



MEDA 2017
Summer Conference
Creating Ecosystems That Encourage Opportunities

MEDA SUMMER CONFERENCE
July 26, 2017
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
World Trade Center, Baltimore, MD

CREATING ECOSYSTEMS THAT ENCOURAGE OPPORTUNITIES

Co-Sponsored By:

Maryland Department of Commerce, Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development
MDOT's Port Administration

In today's world, economic development professionals are increasingly focusing their efforts on building strong ecosystems that encourage small businesses and entrepreneurs to grow in their communities. During our Summer Conference, you will discover approaches for building these ecosystems, collaborate with others who are doing or creating unique systems, and learn how to identify what works best for your community. Join us as we share best practices in transforming communities into ecosystems that attract and support small businesses and entrepreneurs.

- 9:00 – 9:30** **REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER CONFERENCE**
- 9:30 – 9:45** **WELCOME & MEDA BUSINESS MEETING**
President's Welcome – Kim Clark
Secretary's Report – Daniel Thompson
Membership Report – Renee Winsky
- 9:45 – 10:00** **Opening Remarks**
Jimmy Rhee, Secretary
Governor's Office of Small, Minority, and Women's Business Affairs



10:00 – 10:45 A Conversation on Urban & Rural Ecosystems

Why is fostering small business and entrepreneurship important and what does this ecosystem look like? Learn from these specialists the true building blocks in creating a healthy ecosystem, identifying assets, and improving resources that support small businesses and entrepreneurs. Explore the emerging models of effective ecosystems, and what is working in other regions. How do communities identify their need? How do communities start conversation to change? What are some of the best practices? How do you measure success?

Mike Thielke, Executive Director, Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center
Defining Ecosystems

Darius Graham, J.D., Director, Social Innovation Lab, Johns Hopkins University
Building Ecosystems

10:45 - 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:00 Panel Discussion: Maryland’s Ecosystems Working & Emerging

These expert panel members will share what tactics they utilized in creating change in their respective communities, drawing on methods, successes, and lessons learned. Engage with these panelists to explore the assets in your own community.

Moderator: Janice Riley, Manager, Technical Innovation Center, Hagerstown Community College

Members: Robin Finnacom, Co-Founder,
Southern Maryland Innovation & Technology Initiative
Jen Meyer, CEO, Betamore
Ken Ulman, Founder & CEO of Margrave Strategies

12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Welcome to Baltimore: Mayor Catherine Pugh

Keynote Speaker: Calvin G. Butler, Jr., CEO BG&E

BGE is a corporate leader in Maryland economic development partnering in innovative ways for business growth and economic opportunities. In keeping with our theme today, Calvin Butler will share the many ways BGE has worked with business and also communities, most recently through TouchPoint Baltimore, a unique partnership utilizing social capital to create a network of neighborhood-based collaboration centers developed and funded exclusively with business and private resources.

Next MEDA Conference: October 23, 2017 – More to come!