



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEEK IN CONNECTICUT

## Schedule of Events

**Tuesday May 10**  
9:00 to 10:00am

### Lessons from Connecticut's Female Founders

Hear from four successful small business owners about their journeys as women entrepreneurs in Connecticut. They'll provide tips and insights on getting started, share their experiences in accessing funding, discuss the challenges they've overcome to successfully grow their businesses, and talk about who and what has enabled them to thrive.

Panelists:

- Ginny Brown, Owner and Founder, The Global Child
- Dr. Natacha Louis-Charles, Owner, Family Eye Care of Orange
- Renata Papadopoulos, Owner and Cake Designer, Lovely Cakes
- Shari Raymond, Founder and CEO, Milton and Goose

Moderator: Fran Pastore, CEO, Women's Business Development Council

[Registration Link >>](#)

**Tuesday May 10**  
**CANCELLED**

**Development Deal of the Day**  
Hartford Communities Challenge Grant program.

**WE APOLOGIZE, BUT DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED.**

**Wednesday May 11**  
10:00 to 11:00am

### Marketing our Communities

Marketing is critical to the effectiveness of tourism efforts and for development and workforce attraction. Hear from Economic Developers who have dedicated efforts and resources to raising their community's brand awareness and promoting assets and available opportunities.

Panelists:

- Jim Bellano, Director, Economic and Community Development, Windham
- Felix Reyes, Director, Office of Development & Planning, New London
- Rose Ponte, Economic Development Director, Farmington

Moderator: Shirar O'Connor, Vice President, Marketing, AdvanceCT

[Registration Link >>](#)

**Thursday May 12**  
10:00 to 11:00am

### At the intersection of Arts and Main Street

Arts and cultural organizations have been long-standing contributors to the vitality of a community. Offering current examples, this panel will explore how to integrate your municipality's cultural assets to create an inclusive and unique destination for residents and visitors.



Panelists:

- Adriane Jefferson, Director of Cultural Affairs, New Haven
- Rista Malanca, Director of Economic Development, Torrington
- Jill St. Clair, Economic Development Director and Mary Calorio, Town Manager, Killingly
- Kisha M. Michael, Arts & Culture Coordinator, Middletown
- Glori Norwitt, EDC, Ridgefield

Moderator: Elizabeth Shapiro, Director of Arts, Preservation and Museums, CT Office of the Arts, DECD

[Registration Link >>](#)

**Friday May 13**  
10:00 to 11:00am

### Renewable Energy in the Real World

A practical talk about renewable energy technologies, with real world examples. Our panel will discuss their projects, and examine the economic benefits and challenges to developing renewable energy projects for a town or region.

Panelists:

- Paul Whitescarver, Executive Director, SeCTer
- Paul Corey, BNE Energy
- Rick Mullins, Infinity Hydrogen

Moderator: Joel Rinebold, Director of Energy, Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT)

[Registration Link >>](#)