



Hello Pacifica Business Community!

Welcome to the February Edition of Business Matters.

As we move through February, this edition of Business Matters focuses on practical resources available to support local small businesses in the months ahead. This issue includes information on current grant opportunities, no-cost services, and upcoming workshops intended to assist businesses with financial planning, operations, and online presence.

Featured this month are details on the Small Business Hero Program, free tax preparation assistance through the Renaissance Center, and several funding opportunities, including the UPS Small Business Challenge and the Faire Small Business Grant. We are also sharing information about an upcoming Renaissance Center workshop focused on building and improving your business website, which may be helpful for businesses looking to strengthen their online visibility.

We encourage business owners to review the opportunities included in this issue and consider which resources may be relevant to their business needs this February and beyond.

Best,

Alyssa Corsetti
Management Analyst II



Intuit QuickBooks x Mailchimp Small Business Hero Program



The Intuit QuickBooks and Mailchimp [Small Business Hero Program](#) is currently in its third phase, awarding grants to U.S. small businesses that demonstrate courage, perseverance, and integrity. Three winners are chosen each quarter to receive significant funding and resources to help grow their business.

Award and Benefits

- \$20,000 grant to support your business goals.
- Social media promotion to increase visibility.
- Free access to QuickBooks and Mailchimp services to streamline operations.

Key Eligibility Criteria

- Must be a U.S.-based small business owner aged 18 or older.
- Business must have been operating for at least one year.
- Must have 99 or fewer employees.
- Winners are selected based on their story of resilience and community impact.

Deadline

Feb. 14, 2026

[Learn More](#)

Free Tax Help is Coming Back!



VITA TAX CLINIC:

ACCESS FREE TAX HELP FROM HOME!



renaissance
entrepreneurship center

THIS IS WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO FILE YOUR TAXES:

- Photo ID & Social Security for each adult on tax return and dependents OR
- ITIN number (if you don't have a SSN)
- W-2s from all jobs
- All 1099s, 1098s, and any other tax forms
- Last year tax return if you have it
- Savings AND checking account numbers (routing number for direct deposit of refund)



MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS
4-8 PM

IF APPLICABLE BRING:

- Health Coverage Statements: Forms 1095-A, B or C
 - Childcare provider information
1. total amount paid to the daycare provider
 2. daycare provider's tax identifying number (SSN or EIN)



MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT AT
[HTTPS://CALENDLY.COM/VITARENCENTER/TAXAPP2](https://CALENDLY.COM/VITARENCENTER/TAXAPP2)

FOR MORE
INFORMATION
EMAIL

vita@rencenter.org

Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center is proud to partner with United Way Bay Area to bring the VITA Tax Clinic to our community again this tax season!

If you need assistance filing your taxes, our trained volunteers are ready to support you — completely free. Appointments begin next month, so now is the perfect time to claim your spot.

[Book Appointment Here](#)

GO-Biz Now Accepting Applications for California Competes Tax Credits



The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) is now accepting applications for the California Competes Tax Credit (CCTC). There are \$308 million in tax credits available during this application period for businesses that are expanding and adding quality, full-time jobs in California that might not otherwise be created by the business or any other business. The deadline to submit applications is Monday, January 26, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. (Pacific Time) and the online application website will automatically close once this deadline has passed. The online application can be accessed at www.calcompetes.ca.gov.

In FY25-26, special consideration will be given to businesses within the "strengthen" and "accelerate" sector categories as outlined in the California Jobs First Economic Blueprint. More information can be found at jobsfirst.ca.gov/blueprint/.

Members of the California Competes team are available to provide technical application assistance. In addition, an updated application guide, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), a recorded webinar, and program regulations are available at www.business.ca.gov/calcompetes. For applicants that are reapplying for the credit, the FAQs include instructions on how to copy information from a previously submitted application.

Businesses interested in learning more about California Competes can participate in free application webinars.

For fiscal year 2025-2026, GO-Biz will accept applications for the California Competes Tax Credit during the following periods:

- March 2, 2026 – March 16, 2026

If you have any questions regarding the California Competes program or application process, please call (916) 322-4051 or email CalCompetes@gobiz.ca.gov.

[Learn More](#)

UPS Small Business Challenge



The [UPS Store Small Biz Challenge](#) is an exciting opportunity for entrepreneurs ready to showcase their business skills. This competition offers substantial financial rewards and the chance to gain national exposure.

Award and Benefits:

- \$25,000 grand prize for the winner.
- Two finalists receive \$5,000 each.
- Mentorship opportunities with business experts.
- A feature in Inc. Magazine for the winning company.

Key Eligibility Criteria

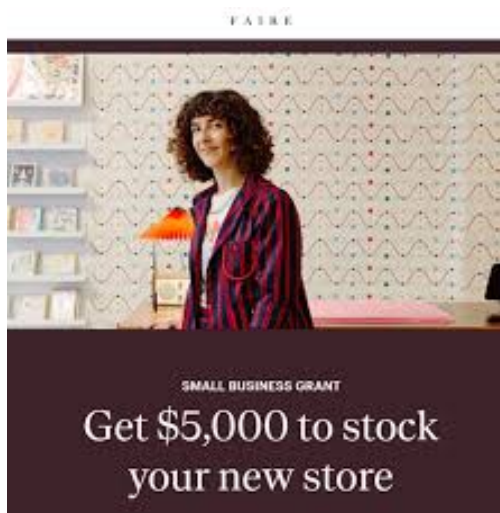
- Must be a U.S.-based small business.
- Must have nine or fewer full-time employees.
- Finalists must be willing to compete in front of a live audience.

Deadline

Feb. 22, 2026

[Learn More](#)

Faire Small Business Grant



The Faire Small Business

Grant program is specifically designed to help new retail businesses stock their shelves with high-quality inventory without the upfront cost burden.

Award and Benefits

- \$5,000 in Faire.com credit to purchase wholesale inventory.
- Access to a wide range of wholesale brands to help build your store's product selection.
- Credit must be used within six months.

Key Eligibility Criteria

- Must be a U.S. or Canada-based independent retail store owner.
- Store must have opened within the last year or plan to open this year.
- Applicants must provide business details and a short video about their store vision.

Deadline

March 31, 2026 (Applications close on the last day of each quarter.)

[Learn More](#)

Renaissance Class: Build a Website That Works for Your Business



WEB ESSENTIALS: BUILDING THE FOUNDATION OF YOUR BUSINESS WEBSITE



Thurs, February 11, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Online via Zoom



with
ABBY FEDER

Ready to create your business website but not sure where to start? Join Web Essentials, an online class designed to teach you the basics of setting up a website that works for your business. Learn what key elements every website should include, such as contact information, product or service details, and customer-friendly navigation. We'll also cover tips for creating an engaging, professional site that reflects your brand and attracts customers. Perfect for beginners looking to build their online presence!

February 11th | 6:00PM - 8PM

[Register](#)

New Toolkit for Hosting Super Bowl & World Cup Watch Events

The Bay Area is set to take the global stage in 2026, hosting Super Bowl LX in February and six FIFA World Cup matches in June and July at Levi's Stadium. To help local businesses and communities make the most of this historic moment, the Bay Area Host Committee, in partnership with The San Francisco Peninsula, has released the first edition of its Public Screening **Playbook**.

This resource offers clear guidance for bars, restaurants, and community groups looking to host public viewings of the games while staying compliant with NFL and FIFA rules. Learn how to legally promote watch parties, avoid trademark issues, and create memorable fan experiences.

Whether you're planning a match-day happy hour or a large-scale outdoor viewing, now's the time to start prepping. Check out the playbook and explore ways to bring global energy into your local space.



[Playbook](#)

Shop Pacifica



Shop Pacifica is a citywide e-Gift Card program created to support small businesses and the local economy by keeping local dollars in Pacifica. The Shop Pacifica e-Gift card is free to businesses to participate in and allows customers to shop at ANY participating locations in Pacifica. Do not miss this opportunity to support your community and promote your business. **Join 55+ merchants** already registered and **sign up** to become a participating business today.

[Watch a 2 Minute Informational Video](#)

[Apply to Join](#)



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Meet Our Economic Development Team



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Learn More About Pacifica's Economic Development Committee

[Next EDC Meeting Details](#)
[Economic Development Agendas and Minutes](#)



RESOURCES

Visit our City webpage for a full list of available resources

Questions & Comments? Contact Us!
econdev@pacifica.gov.

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