
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

January 23, 2025

Ald. Milele A. Coggs
(414) 286-2994

MKE Business Now Entrepreneurship Summit to feature workshops, vendors, special keynote, and much more

The 13th annual **MKE Business Now Entrepreneurship Summit** will take place this **Saturday, January 25** from **10 a.m. – 2 p.m.** at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School located at 3275 N. 3rd St. The event, hosted by **Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs**, is free and open to the public. **Media coverage is invited.** Those interested are encouraged to register in advance [here](#).

Vendors will be on-site throughout the event and include representatives from various city agencies, financial institutions, business development groups, and more.

Four workshops will be held throughout the day beginning at 10:15 a.m. with **Building Strong Banking Relationships for Entrepreneurial Success: The Role of Financial Literacy in Business Growth** and **Cash in on Customer Service**.

At 11 a.m. Milwaukee's own **Shake James**, an entrepreneur and community advocate, owner of shoe brand **CLICKS** and apparel brand **SNEEX**, and owner of **BLACK MARKET**, will deliver his keynote address about how to make creativity and passion your business. The conversation will be moderated by Dr. Rob "Biko" Baker, UWM Professor.

Workshops continue at noon with **Understanding Your Digital Footprint & E-Commerce for Small Business** and **Permits, Licenses, Plans, and Grants: Tools to Get Through City Processes**.

-More-

2025 Business Summit/ADD ONE

The summit concludes at 1 p.m. with a panel discussion featuring a variety of local business owners who will share their stories and experiences with the audience. This year's panel includes: **Edward Hennings**, Entrepreneur and CEO of Work Boots; **Edgar Birdsong**, Owner/Operator of Birdsong's; **Mark Wade**, Entrepreneur; **Chef Deborah**, Owner of Expressively Your Personal Chef Services by Chef Deborah; and **Marquayla Ellison**, Owner of Ellastic Designs LLC. The panel will be moderated by Gideon Verdin of TMJ4.

The MKE Business Now Entrepreneurship Summit is held to support the growth of local entrepreneurship and help innovators stimulate economic development, neighborhood reinvestment, and job creation. The event is sponsored by the Historic King Drive Business Improvement District 8, the City of Milwaukee, the African American Chamber of Commerce, Peoples State Bank, MKE Black and Alderwoman Coggs.

MIKE BUSINESS NOW

ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUMMIT

2025

FREE SAT **10AM-2PM**
AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC JAN 25, 2025

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School
3275 N. 3rd Street, Milwaukee

Workshops, Resources, Panel Discussions and more!



Milele A. Coggs
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Reasonable accommodations provided upon request.
Call (414) 286-3475 or email ADACoordinator@milwaukee.gov.



MKE
BUSINESS
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SUMMIT

WORKSHOPS

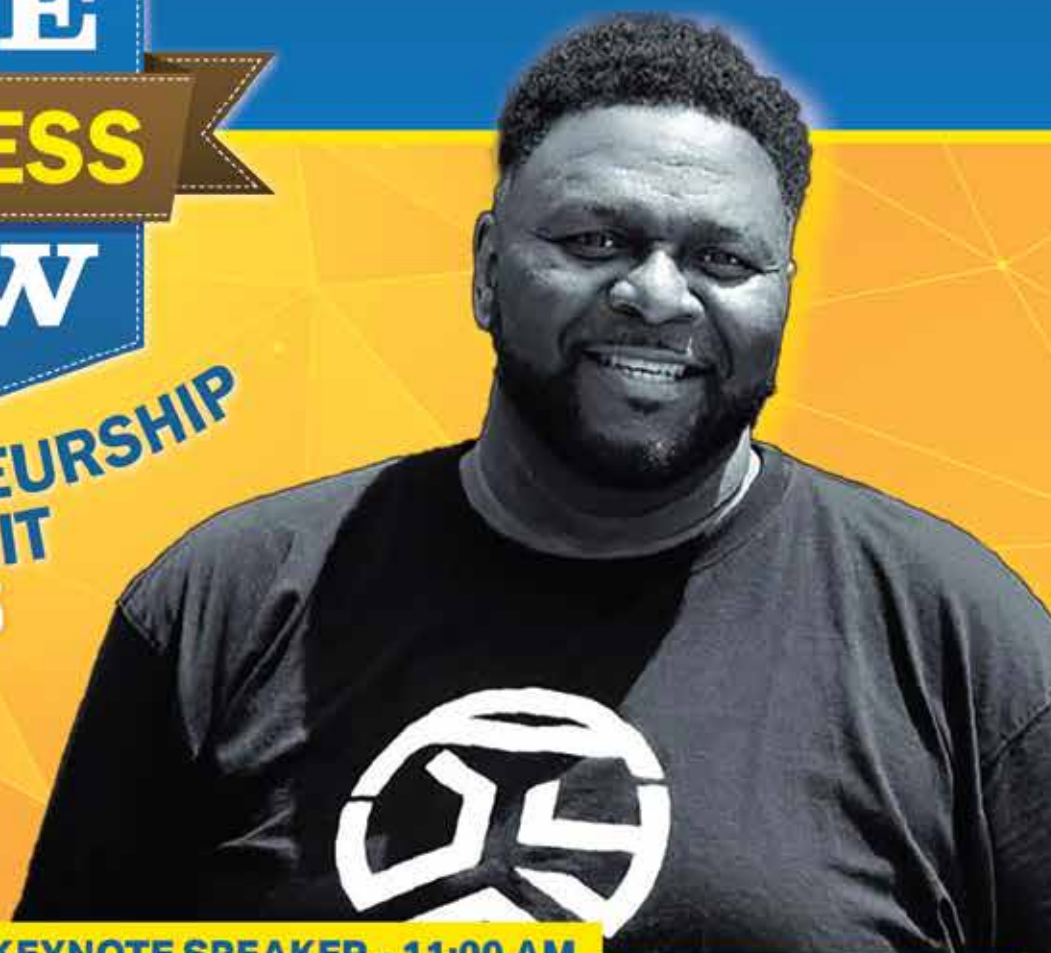
10:15AM **Building Strong Banking Relationships for Entrepreneurial Success: The Role of Financial Literacy in Business Growth**
Peoples State Bank, Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation, WWBIC

Cash in on Customer Service
African American Chamber of Commerce

12:00PM **Understanding Your Digital Footprint & E-Commerce for Small Business**
Cristal Shipp, Owner of CTRL+C Ambassador for Ambition Center MKE Owned by Marcell Jackson

Permits, Licenses, Plans, and Grants etc: Tools to Get Through City Processes
Permits & Development Center, License Department, City Department Commercial Corridor and Board of Zoning and Appeals

MIKE
BUSINESS
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SUMMIT
2025



KEYNOTE SPEAKER - 11:00 AM

★ **SHAKE JAMES** ★

Entrepreneur and unwavering community advocate Shake James established JAY Academy in 2008 as a grassroots initiative in Milwaukee, inspired by the generosity and spirit of his late best friend, hip-hop icon Jam Master Jay.

Workshops, Resources, Panel Discussions and more!

FREE SAT 10AM-2PM
AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC **JAN 25, 2025**

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School
3275 N. 3rd Street, Milwaukee



Reasonable accommodations provided upon request. Call (414) 286-3475 or email ADACoordinator@milwaukee.gov.

MIKE
BUSINESS
NOW

ENTREPRENEURSHIP
SUMMIT
2025

SATURDAY

JAN
25

10AM - 2PM

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School
 3275 N. 3rd Street, Milwaukee

FREE
 AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

PANELISTS & MODERATOR



Chef Deborah, Owner

EXPRESSIVELY YOUR PERSONAL
 CHEF SERVICES BY CHEF DEBORAH



Edgar Birdsong, Owner/Operator

BIRDSONGS



Mark Wade, Entrepreneur



Ed Hennings, Owner/CEO

ED HENNINGS CO.



Marquayla Ellison, Owner/Creative

ELLASTIC DESIGNS, LLC



MODERATOR
Gideon Verdin

SPONSORS



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