

## **Highlights of the Goods & Services Summit 2025: Where Opportunity Meets Action**

The 2025 Goods & Services Summit delivered a high-energy, high-impact experience designed to empower small businesses through connection, collaboration, and real-world opportunity. From emerging entrepreneurs to established vendors, participants engaged in meaningful conversations that translated ideas into action.

Business Pitch Circles set the tone for the day, giving entrepreneurs a platform to pitch their businesses directly to local agency representatives and fellow small business owners. These interactive sessions sparked valuable feedback, elevated visibility, and helped businesses refine their messaging while gaining recognition within the broader procurement ecosystem.

Equally impactful were the Problem-Solving Roundtables, led by 17 SBE-certified vendors from the School District of Palm Beach County. These peer-led discussions tackled some of today's most pressing business challenges, creating space for candid dialogue and practical takeaways. Participants left with actionable strategies, new perspectives, and strengthened peer connections.

A key highlight of the Summit was the sharing of upcoming procurement and partnership opportunities from a diverse group of agencies and institutions, including the School District of Palm Beach County, Palm Beach State College, Palm Beach International Airport, Palm Beach Atlantic University, the City of Greenacres, the City of Riviera Beach, the South Florida Water Management District, Broward County Public Schools, and Palm Beach County. These insights provided attendees with a clearer view of what's ahead—and how to prepare.

Adding a powerful layer to the event, students from Palm Beach Gardens, Royal Palm Beach, and Spanish River high schools participated throughout the day, not only as attendees but as active contributors. Their involvement as impromptu partner experts in select problem-solving roundtables highlighted the District's commitment to fostering the next generation of entrepreneurs and business leaders.

The success of the Goods & Services Summit 2025 was made possible through the generous support of our sponsors, CIBC and Johns Manville. Their investment helped create a dynamic environment where small businesses could learn, connect, and grow.

Together, the Summit reinforced a simple but powerful message: when small businesses are supported with access, knowledge, and opportunity, the entire community benefits.