



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **MINORITY ENTREPRENEURS TRAINING ASSOCIATION OPENS IN DOWNTOWN BRIDGEPORT**

**BRIDGEPORT, CT** – September 15, 2021 – The Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District welcomed the Minority Entrepreneurs Training Association (META) to the neighborhood this morning. META President & CEO Marcia Fountain was joined by members of the Downtown Bridgeport community to officially open their doors at 1245 Main Street.



Tour META HQ with President & CEO Marcia Fountain! [Watch the video here.](#)

Founded in 1998, by Marcia Fountain, President & CEO, the organization was formerly, known as the Minority Entrepreneurs Network Association, a non-profit, tax exempt membership organization with a mission to promote and develop entrepreneurship and economic development for minorities in the State of Connecticut. The Minority Entrepreneurs Training Association is a State of CT Certified Black American Woman Owned Small/Minority Business Enterprise.

The organization grew from its membership desire for assistance with not just networking and basic business setup assistance. Members enjoy seminars ranging from how to form a business, marketing and branding, networking and resource development. Consultant services include g business plans, loan proposals, and developing marketing strategies. META focuses on strengthening its member network by creating business referral circles and connecting its network of entrepreneurs with experienced mentors through the Entrepreneurship Foundation and other partners. Members also receive access to resource information on funding, business competitions, certification programs, and entrepreneur conferences.

META's uniquely designed programs also include supportive services provided by volunteer experienced caseworkers. Supportive services are offered to individuals desiring to start a business and entrepreneurs and their families as they pursue their entrepreneurial journey.

Youth Entrepreneurs Soaring "YES" is an entrepreneur training program sponsored by META for youth ages 10-17. META's collaboration with WYP NATION (What's Your Passion) founder, Eddie Shabot provides youth in the City of Bridgeport & surrounding areas a national platform to expose their talents and businesses, while being mentored by successful and accomplished individuals in the areas of business and the arts.

"I believe that there is no need to reinvent programs that are not broken. Collaboration is key! There are organizations in the City of Bridgeport that have proven track records in providing services that enhance the lives of individuals and families. I am thankful for the awesome collaborations that have been formed over the years and we look forward to forming new ones," said Marcia Fountain, President & CEO of Minority Entrepreneurs Training Association (META).

"The Bridgeport DSSD is excited to welcome the Minority Entrepreneurs Training Association to the Downtown Bridgeport neighborhood. This educational and training organization will serve to support the emerging and expanding entrepreneurs, adding to the growth of the diverse entertainment, dining, and service businesses in this district. Marcia's long history working with talented business owners in Bridgeport and beyond is an incredible asset. The Downtown has been missing a service provider such as this, and we are thrilled to welcome Marcia and the META team to the Downtown," said Lauren Coakley Vincent, President and CEO of the Bridgeport DSSD.

Services are provided by appointment at 1245 Main Street in Bridgeport. To schedule an appointment call 203-908-8785.

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The Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District (DSSD) serves the vibrant and diverse businesses within the 30 blocks in of our heart-shaped neighborhood. Our role at the Bridgeport DSSD is to support the needs of growing businesses in the district, from keeping the Downtown clean and friendly, connecting them to city resources to offering free marketing and advertising, and everything in between. Throughout the year we deliver sanitation services, our friendly team of Ambassadors keep the district clean and safe, we promote the district through the dynamic Colorful Bridgeport campaign, and produce community events including the Downtown Farmers Market. **Contact Lauren Coakley Vincent at [lauren.dssd@infobridgeport.com](mailto:lauren.dssd@infobridgeport.com) or (203) 908-3622 and learn more at [www.colorfulbridgeport.com](http://www.colorfulbridgeport.com).**



**M.E.T.A INC.**

**Strengthening Communities**

**About Minority Entrepreneurs Training Association, Inc.**

The Minority Entrepreneurs Training Association (META)'s mission to promote and develop entrepreneurship and economic development for minorities in the State of Connecticut. META's services include training seminars and workshops on startup entrepreneurship, marketing & branding, and personal development; networking and mentorship; and access to funding opportunities. **Contact Marcia Fountain at [minorityeta@gmail.com](mailto:minorityeta@gmail.com) or (203) 908-8785 and learn more at [www.minority-entrepreneurs.org](http://www.minority-entrepreneurs.org).** Apply for membership at [minority-entrepreneurs.org/contact](http://minority-entrepreneurs.org/contact).