



Island Innovation: Powered by Possibility

Wednesday, 21 October 2026
9:00am – 5:00pm @ Hotel Indigo





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AGENDA

TIME	AZURE BALLROOM	SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	
9:00 AM – 9:10 AM		Welcome Remarks Masters of Ceremonies	
9:10 AM – 9:20 AM		Official Opening Remarks Mrs. Thais Ducent, CICBD Director	
9:20 AM – 9:25 AM		Media Sponsor Video Stingray Media	
9:25 AM – 9:55 AM		Keynote Address Hon. André M. Ebanks MP Premier and Minister of Financial Services & Commerce	
10:00 AM		Expo Officially Opens Masters of Ceremonies	
TIME / LOCATION	WORKSHOPS & PANEL DISCUSSIONS		
10:00AM–11:30AM AZURE BALLROOM	YOUTH PITCH COMPETITION Finalists: - Kylen McLean & Nyla Christian, Solisea Energy - Damoya Fearon, SargaPower - Sachin Pandohie, Road Re-Education - Geslie Range Palmera, Cayman Pass - Josiah Davidson, ReadyGo		
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM AZURE BALLROOM	PANEL DISCUSSION Demystifying AI & Automation for Small Businesses Panelists: - Lisette Anez, Story Studio - Caine Smith, AirVu Media - Victor Salgado, Sperto Consulting - Michael Garrett, MotionPro		
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM AZURE BALLROOM	WORKSHOP Healthy Leaders, Healthy Teams Presenter: Rita Dickens, Consultant, CaymanHR		
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM AZURE BALLROOM	WORKSHOP Market Smarter: Practical Strategies to Grow Your Business Presenters: Alanna Warwick-Smith and Natalie Porter		
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM AZURE CENTRAL NORTH	NETWORKING RECEPTION		

Keynote Speaker

Hon. André M. Ebanks MP

Premier and Minister for Financial Services and Commerce



A thriving small business sector is fundamental to a strong, resilient and diversified Cayman Islands economy. The Cayman Islands Centre for Business Development's (CICBD) 2026 Small Business Expo, themed "Island Innovation: Powered by Possibility," provides an opportunity to recognise the entrepreneurs who are contributing to our economic success while connecting them with knowledge, resources and networks to take their businesses forward.

This theme speaks directly to the spirit of entrepreneurship that continues to shape our Islands. Our people are turning ideas into businesses, identifying new opportunities, creating employment and contributing to the strength of our economy. Our micro and small businesses are essential to this success.

I extend my sincere congratulations to CICBD on its continued outstanding work in supporting our entrepreneurs. Since its establishment in 2020, the Centre has provided practical, relationship-based support to micro and small businesses throughout their journey. Through business counselling and coaching, training and capacity building, strategic and financial planning, market research, business plan development and growth programmes, the CICBD helps to build stronger and more sustainable businesses.

The Small Business Expo is an excellent example of this commitment in action. It brings entrepreneurs together with business leaders, Government agencies, financial institutions and other stakeholders to exchange ideas, build networks and explore opportunities. I am particularly pleased that this year's expo will once again provide a platform for our young people through the Youth Pitch Competition. Our youth have tremendous creativity and entrepreneurial potential. Giving them the opportunity to develop and pitch their ideas is an investment in their growth and the future of our economy.

Government's support for micro and small businesses extends beyond the work of CICBD. We continue to strengthen the business environment through services that assist entrepreneurs with business registration, including fee concessions for micro and small businesses and other licensing and regulatory requirements; access to business information and advisory support; opportunities for training and capacity building; intellectual property protection; and programmes designed to improve access to resources. We continue to work towards achieving our mandate for the Cayman Islands to be a diversified, resilient economy that supports prosperity and innovation. We are consistently working to strengthen key industries, encourage innovation and entrepreneurship and maintain economic stability that will support long-term prosperity for Caymanians.

To all our entrepreneurs, I encourage you to take full advantage of the opportunities presented at this year's Expo. Share your ideas, build your networks, learn from others and most importantly, continue to believe in the possibilities that exist within your businesses and within our Islands.

Director's Message

Mrs. Thais Ducent

Cayman Islands Centre for Business Development



Welcome to the 2026 Small Business Expo, held under the theme “Island Innovation: Powered by Possibility.”

Small businesses are at the heart of our economy, bringing new ideas to life, creating opportunities and contributing to the vibrancy of our community. At the Cayman Islands Centre for Business Development, we remain committed to providing entrepreneurs with the knowledge, resources, connections and support they need to build stronger, more sustainable businesses.

This year, we are also placing greater emphasis on the wellbeing of the entrepreneur. Through our work with small business owners, we see first-hand the demands of entrepreneurship. Business owners spend so much of their time taking care of their businesses, their customers and their employees that their own wellbeing can easily take a back seat. Burnout is real, and building a sustainable business also means taking care of the person behind it.

Our programme reflects this broader approach to business success. From exploring practical applications of AI and automation and smarter approaches to marketing, to conversations around healthy leadership and healthy teams, this year's Expo is designed to help entrepreneurs work smarter, grow sustainably and embrace new possibilities.

We are especially pleased to once again create a platform for our young entrepreneurs through the Youth Pitch Competition, while bringing together businesses, industry partners and the wider community to connect, learn and exchange ideas.

I encourage you to make the most of today — visit the exhibitors, participate in the sessions, make new connections and, importantly, take some time to invest in yourself.

Thank you for joining us, and welcome to the 2026 Small Business Expo!

CICBD Service Overview

→ CICBD provides business development support in the form of advocacy, training, consultation, and facilitating access to funding for Cayman's small businesses.



Business Counseling and Coaching

Our business advisors sit with clients in confidential one-on-one counseling sessions helping them to clarify their business vision, goals and the strategy to achieve them.



Business Model Design and Testing

Business model design and testing are critical for validating assumptions, identifying risks, and ensuring the viability of a business.



Strategic Planning

Planning is critical for growth. Strategic Planning helps you set a vision, mission, goals and performance targets for your business. It helps you know for sure whether your business is performing well. Our advisors will show you how.



Preparation of Business Cases

You may be pitching for a project, for investment or a joint venture partnership. You will need to make a business case. We provide templates and our advisors will guide you through the steps to making a strong, convincing business case.



Financial Planning/ Management

We will help you prepare and understand your financial statements and prepare you for accessing various forms of financing.



Reviewing Plans

Business Plans, Marketing Plans and Strategic Plans are important documents for guiding the growth of a business. We provide templates and guidance to completing them.



Feasibility Studies

Before pursuing a business opportunity, it is always good to ensure the idea is feasible. We will give you the tools and teach you how to conduct the necessary research.



Business Training

Expert training in various fields of business to help you improve your ability to manage your business.



Opportunity Assessments

A business opportunity exists only so far as there are significant number of people willing to pay for the product or service. We will help you assess the market opportunity before you take that plunge.



Networking Events

We understand the value of building strong networks. We host and subscribe to events that give our entrepreneurs the opportunity to increase the value and quality of their network.



YOUTH PITCH COMPETITION

10:00am – 11:30am



Kylen McLean & Nyla Christian

Kylen McLean and Nyla Christian are the Head Boy and Head Girl of John Gray High School. They have a shared belief – that the Cayman Islands is deserving of an infrastructure built for its future, not its past.

Our project, Solisea Energy, tackles the UN's 7th SDG by promoting clean energy in the Cayman Islands. Originally a theoretical device, it is now a business model designed to slash Cayman's fossil fuel reliance. Over four decades, Solisea will generate substantial economic profit while securing a sustainable, green future for our islands.

YOUTH PITCH COMPETITION



Damoya Fearon

I am a Year 13 student at Cayman Prep & High School and the sole founder of SargaPower. My business focuses on converting sargassum from Cayman's beaches and nearshore waters into biogas and fertiliser. Through SargaPower, I hope to help create a cleaner Cayman while turning an environmental problem into a useful resource. I am also a school prefect and enjoy taking part in business competitions, debate, and community initiatives.



Geslie Range

Geslie A. Range is an Accounting student at the University College of the Cayman Islands (UCCI) and a young professional with experience in bookkeeping and a completed internship with the Government Internal Audit Service. Geslie wants to build something of her own that can grow, create opportunities and have a positive impact in the Cayman Islands.



Josiah Davidson

Josiah is a Year 11 student at John Gray High School. A fun fact about him is that he loves to cook and eat dumplings of all sorts. Josiah is interested in starting a business to play a part in his community, ensuring that everyone feels safe.



Sachin Pandohie

Sachin is a Year 13 student at St. Ignatius Catholic School. Sachin is interested in entrepreneurship as it offers a rare chance to tie your everyday effort directly to your own personal goals and legacy. Sachin is actually celebrating his 18th birthday today (21 October).



FEATURED PANEL DISCUSSION

DEMYSTIFYING AI & AUTOMATION FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

12:00pm – 1:00pm



Caine Smith

Caine is an award-winning professional accomplished in driving change through technological development. He's an expert in Digital Marketing, focused on complete guest experience and bottom-line revenue streams with a proven track record of conceptualising and delivering successful business solutions to market.

Caine's expertise transcends all aspects of new product creation, including Business Case Development, Product Design, Product Development, and Product Launch.

Successful in managing teams to exceed goals and expectations, Caine is an expert at re-engineering business models and positively changing industry standards.



Lissette Anez

Lissette Anez is the founder of Story Studio, a Cayman Islands communications agency combining strategy, creativity and digital solutions. Her international experience spans Latin America, Europe, the Middle East and the Caribbean, supporting businesses and public sector organisations. Her work focuses on helping organisations apply AI and automation to simplify everyday tasks, strengthen communications and improve service delivery. She is also the founder of Pulsed.Market, a locally developed research and market intelligence initiative, and organises Women in AI events in the Cayman Islands.

FEATURED PANEL DISCUSSION

DEMYSTIFYING AI & AUTOMATION FOR SMALL BUSINESSES



Michael Garrett

Michael Garrett is the CEO and Founder of MotionPro, a technology company that uses artificial intelligence to analyse human movement and turn it into clear, actionable insight for athletes, clinicians and performance teams.

Michael's path to founding MotionPro began on the track as an elite competitive runner. He went on to build a career spanning more than 28 years as a specialist physiotherapist, holding an MSc in Sports Medicine and working with athletes across nine Olympic sports. That experience, seeing first hand how movement quality shapes performance and injury risk, is the foundation of MotionPro's approach.

Today Michael leads MotionPro's mission to make expert level movement analysis accessible at scale, bridging decades of clinical practice with modern AI. He is based in the Cayman Islands.



Victor Salgado

Victor Salgado is a technology and business transformation executive with over 20 years of international experience spanning the Caribbean, Central America, and Asia Pacific.

Before founding Sperto Consulting, Victor held senior leadership positions with Digicel Group and Cable & Wireless Communications, including Chief Technology Officer and Group Senior Vice President of Technology. His experience combines technology strategy, business operations, and leading large-scale transformation initiatives.

Today, through Cayman-based Sperto Consulting, Victor helps organisations improve efficiency, streamline operations, and adopt digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, business automation, and customer relationship management systems.

He is particularly passionate about making technology accessible and practical for small and medium-sized businesses, helping them identify opportunities to reduce manual work, improve customer experiences, and achieve measurable business results.





WELLNESS WORKSHOP

HEALTHY LEADERS, HEALTHY TEAMS

1:30pm – 2:30pm in the Azure Ballroom



CaymanHR

Rita Dickens, CaymanHR Consultant

Rita's passion is helping clients set themselves up for growth and development. Her effervescent personality, positive outlook and easy conversation put people at ease, and as a keen listener she thrives on new connections and on helping others succeed. Her career spans broad business and HR roles, including Site Manager at a large food manufacturing plant, where she was responsible for 200 staff across contracts, complex payroll, training and recruitment. She is also a qualified Emotional Intelligence coach.

With extensive experience across the full HR function, Rita brings a practical, people-first approach to leadership, wellbeing and team development — helping business owners manage pressure, prevent burnout and build healthy, high-performing workplaces.



MARKETING WORKSHOP

PRACTICAL STRATEGIES TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS

3:00pm – 4:00pm in the Azure Ballroom

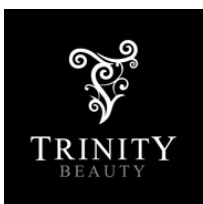


Alanna Warwick-Smith & Natalie Porter

Alanna Warwick-Smith is responsible for Marketing at Cayman Finance and supports Business Development and Community Engagement initiatives. A Social Media Specialist with seven years of industry experience, she excels at growing and nurturing online communities and enhancing the reach of Cayman Finance's digital channels. Alanna served as Director of the Cayman Islands Marketing Professionals Association (CIMPA) from 2020 to 2022. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for Gender Equality Cayman and as the Young Business & Professional Women's Club (BPW) Representative for the Cayman Islands. In 2022, she received the Cayman Islands Government's "Proud of Them" recognition for her community service and achievements. She holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Liverpool.

Natalie Porter is the Founder and Chief Marketing Officer of Planit, with more than 15 years of experience helping businesses turn ambitious goals into practical marketing strategies that deliver measurable results. A Chartered Marketer and CIMPA Marketer of the Year, Natalie has led marketing across tourism, hospitality, retail, consumer brands and professional services. She is a former CIMPA Chair, has taught Integrated Marketing Communications at the University College of the Cayman Islands, and is passionate about helping businesses approach marketing with greater clarity, purpose and strategic direction.

EXHIBITORS



BUSINESS SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS



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by Cayman Enterprise City

CISBA



CAYMAN ISLANDS
SMALL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



CaymanIslandsRedCross



DEPARTMENT OF
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