

CELEBRATING SMALL BUSINESS

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK ■ MAY 5-12, 2007

Financial Services Champion of the Year, 2007

Jenny McNulty serves as executive director of Urban Solutions, a San Francisco-based economic development non-profit organization with a focus on businesses in the South of Market and Western Addition areas. Under her stewardship, Urban Solutions secured more than \$1.6 million in financing last year for San Francisco entrepreneurs. Low-income individuals received 77 percent of that amount, with 58 percent of the loans made to minorities.

McNulty was instrumental in designing the Six on Sixth program, an economic revitalization effort managed by Urban Solutions in the South of Market Sixth Street corridor. The program helps retail businesses and property owners access capital in the form of forgivable loans from the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency. The loans are



Jenny McNulty, Urban Solutions

used for a range of improvements, from generating new exterior signs to making important fixture up-

grades. Since the start of Six on Sixth in 2003, Urban Solutions has completed 39 projects with another 53 underway, providing businesses and property owners with more than \$350,000 in capital.

"Jenny McNulty impresses me as one of the most effective small-business advocates in San Francisco," says Jordanna Thigpen, a member of the San Francisco Small Business Commission. "A simple look at the number of clients, loans secured and the amount of financing provided to small businesses provides a clear picture of Urban Solutions' value and success. Combine these numbers with the significantly higher profile the organization has received under Jenny's leadership and you have a portrait of an advocate who's dedicated and committed to entrepreneurs."

Small Business Week

Each year the Small Business Administration celebrates National Small Business Week to highlight our country's amazing entrepreneurs. For the past three years, the SBA has collaborated with the Small Business Commission and Wells Fargo to honor San Francisco small businesses.

The highlight of Small Business Week is an awards ceremony and reception, Flavors of San Francisco, which takes place at City Hall on May 7. This amazing event, hosted by Mayor Newsom and the Small Business Commission, features specialties from local restaurants and a resource fair for business owners. The 2007 Small Business Administration award recipients, all of whom hail from San Francisco, will also be presented. Other

events include neighborhood networking events and sidewalk sales, a green business celebration, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce Expo for businesses and seminars hosted by the Small Business Administration and sponsors.

The scope of the week's events is only possible because of the wonderful partnership between so many business-service providers and sponsors. The Small Business Week 2007 Committee worked extra hard this year so that San Francisco small businesses get the accolades that they deserve – for making our city the best in the country.

Congratulations to the San Francisco small business community for continuing to dazzle with creativity and innovation.