



# News Release

ORANGE COUNTY/INLAND  
EMPIRE DISTRICT OFFICE

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## **Lisa Kim, Assistant City Manager, Office of Economic Development, City of Garden Grove Receives Community Excellence Award 2020**

*City thrives under leadership that values innovation and change*

**SANTA ANA, Calif.** – The U.S. Small Business Administration, Orange County / Inland Empire District Office is pleased to announce Lisa Kim, Assistant City Manager/Community and Economic Development Director, Office of Economic Development, City of Garden Grove, as the winner of the SBA’s 2020 Community Excellence Award. Kim was nominated for the award by Scott Stiles, City Manager, City of Garden Grove.

Upon arriving in Garden Grove in 2016, Kim immediately saw the need to transform the city’s small business resources through a grassroots effort with local community stakeholders and chamber partners. With over 25 years of experience in the field of economic development, downtown revitalization, and business development, she successfully implemented organizational changes and business strategies to achieve the city’s economic development mission in an efficient and effective manner. As an outcome of these implementations, Garden Grove has experienced job growth, developed strong partnerships with outside organizations and government agencies, and increased the resources available to local businesses.

The Office of Economic Development is responsible for carrying out the mission of the City’s economic development program, which is to strengthen and grow the City’s economic base. The Office’s goals as outlined in the city’s Economic Development Strategic Plan, include increasing the City’s tax base, creating and retaining jobs in the City, addressing sales tax leakage, diversifying the sales tax base, creating new markets within the City, and building local and regional relationships.

The Office of Economic Development recognizes the importance of supporting the small business community and has offered appropriate resources by partnering with organizations such as SCORE, Small Business Development Center, U.S. Small Business Administration, and the Port of Los Angeles. In particular, the Office’s partnership with the Port of Los Angeles has promoted local business growth and provided manufacturers with opportunities to expand. This established partnership was born from the Office’s Expanding Borders Initiative, a plan to collaborate with federal and state agencies, and non-governmental organizations to provide export and international trade resources.

Another one of the office's programs, the Small Business Assistance Program, was designed to stimulate economic growth and job creation to improve the living conditions of residents in the community. This program provides non-conventional, yet affordable financing to eligible small businesses and development projects. The city of Garden Grove works directly with the Orange County SBDC to provide loan packaging assistance for all businesses applying to the program.

The SBA District Office, along with the SBDC Lead Center, introduced the leadership team of Steel Craft to the city of Garden Grove. That initial meeting led to the development of a new Steel Craft outdoor urban eatery that was built from 22 recycled and repurposed shipping containers, and the space allowed for 10 new food, beer, and wine vendors to start their businesses in Garden Grove. This project resulted in the creation of approximately 100 new jobs, while further implementing the city's vision to reimagine Downtown Garden Grove. Other recent projects include the opening of Nova Kitchen & Bar, the relocation of the Garden Grove Kia dealership, the opening of the Aldi grocery store at The Promenade, revitalization of the Village at Beach project, repositioning of the Garden Brook Senior Village, and repositioning of the West Grove Center. These projects resulted in the creation of new jobs, modernized amenities, and increased sales tax revenue for the city.

In response to COVID-19, the City of Garden Grove has implemented programs to assist small businesses by leveraging the funding that the City received from the CARES Act. Programs include the Accessible Business Program, Hot Meals Program, Meals on Wheels, and the Family Food Box Program. The city also offered grants through its JOBS 1<sup>st</sup> program, which provides grants of up to \$25K to local businesses for job retention or loans of up to \$50K for job creation. Micro business grants of up to \$5K were also available for rent relief and business innovation activities. By the end of the year, 125 micro business grants will have been disbursed and, to date, \$500,000 in JOBS 1<sup>st</sup> program funding has been awarded, thereby achieving retention and creation of over 110 local jobs. Additionally, through the enhancement of online services, Garden Grove has streamlined its building permit/plan check processes and increased the number of online users for these services.

Kim's leadership has truly led Garden Grove's Office of Economic Development to create a pro-active business climate for new development and investment opportunities within the City.

The SBA Orange County / Inland Empire District is honored in recognizing Lisa Kim as the winner of the SBA's 2020 Community Excellence Award.

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### **About the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)**

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953 and is a Cabinet-level agency of the federal government to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation. The SBA helps Americans start, build and grow businesses, and recover from disasters. Through an extensive network of field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations, the SBA delivers its services to people throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam. To learn more about SBA, visit [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).

### **About the Orange County / Inland Empire District Office**

The Orange County / Inland Empire District Office, under the leadership and vision of J. Adalberto Quijada, District Director, is responsible for the delivery of SBA programs and services in the Southern California counties of Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino. Located in Santa Ana near John Wayne Airport, the office and its staff facilitate

understanding and access to SBA loan programs; coordinate and conduct hundreds of training sessions and special events annually such as matchmaking forums and loan workshops; and manage a portfolio of nearly 100 businesses enrolled in the agency's 8(a) business development program.