

**Shawn Walker-Smith**

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Short Bio:

Shawn Walker-Smith is a professional with over 30 years of experience in corporate and entrepreneurial environments. Shawn received his BA in communications from the University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA. After careers in retail and corporate interior design, Shawn left the “traditional” business world to enter the California Culinary Academy, graduating with his degree in baking and pastry. Shawn has owned and operated a made-to-order baking business - TART! Oakland and has managed/operated a small local brewpub. Shawn has also been the food concessions manager for the large Oakland nighttime event, the Autumn Lights Festival. Shawn is currently a small business advisor for the NorCal SBDC in the Regional Restaurant and Artisan Foods Program, Norcal EATS, and is a NorCal SBDC Certified Capitol Advisor. Shawn is also the principal and founder of Local and Launch - a food business consultancy. Shawn is based in Oakland, California, where he lives, writes, and eats with his husband and two sons.

Bullet Point Bio:

- Over 30 years of experience in both corporate and entrepreneurial environments.
- Graduate of the California Culinary Academy (CCA/Le Cordon Bleu) in San Francisco.
- Shawn owned and operated TART! Oakland, co-managed Steel Rail Brew Pub.
- Participated in and managed food areas of large and small special events.
- Food and Beverage Small Business Advisor - NorCal SBDC EATS!
- Founder and Principal of Local and Launch - a food business consultancy.

Full Bio

Shawn Walker-Smith is a professional with over 30 years of experience in corporate and entrepreneurial environments. Born and raised in Southern California, Shawn received his BA in communications from the University of the Pacific. After careers in retail - as a planner and buyer, then corporate interior design - sales, marketing, and project manager, Shawn left the “traditional” business world to enter the California Culinary Academy, graduating with his degree in baking and pastry. Shawn owned and operated a made-to-order baking business for seven years - TART! Oakland. With his baking business, Shawn has worked with small and large clients, including the Destiny Arts Center, the City of Oakland, and the Oakland Indie Awards. He has also managed/operated a small local brewpub and has planned/managed the food concessions for one of Oakland's premier outdoor events, the Autumn Lights Festival. Shawn is currently a food and beverage small business advisor for the Northern California SBDC in the regional NorCal SBDC EATS! Program and is a NorCal SBDC Certified Capitol Advisor. Shawn is also founder/principal of Local & Launch, a food business consultancy. Shawn is based in Oakland, California, where he lives, writes, and eats with his husband and two sons.