

MN Biz Vision: Asian Kaleidoscope



Features:

The Fusion Flavors and Family Values Behind Young Man MSP

Join the Community Walk Audit for the Better Future of the Sears Site

This monthly E-Magazine is published by the Asian American Business Resilience Network to highlight Asian American small businesses' accomplishments.

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Asian American Business Resilience Network

VISION

Envision a new reality that addressing historic inequities, and enhancing culturally/linguistically appropriate ways to thrive through resilience, sustainability, and inclusive growth for all members and the communities where they learn, live, play, and work.

MISSION

AABRN radically accelerates the pace of change by disrupting the status quo; providing resources, training, and support; building bridges across diverse ecosystems; and bringing together public health and business networks, in order to achieve sustainable growth along with an equitable future.

PROGRAMS

- Community Engagement and Translation Assistance, especially public health in nature
- Navigate local, state and national resources
- Access digital tools in advancing members' wellbeing
- Provide training to retain a healthy workforce
- Provide technical assistance in business operation and IT needs



COOKING UP COMMUNITY: THE FUSION FLAVORS AND FAMILY VALUES BEHIND YOUNG MAN MSP

Interviewed By Meejoo Choi

Meet Albert K, Founder of Young Man MSP: Serving Up Fusion Flavors and Family Values

Albert K's love for cooking started long before Young Man MSP came to life. As a Chinese Indonesian, Albert's passion for food was deeply rooted in family and tradition. From an early age, he dreamed of creating unique dishes to share with his community. Today, that dream is a reality as he and his wife, Zye—who also shares a Chinese Indonesian background—serve fresh, made-to-order meals that reflect their journey and values, while building meaningful connections with their customers.

Founded by Albert and Zye, Young Man MSP is a family-run restaurant located in Kingfield, Minnesota. Since opening in March 2020, the business has become known for its creative blend of Indonesian, Balinese, Hawaiian, and Japanese flavors. In addition to the restaurant, they offer food truck services for corporate lunches, graduations, and weddings, as well as private chef experiences and catering for delivery.



From Dishwasher to Chef: A Journey Built on Grit and Growth

Albert's path to entrepreneurship wasn't easy. When he first arrived in the U.S., he had no formal culinary experience. "The only job I could get was as a dishwasher," he recalled. But Albert didn't stop there. Step by step, he worked his way up—from dishwasher to cook—learning everything he could. He seized opportunities to work at restaurants across New York, Boston, Connecticut, Philadelphia, and New Jersey, gaining skills in cutting steak, preparing sushi, making sauces, and mastering rice and other essentials.

In 2013, Albert and his family moved to Minnesota in search of new opportunities and a climate better suited for working behind hot grills. By 2018, they launched their first venture, a food truck called Don Oishi Kitchen. What started with just \$18 in sales on their first day eventually grew through perseverance, learning, and strong community ties. "We went door to door asking breweries if we could serve at their parking spots," Albert said. That spirit of hustle and resilience shaped their success and inspired the creation of Young Man MSP.



Fusion at the Heart of the Menu

Young Man MSP is a reflection of Albert's culinary influences and life experiences. His years working in Japanese restaurants and his love for Hawaiian cuisine inspired a creative fusion style that defines the business. From fresh sushi to garlicky chicken, spicy Korean BBQ, and dishes infused with Balinese spices like galangal, garlic, and sambal—each plate tells a story. The food is cooked fresh to order, with Albert's signature use of the wok bringing vibrant flavors to life.

"We're not traditional Indonesian food," Albert explained. "We do a fusion, and we love bringing those different techniques together." Beyond the food, Young Man MSP offers private chef hibachi services for special occasions, making every event a unique and flavorful experience.

A Business Built on Family and Community

At the core of Young Man MSP is family. Albert and his wife, Zye, made the decision to open their restaurant not only to pursue their passion but also to create a life where they could work and spend time with their children. “We bring our kiddos along while we work,” Albert shared. Their oldest daughter is already showing entrepreneurial spirit, selling toys at the food truck and using the money to buy more —learning lessons of business and independence firsthand.

Albert and his family are also committed to giving back and supporting their community, whether it’s through their food or their presence at local events. Even in the face of hardships, like falling victim to a Ponzi scheme during the pandemic, Albert focuses on resilience and faith. “We believe that everything will get better one day at a time,” he said.



Advice for Aspiring Entrepreneurs

For those hoping to start a food business, Albert offers heartfelt encouragement:

“Believe in yourself! You can do it. It’s hard at the beginning, but eventually it gets better. Always work hard, do the best you can, and trust His timing.” He also highlights the value of teamwork, especially with loved ones: “We research, discuss, and make decisions together as a family.”





Preface: The Asian American Business Resilience Network has teamed up with Asian Media Access to co-develop the St. Paul Sears Site, we will publicize a series of articles to highlight our progress.

Series of SEARS Redevelopment - Article #17

JOIN THE COMMUNITY WALK AUDIT FOR THE BETTER FUTURE OF THE SEARS SITE

This summer, Asian Media Access (AMA), the Asian American Business Resilience Network (AABRN), and the Frogtown-Rondo Business and Cultural Alliance (FRBCA) are working in collaboration with REACH and other community partners to propose a series of Walk Audits around the future redevelopment of the Sears site at 425 Rice Street in St. Paul, MN. Using the AARP/Safe Routes Walk Audit Toolkit (Free Publication: AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit, n.d.), the initiative is designed to bring together community voices to help shape a safer and more connected neighborhood. The goal is to support active transportation by identifying opportunities for stronger pedestrian and cycling connections.

YOU'RE INVITED!

COMMUNITY WALK AUDIT FOR SEARS SITE REDEVELOPMENT

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

Starting Point: 425 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55103

WALK AUDIT 1 – NORTH & EAST ROUTES

Thursday, June 26
7:00 AM – 9:00 AM
 Meet at Radisson Hotel, 161 Rondo Ave (breakfast served)

- Focus: Mänoni Street, Fuller Ave, Ravoux Hi-Rise, and Western Sculpture Park

WHY ATTEND?

- Share your voice about safety, sidewalks, bike paths, and public transit
- Identify ways to improve walking and biking in Rondo & Frogtown

WALK AUDIT 2 – SOUTH & WEST ROUTES

Thursday, July 10
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
 Meet at Berean Church, 441 Rice Street (dinner served)

- Focus: Rice Street, University Ave. Capitol Campus, and Leif Erikson Park

Hosted by FRBCA, AMA/RN, REACH, and local partners
 Guided by AARP Safe Routes Walk Audit Toolkit

Icons: Food provided, Gift cards for participants

Logos: Frogtown-Rondo Business and Cultural Alliance, Asian Media Access, AABRN

RSVP: info@frbca.net
 651-468-8024

Why a Walk Audit—and What Will It Do?

The Walk Audit offers an opportunity to experience the neighborhood at street level. By walking the areas surrounding the Sears site in each of the four cardinal directions, participants will be able to closely examine what's working well, what's missing, and where improvements are needed for walkability, bike infrastructure, public transit access, and overall active transportation connectivity. This includes advocating for pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, safe bike lanes, and equitable access to public transit to promote walking, cycling, and sustainable mobility in the community. The audit will also consider how easily people can reach everyday destinations—such as homes, schools, grocery stores, restaurants, and medical facilities—using safe and accessible routes.

More than just assessing infrastructure, the Walk Audit is intended to collect meaningful input from community members. Photos, videos, and completed audit forms will be used to document conditions and insights, while participant feedback will help shape both short-term interventions—such as pop-up crosswalks and protected bike lanes—and longer-term infrastructure solutions that reflect the community's needs and aspirations for safer, more inclusive streets.



Day One: Exploring the West and South

The first day of the Walk Audit—Thursday, June 26, from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM—will begin at the Radisson Hotel (161 Rondo Ave) and focus on the west and south sides of the Sears site. The west route centers on Marion Street and Western Sculpture Park, with particular attention given to pedestrian crossings at Marion & Fuller and Marion & Ravoux. Observers will also examine sidewalk conditions, lighting, and potential greenway connections, while considering links to nearby areas like Summit-University, Rondo, and the Ravoux Hi-Rise.

The south route will highlight Rondo Avenue and the I-94 barrier—an area with historical significance and ongoing challenges. The construction of Highway 94 displaced hundreds of families and physically divided the Rondo community, severing social and economic ties that once connected the neighborhood. Today,



(*Photo Courtesy: Streets.mn)

the possibility of crossing the highway to reach downtown St. Paul remains limited, often unsafe, and unwelcoming for pedestrians and cyclists.

The audit will explore current sidewalk conditions and one-way traffic patterns, while also encouraging dialogue around long-term ideas such as improved connectivity and the possibility of a freeway lid park. This portion of the audit also provides a chance to reimagine how these streets can support more comfortable and equitable active transportation options.

Day Two: Looking North and East

The second day of the Walk Audit—Thursday, July 10, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM—will begin at Beren Church (441 Rice Street). The north route will move toward University Avenue and the Capitol Rice Transit Station, with a focus on pedestrian flow, signage, safety at crossings, and walkability through Leif Erikson Park. The route also includes an assessment of the nearby business corridor in terms of accessibility and commercial viability. This area also serves as a key connector to daily destinations such as housing, schools, and local shops.



The east route will continue along Rice Street toward the Capitol Campus. Observations will focus on midblock crossings, bus stop safety near MNDOT, curb ramps, and signage. Particular attention will be given to the lack of dedicated bike lanes and limited multimodal connections, highlighting areas where infrastructure can better support a range of active transportation users. For potential pedestrian and cycling connections, ensuring safe, accessible, and equitable active transportation options for all community members remains a key priority. Improving these connections is essential for anyone traveling to everyday destinations—like grocery stores, restaurants, and medical services—whether by foot, bike, or transit.

Engaging the Community in Planning the Future

Beyond gathering data, the Walk Audit is intended to uplift the voices of those who live in and move through the area every day—especially residents from Rondo and Frogtown. Special efforts will include youth, elders, and individuals with mobility challenges, ensuring that community input directly shapes future redevelopment.

Join us for the Walk Audit and help envision a safer, more connected neighborhood. RSVP at info@frbca.net or call 651-468-8024.

Reference

AARP. (n.d.). Free publication: AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit. AARP. <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/getting-around/aarp-walk-audit-tool-kit.html>

May 18

AMAZING TAIWAN

We had the pleasure of attending the Amazing Taiwan event, featuring an incredible performance by the Dance Department of the National Taiwan University of Sport at Fridley High School Auditorium! As part of their North American tour for the 2025 Taiwanese American Heritage Week, the show beautifully showcased Taiwan's vibrant cultural diversity. Truly an inspiring and unforgettable experience!



May 31

HMONG WOMEN'S STORYTELLING SUMMIT

Seeds4Hope hosted a Hmong Women's Storytelling Summit Lexington in St. Paul as part of Asian American History Month. The event featured inspiring stories, interactive workstations, and local vendors celebrating Hmong women's heritage. Photo Courtesy: May Lee-Yang



May 31

ASIAN FAIR

The Twin Cities West Metro Asian Fair brought together residents of all backgrounds to celebrate and appreciate the richness of Asian cultures through performances, food, cultural displays, and interactive activities.



June 06

GOCOO TAIKO PERFORMANCE

Asian Media Access was invited to GOCOO's Taiko. Founded in Tokyo in 1997, this incredible percussion band blends traditional Taiko drumming with high energy rhythms and choreography to create a truly unforgettable show. The performance was more than just music as it connected the community through shared energy and interactive moments



June 06 ~ 08

BRAHMOTSAVAM 2025

Brahmotsavam 2025 at the Hindu Temple of Minnesota concluded with the grand Rathotsavam, Poornahuti, and Dwaja Avarohanam. The atmosphere was filled with devotion, joy, and unity as devotees came together to celebrate the Lord with love and reverence. From the sacred rituals to the vibrant cultural seva and prasadam, every moment was a true offering from the heart. Photo Courtesy: Hindu Society of Minnesota



June 07 ~ 08

PHILIPPINE CHILDREN CAMP 2025

CSFA hosted an overnight camp on June 7–8 for kids ages 6–12 to experience Filipino culture through food, games, and hands-on activities. Campers learned traditional songs and dances, heard folk stories, played Filipino games, picked up a few Filipino words, explored the history of the Philippines, and enjoyed popular Filipino dishes and fruits. Photo Courtesy: Cultural Society of Filipino Americans - Minnesota



June 11

NORTHSIDE FORWARD SUMMIT

Asian Media Access was honored to join Northside Forward at the Capri Theater in North Minneapolis. The event brought together countless community members and leaders for keynotes, panel discussions, and meaningful conversations about a 10-year vision for growth and investment. It was all about celebrating the power, people, place, and possibility of the Northside shaped by the voices of those who live, work, and dream here.



June 14 ~ 15

ASIAN STREET FOOD NIGHT MARKET

We were excited to join the Night Market, which brought together diverse Asian communities in Maplewood, Minnesota through cultural cuisine, live entertainment, and family-friendly activities to celebrate and share Asian traditions.



June 19

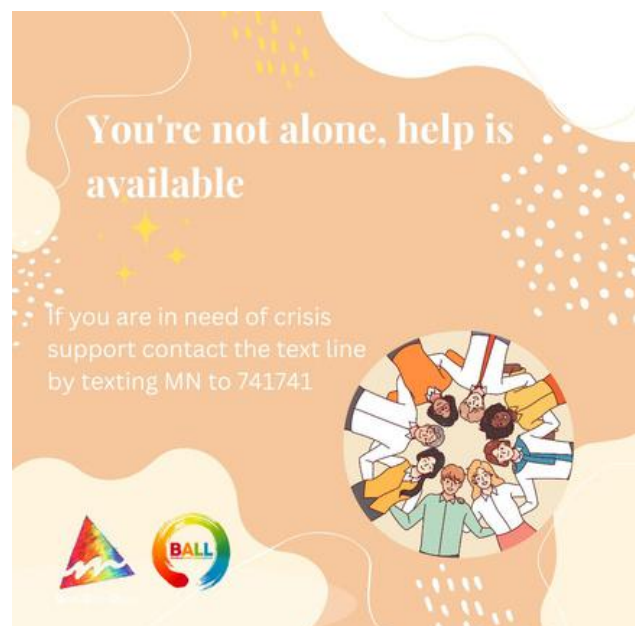
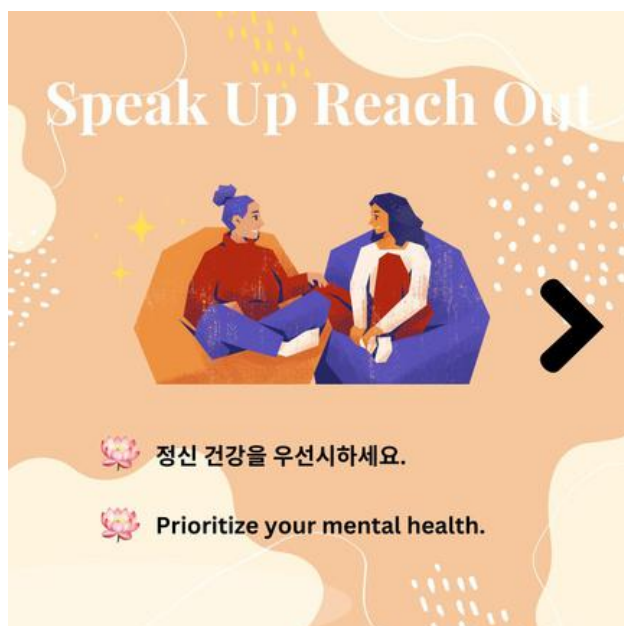
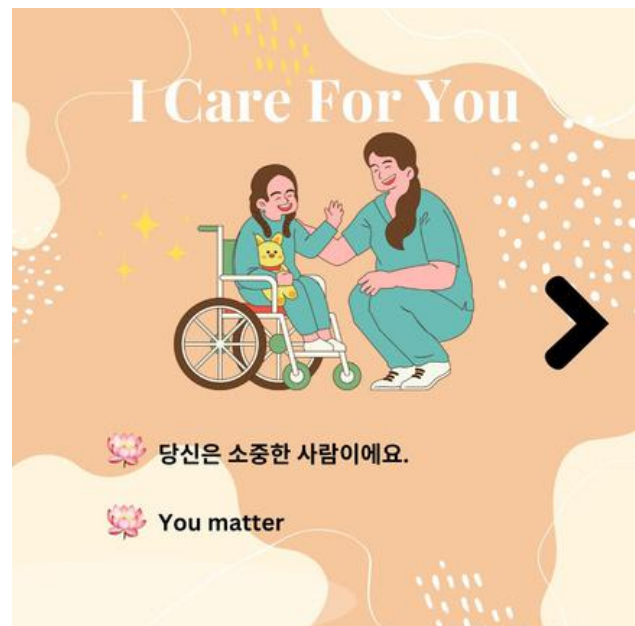
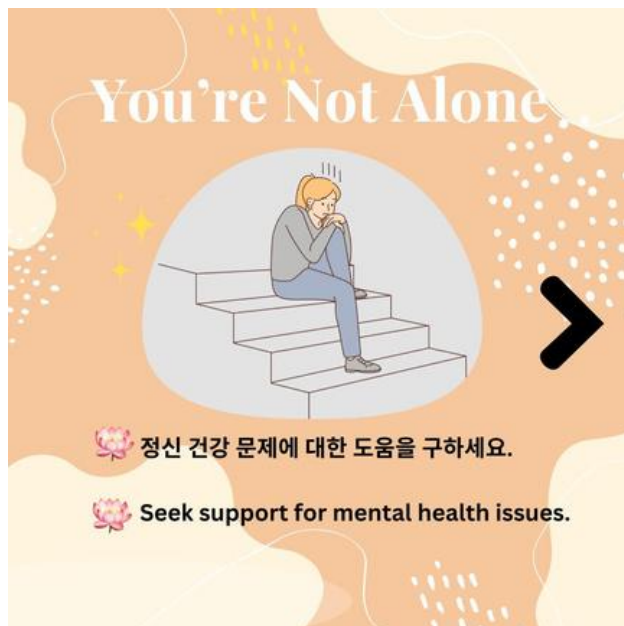
WEST BROADWAY JUNETEENTH

We were proud to join the Juneteenth Minnesota celebration hosted by BOB Rewards Club in Minneapolis, a vibrant day filled with live music, delicious food, community connection, and powerful reflections on the history and significance of Juneteenth.



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS FLYERS

Asian Media Access has created a set of mental health heritage story cards. If you are in need of crisis support contact the text line by texting MN to 741741.





We can help you find your focus

Building a budget that actually works.
Growing your network organically.
Mastering work/life balance. All this
and more with Digital Ready. What will
your focus be?

Check it out



BUDGETING TIPS AND NETWORKING KNOW-HOW

Struggling with budgeting, networking, or work-life balance? Digital Ready can help you find your focus and achieve your goals. Discover expert insights and practical tools to streamline your success at:

https://link.digitalready.verizonwireless.com/OTk2LUtXQy0zNzcAAAGZKn5A0-kz96GrtTzwrOAAOnZ_2TNNWrU_BQXIGWbjvQHw_pjs1hSTgctExNiFQleIF4R3PHE=

Find the event that fits your goals:

<https://digitalready.verizonwireless.com/category/events>



Event • Ask the Expert

Mastering brand storytelling: Crafting narratives that resonate

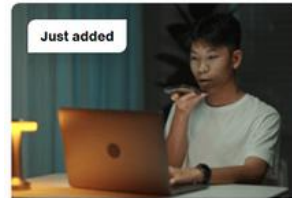
Jun 26, 11:00 am-1:00 pm →



Event • Networking Sessions

Peer to peer check-in

Jun 26, 4:00 pm-5:00 pm →



Just added

Event • Ask the Expert

Define your brand: Stand out and speak to your audience

Jul 10, 12:00 pm-1:00 pm →

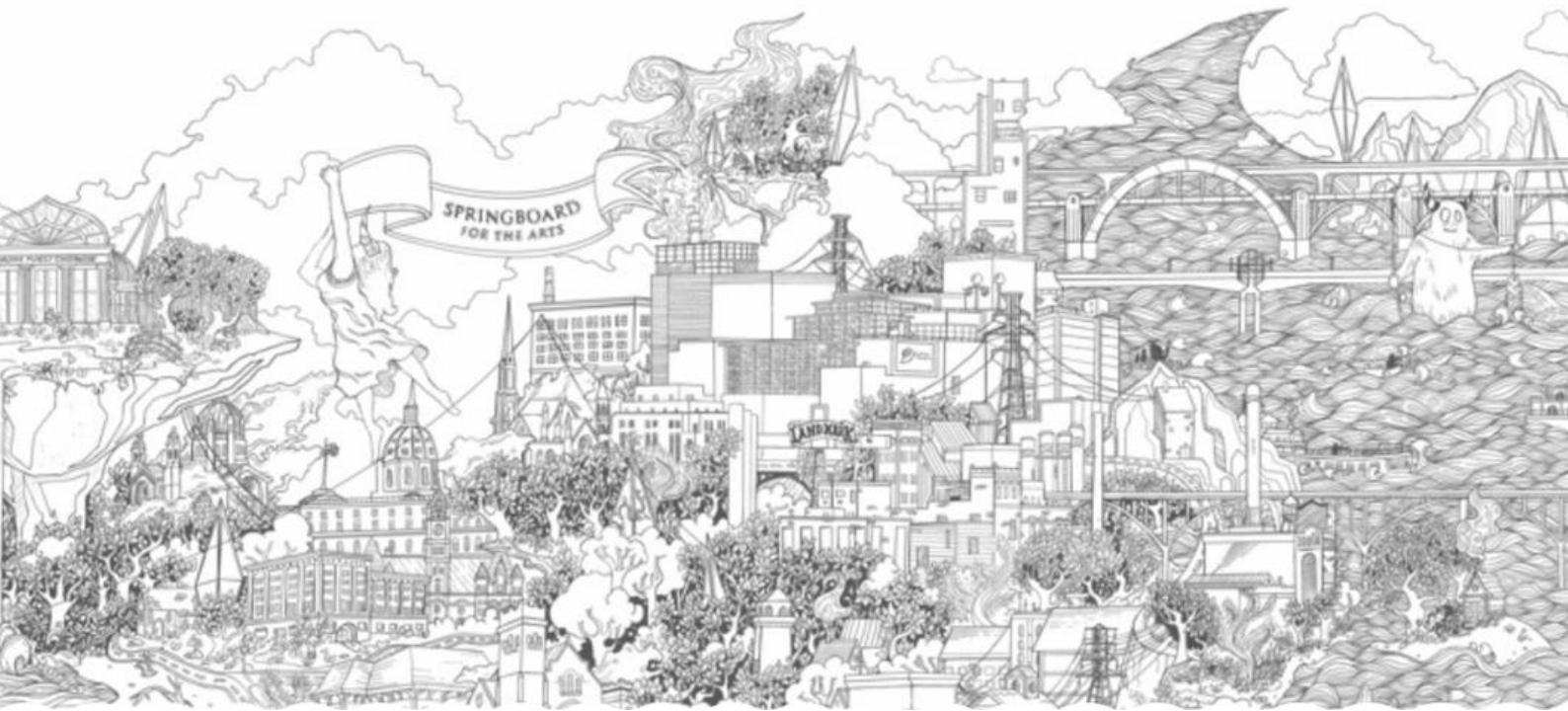


Just added

Event • Ask the Expert

Pitch perfect: Crafting your capital quest

Jul 10, 2:00 pm-4:00 pm →



Springboard for the Arts Calendar of Events - Professional Development

- June 24, 2025 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm - Community Painting Days: Help paint a new mural in Fergus Falls
- June 24, 2025 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm - Work of Art: Engaging Customers and Selling Your Work Assistance Workshop: Building an Artist Emergency Relief Fund
- June 26, 2025 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm - Artists Respond: Weaving Social Connection Info Session

Learn more and register at: <https://springboardforthearts.org/events/>

Additional Resources

- Get connected to Artist Career Consultants here:
<https://springboardforthearts.org/professional-growth/career-consultations/artist-career-consultants/>
- Work of Art Toolkit: <https://springboardforthearts.org/woa>
- Handbook for Artists Working in Community:
<https://springboardforthearts.org/artists-working-in-community/>

Tax Tips from the IRS



- [Here's what taxpayers need to know about business related travel deductions](#)
- [Companies who promise to eliminate tax debt sometimes leave taxpayers high and dry](#)
- [Get an Identity Protection PIN](#)
- [Tax Resources for Members of the Military](#)



JUNE

24

1pm~2pm

Deep Dive into Entity-Owned/8(a) and HubZone Applications

Business Webinar

[LEARN MORE >>](#)

JUNE

27

11am~12pm

What Early-Stage Founders Must Get Right

Business Webinar

[LEARN MORE >>](#)

JULY

3

1pm~2pm

Preparing for MySBA Certification

Business Webinar

[LEARN MORE >>](#)

JULY

8

12pm~130pm

Marketing in a Digital World

Business Webinar

[LEARN MORE >>](#)



JULY
10
10am~1130am

How To Get More Google Reviews

Business Webinar

[LEARN MORE >>](#)

JULY
15
11am~12pm

Uncover Revenue Without Adding Overhead

Business Webinar

[LEARN MORE >>](#)

JULY
17
1pm~2pm

Navigating the Application Process

Business Webinar

[LEARN MORE >>](#)

JULY
23
1pm~2pm

How to Close Bigger Deals Faster with Partnerships

Business Webinar

[LEARN MORE >>](#)



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