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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **20X20: FOUR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS SHARE THEIR JOURNEY DURING ACCION TEXAS SPECIAL EVENT**

**SAN ANTONIO** – The Accion Texas Women’s Business is celebrating women entrepreneurs by showcasing the work of four women and sharing their stories of innovation, determination and perseverance during an inspiration and work session at Geekdom, 112 E. Pecan, on Monday, May 20 from 6 to 8:30 p.m., 11<sup>th</sup> floor

The event, “20x20: Women Inspiring Women,” will tell the stories of these entrepreneurs: Magaly Chocano, CEO of Sweb Development; Anne Ng, owner of Bakery Lorraine; Margaret Anaglia, owner of Al’s Gourmet Nuts; and Kathleen Mayes, owner of MaGi Foods. Each of the presenters will use 20 slides, describing each picture in 20 seconds, taking participants from idea, to startup, to where they are today as successful small business owners.

“These women have been challenged on all levels and kept pushing toward their dreams,” said Martha Zurita, director of the Accion Texas Women’s Business Center. “We wanted our presenters to share their journey in a unique way. We believe these four women will inspire others to keep striving forward.”

Participants can register for this event online: <http://accion20x20.eventbrite.com/>

#### **ABOUT THE WOMEN WE ARE HONORING:**

##### **Magaly Chocano**

In 2009, Magaly Chocano launched Swebapps, the first build-your-own-app platform. As a result she garnered the attention from the likes of Time magazine, Mashable, GigaOm, and Entrepreneur magazine to name a few. This spring, she was given the “Social Revolución” “Innovator” award during the Southwest Interaction Festival in Austin. She has helped local, national, and global brands find their footing in the mobile space. Chocano showcased her innovation in supporting the creation of the site and system for San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro’s SA2020 Initiative. This platform allows citizens and non-profits to connect in entirely unique ways that make taking action in the city more effective and inspiring.



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### **Anne Ng**

Before she moved to San Antonio and brought her recipes for delicate French pastries with her, Anne Ng and her partner, Jeremy Mandrell, toiled in the famed kitchens of Bouchon Bakery in San Francisco, and in other fine restaurants in the Bay Area. After working as the pastry chef for restaurants in San Antonio, Ng tip-toed into entrepreneurship by opening up a booth at the Quarry Farmer's Market on Basse on Sundays, and created a legion of gourmand fans. Last year, Ng opened up Bakery Lorraine in a traditional brick-and-mortar location, not far from The Pearl. At their shop, located at 511 E. Grayson, Ng and Mandrell offer pain au chocolate, savory and sweet tarts, muffins, croissants, and an assortment of other fine pastries and cookies.

### **Margaret Anaglia**

Before pursuing her own dream of starting her own business – Al's Gourmet Nuts – Margaret Anaglia helped jumpstart other people's businesses as an economic development manager for the city of San Antonio. Today, Anaglia and her husband Albert can be seen throughout the city at farmers markets and other events promoting their special flavored nuts, such as guajillo honey peanuts, lavender pecans and Becker port wine pecans, as well as other traditional flavors, such as cinnamon pecans and salty and sweet peanuts. While growing her catalog and online business, Anaglia continues to help other entrepreneurs by serving on the Brooks Development Authority board of directors. Recently, the San Antonio chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners awarded Anaglia with the Entrepreneurial Spirit Award as an innovator.

### **Kathleen Mayes**

Kathleen Mayes gave up a high-paying job in corporate America when she decided to stay home and consult while taking care of her asthmatic baby in 2004. She seized an opportunity when she saw that the Cajun and Creole food brand, Louisiana Purchase, was up for sale, and Mayes opened MaGi Foods in 2007. Soon after, Mayes faced a downturn in the economy like other business owners, as well as a commodities market explosion that could have put her out of business. To survive, Mayes changed her business plans and applied for an Accion Texas Small Business Administration community advantage loan. MaGi Foods produces and markets Louisiana Purchase, which is sold in H-E-B, Central Market and other grocery store, as well as Kathleen's brand, which offers convenience and natural ingredients in a microwavable cup.

### **ABOUT GEEKDOM:**

Geekdom is a new kind of collaborative coworking space where Entrepreneurs, Technologists, Developers, Makers & Creatives help each other build businesses & other cool things together. In San Antonio, Geekdom is located in the Weston Centre at 112 E. Pecan Street.

### **ABOUT THE WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER**

The Accion Women's Business Center, a program of Accion Texas Inc., is dedicated to supporting entrepreneurs, especially women and minorities.

We provide innovative business support services like training, roundtables, and consultations, and through strategic partnerships in the communities that we service. The Accion Women's Business Center is funded in part by the US Small Business Administration's Office of Women's Business Ownership. Whether you need a start-up business plan, or advice and seminars on business and market planning to grow your business, we are here for you.



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**ABOUT ACCION TEXAS INC.**

Established in 1994 in San Antonio as a nonprofit organization, Accion Texas Inc.'s financial and business-support services help entrepreneurs strengthen their businesses, stabilize and increase their incomes, create employment and contribute to the economic revitalization of their communities. Accion has the nation's largest microlender portfolio and is committed to providing capital to entrepreneurs, who do not have access to loans from commercial sources. Since its inception, Accion has made more than 13,000 loans totaling more than \$140 million. Accion now operates in eight states – Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and Texas. For more information, visit [www.acciontexas.org](http://www.acciontexas.org) or call 1-888-215-2373.