

THE URBAN BUSINESS CONNECTION

Presented by:



Columbus
Urban League



Minority Business
Assistance Centers
Columbus

COLUMBUS^{*}
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE



**PARTNERING TO HELP THE COLUMBUS
REGION GROW AND THRIVE**

150 South Front St, Suite 220
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: 614.225.1321
Email: info@columbus.org
columbus.org

Program Overview

The Columbus Chamber is the largest Chamber in the Columbus Region and membership comes with the greatest opportunity for access among member businesses in our community. Our workforce development, government advocacy efforts and business solutions ensure businesses in the Columbus Region grow and thrive. In an effort to reach a broader net of the Columbus business community, the Columbus Chamber and Columbus Urban League combined efforts to grant free Chamber memberships to thirty black-owned businesses for the 2021 fiscal year. With support of the City of Columbus, the Columbus Chamber was able to renew and expand the program to 75 businesses in 2023. These businesses have access to a suite of services (including business connections, specialized consultations, research capabilities for targeted expansion, government advocacy and member pricing at Chamber events), as well as expanded services in marketing and visibility in the Columbus community. In 2023, we are hoping to expand and grow the program to impact more businesses.

“We’re thrilled to welcome these great businesses as members of our Columbus Chamber and look forward to continuing our impactful partnership with the Columbus Urban League. These are excellent, forward-thinking entrepreneurs who are critical to the vital fabric of our business community. Together, we will focus on accelerating their growth.”

- Don DePerro, President and CEO of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce

About the Columbus Urban League

Your Columbus Urban League has led Central Ohio’s racial and economic equity movement for more than a century. Our culturally authentic, integrated services achieve family stability and economic mobility, touching more than 70,000 people in 2020 alone. Thousands more now seek our help to survive health, economic and racist devastation. We relentlessly work for:

- Recovery – emergency relief that keeps families in housing and businesses flourishing
- Reform – policies that eliminate systemic racism
- Resiliency – coaching that boosts individual earning power while leveling the economic playing field for black communities

Successes to Date

Since the implementation of the program in March 2021, the following have been marked as the most significant successes to date: (January 2023)

- Ten week social media campaign with Post Engagement 4.5%, 410 Post Engagements
- Continued collaboration with Spectrum Reach - Pay it Forward initiative, offering marketing service packages to selected recipients (commercials and airtime)
- 225 member consultations to date
- 15 Marketing consultations with Chamber staff
- Multiple stories written and published by Columbus Business First focusing on specific businesses
- 90% responded that they would be likely to refer a fellow business owner to the Chamber.
- 5 Cbuzz Podcast: recorded sessions to be released later this year
- Ribbon Cuttings and Celebrations: First anniversary held for J's Sweet Treats Parson's location in March 2021, grand opening held in July for Polaris location and Greater Columbus Convention Center in 2022. Grand opening events for Plus Size Pretty and Afra Grill at Easton. April 2022 launch and app preview of Wemblr-Ed at South-Western School District Career Center.
- Speaking and panelist opportunities at Chamber hosted and community hosted events
- Exposure at Chamber events including Annual Meeting and Clambake and Lobster Fest (7 vendor opportunities)
- Collaboration among members for partnerships, business and visibility opportunities



93%

are satisfied with their Columbus Chamber Membership



100%

say Columbus Chamber Member Services meet their business needs



94%

say the Columbus Chamber has been responsive to their questions or concerns



90%

are likely to recommend Columbus Chamber Membership to a fellow business



68%

report making a beneficial business connection through the program

Current Participants

- [Adams Dental Assisting Academy](#)
- [Addella's On Oak](#)
- [Afra Grill](#)
- [Anderson & Co Resume Services LLC](#)
- [B&B Total Lawn Care Services, LLC](#)
- [Bake Me Happy*](#)
- [Be Whole Financial Enterprise](#)
- [Beautifully Crafted Interiors](#)
- [Black Kahawa Coffee LLC*](#)
- [Bouyer & Associates LLC](#)
- [Bridging Our Communities Together for Success](#)
- [Burgandy Ginger Events](#)
- [Camelot Cellars*](#)
- [Camille's Helping Hands Massage Therapy LLC](#)
- [Cannaba](#)
- [Champagne Premier Events](#)
- [Cre8ive Craig LLC](#)
- [Creole Kitchen](#)
- [Da Banks Catering](#)
- [Diva Movement*](#)
- [Elite National Building Services*](#)
- [Empower our Youth Foundation](#)
- [Enforcer Technologies](#)
- [Exquisite Wines*](#)
- [EyeGlass Party*](#)
- [FeatureColumbus](#)
- [Flavor 91 Bistro](#)
- [Focus Cleaning](#)
- [Freeman Logistics](#)
- [Fresh Bloom Bins](#)
- [Gaddis & Son, Inc*](#)
- [Global Realms](#)
- [Glorified Fitness](#)
- [Glow Events](#)
- [Glow Therapy Candle Company](#)
- [Golden Ink Mobile Notary](#)
- [Good Girl Project](#)
- [Green Office Furniture Solutions, LLC*](#)
- [Gym Bad Ass](#)
- [H&H Luxury Event Rentals](#)
- [Harrison Transportation Management LLC*](#)
- [Holistic Pregnancy & Wellness](#)
- [In Spirit Power and Truth Publishing, LLC](#)
- [iSecurity \(TripBikes\)*](#)
- [J Mitchell's Spices & Sauces](#)
- [J's Sweet Treats and Wedding Cakes, LLC*](#)
- [JAK of Trades Trucking](#)
- [Jaeluxe Shoetique LLC*](#)
- [JustDiidz](#)
- [Kennard L. Brown*](#)
- [Kennedy's Kakes](#)
- [LaDrea LLC](#)
- [Lifestyle Café*](#)
- [Lloyds of Columbus, LLC/ColumbusBlack.com*](#)
- [One Research and Development LLC*](#)
- [Persona Custom Clothiers](#)
- [Phyllis Ann Brand](#)
- [Plus Size Pretty](#)
- [Posh Tea Time](#)
- [Precise Mobility Solutions, Inc*](#)
- [Progressive Occupational Therapy Services](#)
- [Pyramid King Enterprise](#)
- [Quality Care Academy and Staffing](#)
- [RST Global Vision](#)
- [SavKon Construction, LLC*](#)
- [Simplicity Accounting](#)
- [Spin City Trucking*](#)
- [Sprout Early Education Center LLC*](#)
- [Tailored Fit](#)
- [Tatum Landscaping](#)
- [Teltron Design Group*](#)
- [Tiny Tots Day Care](#)
- [TMH Solutions](#)
- [Touchstone Hospitality IV, LLC*](#)
- [Tra-Bian Enterprises*](#)
- [Watt 1 Electrical Systems](#)
- [Wells CPA](#)
- [Wemblr LLC*](#)
- [Women Just Like ME](#)

Member Testimonials



BLACK KAHAWA COFFEE | DOUGLAS BUCKLEY

“Through a recent partnership with the Columbus Urban League and the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, Black Kahawa Coffee was selected for a three-year chamber membership. I started Black Kahawa Coffee as I returned to Columbus after living in East Africa for more than eleven years. Although I am a Columbus native, I faced many challenges beginning a new career and business after living abroad. Becoming part of the chamber created an instant network of contacts. This was great, but a list of business contacts in the midst of daily operations, can feel like a sea of names and numbers, a.k.a. more work. And this highlights the best part about my experience with the chamber thus far.

My Member Relationship Manager, Mallory Roth turned the sea of contacts into targeted email introductions for areas of need for my business and for potential clients or partnerships. Black Kahawa Coffee specializes in coffee from East African countries and we are importing our first shipments of specialty green coffee to sell to roasters, so Mallory connected me to Zakee, Manager of the Logistics Council. She also connected me with coffee roasters who are part of the chamber.

My experience with the chamber has led to media exposure, at least one new client, participation in an inspiring one-year leadership course (Elevate C-Bus) and a network of resources and experience that I can call upon. Establishing and leading a business is never easy and it is quite valuable to feel that you have a business advocate available to you in the process.

Finally, I would like to thank both the Chamber of Commerce and the Urban League for all the bold work done by individuals behind the scenes to create this partnership and for working together across lines of difference to help businesses, communities and people prosper.”

EMPOWER OUR YOUTH FOUNDATION | TONYA KELLY

As a fairly new non-profit organization under five years doing business in the City of Columbus becoming a Columbus Chamber of Commerce member was a dream come true. Being a member has open up so many doors to be involved in business trainings, cohort opportunities and attend events that have leverage my goals and aspirations in the areas of leadership development, financial literacy, growing my business, learning communication skills to network and building relationships, and amazing learning opportunities to strengthen while supporting my business with diversity, acceptance and inclusion.

Every day, I share the “Why” with friends who have businesses why they should become a member. The Chamber of Commerce tools and skills I have learn over the past 90 days have been essential and beneficial to running my organization efficiently.

My representative Mallory Roth, has been amazing making sure I’m knowledgeable in learning all the services that are available to me by the chamber to grow my business.

