



Proclamation



Small Business Week

WHEREAS, the US Small Business Administration sponsors National Small Business Week every year to recognize the contributions of entrepreneurs and small business owners; and

WHEREAS, more than half of people in the United States either own or work for a small business, and small businesses create nearly two out of every three new jobs each year; and

WHEREAS, 96 percent of businesses in Carrboro are small businesses, and together they employ more than 3350 workers; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town has provided over \$600,000 dollars in loan and grant assistance to small businesses; and

WHEREAS, many people still dream of starting their own business; and there are numerous sources of assistance: the Small Business Administration provides loans and free counseling; in North Carolina, organizations and programs such as Business Link Carolina, the Carolina Small Business Development Fund, the Small Business Center Network of the North Carolina Community College System, the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, and others can help prospective business owners learn how to start a business; and

WHEREAS, the Small Business Administration will hold a virtual summit with training opportunities from May 2nd through May 5th with the theme “Building a Better America Through Entrepreneurship”; attendance is free, and registration is available on the Small Business Administration website (<https://www.sba.gov/national-small-business-week>); and

WHEREAS, the Town’s Economic Development Department supports the business community, with a special emphasis on locally owned businesses, by serving as an information hub to help businesses succeed; administering loan programs to support job creation, business retention, and energy efficiency; partnering with the Carrboro Tourism Development Authority, the Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau, and the Carrboro Business Alliance to promote local businesses; hosting BIPOC Business Roundtables to support networking among Black, Indigenous, and people of color–owned businesses and to learn about ways the Town can help these businesses start and grow; and cosponsoring, with Durham Technical Community College and other partners, a Business Accelerator Group to educate participants about small business topics, provide coaching for business plans, and foster support from entrepreneur peers;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Damon Seils, mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the week of **May 2nd through May 5th to be Small Business Week in Carrboro**. I encourage all residents to support the small businesses in our community, appreciating and celebrating the personal touches and unique expertise small businesses offer and the economic resilience they foster.

This the 26th day of April 2022.

Damon Seils, Mayor

