



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### DLBA AWARDS \$15,000 TO LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS

*The inaugural DLBA Small Business and Job Creation Grant awarded \$2,500 to six small businesses to help take their ideas to the next level.*

**LONG BEACH, Calif.** (May 16, 2017) – The Downtown Long Beach Alliance (DLBA) has granted \$15,000 in matching funds to up and coming small businesses in the Downtown area. Dreams are being built in Downtown Long Beach and the DLBA is working with entrepreneurs to grow passions into realities in California’s most ideal business destination.

Recipients of the inaugural DLBA Small Business and Job Creation Grant are:

- Hines Hospitality Group, Carolyn Christian Hines
- Stay Anchored, Tomas Irigoyan
- Stone Law & Consulting, Ashleigh Stone, Esq.
- Black Long Beach, Jamaica Yancy
- Connected Evidence, Michelle Molina\*
- Cactus Long Beach, Jorge Mujica

These entrepreneurs completed DLBA’s six-week Entrepreneur and Small Business Education Series in a partnership with California State University, Long Beach (CSULB). Throughout the series, attendees to the education series were provided with research, including industry and market information as well as offered feedback about their business plan and financial projections. The series culminated in a “Pitch Fest,” where the awardees were selected by a panel of judges Southern California’s business and investor communities.

"This educational series was an excellent source of information as I continue to the next level of my business," said Carolyn Christian Hines of Hines Hospitality Group. "Keeping up with the cash flow can be challenging for any entrepreneur – this grant will give my business a cushion for working capital."

In keeping with the melting pot that small business owners in America represent, the awardees include five minority-owned business and four female-owned businesses. The entrepreneurs themselves represent a wide net of businesses ranging from Stay Anchored’s retail lifestyle brand to Stone Law & Consulting’s law firm specializing in employment law.

“Small business forms the core of our economy and it’s squarely in line with DLBA’s mission to invest in their success,” Adam Carrillo, DLBA Economic Development Manager said. “We’re very proud to present our inaugural class of DLBA’s Small Business and Job Creation grant recipients, which truly represents the ingenuity and diversity of our Downtown.”

For more information on future Entrepreneur and Small Business Education Series hosted by the DLBA, visit [DTLBBusiness.com](http://DTLBBusiness.com) and follow @dlba on Twitter and Instagram, and @downtownlongbeach on Facebook.

*\*No relation to Michelle Molina of Millworks*

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**About DLBA:** The Downtown Long Beach Alliance is a non-profit, community-based organization whose mission is to cultivate, preserve and promote a healthy, safe and prosperous Downtown. By balancing the interests of the residents, as well as businesses, the DLBA creates tangible progress by way of vested interest and solidified partnerships across local, municipal, and commercial lines. For additional information, visit [www.downtownlongbeach.org](http://www.downtownlongbeach.org).

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