



Two Embarcadero Center
8th floor
San Francisco, CA 94111
CAMEOnetwork.org
cameo@CAMEOnetwork.org
ph 510.736.0797

June 11, 2026

Dear CAMEO Network Members and Partners,

America has never been one story. It has always been millions of them — told in storefronts and workshops, granges and small farms, in food carts and market stalls, in the tireless spirit of people who bet everything on a dream. At CAMEO Network, those stories are our work and our guiding light. As our country turns 250, we want to celebrate the entrepreneurs who have always been among its most faithful builders.

CAMEO Network members' mission is to build a strong small business ecosystem so that small businesses can thrive, no matter their background. We strive every day to help and uplift entrepreneurs, to make sure they have a solid foundation that results in stability, success, and wealth building for their businesses, employees, and communities. In that work, we are creating the present and future of America.

In a nation as diverse as ours, small businesses are the connective tissue that helps us relate to each other while maintaining our local and regional identities. Take pizza — a beloved Italian staple that, in the hands of immigrants and their descendants, took on a life of its own in America. From thin crusts to inch-thick pies, from classic margheritas to toppings that reflect every regional taste and culture, their ingenuity through the centuries has turned pizza restaurants into fixtures of every city, suburb, and small town across the country.

American small businesses are breeding grounds of innovation, creating products and services so impactful that they become part of our cultural identity. Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis turned humble mining overalls into perhaps the most iconic garment in American history — an icon that extended beyond our borders as blue jeans became a symbol of freedom and Western ideals for Soviet youth during the Cold War.

As important as small businesses are at the national and global levels, their biggest impact is at home — in their own communities. A frozen yogurt shop that doubles as a hangout spot for teens; a bookstore that hosts monthly book clubs; a restaurant that serves Mexican flavors in a rural Midwest town: all these daily interactions help bridge generational, ideological, and cultural divides. The languages and hobbies may be different, but the values are often the same. It is in these spaces where we find common ground.

Small businesses are an essential ingredient in America's recipe for success. The resourcefulness of a farming family after drought and wildfires, the resilience of a seamstress who escaped cartel violence, the creativity of a baker that sells concha-muffin hybrids — these are the traits that built our nation. As we celebrate the



CAMEO
network

Two Embarcadero Center

8th floor

San Francisco, CA 94111

CAMEOnetwork.org

cameo@CAMEOnetwork.org

ph 510.736.0797

250th anniversary of its founding, we honor our entrepreneurial history and the millions of hands that built it, and we renew our commitment to the dreamers and risk-takers who will write the next chapter of the American story.

Happy Birthday America

With Love,

CAMEO Network

P.S. We hope our letter inspires you to write your own Birthday Letter to America — to your employees, members, or community. Reflect on what this milestone means, what you've built, and what comes next. Keep it simple. Keep it real.

Visit TF250.US/letter for free resources, and when you're done, submit your letter to be featured in the national showcase. America is waiting to hear from you.