



400 Showed Up in the Rain

Urban Professionals Networking | Thursday, October 8, 2026 | Allure Lounge Orlando

On October 8, rainbands from a distant hurricane swept across downtown Orlando. It would have been easy to stay home. Instead, more than 400 people braved the rain to connect. Business owners, attorneys, healthcare leaders, and public servants filled Allure Lounge for our Mentorship through Networking program, trading introductions that will outlast the night.

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

From Parramore to the Mayor's Office



Hours before doors opened, Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings's office invited Jerome Lewis and board member Tiye Huertas to discuss underserved communities, government relations with nonprofits, and the work Them2Us does. For Jerome, who grew up in Parramore watching Demings rise from Orlando Police Chief to Sheriff to Mayor, it was full circle. This time, he was at the table.

"At some point, you stop climbing the ladder and start building ladders for others."

Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings

That evening, the advocacy continued. State Attorney Monique H. Worrell of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, Tiffany Moore Russell, Roberta Walton Johnson, Patricia Rumph, and Gloria Joyner from Angie Nixon's team reminded the room that civic engagement cannot stop at the ballot box.

MENTORSHIP THROUGH NETWORKING

Ladders, Not Just Connections

The African American Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida brought out its community and introduced board member Dr. Gary A. Montoute, who graced our stage. XCEL Summit for Men partnered with us to give away tickets to its upcoming summit.

Dr. Gary A. Montoute, DHA
Director, IT Contact Centers, Orlando Health

Coretta Anthony-Smith, Esq.
Managing Attorney, Anthony-Smith Law, P.A.

Jean D'haiti
Loan Officer, Bluevella Mortgage

Latrice N. Stewart
President and CEO, 26Health

EMPLOYMENT CONNECTIONS

Connecting Talent to Jobs

~20 professionals connected directly with a recruiter about job opportunities during the evening

Madison Recruiting Firm brought a working employment resource into the room, where attendees talked through open roles.

"Everything went great. I met a lot of interesting people and connected with about 20 professionals that night. We look forward to being a continued partner with Them2Us!"

Cam Madison, Madison Recruiting Firm

WHO CAME

A Room Full of Builders

400+
Attended

634
Registered

73%
Local

Nearly half own their own company

47%

36%

Own company (47%) Corporate (36%) Nonprofit (9%) Gov't (8%)

Two in three registrants were women

65%

34%

Women (65%) Men (34%) Another gender (1%)

Most were 30 or older (age, of those who answered)

18%

15%

22%

17%

21-24 (8%) 25-29 (9%) 30-34 (18%) 35-39 (15%) 40-44 (22%)
45-50 (10%) 50+ (17%)

Top job titles

Owner, founder, executive 24%

Director or manager 15%

Finance, real estate, insurance 13%

Healthcare 5%

Sales, marketing, media 4%

Law 4%



THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Bridge and Build. Next: Back to Business, Thursday, January 21, 2027

Allure Lounge, 6:00 to 10:00 PM. Build the next ladder with us as a guest, sponsor, or speaker.

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for January 21