

2026 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEEK

May 4-8

#EconDevWeek



Monday

9:00 am – 12:00 pm: **Thalia Mara Hall - RISE & BUILD: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SHOWCASE & PROCLAMATION KICKOFF** - Hosted by: City of Jackson & Hinds County Economic Development Authority; A one-stop shop for entrepreneurs and business owners to connect with permitting, licensing, funding, technical assistance, and development partners. Mayor John Horhn will issue the official proclamation launching Economic Development Week.

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm: **Union Station - FROM VISION TO VICTORY: ENTREPRENEURSHIP 4 ALL** - Hosted by Woodforest Bank; Local entrepreneurs share how they started, scaled, and sustained their businesses, offering real stories that inspire and inform the next generation of business leaders.

Tuesday

10:00 am – 12:00 pm: **Jackson State University - PITCH THE FUTURE: THE BEAN PATH COMPETITION** - Hosted by The Beanpath; Got an innovative idea? Pitch for a chance to win a portion of \$15,000 in prizes. Network with entrepreneurs, investors, and mentors while gaining valuable feedback to grow your venture.

Wednesday

11:00: Smith Park - **Hump Day on the Rise: MIDWEEK MARKETPLACE FEATURING FRANK THE CAMEL** - Hosted by Downtown Jackson Partners; A high-energy downtown activation featuring local vendors, food, music, and the return of the beloved Hump Day brand—complete with Frank the Camel. Join us for a fun, engaging midweek experience that celebrates small businesses and community vibrancy in the heart of Jackson.

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm: **Union Station - FROM LOCAL to LEGENDARY NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL VENDOR LAB**; Learn how to become a food or marketplace vendor for the 83rd National Folk Festival (November 13–15). Ideal for small businesses looking to expand their reach and visibility.

Thursday

11:30 am – 1:00 pm: **Mississippi State Capitol, Room 204- POWER, POLICY, PROGRESS & PIZZA: A COMMUNITY FORUM** - Hosted by: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. – Jackson (MS) Alumnae Chapter; A dynamic conversation at the intersection of policy, development, and community impact. Engage with leaders and gain insight into the policies and initiatives shaping economic growth across the Jackson Metro Area.

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm: **Capri Theatre - CHAMPIONS OF THE RISE: HOMETOWN HEROES AWARDS** - Hosted by Visit Jackson; Celebrating individuals and businesses making a meaningful impact on Jackson's growth, culture, and community.

Friday

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm: **Union Station - RISE TOGETHER: JRA OPEN HOUSE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINALE** - Hosted by: Jackson Redevelopment Authority; Close out the week with a look at JRA's work, key projects, and opportunities shaping Jackson's growth. Designed for the full economic development ecosystem, this event brings together bankers, real estate professionals, developers, and community partners to connect and collaborate.

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm: **Union Station - POSTMARKED RISING: JACKSON AFTER FIVE - WHERE CULTURE, COMMERCE & COMMUNITY CONVERGE** - Hosted by Visit Jackson & JRA; The signature closing celebration of a transformational week—join us for a Happy Hour & Networking Mixer to unwind, connect, and celebrate a week of progress, partnership, and momentum as we continue building what's next for Jackson.

Event Lineup

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CELEBRATING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEEK





**RISE & BUILD
DEVELOPMENT
SHOWCASE**

MAY 4, 9:45 AM

**Thalia Mara Hall
255 E Pascagoula St
3rd Floor**





JRA JACKSON
REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



VISIT
Jackson!
MISSISSIPPI



WOODFOREST
NATIONAL BANK

HINDS COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

THE **BEANPATH**

ECONOMIC

DEVELOPMENT

WEEK

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100 YEARS OF IMPACT

The logo features a stylized city skyline in teal and orange, with a globe icon and the text '100 YEARS OF IMPACT'.