

Accelerating Minority Business Investment & Development



Melody Short Co-Founder Richmond Night Market

Melody Short is a graduate of Morgan State University's Earl Graves School of Business and a marketing executive, focused on business development and brand development for minority-owned businesses. Melody jump-started her career in the Urban Marketing Department of Sony Music Distribution. Her career in the music industry afforded her the opportunity to establish relationships with small business owners in the Mid-Atlantic, Northeast and Southwest markets.

This proved pivotal to Melody's career, because it's where she developed a passion for supporting small business owners. As an entrepreneur and co-founder of the Richmond Night Market, she supports small business owners and independent artists in areas to include public relations, marketing and business development. Melody is the former Director of Marketing and Business Development for the largest collection of Black-owned Inns in the United States, Akwaaba Bed & Breakfast Inns and was featured as part of the cast of their television show, on the OWN Network, Checked Inn. Melody currently serves the small business community of Richmond, Virginia with a focus on minority and women owned businesses as the Membership & Marketing Coordinator at the Metropolitan Business League, and as the Co-founder of The Jackson Ward Collective, an incubator for Black business owners and selected partners to share resources, experiences and expertise to build and grow strong, sustainable Black owned businesses in Richmond, VA. In addition, Melody serves on the board of the Afrikana Independent Film Festival, Minority Business Enterprise and Emerging Small Business Advisory Board for the City of Richmond and most recently, the Venture Richmond Economic Opportunity Committee. All this while managing her most important role of all--mother to 12-year old Nia Abiose.