



2ND- 3RD OCTOBER

WESTIN IRVING
CONVENTION CENTER
400 W LAS COLINAS BLVD,
IRVING, TX 75039

2026 EABN 20th ANNUAL TRADE & INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

Building Wealth Across Borders:
Capital, Innovation, Investment & Opportunity

CONFERENCE AGENDA

DAY 1 – Friday, October 2nd, 2026

Registration Opens

MC – LABAN OPANDE

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Networking Cocktail Reception

MC Fareed Zein/Laban Opande

Vice President, Irving International Affairs &

Sister Cities- Joseph R. Chapa

Presentation by Truist

Marvin Mchellon/Lydia Tate, Market President, Truist

DAY 2 – Saturday, October 3rd, 2026

Exhibitions Open at 7 am

MC Laban Opande/Fareed Zein

9:00 am- 10:00 am

Welcome – Opening Remarks

Irving International Affairs and Sister Cities- Joe E. Lopez

Irving City Council-Dennis Webb

Republic of Uganda- Ambassador Robie Kakonge

Republic of Rwanda –

Commercial Attaché Ronald Mutabazi

Dr. Kenny Harless-Harless Success Institute

Benson Kasue | Founder | EABN

National Anthems

Elsa Joko-McDowell | Chair | EABN

10:00 am - 11:15 pm- Finance

Fund It. Grow It. Scale It. Sell It. List It. The Full Wealth Cycle. Building Financial Power: Capital, Access & Investment Across Borders.

Every business has a financial life cycle, and knowing how to handle each stage is key to building lasting wealth. This session follows that cycle from start to finish. Panelists will cover securing capital and banking relationships, managing cash flow and growth, attracting investment, planning mergers and acquisitions, and preparing a company for the public markets. They will also discuss how entrepreneurs and investors in the East African diaspora can use cross-border trade, economic development resources, and strategic partnerships to turn access into opportunity. Attendees will leave with practical strategies to grow their businesses and build wealth that lasts for generations.

📞 855-730-EABN I (855-730-3226)

🌐 info@eabn.co

📍 222 W Las Colinas Blvd.
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**Moderator – Lydiah Tate -SVP/Commercial
Relationship Manager, Truist Bank**

Building Financial Power:
Capital, Access & Investment Across Borders

Marvin Mchellon Jr.-Market President/SVP,
North & East Dallas at Truist Bank
Deka Dualle -Chief Financial Officer, DCES.
Owner Dualle Accounting & Tax Services LLC
Jana Scarpatti Martinez-Financial Services,
Wealth Management Professional
Steve Conwell-CEO & Partner of Final Ascent LLC
Edward Okpa-The Okpa Co, LLC.
Economic Development Consultant

11:15 am - 12:15 am – Real Estate

Session Description

Join moderator Brandon Sebirumbi and industry experts for a tactical look at building generational wealth through real estate investment across DFW and global markets. Discover how to navigate shifting capital, leverage public-private tools, and bridge international capital with U.S. opportunities. Emerging investors and seasoned operators will learn how to assemble an elite professional "dream team to drive precision growth and legacy.

Moderator: Brandon Sebirumbi

Investing Across Borders:
Real Estate, Capital & Community Wealth

Edward H Gray-Director of Conventional
Multifamily Production-Lument
Diana Aribariho -Global Property Advisor,
International Markets-Savior Privé Properties
Gabriel Craft-Founder & CEO of Craft Capital Investments
Zulikha Hussain-Founder of Muslim Real Estate
Association and Co-Founder of Wazu Capital

Guest Speaker: Sue Housel,
City of Dallas Office of Economic Development

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12:30 pm – 2:00 pm-

Women Connecting: Building Wealth, Wellness & Legacy

Session Description

An engaging conversation about how women are building lives of greater ownership and possibility through entrepreneurship, career pivots, real estate, retirement planning, and intentional investment in their health and well-being. Panelists will share candid insights on creating multiple pathways to wealth, navigating transitions, planning, and building a legacy that extends beyond financial success.

Moderator:

Dr. Tana J. Hicks – Founder & CEO,
Hix House Interior Design Studio
Laban Opande – Opande Law Firm

Catherine L Wheeler –

Founder & CEO of Pivot One-Eighty

Bridgit Arika – Principal, Civita Holdings

Amanda Koonjeberry– Public Affairs Manager -
Leeward Renewable Energy

Rosalind Joko – Founder and Creator of Road
to Retirement a Skool Community

Guest Speaker-Zondra Evans

-Zondra TV Network

2:00 pm- 3:15 pm Emerging Technology

Session Description: Navigating the AI economy (Autonomous eCommerce AI Agents, Cybersecurity, digital assets regulation and risk frameworks)

Session Description

Join moderator Fareed Zein and a distinguished panel of industry experts to examine how AI is reshaping the business landscape in E-commerce, the new cybersecurity threat profile, how digital assets such as Bitcoin and Stablecoin are transforming transnational commerce, and how African countries can manage regulation and institutional risks of digital assets.

Moderator – Fareed Zein, CEO & Founder - Unytag

Robert Franklin- Blockchain, DeFi Advisor, RFS Consulting LLC

Abbey Gwayambadde – Software and Cloud Architect, Aptean

Peter Awori - Information Security Analyst, DPR Construction

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DINNER GALA 5:30 PM

RED CARPET 6:00 PM

KEYNOTE - DR. KENNY HARLESS-
HARLESS SUCCESS INSTITUTE

ENTERTAINMENT- SAAVA KARIM

THE EAST AFRICAN PRIDE

NEL NGABO • MULEMBE DIVAS • DJ ROBI



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