

DESTINATION



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Turks & Caicos Islands

Building Sustainability



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Simmons**

The make-up of the Turks and Caicos business community has been revitalized thanks to the country's MSME empowerment initiatives.

In 2016, the Turks and Caicos government launched a Micro Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) program which has since been managed by Invest Turks and Caicos - the local agency tasked with the facilitation of inward investment - and backed by the Centre for Entrepreneurial Development. The program has been revolutionary in empowering local entrepreneurs to begin and build brands that provide services and merchandise native to these islands.

In the tourism sphere, MSMEs make up the activity vendors, restaurants, artisans, and even the accommodations providers in the sector. Tailored to the advancement of the lesser-tapped areas, the MSME program has focused

on priority areas. This is the gateway to visitors' tourist dollars being a boost to the local economy and provides more avenues for those looking to engage with the local community and experience the authentic side of the country's culture.

Since its start, the program has disbursed millions in financial and technical assistance and concessions, empowering start-ups to compete and enjoy success in the larger markets. Applicants are positioned for success through the support of one-on-one consultations with representatives of the Invest TCI and CED agencies. Assistance with formulating business plans and fulfillment of the application requirements is provided, and the results are astounding.

Boutique accommodations, hand-crafted items made with local materials, home grown fashion brands and more are the result of this effort. Fashion house



Invest Turks and Caicos



Invest Turks and Caicos





“Willique” is rising to the top as one of Turks and Caicos’ most popular local luxury brands. The bespoke leather goods brand provides classic modern designs referencing a Caribbean heritage. A limited number of pieces is produced in each of Willique’s collections, which lends to a truly bespoke investment for the buyer, and each piece is handmade and unique.

Anya Willique Pratt, a young Turks and Caicos designer, is the visionary and Atelier behind the brand. She made the bold move to establish Willique in 2016 and nurtured it in London, England. Returning to Turks and Caicos, The MSME program gave her the injection she needed to move toward brand growth.

Willique has since launched the Resort Collection, expanding the brand from handbags to clothing and accessories.

Stories like this are a nod to the success of the Turks and Caicos MSME program and there are many more. The program has funded small businesses providing services in fish processing, commercial cleaning, art, custom embroidery, vacation rentals, market gardening, technology, music, and even hair manufacturing.

Small and medium businesses play a significant part in any country’s economy and are integral to its development and sustainability. As the country experiences record numbers and outstanding success in its tourism and real estate sectors, the

initiative has helped many to fulfill their entrepreneurial aspirations.

There is more to come in locally owned and grown businesses. Invest Turks and Caicos is committed to the growth of Agro-business and Financial Services in the country and the building of an optimal business environment for Turks and Caicos Islanders.

When visiting Turks and Caicos, take a look at these locally owned cottages, stores, brands, and services. There is no better version of cultural exchange than the investment in a country’s best and most vital product...it’s people.

APPLY FOR MSME ASSISTANCE TODAY!



CASH GRANTS



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



DUTY CONCESSIONS



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