



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AUGUST IS NATIONAL BLACK BUSINESS MONTH

The Valley Economic Alliance's ONYX African American Business Hub Launches Weekly Black Business Month Series for Local Entrepreneurs

Sherman Oaks, California—In support of its efforts to uphold diversity, equity and inclusion in various workspaces, [The Valley Economic Alliance \(TVEA\)](#)'s ONYX African American Business Hub will honor National Black Business Month with a weekly series outlining three pillars of entrepreneurial success.

“Black-owned businesses account for nearly 10% of all businesses and represent approximately 30% of entrepreneurial culture among all minorities,” said Sonya Kay Blake, president and CEO of The Alliance. “Delegating the month of August to commend our African American business owners for their contributions to the Valley’s economy is a necessary observance acknowledging the innovative contributions to our multicultural communities, and a platform for our ONYX Business Hub to recruit new members.”

The sessions included during the month of August are as follows:

August 2, 2022 | 10:00 am - 11:00 am (PT)

Fireside Chat with Cleveland Brown, Founder of Payscout

Business Planning with Keisha Buckanan, Regional Community Development Manager, HSBC and Hemala Ramgahan, Senior Business Relationship Manager, HSBC

Teleconference Link: [Here](#)

August 9, 2022 | 10:00 am - 11:00 am (PT)

Getting Personal Credit Back with Marie Pedraza, Sr. Regional Community Development Manager, HSBC

Building Your Business Credit with Sherman H. Belle, Senior Business Relationship Manager, HSBC

Teleconference Link: [Here](#)

August 23, 2022 | 10:00 am - 11:00 am (PT)

Influencer Marketing & Contracting with Kim “Kat” Shepherd

Winning Contracts with USC, Dr. Michele Turner, Associate Vice President, Office of Business Diversity and Economic Opportunity

Teleconference Link: [Here](#)

Sponsors include HSBC, community partner Black Women’s Network, and the *San Fernando Valley Business Journal*. Guests can register for the individual sessions online, or call (818) 379-7000 for additional details. For more information on The Valley Economic Alliance and its significant role in bolstering the San Fernando Valley’s workforce economy, visit www.TheValley.net.

The Valley Economic Alliance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization comprised of business, government, education, and community leaders. Our mission is to engage and unite Valley stakeholders to raise standards of living and economic vitality across the San Fernando Valley, a five-city region encompassing Burbank, Calabasas, Glendale, Los Angeles, and



San Fernando. This region consists of more than 1.9 million residents, over 160,000 businesses and covering more than 350 square miles. To learn more about The Valley Economic Alliance, visit www.TheValley.net.

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