Press Announcement November 10, 2016 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER NETWORK OPENS NEW MBDA CENTER IN MANHATTAN

Event: Manhattan Minority Business Development Agency Business Center Opening

Location: Battery Gardens Restaurant located in Battery Park

Across 17 State Street New York, NY 10004

Date & Time: Friday, November 18, 11:45 am – 12:45 pm

Who: Business Outreach Center Network

NEW YORK – (November 10, 2016): Manhattan is home to one of the US Commerce Department's Minority Business Development Agency's (MBDA) newest business centers, funded in part through a five-year, \$1,609,000 Cooperative Agreement with Business Outreach Center Network, Inc. in September 2016. The Manhattan MBDA Business Center will host its official grand opening on Nov. 18 from 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. at the Battery Gardens Restaurant.

"This center will be yet another critical component in MBDA's national network of business centers. Not to mention, New York City has always been a mecca for entrepreneurs seeking greater opportunities," said Alejandra Y. Castillo, MBDA National Director. Director Castillo is scheduled to provide remarks during the grand opening event.

At the center, located at 48 Wall Street, New York, NY, Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) will now have a dedicated team facilitating transactions through referrals, business consulting, contract proposal preparation, and loan packaging, as well as matching Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) to contract opportunities, prime contractors, and capital resources.

Operated by the Business Outreach Center Network (BOC Network), the Manhattan MBDA Center will create and retain jobs by providing consulting services and facilitating access to contracts, capital, and market opportunities. While the Manhattan MBDA Business Center will provide assistance to all MBEs, it specifically targets those with annual revenues of more than \$1 million, and/or high growth firms in such sectors as construction, technology, healthcare, and the innovation economy.

"Our new MBDA Business Center is an exciting opportunity to support minority business growth," said BOC Network Executive Director Nancy Carin. "We look forward to helping MBEs as important drivers of private sector growth and innovation for our country's economy and as key players in the creation of community jobs."

For more information about the Manhattan MBDA Business Center or to attend this event, email mbdacenter@bocnet.org.

BOC Network will also host the 2016 BOC Awards immediately after the Manhattan MBDA Business Center launch. For more on this event, please visit www.bocnet.org/boc/BOC awards 2016.asp.

About the MBDA

MBDA (<u>www.mbda.gov</u>) is the only U.S. federal agency dedicated to the growth and global competitiveness of U.S. minority-owned businesses. Its programs and services better equip minority-owned firms to create jobs, build scale and capacity, increase revenues, and expand regionally, nationally and internationally. Services are provided through a network of MBDA Business Centers. Established in 1969, MBDA continues to be a dedicated strategic partner to all U.S. minority-owned businesses, committed to offering programs and services that provide greater access to capital, contracts and markets.

About the Business Outreach Center Network (BOC Network)

Founded in 1997, BOC Network is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to small business development and job creation with a focus on minority and immigrant communities. BOC Network is well known for its collaborative model and track record in creating and delivering impactful services and innovative solutions for new and growing businesses through its network of centers in the five boroughs of New York City and Newark, New Jersey. It is BOC Network's goal through its MBDA Business Center to help MBEs create jobs and revenue by providing the necessary guidance and support for strategic growth and access to opportunities and financing.