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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

San Francisco Celebrates 13th Annual Small Business Week & Continues to Focus on the City's Commitment to Small Businesses

Mayor Edwin M. Lee celebrated San Francisco Small Business week, the largest Small Business Week in the country, by recognizing six small businesses and entrepreneurs for their contributions to our City's economic success. Small Business Week (May 15th – 20th) features a full week of activities and workshops designed to provide San Francisco's small business owners with a variety of support and resources to help them thrive and succeed. The week is celebrated with a weekend of sidewalk sales, which encourage residents to shop small and buy local.

“Small Business Week is the time to honor the fearless and innovative spirit of our entrepreneurial community,” said Mayor Edwin M. Lee. “These companies form the foundation of our neighborhoods and enrich our city with their special talents and services. I am proud to invest in programs that ensure our local businesses start, stay and grow here in San Francisco.”

There are more than 52,000 small business in San Francisco, and they employ over 326,000 residents. They create good jobs at a variety of skill levels, and help to keep our merchant corridors healthy and vibrant. Our small business are part of the fabric that keeps San Francisco unique. Recognizing the significant contributions of small businesses, Mayor Lee continues his efforts to provide investments to support small businesses.

Over the past fiscal year, the Office of Economic and Workforce Development and partners offered a variety of loan programs, totaling \$12 million, to entrepreneurs seeking to launch, expand or stabilize their business, and created over 460 jobs. Through the Invest in Neighborhoods Initiative, the City delivered more than \$2.5 million in grants to 33 community-based organizations. The team also assisted 161 storefronts with ADA assessments and provided one-on-one assistance to 468 business owners. In addition, the City's Small Business Development Center helped more than 400 businesses secure nearly \$20 million in capital, helping to generate \$9 million in extra sales last year. Furthermore, the Office of Small Business provided customized assistance to more than 13,300 individuals and businesses.

“This year's SF Small Business Week celebrates the accomplishments of our small businesses, and highlights the amazing service organizations that provide the essentials – microloans,



classes, mentors, connections, and more – that small business owners need to flourish,” said Mark Dwight, founder and CEO, Rickshaw Bagworks and President, San Francisco Small Business Commission.

This year, Mayor Lee is recognizing and honoring six small businesses for their contribution and commitment to the San Francisco community.

Local Hire: Duc Loi’s Pantry – 5900 3rd Street

Community Leadership: Two Jack’s Seafood – 401 Haight Street

Community Impact: Ferment.Drink.Repeat – 2636 San Bruno Avenue

Community Innovation: Dog Eared Books – 489 Castro Street & 900 Valencia Street

Business Strengthening: Capital Restaurant – 839 Clay Street

Heritage: Navarro’s Kenpo Karate Studio – 960 Geneva Avenue

“Small Business Week is a unique opportunity to celebrate, honor, and recognize the small businesses that contribute to our communities and shape the character of our city,” said Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Executive Director, Office of Small Business. “It’s about inspiring, supporting and connecting small business to help them flourish. This is a week for you.”

San Francisco Small Business Week kicked off with Flavors of San Francisco, attended by over 1000 small businesses, an expo with 22 Small Business Week sponsors, 15 federal, state, and local government agencies, and 20 business technical assistance resource partners. Over 40 conference workshops are held throughout the week, ranging from social media, financing, purchasing real estate and contracting with the government. In addition, the week ends with the Shop and Dine/Sidewalk Sales in the 13 merchant corridors throughout San Francisco. For more information, visit www.sfsmallbusinessweek.com.

About Small Business Week:

The 13th Annual San Francisco Small Business Week, is a partnership formed to honor and support the more than 85,000 thousand small businesses and entrepreneurs that call San Francisco home, is presented by Bank of America and produced in partnership with the US Small Business Administration, The City and County of San Francisco, the Office of the Mayor, Office of Small Business, San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center & San Francisco Economic Development Alliance, San Francisco African American Chamber of Commerce, Council of District Merchants Association, San Francisco Small Business Development Center, USF Gellert Family Business Resource Center, the Golden Gate Business Association, sf.citi and Straus Events.

For more information about the Sidewalk Sales go to: [Shop and Dine in the 49](#)

