

THE POWER AND ROLE OF COMMUNICATIONS IN BUSINESS GROWTH & EXPANSION

APRIL 7TH | 9:30AM

Presentation by:









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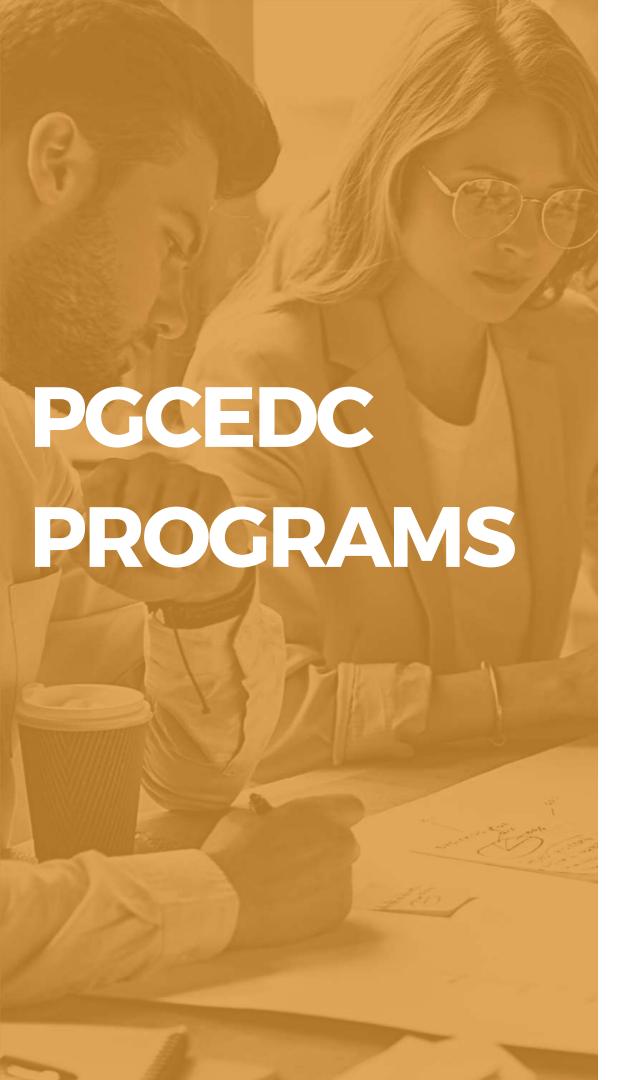
PATHWAYS



There are many pathways to growing a successful business. The Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (PGCEDC) is proud to present our own Pathways - a dynamic series of programs that take a deep dive into important economic development and business topics dedicated to growing our local business eco-system.

Our goal is to educate, inform and prepare local business owners to be at the top of their game when it comes to business expansion, management, financing, company finances and how to secure top level contracts. Together, with industry experts, we are Prince George's Proud to be your resource partners for business growth.

For Past Programing Visit: www.PGCEDC.com/Pathways















CREANDO EXITOS

"Creating Success" to connect Spanish speaking County Businesses with information and resources to help them thrive.

TAKE OUT TUESDAY

Calling all County foodies and beyond! Explore all there is to eat in the County and where you can #DinePrinceGeorges!

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Showcasing local businesses making a difference in Prince George's County

BUY PRINCE GEORGE'S

Connecting and promoting local businesses with County residents shopping for goods and services through an online registry.

#BuyPrinceGeorges

C-SUITE ACCELERATOR X LEVEL UP

Designed for CEO's of small, minority and women-owned businesses. Bring your challenges and allow our experts to provide you with immediate insights during the C-Suite Advisor or Coaching Session.

STEP FORWARD INITIATIVE

The Step Forward Initiative is a six-month program designed to serve the needs and challenges of established women-owned businesses; helping them gain key business skills to grow their businesses in Prince George's County.





- Business Community Proponent
- Strategic Plan Update
- Site Selection
- Economic and Demographic Data
- Leasing and For-Sale contact information
- Permit Assistance
- Targeted Attraction and Retention
- Pre-submission meetings with multiple agencies
- Expedited Services
- Problem Solving and Intervention
- Identification of appropriate incentives
- Marketing, Promotion and Communication
- Networking and Connections



PATHWAYS

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TEAM

























- Scounty E
- Business Development Trainings & Workshops
- Access to Financing
- Connections with resource partners
 - SCORE, SBDC, PTAC, MWBC, TEDCO
- Connections to other Business Incubators
- Site Selection
- Innovation Station Business Incubator Coworking and Virtual Space
- Procurement support and Certification support
- Access to coaches, counselors and mentors
- ISBIT
 Innovation Stations Business Incubator Powered by POCEDC



Business Resource Partners









LERCH, EARLY, BREWER

This is an Innovation Station sponsored series. Legal topics presented by LEB in partnership with PGCEDC.

- Legal Aspects of Buying and Selling a Business
- The Legal Elements of Company Formation
- Employment Law
- Contract Law

FIRST FRIDAY COACHING

In partnership with the University of Maryland Global Campus, Innovation Station hosts a monthly business coaching program to help guide companies through turbulent times and opportunities.

www.pgcedc.com/events

MARYLAND BUSINESS: REBOOT

Free programs to Maryland residents and business owners presented by professors at the Robert H. Smith School of Business and focus on finance, marketing, business operations and more.

www.Rhsmith.umd.edu

GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

November 8-14, workshops, programs, pitch competitions, and networking events will be held throughout Prince George's County and the world to connect entrepreneurs to resources and opportunities.

www.genglobal.org



For More Information Regarding Pathways and EDC Services

www.PGCEDC.com/pathways

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THE POWER AND ROLE OF COMMUNICATIONS IN BUSINESS GROWTH & EXPANSION

APRIL 7, 2022





Introductions

Karen Killian, President, LMD

- 35+ years experience in strategic communications, branding, and business leadership.
- Drives growth for the agency and our clients.
- Expanded LMD from a local design shop to a full-service marketing and branding firm with national accounts, including six federal agencies.
- Increased revenue by 300%.
- Positioned the company for acquisition and led the recent sale of LMD to MarCom Group.

Kristen Newton, Director of Insights & Strategy, LMD

- 25+ years experience in marketing management, brand strategy, and market research.
- Leads research initiatives, strategic plan development, and campaign strategy.
- Expert in primary qualitative and quantitative research and secondary research methods.
- Creates brand, positioning, marketing, and content strategies.
- Leads LMD's editorial operations and is a SME in digital marketing and UX.

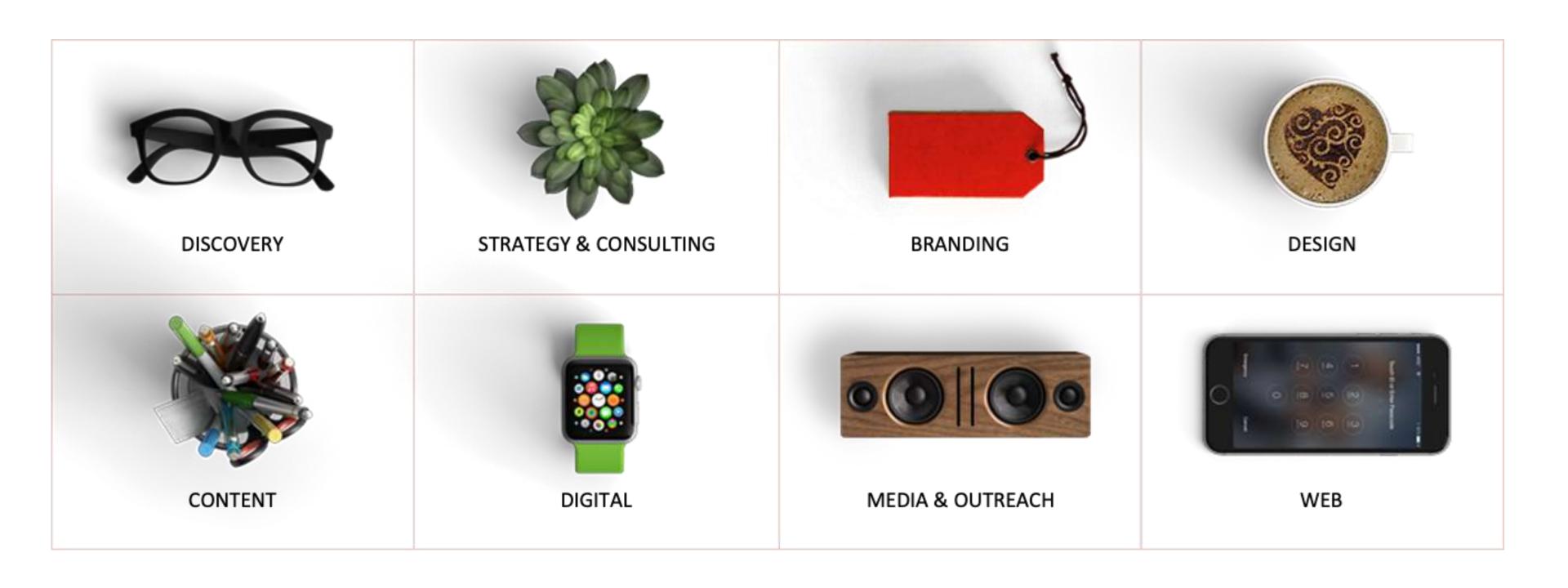


LID We are a Change Agency.

A communications firm focused on helping clients realize change, LMD combines the power of data and behavioral science to influence the way people think and act. We see the bigger picture, dig deeper, and think smarter to develop strategies that make your marketing dollars work harder. And then we unleash the creatives to tell your story in big, bold ways that connect with people and motivate them to take action.

Woman-owned small business • 46 years in business • 57 talented communications experts

DATA-DRIVEN • FULL SERVICE • INTEGRATED



COMPANY WE KEEP

Government · Private Sector · Non-profit















U.S. Small Business Administration

















Agenda

- → Introductions
- → 10 Communication Power Tools & Tips
- → Case Studies
- → Resources
- → Q&A



Introductions

- 1. Your name
- 2. Business type
- What's your biggest marketing challenge?





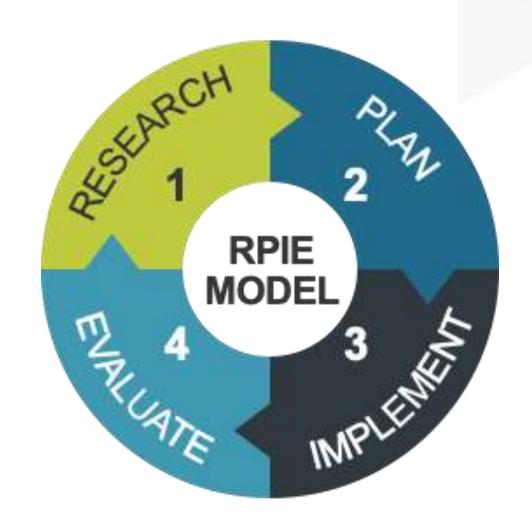
10 COMMUNICATION POWER TOOLS & TIPS

1. Strategic Approach

Determining your strategic approach involves stepping away from your organization so that you can view it in a way that helps you understand your current priorities and goals, and what you need to do to set your business and brand up for future success.

RPIE (research, planning, implementation, and evaluation) is a trusted best-practice strategic communications model endorsed by the Public Relations Society of America.

This systematic approach can be scaled for all business and communications initiatives.



TIP: Be disciplined, methodical, and focused about growth and expansion.



2. Data

- Use it to make informed decisions and maximize your marketing dollars.
- Learn about your audience and what matters to them.
- Identify your competitors and how to position your business against them.

Informative Research

- **AUDIENCE:** Opinions gathered through surveys, interviews, social listening, focus groups, etc.
- **MARKET:** Competitive and market intel gathered through secondary research.
- **CLIENT (YOU):** Past successes and failures, sales data, marketing and communications metrics.



TIP: Some information is better than none. You don't have to do formal research to get valuable information.





3. Plan

- Make a business plan first to document your goals.
- Align your marketing plan with your business plan.
- Set SMART goals (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-bound).
- Your plan doesn't need to be lengthy, but it does need need to cover the nine elements outlined at right.

Marketing Plan

- 1. Business Goal
- 2. Communication Objectives
- 3. Audience(s)
- 4. Key Messages
- 5. Strategies
- 6. Tactics
- 7. Metrics
- 8. Timing
- 9. Budget

TIP: Failure to plan is a plan to fail. A documented plan will clarify your objectives and get your team on the same page, working toward the same goal.



4. Your Why

The neuroscience behind the Golden Circle theory is that humans respond best when messages communicate with the limbic brain, which controls emotions, behavior, and decision making.

Your WHY informs and differentiates your value prop.

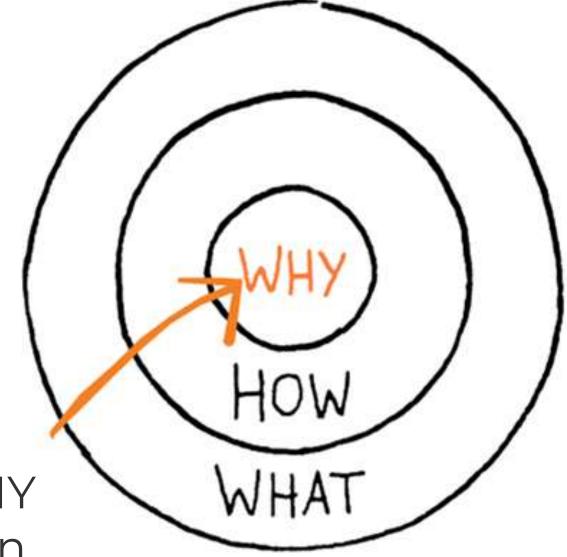
"People don't buy what you do, they buy WHY you do it."

~ Simon Sinek

TIP: Have everyone in your company watch Sinek's TEDTalk on the Golden Circle.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_-fdJzvpX60

The power of WHY is not opinion. It's biology.



© 2015 Simon Sinek, Inc. / Start With Why





5. Brand

- Your most powerful marketing tool
- Your most valuable asset-invest in it and protect it
- More than your logo
- Not a product
- Sum total of all interactions with your product/organization
- A person's gut feeling about your product/service/company

Beliefs and behaviors



TIP: "Your brand is what other people say about you when you're not in the room."

Jeff Bezos, Founder & CEO of Amazon





6. Third-party Credibility

Reviews, testimonials, and client quotes can help your business in three key ways:

- **Drive purchasing decisions.** According to research from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, 95% of consumers read online reviews before making a purchase.
- Raise brand awareness. Just one review on a high-profile site can boost website traffic by 20%.
- Increase customer trust. The more positive reviews and testimonials you have, the more likely prospective customers are to choose your business over other options.

Popular Review Sites

- Yelp
- Google Reviews
- Facebook Reviews
- Angi (home improvement)
- Glassdoor (employers)
- Tripadvisor (hospitality, entertainment & travel)
- Better Business Bureau

TIP: How do you get reviews, testimonials, and quotes? By asking for them!





7. Integrated Outreach

- Consistent
- Branded across all customer touchpoints

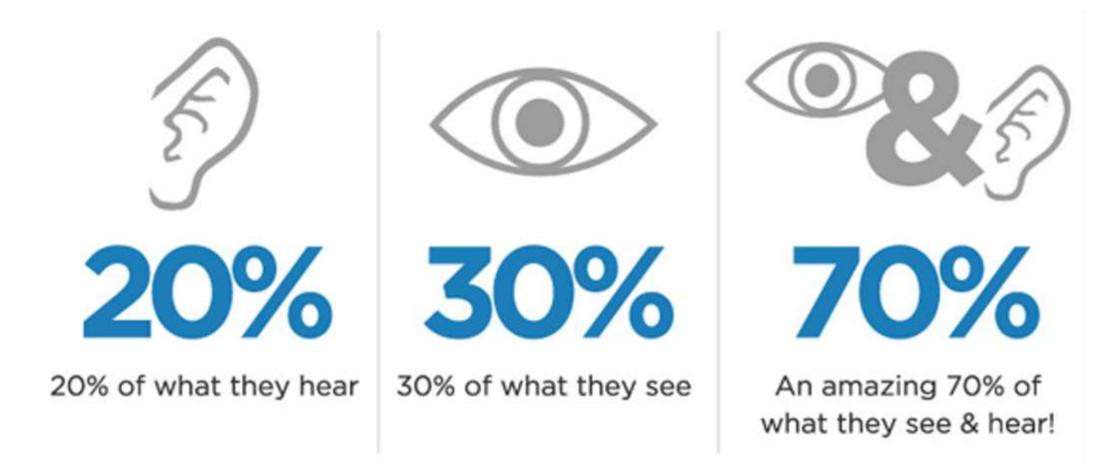
IN PRINT	ONLINE/DIGITAL	IN PERSON
 Brochures Print ads Direct mail/ mail inserts Signage Point-of-purchase 	 Website Social media Digital ads Videos Radio & TV Emails and your email signature E-commerce 	 Event materials Talking points Giveaway items

TIP: People need to experience your message a minimum of 7 times/7 ways.



8. Video

Because people remember:



Every day, people watch over **a billion hours** of video content on YouTube.

With 74% of adult users, YouTube is the most popular online platform in the U.S.

TIP: You don't have to spend a lot of money to create a powerful, authentic video.



9. Social Media

Social media can be overwhelming. There are so many platforms, and trends are constantly changing. How can you stay focused?

- Have a strategy. Include social media as a component of your overall marketing plan.
- **Go where your customers are.** Choose your channel(s) based on your customer research.
- Create a content calendar that includes the when (date), what (content or topic), where (channels), and who (author).
- **Stay engaged.** Social media is a two-way conversation. Monitor and respond to conversations.

In 2022, active social media users totaled **4.55 billion**.

The average daily usage of social media is **2 hours 27 minutes.**

Facebook is the most popular social network globally.

TIP: Don't spread yourself too thin. Choose one (or at most two) social media channels and do them consistently and well.



10. Training: Brand and Sales

	WHO	WHAT
BRAND	 Your entire company Stakeholders Any partners who represent your product/service/ company 	Identity (logo, font, colors) usage, messaging/talking points, expectations around culture/behaviors
SALES	 Sales teams (inside and outside) Customer service team Any staff member who interacts with your customers/clients 	 Relationship marketing: How to establish a relationship with customers Marketing plan How to sell benefits vs. feature of your product/ service/company Start with your "why" Understand your customers' pain points and how your product can make their lives better How to respond to objections

TIPS: Brand from the inside-out, focus on benefits, and start with WHY.



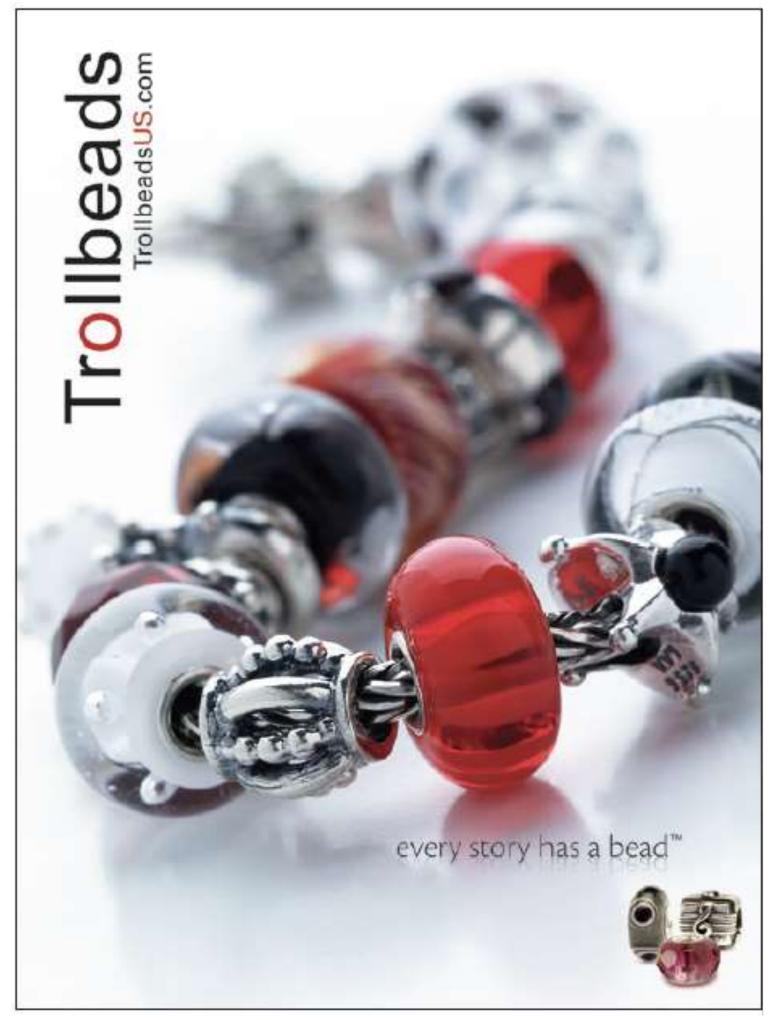
CASE STUDIES

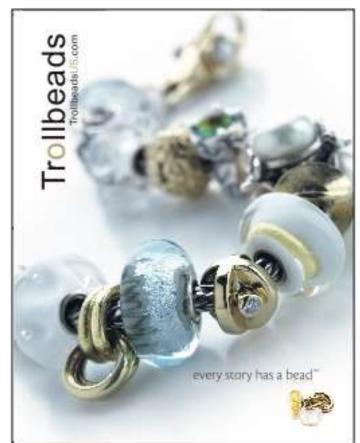


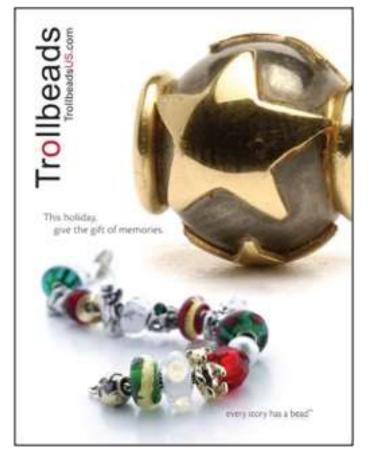
TROLLBEADS

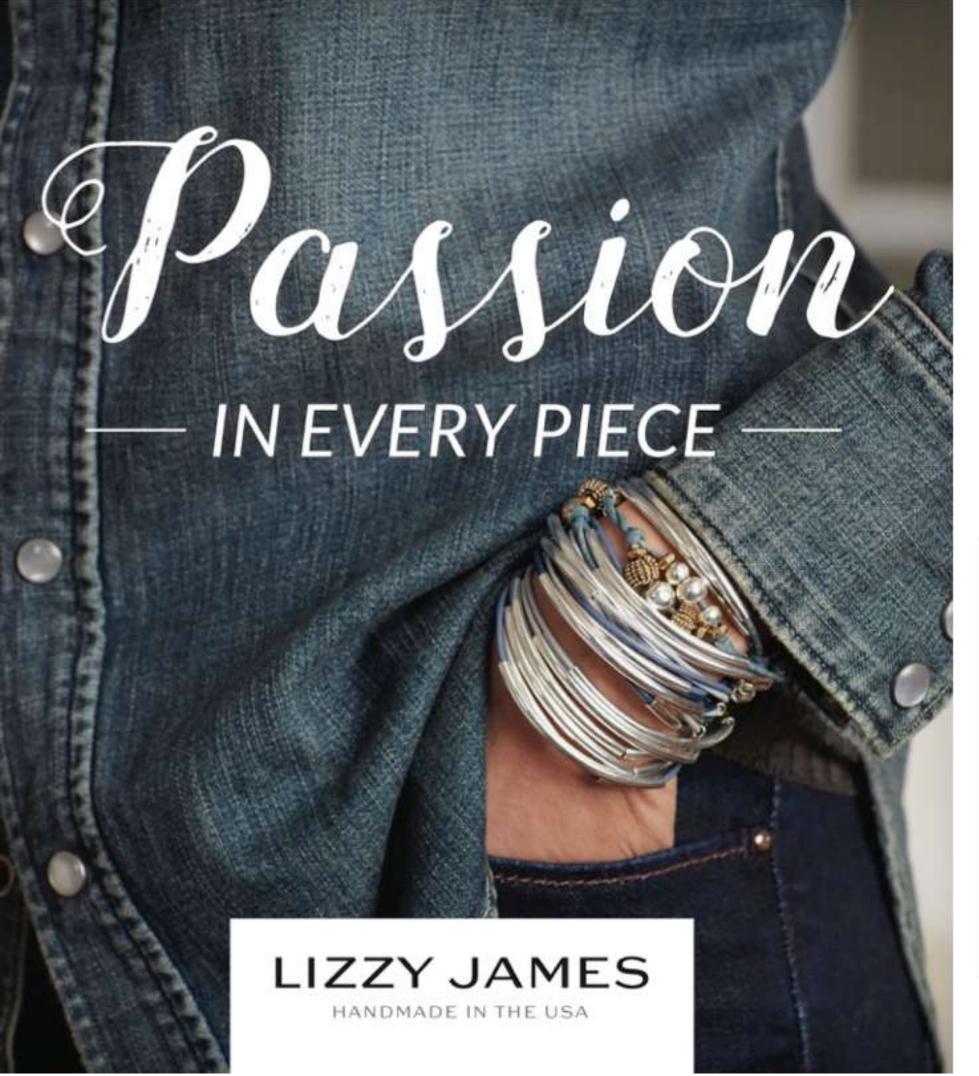
THE ORIGINAL SINCE 1976











Bella

"Bella" means beautiful in Italian. You see the beauty in everyone and everything.





Boho

You're free-spirited, curious, and unconventional truly one of a kind.

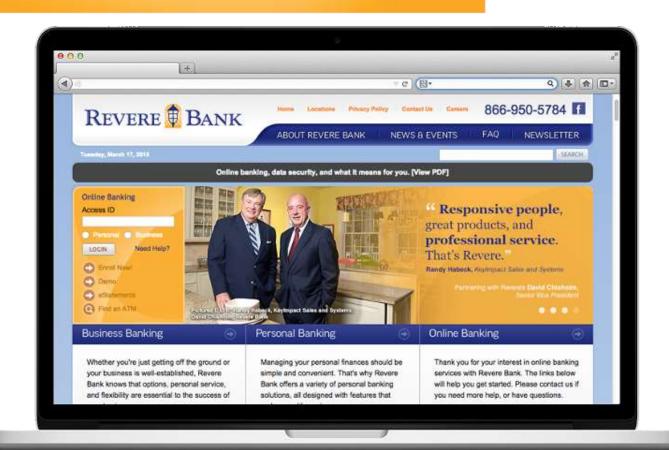
REVERE



REVERE BANK.com

Conveniently located at 319 Main Street • Laurel, MD









Sykesville Federal Savings Association/ Carroll Community Bank

FAQs













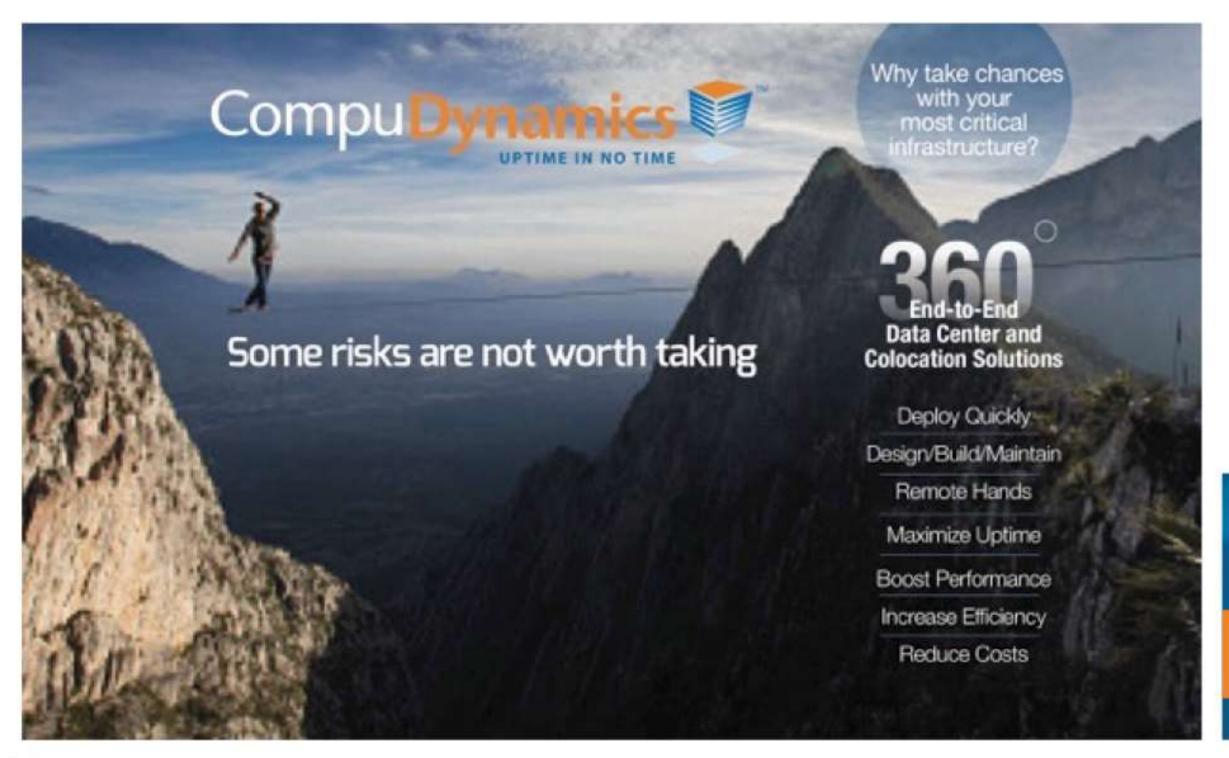






GO TO MARKET STRATEGY

Positioning • Training • Marketing & Events



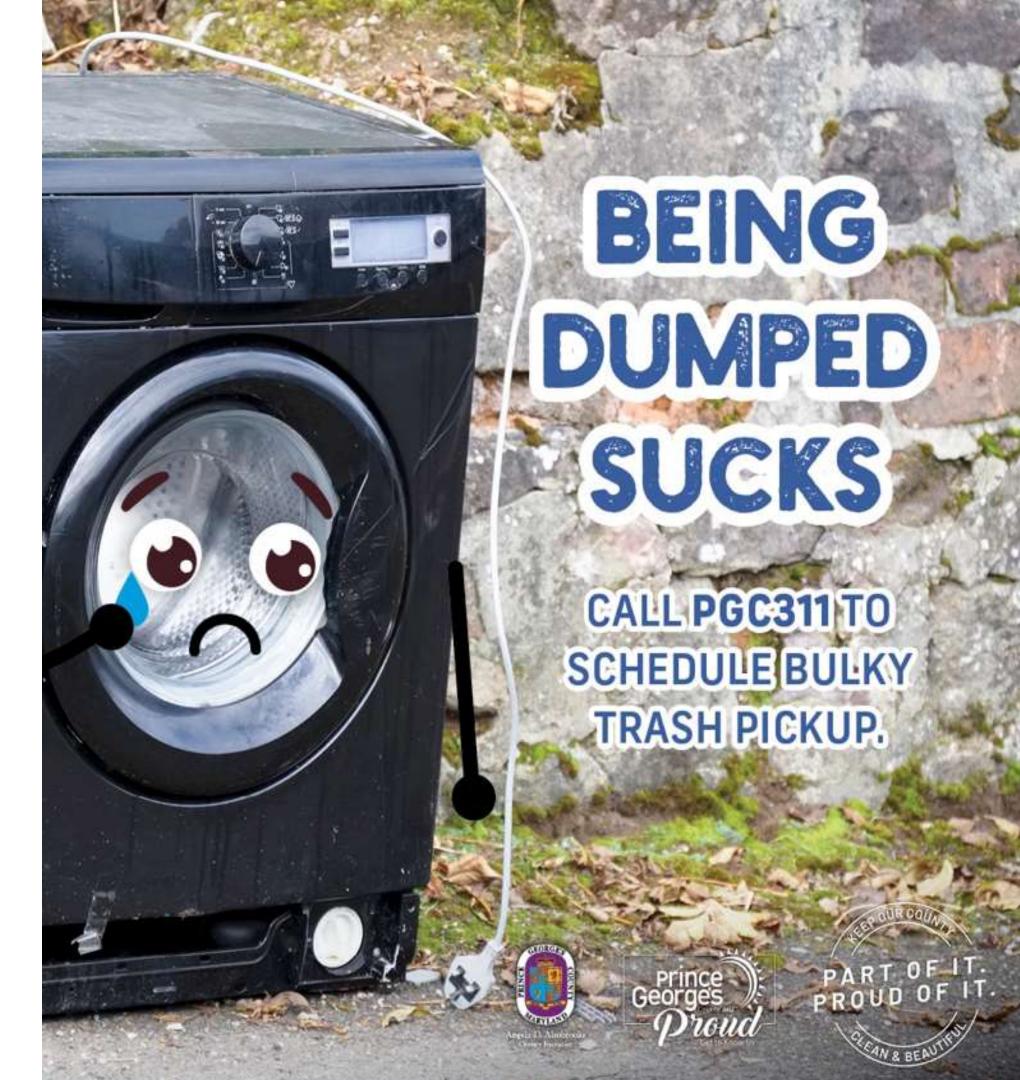












RESOURCES

Resources for Small Businesses

- Ascent | "Elevate Your Business" A free learning platform for women entrepreneurs. https://ascent.sba.gov/
- · TEDCO (for tech startups). https://www.tedcomd.com/
- University of Maryland Small Business Development Center. https://innovate.umd.edu/
- Bowie Business Innovation Center. https://bowiebic.com
- · Maryland Entrepreneur Hub. https://marylandentrepreneurhub.com
- · Prince George's Economic Development Corporation. <u>www.pgcedc.com</u>
- · Innovation Station. <u>www.pgcedc.com/innovation-station</u>



Thank you!

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