in Tampa, who provided the décor and design for a recent Host Committee event.

"We are excited to be working with the Host Committee and are looking forward to the many new business opportunities the convention will bring to our small business community," said Ian Prosser, Owner and Operator of Botanica International Design Studio.

Botanica International Design Studio has served the greater Tampa Bay community since 1989, providing floral event design and decor. Their talented design team handles weddings, anniversary parties, gala events and more. Their impressive list of clients includes national celebrities and they have had the honor of participating in decoration design for two presidential inaugurations and nine inaugural balls.

To learn more about Botanica International Design Studio, visit their website at www.botanicaflorist.com



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SPOTLIGHT

■ Tampa Bay Host Committee Chairman Al Austin

Mr. Al Austin serves as the Chairman of the 2012 Tampa Bay Host Committee for the Republican National Convention. His professional background is in real estate development and his many contributions to Tampa over the last several decades have made a tremendous impact on the economic development of the Tampa Bay area.

“Mr. Austin is an integral part of the 2012 Tampa Bay Host Committee and he has played a key role in bringing the Republican National Convention to Tampa,” said Tampa Bay Host Committee President and CEO Ken Jones. “We are honored to have him as our Chairman.”

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Austin has served in leadership roles with numerous business organizations including the Tampa Bay Partnership, Hillsborough County Aviation Authority and Florida Council of 100. He is also known as the Pioneer Developer of Tampa’s Westshore business district and proud to be one of the original founders of the Westshore Alliance, an organization dedicated to the growth and progress of the area. Additionally, Mr. Austin was appointed to serve on the Governor’s Advisory Board on Base Realignment and Closure. He served as Chairman of the MacDill Response Team, which was responsible for keeping Tampa’s MacDill Air Force Base from closing.

Mr. Austin is a strong believer in education and community service. In 1974, he and his wife Beverly founded Tampa Preparatory School. Currently, he serves as Chairman Emeritus of the University of Tampa. Known as a philanthropist and community leader, Mr. Austin has also been recognized through countless awards and honors. These honors include being elected to the Tampa Bay Business Hall of Fame and a recipient of the “Vision Award” from the Florida Council on Economic Education.



■ Al Austin, Chairman

“I’m thrilled to be working in this role with the Tampa Bay Host Committee and look forward to seeing what unfolds in Tampa Bay during the next nine months leading up to the Convention. This is a wonderful economic development opportunity for Tampa Bay and Florida and I am excited to be a part of it,” said Mr. Austin. ■

DONATE TODAY

■ Take advantage of this opportunity for a year-end tax deduction by supporting this historic event.

The 2012 Tampa Bay Host Committee will raise more than \$50 million to successfully host the Republican National Convention in August 2012. These funds will be used to alleviate the burdens of local government and promote the Tampa Bay area.

The Host Committee is a non-partisan group of civic leaders, philanthropists and business leaders from across the Tampa Bay area. The Host Committee is also a Florida not-for-profit corporation and is certified as a public charity. Therefore, Host

Committee contributions may be tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by federal and state law.

Individuals, corporations, partnerships, unions, foundations, trade association and other corporate entities may contribute to the Host Committee. Funds will be raised in Florida and across the U.S. Contributions from foreign and non-U.S. sources are prohibited. ■

For more information about donating, including contribution levels:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Or visit www.2012tampa.com/support-us

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