

# Women's Luncheon 2008

On Friday September 19, 2008 at Green Pastures Restaurant, more than 90 people joined the City of Austin Small Business Development Program (SBDP) for the 5th annual Women's Luncheon Celebrating Women's Entrepreneurial Spirit.

This was the third year that the old Victorian home served as the location for this event and the luncheon was a smashing success once again.

SBDP hosts the Women's Luncheon annually to recognize that the struggles facing female entrepreneurs are different from those of male business owners. In a first for SBDP, this year's event sold out before invitations were even mailed! The interest in this event was an overwhelming reflection of the quality work produced by SBDP over their 8 years in existence.

The 2008 luncheon was moderated by local radio personality Lolis Garcia-Baab, host of The Ladies' Room with Lolis on KJCE 1370 AM. The two panelists were Renia Harris of the Hair Corner Salon & Spa and Becky Nichols, owner of A Trip to Bountiful Bakery & Café. Lolis generated and held the audience's interest with her thoughtful questions and prompts. The panelists were open and honest in telling their own stories, and members of the audience were grateful to hear personal anecdotes from proprietors of profitable, successful businesses.

The panelists shared everything from how they each put their personal stamps on their businesses and the environments that they create, to hiring practices and

how they have each evolved a process for hiring and training that works for them. After Becky, Renia and Lolis discussed how the entrepreneurs take care of themselves in the midst of running their businesses, and whether fear motivates or hinders, the audience had a chance to pose questions to the panel. The 3 women on the panel answered questions about work-life balance, marketing, and community involvement.

Overall, the 2008 Women's Luncheon was an extraordinarily successful event for SBDP. The food, the camaraderie and networking, and the panelists combined to create another fantastic event. For information about this or other SBDP events, please call 974.7800 or visit us online at [www.cityofaustin.org/sbdp](http://www.cityofaustin.org/sbdp).

