Following is a summary of recent and upcoming economic development news, stories and events.

**Top Stories:**

- Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Embarks on Austin Leadership Trip
- JL Audio, Inc. Expansion to Create 30 New Jobs
- Fort Lauderdale and Pembroke Pines Named Best Cities To Find A Job In Florida
- Fort Lauderdale Area Added More Than 24,000 Jobs Over the Year
- Don’t Miss Out on the Who’s Who in Economic Development Membership Directory
- Discounted Tickets Available to SUP-X™: The Startup Expo – February 16-17

**Education, Workforce Development and Educational Excellence Builds Business (E²B²) News**

**Business Briefs, Alliance Member News**

**Featured Property of the Month**

**Upcoming Alliance Events**

**Upcoming Enterprise Florida and Member/Partner Events**

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**Greater Fort Lauderdale Embarks on Austin Leadership Trip**

The Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, Broward County’s official public/private partnership for economic development, kicked off 2016 with a leadership study trip to Austin, Texas, January 10 - 13 to gather best practices as well as compare and contrast Greater Austin with Broward County. Alliance leaders studied the mid-sized community, known internationally for its annual South by Southwest festivals and conferences focused on technology, film, interactive media and music, as well as its motto, “Keep Austin Weird,” which pays tribute to the city’s emphasis on creativity. To read more, please [click here](#).

- To read articles from the South Florida Business Journal by Emon Reiser, click for her [January 11 blog from Austin](#), click for her [January 12 blog from Austin](#) and click for the Cover Story ([SFBJ link](#)) ([Alliance link](#)) in last week’s South Florida Business Journal.
- To read an article about the Austin Leadership Trip in the *Sun Sentinel* by Ron Hurtibise, [click here](#).
- To read an article by Mary Scott Nabers of the Austin-based think-tank, Strategic Partnerships, Inc., [click here](#).
- To view a TV story on the trip by Danielle Saar of Time Warner Cable News Austin, [click here](#).
JL Audio, Inc. Expansion to Create 30 New Jobs
Governor Scott recently announced that JL Audio, Inc., a manufacturer of car, marine, powersports and home audio products, will create 30 new jobs, while retaining 294 jobs and investing $9.4 million in Broward County. Governor Scott said, “JL Audio began as a small business when two friends decided to build loudspeakers during their summer break from college. Today, JL Audio has provided a job for 294 Floridians and I am excited to announce that this growing business is creating 30 new jobs. We will continue to work to permanently cut the sales tax on manufacturing machinery and equipment so companies like JL Audio can provide more job opportunities for Florida families.” To read more, please click here.

Fort Lauderdale and Pembroke Pines Named Best Cities to Find a Job In Florida
Looking for a job? You've come to the right place—or you're living in the right place, anyway. Fort Lauderdale and Pembroke Pines were just named one of 2016’s best cities to find a job, ranking atop all other big cities in Florida. As part of a new study, financial website WalletHub analyzed 150 of the most populous U.S. cities based on job opportunities, employment growth, unemployment rate and socio-economic factors. To read more, please click here.

Fort Lauderdale Area Added More Than 24,000 Jobs Over the Year
Governor Rick Scott recently announced that the Fort Lauderdale area gained 24,400 private sector jobs over the year in December. The Fort Lauderdale area’s unemployment rate declined by 0.7 percentage point over the year to 4.3 percent in December. Florida has added more than 1 million private sector jobs since 2010. Governor Scott said, “More than 24,000 jobs were created in Fort Lauderdale over the year, which means more Floridians have the opportunity to provide for their families. We want Florida to become first for jobs.” To read more, please click here.

Don’t Miss Out on the Who’s Who Membership Directory
The Alliance’s annual Who’s Who directory is about to go into production. This award-winning publication is sent to all members, elected officials around the state and key stakeholders in the economic development industry.

Updating your profile is easy. We basically need to know who your key Alliance members are, whether your contact information is correct and any updated data for your company profile. Best to keep it short and sweet and remember, this isn’t an ad for your company but a basic profile of your company. **Deadline is Friday, March 11.**

Here’s how you do it with tips in parenthesis:

Login to Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, www.gflalliance.org.
Click “Member Center”
Click “My Account” (Members Only, not Who's Who)
Enter your User ID (First Initial, Last Name ex. jsmith)
Enter your password (broward - unless you changed in your profile)
Click on "My Profile"
You can now update your profile.
Once updated, make sure you click SAVE.

Any problems, contact Tania at 954-627-0133 or email tvinaixa@gflalliance.org.

Interested in advertising? Below are the prices. **Deadline is Friday, March 11.**

**CEO Council Members**
Complimentary full-page black & white ad: Upgrade with 50% discount.
To upgrade to a full color page: $500

**Governor Council Members**
Complimentary half-page black & white ad
Full-page color ad: $1000
Half-page color ad: $500

**All Other Councils**
Full-page color: $1500
Half-page color: $900

**Ad Specs:**
Full Page: 4.5” W x 7.5” H; Vertical space High resolution, at least 300 dpi (JPG is fine)
Half Page: 4.5” x 3.625” H; Horizontal space; High resolution, at least 300 dpi (JPG is fine)

**Discounted Pricing Available for Alliance Members and Partners at SUP-X™: The Startup Expo**
The Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance and the Gold Coast Venture Capital Association have announced SUP-X™: The Startup Expo, a two day international startup conference and expo that will be held at the Broward Convention Center in Ft. Lauderdale on February 16-
17, 2016. The event is expected to draw 1500+ startup and early-stage entrepreneurs, angel and VC investors and related service providers from throughout North America. SUP-X features nearly 50,000 SF of exhibit space, intensive workshops for entrepreneurs led by distinguished subject matter experts, a special half-day of workshops specifically for women entrepreneurs and women investors, and unique and exclusive opportunities for investors to meet fellow investors from throughout North America to develop deal flow and partnership opportunities. To read more, please click here.

Click here for 50% off General Admission
$99, normally $199 - Code: SUPXGA99

Click here for 25% off VIP Pass
($299, normally $399) Code: SUPXVIP299

Aspen Institute Names Broward College One of the Top 150 Colleges in the Nation
Broward College Graduates Highest Earners in State
Broward College's New Aviation Institute Cleared for Takeoff
FAU's College of Nursing Receives $1.3 Million for Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Initiative
Broward College Ranks Third Nationally in Conferring Associate Degrees to Minority Students
Magna Carta 800 Years: Legacy of Liberty Exhibition Now on Display at FAU Library
Broward College's Lingua Language Center to Hosts Grand Opening at Weston Center on January 21
Record Number of Participants Attend Ed Talk 2015/16
2015 High School Graduation Rates Released
BCPS Celebrates Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day On Tuesday, February 2, 2016
Northeast High School State Winner in Samsung Contest; School to Receive $20,000 in Samsung Products
BCPS Students Garner Four of State’s Top Six Spots in 2015 Florida Women’s History Essay Contest
BCPS Recognizes Top Art and Music Students
Watch the 2016 Season of BECON-TV's School Duel Academic Quiz Show

Congratulations to our Alliance South Florida leaders who were just named among the Top 100 Power Leaders by the South Florida Business Journal: George Acevedo, Senior VP/Southeast Regional Manager, JPMorgan Chase; David W. Appel, Managing partner, South Florida practice, Cherry Bekaert LLP; Joe Atkinson, South Florida Region President, Wells Fargo Bank; Richard A. Berkowitz, CEO, Berkowitz Pollack Brant Advisors and Accountants; Tere Blanca, President / CEO, Blanca Commercial Real Estate; Colin Brown, President, CEO, JM Family Enterprises; Margaret Callihan, South Florida Division President, SunTrust; Guillermo Castillo, Head of Commercial Banking for Chase in South Florida and market leader, JPMorgan Chase; Rick Case, Chairman and CEO, Rick Case Automotive Group; Lori Chevy, Market President, Broward County, Bank of America; Thomas M. Cornish, State President for Florida, BankUnited; Mary Jo Eaton, Executive Managing Director for Florida, CBRE; Nabil El Sanadi, M.D., President/CEO, Broward Health; Nicki E. Grossman, President and CEO, Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau; George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., President and CEO, Nova Southeastern University; L. Scott Helms, Senior VP/Regional Managing Director, IDI Gazeley; H. Wayne Huizenga, Chairman, Huizenga Holdings; Mike Jackson, Chairman, CEO, President, AutoNation; John Kelly, President, Florida Atlantic University; Keith Koenig, President, City Furniture; Laurans A. Mendelson, Chairman, CEO, Heico Corp.; Peter Pruitt, Managing Partner, Florida/Puerto Rico practice, Deloitte LLP; P. Michael Reininger, President, Brightline & All Aboard Florida; James Robo, Chairman, CEO, NextEra Energy, Inc.; Pike Rowley, Principal, managing director of Florida, Avison Young; Diane Ryan, Managing director, Southeast division manager, Citi; Frank V. Sacco, President, CEO, Memorial Healthcare System; Penny Shaffer, Market president, Florida Blue (Alliance Board Chair); Vincent Signorello, President, CEO of Florida East Coast Industries, LLC (FECI); Terry Stiles, Chairman and CEO, Stiles; Bob Swindell, President, CEO, Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance. Member companies whose South Florida leaders were recognized: Avison Young, Bank of America, Baptist Health South Florida, Citi, Ernst & Young LLP, Greenberg Traurig, Holland & Knight LLP, Kaufman Rossin and NextEra Energy, Inc.

Broward Cultural Division is proud to be a sponsor of the inaugural South Florida Chillounge Night, the ultimate outdoor lounge party that will bring its chic and stylish ambiance to Huizenga Plaza on Friday, February 6th from 6 - 11PM. Chillounge Night offers an evening full of wonderful entertainment with fine food and drinks under the stars, in this unique opportunity to mix and mingle with
innovative retail experiences to consumers. To read more, please click here.

**Broward Cultural Division's** Public Art & Design Program in conjunction with the Highway Construction & Engineering Division is seeking to commission one artist or artist team to design, build and install functionally integrated site-specific public artwork for a new pocket park located adjacent to a major vehicular corridor in Davie. Deadline: Feb. 15th. To read more, please click here.

**CBRE** arranged the sale and subsequent sub-lease of a vacant property that had been the regional headquarters for Dollar Thrifty Automotive Group (DTAG) before the company’s acquisition by Hertz Global Holdings in 2013. The 4.3-acre property located at 1600 NE 7th Ave. in Dania Beach includes 6,600 square feet of office space and a 5,300 square-foot automotive maintenance building. It was acquired from Shoppes of Wiles Rd., LLC by Passen Enterprises, LLC for $10.5 million. CBRE’s Allen Lindow, CCIM, represented the seller, and on behalf of Hertz, found a new tenant for the property at the same time. To read more, please click here.

The number of co-working spaces in office markets around the country is likely to rise in 2016 as more companies, including Fortune 500 enterprises, are taking space at these types of facilities, according to a new report from CBRE Group, Inc. Forty percent of respondents in a recent CBRE occupier survey said they use or are considering using shared space, including co-working space. While co-working spaces have typically appealed more to startups and freelancers, large enterprises are starting to take space in co-working facilities, according to the CBRE report, the first in a four-part series. To read more, please click here.

**CBRE** arranged the sale of a single-tenant retail property leased to CVS. The buyer, 144 E 24th Street Corp., purchased the property at 10425 W. Sample Road in Coral Springs for $6.3 million from CPAC Coral Springs LLC, which hired CBRE to market the asset for sale and negotiate the transaction. To read more, please click here.

On behalf of Ivy Realty, CBRE Capital Markets’ Debt & Structured Finance team arranged $35.9 million in financing for the acquisition of Tower 101, a 227,764-square-foot, two-building office property at 101 NE 3rd Avenue in bustling downtown Fort Lauderdale. Charles Foschini and Christopher Apone of CBRE arranged the non-recourse, balance sheet loan through Bank of America, which structured a three-year term with extension options, at a 64% loan-to-value (LTV) ratio and a competitive floating rate over LIBOR. To read more, please click here.

**City Furniture** is opening its new Ashley Furniture HomeStore location in the Mall at Wellington Green and rolling out a new design look for its Pembroke Pines City Furniture showroom. As it celebrates the opening of both stores, South Florida’s top-selling furniture retailer is donating a portion of the first-month sales at the two locations to its long-time community partner, Habitat for Humanity. To read more, please click here.

Recently, VIP guests of Macken Companies gathered at the site of Beach House in Dolphin Isles to celebrate the groundbreaking of this development of four zero lot line single-family homes on the barrier island in Ft. Lauderdale. The project is being constructed by VCM Builders and offered for sale by Macken Realty, both affiliates of Macken Companies, a fully integrated real estate firm in South Florida with several new developments underway around Fort Lauderdale. To read more, please click here.

**Miller Construction Company** has completed construction of the 43,264-square-foot third phase of Lake Whitney Medical and Professional Campus in St. Lucie West for owner Willard Development. The complex’s latest phase includes two office buildings at 291 and 293 N.W. Peacock Boulevard within the lakefront business campus. The two-story, reinforced concrete and structural steel buildings each provide 21,632 square feet of space. To read more, please click here.

As its South Florida medical practice expands, EliteHealth has chosen **Miller Construction Company** to build an innovative new 10,347-square-foot diagnostic and patient care facility at 1380 S. Hiatus Road in Pembroke Pines. With headquarters in Miami Beach, EliteHealth attributes its continuous growth to its focus on preventive medicine and primary medicine as well as its executive healthcare, concierge medicine and corporate wellness programs, according to EliteHealth co-founder and chief operating officer Perry Krichmar, M.D. To read more, please click here.

Rebuilding Together Broward County is accepting applications for an Executive Director through Friday, February 26. For more information, contact Adriana Fazzano or Sandra Veszi Einhorn.

**SATO Global Solutions**, an innovation integrator that develops comprehensive Internet of Things (IoT) solutions designed to unleash the power of data, has collaborated with Intel to develop a data-driven, end-to-end IoT platform that enables retailers to accelerate the commercial benefit of data and IoT with a new level of actionable insight. The solution allows retailers to realize near 100% inventory accuracy while boosting workforce efficiency. Additionally, it enables digital engagement applications to bring cutting edge and innovative retail experiences to consumers. To read more, please click here.

**Stearns Weaver Miller** announced that the 2016 edition of the South Florida Legal Guide (SFLG) has once again recognized the firm as a “Top Law Firm” and named 21 of its Shareholders as “Top Lawyers.” The SFLG list is based on peer nominations of lawyers who have distinguished records of achievement, are well-regarded in the legal profession and have many years of experience. To read more, please click here.
Stiles Realty, a division of Fort Lauderdale-based full-service real estate firm Stiles, announced recently that it represented Circleback Lending in a seven-year lease deal totaling 42,000 square feet at Boca Colonnade I in Boca Raton. This headquarters transaction represents one of the top-five largest leases of 2015 in Palm Beach County, according to Stiles research. To read more, please click here.

Stiles Property Management, a division of Fort Lauderdale-based full-service real estate firm Stiles, announced recently the company and Bank of America Plaza at Las Olas City Centre (LOCC) have outperformed the Kingsley Index and improved from the prior year in the 2015 Kingsley Associates Tenant Satisfaction Survey. The survey represents 16 out of 18 office tenants at the 99% leased LOCC, one of the most iconic office buildings in downtown Fort Lauderdale. To read more, please click here.

Gary Bredow, creator and host of the national TV series "Startup", will emcee SUP-X™. Bredow is a former account executive with CBS radio and digital media manager for Clear Channel who travels around the United States interviewing amazing entrepreneurs. Bredow is also Producer, Director and Project Manager for Big Bang Detroit, a firm that produces high quality HD Video, Websites and Mobile Apps. "Startup" airs nationally on over 350 PBS and PTV stations as well as the Create Network and World Channel. The third season is now airing on Sundays at 1:30pm on World Channel. Check your local listings for additional times at www.startup-usa.com and meet Gary at SUP-X!

Click here for 50% off General Admission to SUP-X
Click here for 25% off VIP Pass to SUP-X

As part of an ongoing effort to expand paperless delivery of programs and services and improve customer convenience, Broward's Pollution Prevention Division has in place an online program wherein applicants for building permits in all municipalities can print asbestos certifications through the ePermits.Broward.org website. Broward County issues a Statement of Responsibilities Regarding Asbestos (SRRA) certification, which the applicant can receive online through the ePermits website, and in turn submit it to their municipality's building department along with their project plans. The electronic submittal feature of the SRRA certification is currently limited to asbestos demolition or renovation related projects in the City of Tamarac. However Broward County has plans to expand the program to other municipality building departments. To read more, please click here.

Ultimate Software, a leading provider of human capital management (HCM) solutions in the cloud, announced recently that the company has been ranked #1 on the Best Large Workplaces in Technology list for 2016. Created by FORTUNE and Great Place to Work, the list is a “best of the best” ranking of the top 10 large workplaces in technology and is determined entirely by employee feedback. To read more, please click here.
Alliance International Action Team and BRAVO Meeting (Invitation Only)
Tuesday, Feb 2, 8:30 a.m.
Location: Broward College, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, please contact Liza Bongiovi at 954-627-0132 lbongiovi@gflalliance.org

Alliance Partner Council Meeting (Invitation Only)
Thursday, Feb 11, 8:30 a.m.
Location: Lauderhill Performing Arts Center
For more information, please contact Helen Kulp at 954-627-0131 hkulp@gflalliance.org

Alliance Council Connect
Wednesday, March 3, 6:00 p.m.
Location: Sonesta Fort Lauderdale Beach
For more information, please contact Tania Vinaixa at 954-627-0133 or at tvinaixa@gflalliance.org

Alliance Mid-Year Meeting
Thursday, May 19, 11:15 a.m.
Location: Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, please contact Tania Vinaixa at 954-627-0133 or at tvinaixa@gflalliance.org

Back to top

Enterprise Florida Events

Export Sales Mission to Korea & Taiwan
Apr. 15-23
Location: Seoul, Korea and Taipei, Taiwan
For more information, click here.

Enterprise Florida (EFI) conducts or participates in an extensive schedule of export marketing missions and exhibitions worldwide. These trade events are open to all businesses registered in Florida. For more information and to see more event listings, please click here.

Member/Partner Events

2016 Convening Culture Conference - Celebrating Florida's Diversity Through Arts and Culture
Feb. 1-2
Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, click here.

Breakfast with the Business Journal in Fort Lauderdale
Thursday, Feb. 4, 8:30 a.m.
Location: Goldstein Schechter Koch, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, click here.

Business for the Arts Artist Encounter at IKEA with Erin Bassett
Saturday, Feb. 6, 1:00 p.m.
Location: IKEA Sunrise
For more information, click here.

Inaugural South Florida Chillounge Night
Saturday, Feb. 6, 6:00 p.m.
Location: Huizenga Plaza, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, click here.

Mercantil Commerce Bank: The 2016 Economic Environment for Business Development Forum
Thursday, Feb. 11, 8:00 a.m.
Location: Westin Fort Lauderdale Hotel
For more information, click here.

Easing Gridlock: Addressing Transportation Woes in the Workplace
Thursday, Feb. 11, 9:00 a.m.
Location: The Conrad Hotel Miami
For more information, click here.
SUP-X: The StartUp Expo  
Feb. 16 - 17  
Location: Greater Fort Lauderdale-Broward County Convention Center  
For more information, click here.

TEDxBocaRaton 2016  
Friday, Feb. 19, 5:00 p.m.  
Location: Boca Raton  
For more information, click here.

Employer Workshop on Disability Hiring  
Tuesday, Feb. 23, 8:00 a.m.  
Location: CareerSource Broward, Fort Lauderdale  
For more information, click here.

FAU|Broward Networking Breakfast - Topic: Port Everglades today and tomorrow  
Tuesday, Feb. 23, 8:00 a.m.  
Location: Florida Atlantic University, Davie  
For more information, click here.

The Thousand and One Nights of the Sultan and Sultana Scheherazade  
Wednesday, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Fort Lauderdale  
For more information, click here.

SFBJ: 2016 Best Places to Work  
Thursday, Feb. 25, 11:30 a.m.  
Location: The Signature Grand, Davie  
For more information, click here.

Calendar items are subject to change without notice. Please visit www.gflalliance.org for the most current calendar of events and meetings and for more information regarding the Alliance.

Connect and follow the Alliance on Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn  
Also join our LinkedIn group (for members only).


Why have so many companies relocated to Greater Fort Lauderdale? Click here to find out (90 second video).