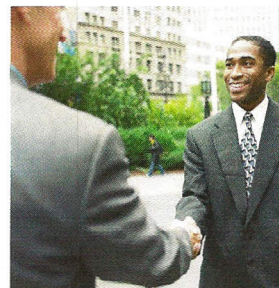


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**BUSINESS STRATEGISTS CREATE NEW MODEL FOR TANGIBLE COLLABORATIONS IN
“CREATING CONTRACTS, NOT JUST CONTACTS” NETWORKING EVENT**

“Main Street” Businesses Have New Partner, To Build Revenue, Find Clients and Create Jobs

Detroit - Joint Cities Development and Comerica Bank host “Creating Contracts, Not Just Contacts,” Thursday, June 23, 2011, at the remodeled Comerica Bank, 201 W. Fort Street, (Detroit, Michigan) from 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. “Creating Contracts, Not Just Contacts,” is the inaugural event of Developing Business Alliances (DBA). DBA is the expanded business-focused program of the non-profit, Joint Cities Development. The free event invites Michigan businesses to attend, become acquainted and benefit. It is structured to ultimately result in strategic partnerships and as the title states, contracts. The event's location is particularly relevant to Detroit-area business owners, aspiring entrepreneurs, B2B suppliers and other business sector stakeholders.

Pre-registration is required for featured pre-event partner and client matching and participation in the event's Elevator Speech Contest at www.jointcities.org/events.

“Creating Contracts, Not Just Contacts,” is the result of organizers' findings from several years of collective discussions, data gathering and debates with “main street” business owners (independents and those not necessarily affiliated with regional organizations or clubs). Those findings indicated independent business owners were ready to get out of the classroom to start making money. According to the event's planners, entrepreneurs are tired of talking about partnerships and ask, “Who are they?” and “Where is the money?” “Creating Contracts, Not Just Contacts,” is being held to directly address those issues and provide the answers.

“Small business owners urgently need support to find partners and extend their networking reach,” said Brenda Reeves, CEO of Reeves Business Solutions, business consultant, instructor and co-chair of Joint Cities. To help attendees gain more potential clients, the event features pre-matching of partners, rotating networking and the elevator speech contest with prizes. Specialists are scheduled to speak on buying existing businesses, financing, partnerships and how overall business practices affect the economy. A product and resource display area is available for participating businesses and (sponsor) service providers to exhibit their offerings.

Joint Cities is a 501(c) (3) non-profit, established in 1994. Joint Cities is committed to job creation through increasing revenue for entrepreneurs and building intellect through science based education for K-12. To those ends, Joint Cities participates in yearlong efforts with partners and business organizations for community outreach and positive change.

Partners of the “Creating Contracts, Not Just Contacts,” event include Comerica Bank, Reeves Business Solutions and the Detroit Black Pages Business Newspaper. For more information and for free registration, visit www.jointcities.org/events or call 313-961-1141.