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## It's Friday!

Happy Friday! It's the weekend! Today we share a recap of a night of music filled with soul, funk, and jazz at the *Soul Junction Bars & Beats Jam Session*. We also gain insights into what to expect during next week's Small Business Lunch & Learn Session focused on helping business owners navigate the state and city certification process. Plus, if you are looking for upcoming community events in and near the Historic West End, we have you covered! [Translate](#) ▼

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# West Side Stories

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## Recap: Soul Junction Bars & Beat Jam Session

Last night the community came out to experience the musical traditions of the Historic West End at the *Soul Junction Bars & Beats Jam Session*. The sounds

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Band led by drummer Tim Scott Jr. and the banter of event host Q. Talley.

A mix of talented community members, JCSU students, and celebrity guest took to the stage to entertain the crowd. Although the event was drop-in style, the vast majority of attendees stayed put for the entire show. The event brought out a mix of dancing toddlers, college students, young and middle-aged adults, and seniors citizens.

The crowd at the *Soul Junction Bars & Beats Jam Session* was a reflection of the crowd that is drawn to the two-day music festival hosted on JCSU's main campus in September. Be sure to save the dates of September 14 and 15 for the *3rd Annual Soul Junction Music Festival*.

*[View photos from the Soul Junction Bars & Beats Jam Session.](#)*

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WHERE THE CITY MEETS THE VILLAGE

# BARS & BEATS JAM SESSION

THURS., MARCH 1 | 6 - 8PM

JCSU ARTS FACTORY

1545 W. Trade St.



QUENTIN TALLEY



TIM SCOTT JR.



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The Soul Junction Bars & Beats Jam Session musicians and host welcome the audience as they find their seats.



JCSU student steps up to the stage to share his spoken word piece.

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The Hamiltones drop-in and mesmerize the crowd with their soulful vocals.



A JCSU music student plays the Musiq Soulchild hit "So Beautiful" with the Jam Session band as another JCSU film student captures the moment.

[View Video Clips](#)

## Small Business Workshop: Government Certification Session

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more about the state and city certification process. LaPronda Spann of Lain Consulting, LLC will lead small businesses owners through this educational workshops. [Learn more about LaPronda Spann>>](#)

Spann will take workshop attendees step-by-step through the documents and protocol associated with the state and city certification process. She will also share her personal entrepreneurial story that will serve a case study example of how government certification leads to access to Request For Proposals (RFP). From Spann's first-hand experience transitioning from the corporate world to small business ownership, government RFPs have the ability to drastically enhance a small business owner's bottom line.

Attendees will walk away from this Dinner & Learn session with Spann's 5-step Strategy and a completed State Certification Application. Spann says the 5-step Strategy will take attendees from the certification paperwork submission process to landing that first government contract. Then, the final stage of the workshop will have Spann walking attendees through the state certification application.

Spann explains why state certification application is so important in NC. "In government contracting in NC and the City of Charlotte, the state sets that minority-owned business and woman-owned business enterprise designation. The city then refers to the state to determine if your business is a minority-owned business." That state certified minority-owned business or woman-owned business designation is a business tool that can help a small business owner get that much closer to landing a government RFP.

Spann strongly encourages attendees to bring the business documents listed on checklist found at the link below. Having those documents will allow an attendee to walk out of the session with a completed state certification application. However, if you do not have all of these documents, or are unfamiliar with the documents you are still encouraged to attend the workshop.

### Documents Checklist

This Small Business Dinner & Learn Session is for the small business owner looking for ways to diversify their revenue stream. Seating is limited, so be sure to RSVP on Eventbrite. We look forward to seeing you there!

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OFFICIAL MAP  
of  
CHARLOTTE, N.C.  
OFFICE OF CITY ENGINEER  
CHARLOTTE, N.C.  
1935

**FIVE POINTS**  
HISTORIC WEST END  
Proud History, Strong Future.

# SMALL BUSINESS CERTIFICATION

A Partnership with **M&F Bank**

M&F Bank will equip you with essential tools to start and grow your business. This two-hour session is lead by Lain Consulting, LLC to share how to become certified with State and City governments.

**Wednesday, March 7 | 6pm – 8pm**  
JCSU Multipurpose Room at Mosaic Village, 1601 West Trade Street  
Dinner Will Provided

RSVP at <https://SmallBizCertification.Eventbrite.com>

[westendclt.com](http://westendclt.com)

# What's Going On

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Two of the CIAA Basketball Tournament's staple events—Fan Fest and Super Saturday—will return for its alumni, fans and community members to enjoy for FREE. Each event will entail celebrity performances, meet and greets, as well as giveaways, interactive games, and activities for all ages. CIAA Toyota Fan Fest will be held on Friday, Mar. 2 and Saturday, Mar. 3 from Noon to 8 p.m. Both events will take place at the Charlotte Convention Center. [Read more>>](#)

### **March 7 | Small Business Dinner & Learn Government Certification**

M&F Bank, Historic West End Initiative & Charlotte Center City Partners have come together to help small business owners connect with an expert to learn more about the state and city certification process. Seating is limited. [RSVP today>>](#)

### **March 8 | International Women's Day**

A day of organic conversation with local women celebrating the accomplishments of intergenerational women around the world. Share resources and celebrate at Beatties Ford Road Regional Library from 5pm-7pm. [More info>>](#)

### **March 22 | William C. Friday Dialogue**

Free screening and panel discussion of the historical documentary film, *Chairman Jones: An Improbable Leader*, detailing the visionary leadership of James Henry Jones who became a trailblazer during the 1969 desegregation crisis in Northampton County. His journey from sharecropper to North Carolina's first black school board chairman inspires audiences and offers lessons for today if we are willing to listen. After the screening, the director and narrator of the film, Anna Jones will be joined by Dorothy Counts-Scoggins, Amy Hawn Nelson, and others for a facilitated dialogue reflecting on how this story of citizen leadership, education inequality, and race relations during the Jim Crow and School Desegregation eras can help us see the present more clearly and move us into a new tomorrow. [RSVP for tickets>>](#)

### **March 22-24 | Urban Planning Event Series**

This March, a series of urban planning events will be happening around town. Historic West End residents have the opportunity to be a part of these conversations. Check out the list of events below! [Read more>>](#)

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

### West Side Events

Head to the Historic West End Initiative website and click the "Events" tab to see a list of West Side community happenings!

[West End Events Listing >>](#)

### Do you have a West Side Event coming up?

Click the link below and submit your event for possible posting on WestEndCLT.com community calendar. [Submit An Event>>](#)



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