



**Tampa Bay Business
Accelerator**
TAMPA BAY CHAMBER



2026, Quarter 1

Impact Report



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2026

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The Tampa Bay Business Accelerator (TBBA), powered by the Tampa Bay Chamber Foundation, helps small businesses scale and achieve sustainable growth. The TBBA assists small businesses with identifying and overcoming obstacles such as limited access to funding, decisionmakers, and information. Through this support, businesses are able to strengthen operations, create jobs, and build long-term stability, ultimately making a lasting impact on the Tampa Bay economy.



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Quarter 1 Impact Metrics

The Tampa Bay Business Accelerator measures the progress of its participants by tracking key metrics such as jobs created, capital received, assets acquired, strategic introductions made and new corporate contacts. The numbers are self-reported by all of the businesses in the cohort on a quarterly basis.

178

Current # of Employees

\$5.6M

Gross Sales

\$2.4M

Net Profit

73

New Jobs Created

20

Vacancies Filled

202

New Corporate Contract

23K

Total Customers

1.1K

New Customers

\$1.2M

Company Secured Capital

\$8.1M

New Assets Acquired

320

Strategic Introductions made



Program Highlights



Cohort 2026 Chair

Michael Eubanks
The Bank of Tampa



Cohort 2027 Chair

Charles Thybulle
Citizens Bank



Alumni Chair

Edward Reyes, Esq.
The Reyes Firm



Our annual cohort Kickoff Reception was filled with connection, community, and so much positive momentum as we officially welcomed this incredible group of entrepreneurs into the Accelerator family. It was inspiring to see Chamber leaders, alumni, mentors, partners, and supporters come together to uplift these businesses and surround them with encouragement from day one.

We're proud to celebrate Cohort '27 and the amazing companies joining the Accelerator family this year:

- ARE Global Solutions
- Baley's Family Enterprises
- CS West & Associates
- Faith Christian Academy of Plant City
- Girl's Inc of Tampa Bay
- J.E.I. Integrity Plumbing
- S&L Building Solutions
- Star Nsurance + Tax
- T-Fat's Auto Spa
- Tampa Counseling Place
- The Makar Law Firm
- TheraVolve Wellness
- True Value America



On March 9, 2026, we brought together the Tampa Bay Business Accelerator Alumni community for an evening centered on connection, innovation, and what's next. With more than 40 alumni and growing, this network continues to play a powerful role in shaping the future of business across our region.

We also introduced Empower, a new platform designed to support second-stage businesses through stronger management structures, streamlined processes, and intentional culture development. This is just the beginning...

This spring the impact of the Tampa Bay Chamber Foundation was shown in full force. Tye Fowler, TBBA Cohort '25 member, spoke to the students at the Collegiate Leadership Tampa Bay program day focused on Financial Services, Entrepreneurship, and Tech. A connection formed during the day leading Tye Fowler to hire Whitney Cherrelus at SGD Communications, where she began as an intern and has since transitioned into a full-time role.



"I met Whitney while I was speaking at an entrepreneurial session at Embarc, where her leadership presence and quick wit immediately caught my attention. That moment led to a conversation about a marketing internship, and she showed up with consistency, coachability, and drive. Watching her growth made it clear she was ready, and now we're excited to have her join our team full time."

Not only has Tye helped Whitney with mentorship and career growth, but he has also become a support system of sorts for her in Tampa Bay, attending both her CLTB graduation and St. Leo University graduation.



TBBA Companies in the Community



Faith Christian Academy of Plant City

is growing! Bay News 9 reports, “Head of school Nicole Williams says the expansion will also include additional amenities that will help preserve its faith-based education and sense of security. “A new athletics center, a welcome center, we want to make our center even more safe with gates and security.”

Keleisha Carter of KC Capital

was featured as the guest speaker for Latin Girls In Real Estate’s Galantines Gala. Her message centered on owning your vision boldly and unapologetically.



Eggs Up Grill Riverview

was recognized by the Tampa Bay Lightning after being invited to participate in their Tampa Bay Entrepreneurship Workshop. “More importantly, being surrounded by so many driven business owners and leaders was a powerful reminder that entrepreneurship is about more than just business — it’s about community.”, Priscilla Conyers on the experience.



True Value America

is supporting Tampa International Airport in Phase 1 of the Airside D expansion. Chris Cunningham says, "Being part of a project of this scale, one that will shape the future of travel, drive economic growth in our region and serve Tampa Bay for generations - is both an honor and a responsibility. Our team provided heavy equipment support during early site work, helping lay the foundation for what will become a transformational addition to TPA."

CS West and Associates

was recognized by the Orlando Magic as a Florida Blue Local Business Champion. Cedrick says, "Being recognized in our own community means everything to us. What started as a family-owned CPA firm serving Brandon and the Tampa Bay area in 2014 has grown into a trusted partner for businesses and families throughout Apopka and the greater Orlando area. We've built our firm on relationships, trust, and doing the right thing for every client we serve."



Tarolyn Buckles of A/E Collaborative

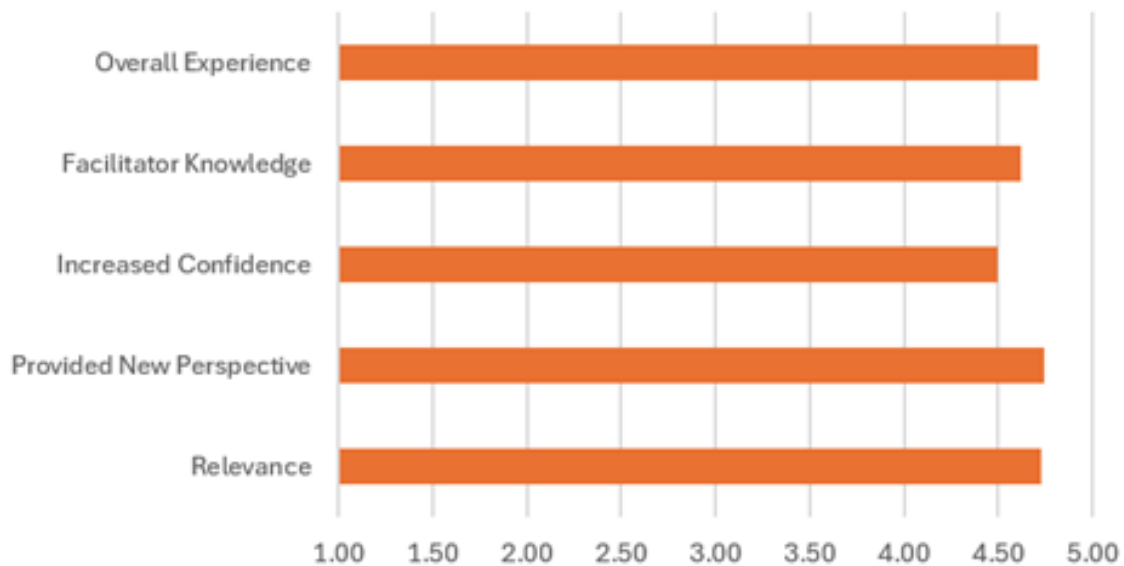
was recognized by Influential Women. Tarolyn says, "This honor strengthens my personal commitment to lead with purpose and elevates the work of Onyx Enterprise, Inc., A/E Collaborative, LLC, and Green Energy Ennovations. Through publications, video features, enhanced branding visibility, and new connections, this platform expands our reach in architecture, engineering, infrastructure, and renewable energy solutions."

I am especially grateful for the opportunity to connect with other influential women who are shaping industries and creating pathways for future leaders."



Session and Event Feedback

TBBA Education Session Feedback



“Very inspiring session. Very valuable insights. “

“So grateful to be here!”

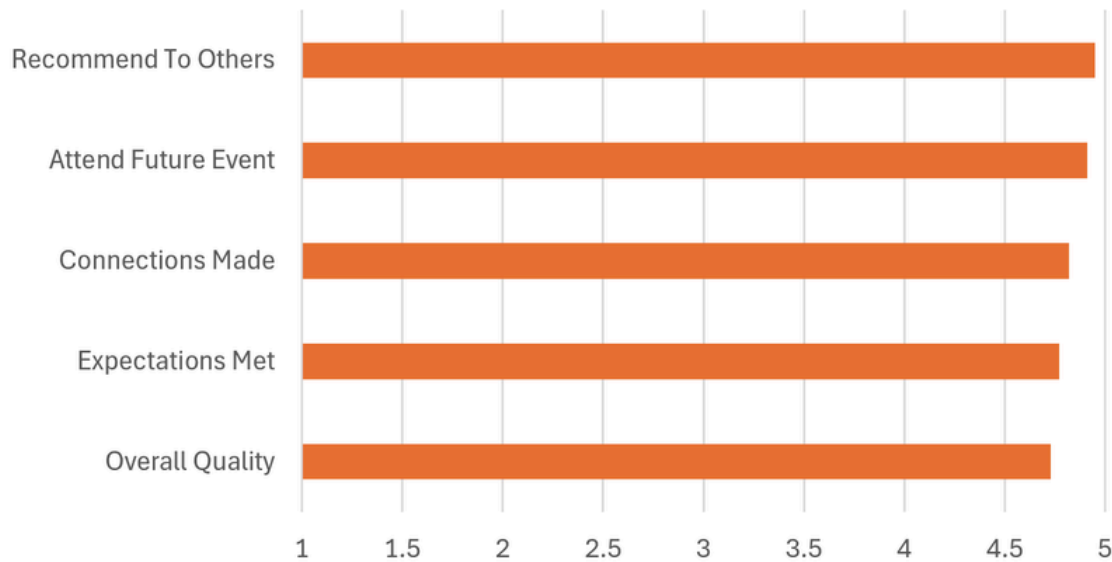
“Clarified the transition vs expansion work I need to refine.”

“Keep them coming. All have been very informative and have helped me better my business.”



Session and Event Feedback

TBBA Events Feedback



“I had the best time. What I noticed was the mixture of attendees that this event attracted.”

“We recently joined TBCC and have been beyond satisfied by the quality of the events and the culture within the chamber. Thank you for being great!”

“Great people, venue, program and staff I got to meet.”

“Great opportunity to continue familiarizing yourself with like-minded people to grow future business relationships.”



Education Sessions and Events

COHORT '27 ORIENTATION

Jan 16

SPEAKERS

Bob Rohrlack DBA, CEE

President & CEO, Tampa Bay Chamber

Rosanne Versaggi

Senior Director of Membership, Tampa Bay Chamber

David Jones

CEO, DOTI

Charles Thybulle

Business Banking Relationship Manager, Fifth Third Bank, TBBA Cohort '27 Chair

Rob Ledford

Partner and Chief Operating Officer, Baker Barrios Architects, Tampa Bay Chamber Chair

TBBA COHORT 2027 KICKOFF RECEPTION

Jan 21

COHORT '26 SESSION 1: THE HUMAN BALANCE SHEET

Feb 6

SPEAKER

Kadian Douglas

Founder & Chief Transformation Officer, Kadian Performance Institute

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

Feb 12



Education Sessions and Events

COHORT '27 SESSION 1: GET A GRIP ON YOUR BUSINESS

Feb 20

SPEAKER

Jeff Jackson

Certified EOS Implementer,
EOS Worldwide

TBBA ALUMNI KICKOFF RECEPTION

Mar 9

JOINT COHORT SESSION 2 ACCELERATING YOUR MARKET PRESENCE

Mar 13

SPEAKERS

Don Kiceina

CEO, DKJr. Consulting

Palmer Holmes

Founder, Mission Control Brands

Shanae Hill

Founder and CEO, Premier
Choice Group

Tiki Guerrant-Mcrae

Director of Field Marketing,
Spectrum Reach