



CITY OF *Savannah*

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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Local Business Spotlight: Kirutungo Productions



Founder, Darlien Morales

Inspired by the natural and diverse landscapes of her home in Puerto Rico, Darlien Morales, Founder of [Kirutungo Productions](#), aims to show the beauty and fragility of the world through art's lens. Darlien fell in love with documentary filmmaking while pursuing her BFA in Film and Television at the Savannah College of Art and Design. Her cinematography and producing skills have taken her to work on projects with topics ranging from working conditions of coffee farmers in Guatemala to aspiring entrepreneurs in the favelas of Brazil. Darlien's film, "[Beneath Paradise](#)", documents the modern environmental impact of munitions from World War II and has won 4 awards, 7 nominations, and 11 official selections. Kirutungo Productions strives to bridge the gap between scientists, philanthropists, and the general public.

With help from the staff at the [Savannah Entrepreneurial Center](#), Darlien enrolled in the Business Education Course to discover the essentials of starting a business in the City of Savannah. The 12-week course provides entrepreneurs the foundations for writing a business plan, calculating capital, securing business financing, promoting and advertising, and more. Darlien enjoys doing business in Savannah because she feels the city is a vibrant "working canvas" filled with thriving businesses and non-profits dedicated to environmental and cultural progression.

For more information and to view some of Darlien's compelling cinematography, visit [Kirutungo Productions](#) on [Facebook](#) or [Vimeo](#).



Business News



[Savannah Welcomes Record Setting Container Ship](#)

Gov. Nathan Deal welcomed the largest container ship ever to sail to the East Coast, calling the big ship's visit the beginning of a new chapter of growth for Georgia's ports. "This is another example of how the Port of Savannah is the gateway not just for the U.S. Southeast, but for America's East Coast," Deal announced to attendees at GPA.



[Housing & Community Development](#)

The City of Savannah's Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan addresses the City's housing, homelessness, and non-housing community development needs for the five-year period 2018-2022. Your input on the [Community Needs Survey](#) will provide an understanding of the City's needs and priorities for community development activities.



[Summer 500: Change and Engage](#)

The City of Savannah and area businesses will join forces to match 500 students with 500 paid internships this summer. The eight week program will run from June 5 to July 8, and aims to provide students with soft-skills training, literacy and numeracy development, financial management, and career-path guidance. Businesses are encouraged to participate in the initiative. [Sign up now!](#)

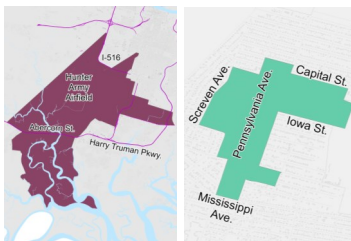
Are You in the Zone?



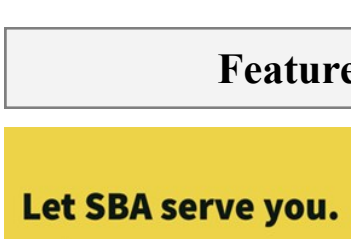
The City of Savannah offers a variety of incentive programs to help spur business growth and job creation.



The City's four [Enterprise Zones](#) promote reinvestment along MLK Boulevard and Montgomery Street, Waters Avenue, Sustainable Fellwood, and Pennsylvania Avenue. These zones incentivize property tax abatement and may be eligible for certain fee waivers.



The West Downtown Opportunity Zone and the Hunter Army Airfield Military Zone encourage business development and job creation through \$3,500 in job tax credits per job created.



Lastly, Economic Development Credits promote business development among target corridors through Business Tax Certificate Renewal reductions.

For more information about the City of Savannah Incentive Zones, contact the [Economic Development Department](#).

Upcoming Events

[Upcoming Business Courses and Workshops](#)

Savannah Entrepreneurial Center

[Women Who Rule](#)

Wednesday, May 17, 11:30am-1:00pm
Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort & Spa

[16th Annual Taste of Downtown Business Connection](#)

Thursday, May 18, 5:30pm-7:30pm
Johnson Square

[Savannah's Salute: Military Appreciation](#)

Tuesday, May 23, 12:00pm-1:30pm
Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort & Spa

[Constant Contact Workshop](#)

Wednesday, May 24, 11:30am
Georgia Infirmary, 1900 Abercorn Street

[Intro to Web Development with Javascript](#)

Saturday, June 3, 9:00am-4:00pm
Bull Street Labs, 2222 Bull Street

Featured Resource: U.S. Small Business Administration

Let SBA serve you.

Business resources to help **veterans** start and grow a business.

 #MilitaryAppreciationMonth



The [U.S. Small Business Administration](#) (SBA) was created in 1953 as an independent 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. Through an extensive network of field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations, SBA delivers its services to people throughout the United States and the territories of Puerto Rico, the U. S. Virgin Islands, and Guam.

May is **Military Appreciation Month**. The SBA has a plethora of [resources to help veterans](#) start and grow a small business. From creating a business plan to finding your first customer, SBA strives to help veterans succeed. The SBA offers Small Business Assistance through the [Office of Veterans Business Development](#) to support and empower aspiring and existing veteran entrepreneurs and military spouses. [Boots to Business](#) is a two-step entrepreneurial program offered by the SBA as a training track of the Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program. The SBA also connects veterans to business financing programs. The SBA Veterans [Advantage](#) program guarantees loans approved to businesses and reduces guaranty fees by 50%. The [SBA Veteran's Entrepreneurship Act of 2015](#) reduces the upfront borrower fee to zero dollars for those who are eligible.

For more information about the SBA and its programs, please visit one of their [local offices](#).

City of Savannah

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"To facilitate economic development activities that foster a strong local economy, spur business and job growth, and provide for a better quality of life in Savannah."