



FEATURED EVENT:

# STREET VENDOR SUMMIT



**The inaugural Street Vendor Summit!** was hosted at LATTTC on May 22, 2024. The event welcomed current street vendors, those looking to become street vendors, and community organizations involved with the vendor industry. The intention behind the gathering was to open dialogue so the college could learn what street vendors need in terms of support and what community organizations could offer in terms of services and assistance. The ultimate goal is to develop a noncredit certificate in street food vending, which can strengthen entrepreneurship in the community and serve as a bridge from noncredit to credit industry-recognized certification.

## What ideas were shared?

Engagement questions were posted around the room where participants could respond to inquiries such as “What are the most significant barriers that you encountered when you started your business or encounter now as you grow your business?” and “What do you think those just starting out as street vendors need to know in order to be successful?”

Barriers identified included the following: high overhead costs; obtaining and understanding the required permits; dealing with competition among other street food vendors; lack of funds for start-up to get carts, trucks, etc.; challenges with complying with all the rules and regulations, especially when English is not first language; Here are some of the most frequently reported responses that were shared by the guests.

Things they would like to know included the following: need assistance with business classes and other workshops in culinary, food safety certification, customer service, pricing for profit, and management; mentorship from others to help get started; financing and resources including loans and grants to help start business and obtain food cart and permits; more clear information about vending in LA County and knowing your rights; more about digital forms and payments; information about advertising and marketing.

## Who was there?

▶ 62 STREET VENDORS AND FUTURE STREET VENDORS

▶ 24 COMMUNITY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES/PARTNERS

# Valued Partnerships

We are grateful to reconnect and collaborate with our esteemed partners:

- ▶ **Southeast Los Angeles Business Source Center (CRCD)** - offers a wide array of services to support local businesses including access to capital, start-up assistance, information on marketing and sales, legal and compliance assistance and networking.
- ▶ **Inclusive Action for the City** - a nonprofit organization focused on fostering economic justice and community development; key services include advocacy for equitable policies, leadership development and capacity-building; microfinance and lending, financial education workshops and other resources.
- ▶ **Department of Public Works City of Los Angeles Investigation and Enforcement Division** - City department dedicated to maintaining public safety, health, and environmental standards through various key services, including policies and compliance of interest to street vendors.
- ▶ **CHIRLA - CBO** provided information around Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers and outreach for their Know Your Rights workshops.
- ▶ **Community Power Collective** - works with street vendors by building power through grassroots organizing and membership development in 30 different neighborhoods, hosting vendor assemblies and supports the development of vendor-led organizing.
- ▶ **Streets LA** - enforcement and regulatory activities within public health and safety; primary goals is to protect public property and reduce blight in our community by pro-actively enforcing municipal ordinances and laws pertaining to noncompliant vending and other related activities.
- ▶ **Vernon-Central/LATTC WorkSource Center** - provides services to support individuals in finding employment while improving local workforce development. Key services include job search assistance, career counseling, high growth sector trainings, workshops and other supportive services.
- ▶ **Public Counsel** - A pro bono firm that works with communities and clients to create a more just society through legal services, advocacy, and civil rights litigation.
- ▶ **Kareem Karts** - A manufacturer that Builds catering trucks and small pushcarts shared information about their company and financing resources.
- ▶ **LA Department of Public Health Food Inspection Department/Public Health Permits and Licenses** - provided information on how to obtain food and vending permits.
- ▶ **LA County Department of Economic Opportunity** - helps residents connect to new career pathways, start, certify and manage a business; provided information and support around sidewalk vending, compact food operations permits, micro-enterprise home kitchen operations.



Business and Civic Engagement Pathway



## EVENT PICTURES



(213) 763-7030

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We are immensely proud of the progress we have made, and we look forward to even greater achievements in the months ahead.