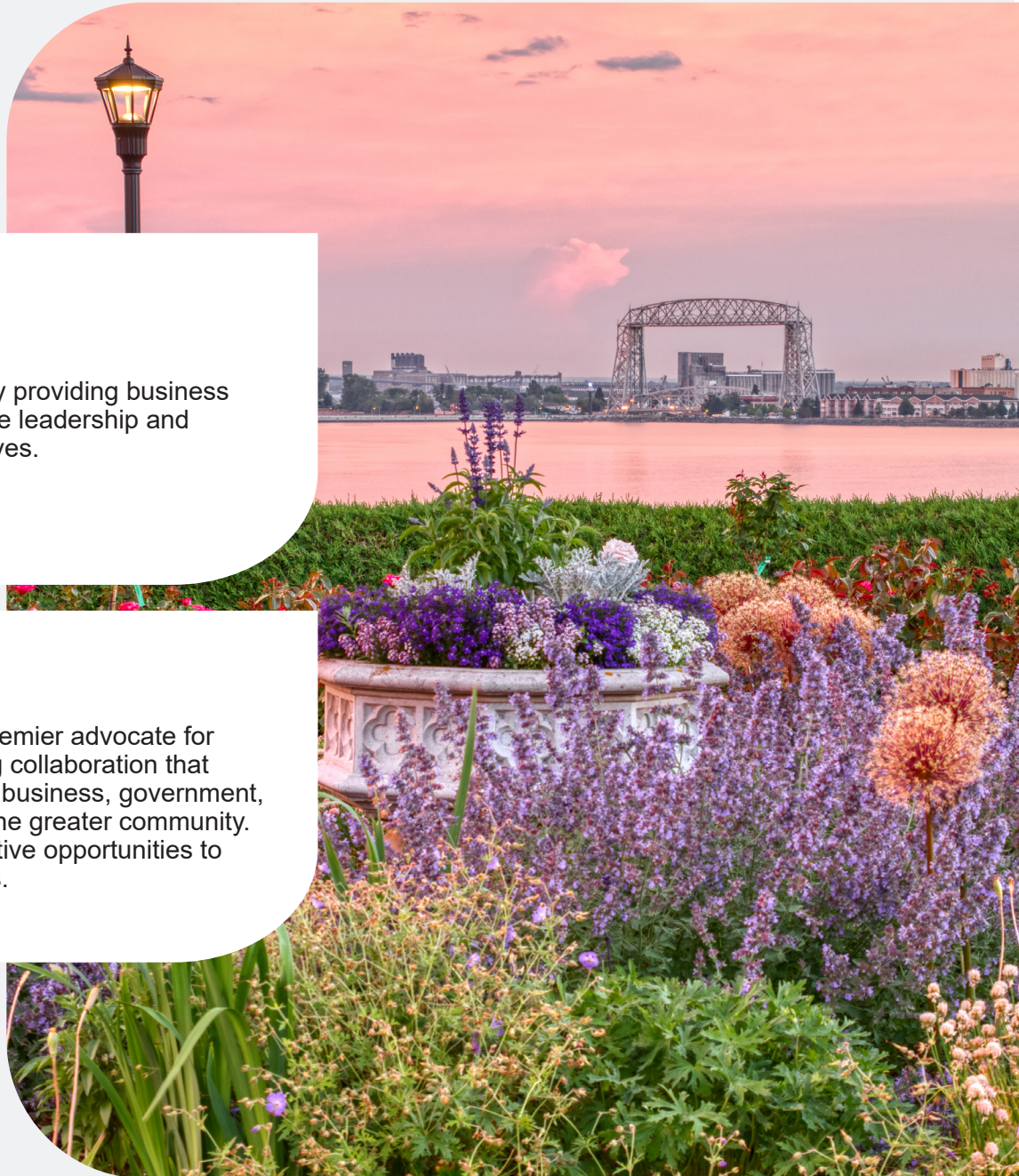




DULUTH
AREA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

DULUTH AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
2025 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



5 West First Street, Suite 101
Duluth, Minnesota 55802
(218) 722-5501

inquiry@duluthchamber.com | duluthchamber.com

2024: YEAR IN REVIEW

As we reflect back on 2024, it is clear that it was a banner year for our Chamber. We operated with our strategic framework and pillars as our guideposts, helping us stay laser focused on what is most important to this region: improving business conditions, economic development, and community progress.

We worked with elected officials at the City, County, State, and Federal level and had some big wins for our region, achieving meaningful milestones and funding for local projects. Yet, this work must continue as there was a lot left unfinished at the state-level. Further, our 501(c)(3) Duluth Area Chamber Foundation saw remarkable progress in 2024. We are thrilled to announce the return of the Honor Flight in 2025, honoring our veterans, and the distribution of \$50,000 in workforce grants—an investment directly impacting our local economy and workforce.

Under the exceptional leadership of Board Chair Jennifer Cady, our Board of Directors provided the strategic vision and support that made these accomplishments possible. We are profoundly grateful to our members, whose consistent support continues to drive our success.

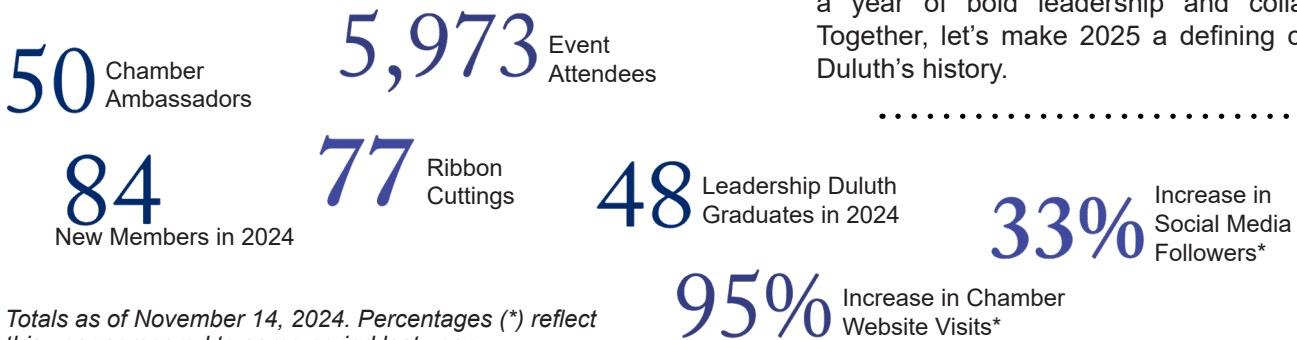
2025: PUTTING OUR STRATEGIC PLAN INTO ACTION

As we embark on 2025, we are poised to take our Chamber’s mission to new heights, driven by an ambitious strategic plan and a historic moment in our leadership. The appointment of our first minority Board Chair in 154 years, Dr. Chiamaka Enemuoh, is a powerful symbol of progress, and it sets the tone for a transformative year ahead.

Our commitment to making Duluth the premier destination for business, economic development, and family life remains steadfast. By collaborating with the City, County, and regional partners, we aim to tackle critical challenges such as housing, early childhood care and education, and workforce development. These are complex issues, but they are essential to building a stronger, more vibrant community.

Small businesses remain at the heart of our economy, and we recognize the increasing pressures they face. In 2025, you’ll see us doubling down on business retention efforts, engaging directly with businesses to understand their needs, and championing policies that create a more supportive environment for growth. Whether it’s through advocacy, outreach, or fostering connections, we are here to ensure businesses of all sizes thrive.

This is not just a year of strategic action—it’s a year of bold leadership and collaboration. Together, let’s make 2025 a defining chapter in Duluth’s history.



Totals as of November 14, 2024. Percentages (*) reflect this year compared to same period last year.

CHAMBER STAFF



Matt Baumgartner
President



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, Leadership Duluth Program Director



Lori Steinbach
Director of Office Administration

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.



Moving business forward. ▶

duluthchamber.com

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



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



**DR. NICK
VAN DEELEN**
Aspirus St. Luke's



**BRIANNA
VANDER HEYDEN**
Holiday Inn & Suites -
Duluth Downtown



ANDY WHEELER
Wheeler Associates

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

DR. CHIAMAKA ENEMUOH
Board Chair

JENNIFER CADY
Past Chair

PAT DEGROOD
Chair-Elect

JON BIRKELAND
Treasurer

SARA COLE
Vice Chair

RENEE BURNS
Vice Chair

AARON KELLY
Vice Chair

TIFFANY HUGHES
Vice Chair

MATT BAUMGARTNER
President



**DULUTH
AREA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

Moving business forward. ▶