

# Equitable Entrepreneurial Ecosystems in Rural Communities

August 29, 2023 in Grand Island, NE



## About the Workshop:

The Equitable Entrepreneurial Ecosystem workshop is a free educational opportunity for any rural community in Nebraska. This one-day workshop will focus on Entrepreneurial Mindset, Equitable Ecosystems, Ecosystem Building Blocks and Support, and Preparing for the Ecosystem Building process. Our speakers will cover several tools and templates for you to better assess your community's entrepreneurial ecosystem, its assets and gaps, the role that your Main Street and partner organizations play, along with targeted next steps to map out and utilize your Ecosystem. Participants will leave with the tools and understanding of how to put the pieces of their ecosystem together equitably and with entrepreneurs in mind. The workshop will center around Main Street America's critical factors of ecosystem development. We encourage you to make the most of this free workshop by bringing a "team". A community team is a group representing areas including placemaking, human and social capital, financial capital, education and training, culture, and government.

Designated Nebraska Main Street Communities intending to apply for the Equitable Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Rural Communities grant must attend this workshop. Only communities in the Network under 50,000 population are eligible to apply. Communities selected to receive the grant will receive technical services from Main Street America.



## Date & Time:

Tuesday, August 29, 2023  
9:00am to 4:00pm

## Location:

The Liederkrantz  
401 W. 1st Street  
Grand Island, NE 68801

*You can find information about the Railside district including parking at [arriverailside.com](http://arriverailside.com)*



## Free Registration:



Scan QR code, find the event on [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) or click on the link on the Nebraska Main Street Network homepage at [nebraskamainstreet.org](http://nebraskamainstreet.org)

## Questions?

[echase@windstream.net](mailto:echase@windstream.net)  
402-499-3703

## About The Nebraska Main Street Network

Nebraska's downtowns are places of civic pride and places where the community gathers. They are a reflection of what we love about our communities. Since 1994, the Nebraska Main Street Network has been helping Nebraska communities develop traditional commercial districts so that they are attractive to residents and business friendly for commercial investment and economic growth. The Network brings communities together to share ideas and learn from others while providing support as communities develop solutions to their challenges, build partnerships and plan for the future.

## About Our Partners:

**Main Street America** has been helping revitalize older and historic commercial districts for more than 40 years. Today it is a network of more than 1,600 neighborhoods and communities, rural and urban, who share both a commitment to place and to building stronger communities through preservation-based economic development. Main Street America is a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information, visit the Main Street America website [www.mainstreet.org](http://www.mainstreet.org)

**Forward Cities** is a national nonprofit with a mission to transform the way communities see, support, and sustain entrepreneurs – through a racial equity lens. The organization leverages thought leadership, custom solutions, and learning networks to grow the capacity of local leaders to build more equitable entrepreneurial ecosystems. For more information, visit the Forward Cities website at [www.forwardcities.org](http://www.forwardcities.org)

## About Our Speakers:



### Joi Cuartero Austin

Joi provides comprehensive revitalization technical services related to Economic Vitality as Senior Program Officer for Economic Vitality. Her pedigree includes being a certified economic development practitioner (CEcD) and board member with the International Economic Development Council; Board Member for IL Route 66 Byways; Board Member for Quincy Area Convention & Visitors Bureau as well as sitting on their D&I committee; co-founder of 100 Women Who Care Adams County chapter; and collaborator for TEDx Quincy.



### Fay Horwitt

Fay serves as the President & CEO of Forward Cities, where she oversees organizational strategy and serves as the executive lead of the ESHIP Communities initiative. In addition, Fay is a dedicated advocate for the emerging profession of ecosystem building, and a founding member of Ecosystems Unite. Beyond her formal roles, she is a sought after presenter, trainer, and thought leader on the topic of equitable entrepreneurial ecosystem building.



### Tasha Sams

Tasha leads MSA's rural equitable entrepreneurial ecosystem building efforts. Over and beyond Tasha's current role, Tasha has been an ambassador to rising entrepreneurial talent among diverse populations and has cultivated accessible networks of quality and inclusion to lead next level innovation by the promising upcoming workforce. Recognizing the inextricable link between diversity and economic development, Tasha is an accomplished and respected leader in the national field of inclusive innovation.