



DULUTH
AREA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

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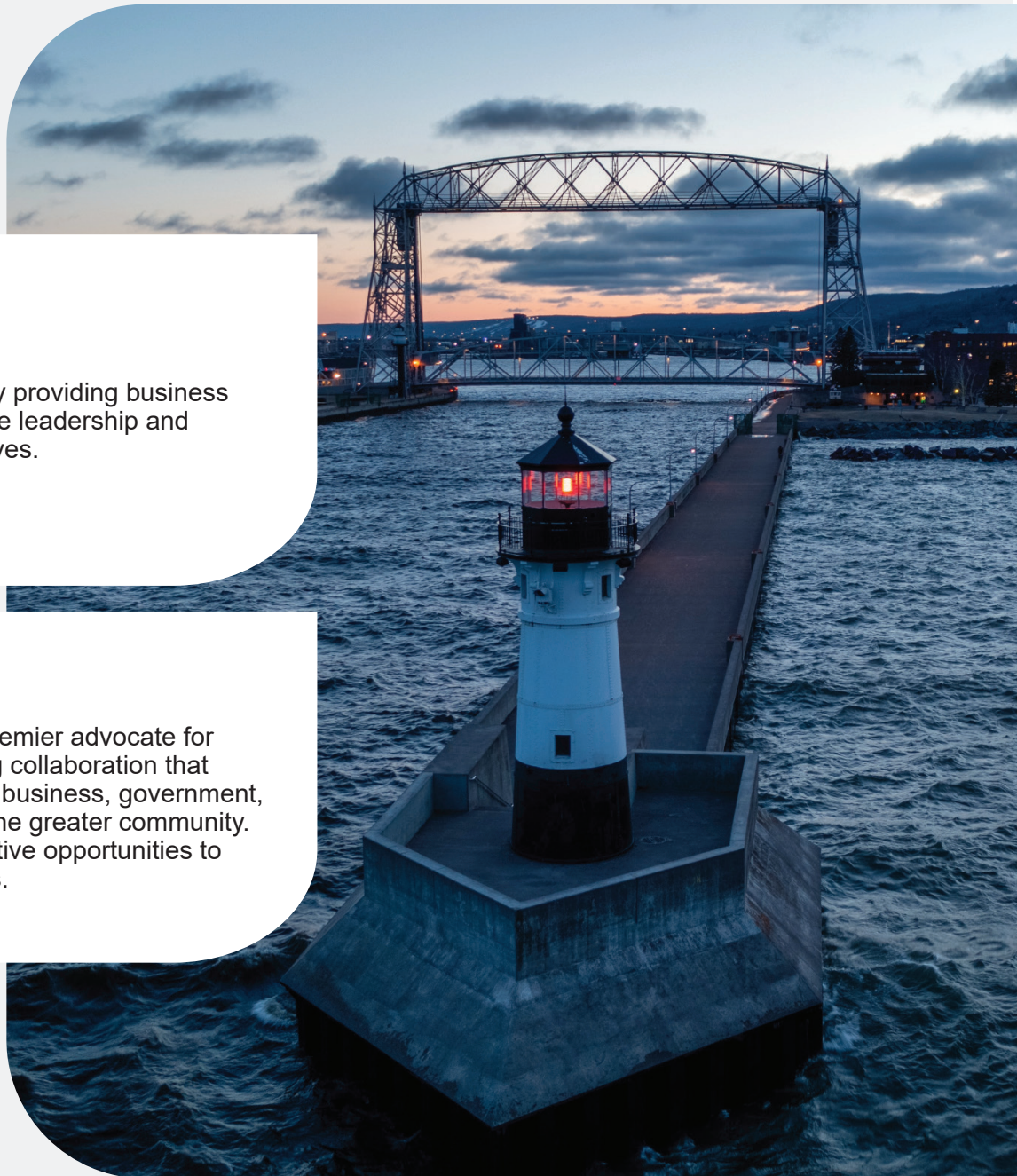
2024 ACTION PLAN

MISSION

Serve our members by providing business advocacy, collaborative leadership and member-driven initiatives.

VISION

Serve as our area's premier advocate for business by facilitating collaboration that engages leaders from business, government, education, labor and the greater community. Actively create innovative opportunities to advance our members.



MOVING BUSINESS FORWARD SINCE 1870



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2023: YEAR IN REVIEW

2023 was a busy year for the Chamber. We completed our new strategic plan, allowing us to have a framework to address the current and emerging challenges facing businesses, our economy, and our community. Additionally, we updated our corporate governance, including ratifying new bylaws. We amplified our efforts on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Our new 501(c)(3), the Duluth Area Chamber Foundation, has already begun having an impact, conducting a study, and releasing research to help inform our community and our elected officials. We increased our level policy and advocacy work, resulting in significant influence and investments into Duluth and northeastern Minnesota. Further, we participated in several city and county task forces, committees, and working groups, in support of tax base growth and development.

Through the vision of our board of directors, the support of our members, and the hard work of our staff, we have been able to accomplish many of the goals identified in the 2023 Action Plan.

41 Campus Ambassadors

5,351 event attendees
* as of 11/10/23

82 new members in 2023
* as of 11/10/23

55 Leadership Duluth graduates in 2023

60 ribbon cuttings

CHAMBER STAFF



Matt Baumgartner
President



Jebbeh Edmunds
Director of Education



Daniel Fanning
Vice President of
Strategy & Policy,
Executive Director
of the Chamber
Foundation



Aubrey Hagen
Director of
Membership
Development & DEI,
Fuse Program Director



Leah Kohlts
Director of
External Relations &
Community Resources



Kathleen Privette
Director of Events &
Board Operations



Lori Steinbach
Director of Office
Administration

2024: PUTTING OUR STRATEGIC PLAN INTO ACTION

As we look to the work ahead of us in 2024, our board of directors is excited about the opportunities and cautiously optimistic about the future outlook for our region. We are ready to do all we can to help ensure that Duluth is not only the best place for doing business, but also the best community to live in and raise a family in. We love this special place we all call home and stand ready to partner with the many incredible people and organizations working on the challenging issues of our time, including those like housing, childcare and economic development in our region.

Additionally, we are excited to work on behalf of our membership to improve business conditions, further economic development, and support community progress. In those important spaces, we intend to champion initiatives like permitting reform, incentivizing the development community, and efforts to improve sports tourism in the region. We know that collaboration is key, that it is time to embrace change, and that we must believe in Duluth and our business community. Here is to 2024!

HISTORIC NUMBERS IN 2023

- Largest turnout in the 26-year history of Duluth & St. Louis County at the Capitol Days
- Record number of Leadership Duluth applications
- Highest attendance at the annual dinner in over five years
- Capacity crowds at the 2023 Candidate Forums, Let's Do Lunch, and Women in Leadership Conference

BUSINESS CONDITIONS

Research, monitor, and improve economic drivers that impact business operations.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Create pathways and seek solutions to attract and retain business and development.

COMMUNITY PROGRESS

Drive efforts that advance regional livability, labor environment, and population vitality.

LEAD

Resources & Information

Networking Opportunities

Recruit New Development



Advocacy on Behalf of Members

Policy & Candidate Forums

Rightsize Tax Environment

Construction Permitting Process

Promote Policy Changes

Local & State Permit Process Improvement

Military Advocacy

Productive Government Relations

COLLABORATE

Small Business Support

Broadband

Workforce Development

Childcare



Respond to Member Needs



Educational Offerings

Tax Base Expansion

Regional Marketing & Attraction

Diversity Equity & Inclusion

Research

SUPPORT

Infrastructure Improvement



Housing

Industry

Increase Labor Force Participation

Population Growth

Partner with Local Unions

Tourism & Hospitality



Remove Barriers for Business

Women in Leadership



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



JEFF ANDERSON
Costin Group, Inc.,
JayBee Travel, &
Boat Club Restaurant & Bar



AJ AXTELL
Western Lake Superior
Sanitary District



MATT BAUMGARTNER
Duluth Area Chamber of
Commerce



DANIEL BERG
National Bank of
Commerce



JON BIRKELAND
Bell Bank



SUE BOSELL
University of Minnesota
Duluth



JENNIFER CADY
Minnesota Power -
An ALLETE Company



SCOTT CHRISTENSEN
Midwest
Communications



SARA COLE
Duluth Area Family
YMCA



DAN COLLISON
Sherman Associates



PAT DeGROOD
The Jamar Company



DR. CHIAMAKA ENEMUOH
Lifestone Health
Care, Inc.



CHRISTIE ERICKSON
Vitta Pizza



BEN FAGERLIE
Arrowhead Surgery
Center



MORGAN FRITZINGER
Minnesota Tribal
Contractors Council



STEVE GLONCHAK
Members Cooperative
Credit Union



KENZIE HOHMAN
Essentia Health



JEFF HOLMES
maurices



TIFFANY HUGHES
A&L Properties



BRIANA JOHNSON
American Heart
Association



RACHEL JOHNSON
APEX - Area Partnership
for Economic Expansion



AARON KELLY
LHB, Inc.



JILL KEPPERS
Duluth Housing and
Redevelopment
Authority



LINDSAY KERN
Kern & Kompany
Marketing and
Special Events



JOHN MAGAS
Duluth Public Schools -
ISD 709



**RENEE MATTSON
BURNS**
Trinity Creek
Consulting



**DR. BARBARA
McDONALD**
The College of
St. Scholastica



DYLAN MERRIMAN
Dylan Merriman Agency
LLC, American Family
Insurance



BEN NORTON
Encompass Real
Estate Investment
Services



KATE VAN DAELE
Cenovus Energy -
Superior Refinery



**BRIANNA
VANDER HEYDEN**
St. Luke's



ANDY WHEELER
Wheeler Associates

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Board Chair

**DR. CHIAMAKA
ENEMUOH**
Chair-Elect

JON BIRKELAND
Treasurer

SARA COLE
Vice Chair

**RENEE
MATTSON BURNS**
Vice Chair

AARON KELLY
Past Chair

MATT BAUMGARTNER
President



**DULUTH
AREA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

Moving business forward. ▶