

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE _____

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Downtown Suffolk Business Pitch Finalists Announced

SUFFOLK, Virginia (January 9, 2019) – Five finalists have been selected for the Community Business Launch (CBL) **Pitch Night** Competition on **Tuesday, January 15th** at the Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts, starting at 5:30 p.m. The entrepreneurs will each have five minutes in order to present their Downtown Suffolk business plan. The judges will have an opportunity to provide comments or ask questions following each pitch. The winners will then be selected that evening.

The finalists are:

- **Ed Beardsley, “Sparc Shoppe”** www.facebook.com/TheSparcShoppe/ (Expansion)
- **Anticia Macalou, “Groundworks Bar & Bistro”**
- **David Stacknick, “Brick & Mortar Brewing Company”** (Expansion) www.brickandmortarbrews.com/
- **Joseph Wood, “Suffolk Historical Vendors Court”**
- **Syreetta Woods, “Elizabeth and Maude Boutique”** <https://www.elizabethandmaude.com/>

CBL is sponsored by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development and the Suffolk Economic Development Authority, and promotes the opening or expansion of storefront business operations in Downtown Suffolk

in 2019. Suffolk was one of five communities announced by Governor Ralph Northam selected to receive \$45,000 of grant funding for new and expanding business ventures. The presenters all completed a series of business education workshops and agreed to open their business or expand their existing business in a designated Downtown Suffolk location.

The public is invited to attend; no reservations are necessary. Beverages and light refreshments will be served following the pitches. For additional information, contact Gregory Byrd, Assistant Director, Suffolk Economic Development, at 757.514.4042, or Gbyrd@suffolkva.us.



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