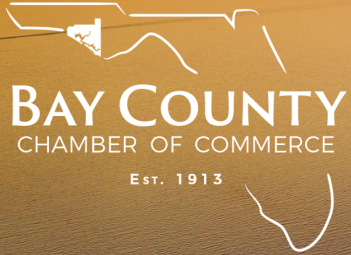


# Guide to Membership Opportunities



# Who We Are

Since 1913, the Bay County Chamber of Commerce has supported businesses across Callaway, Lynn Haven, Mexico Beach, Panama City, Panama City Beach, Parker, Springfield, and Bay County's unincorporated areas. Our goal is to create lasting value for members, champion economic growth, and lead our community forward. We proudly collaborate with local military installations and other partners to build an environment where businesses can grow and succeed.

***Our mission is “to create superior value for all Chamber members, large and small; to cultivate economic and personal development; to promote and protect a competitive enterprise system of business; and to be a community leader while embracing Bay County’s opportunities and challenges.”***

**How We Operate** >> The Chamber is an independent, member-owned organization, governed by a Board of Directors, and managed by a dedicated staff. We're not part of any government entity or division of the U.S. or State Chamber. In fact, 85% of our members are small businesses with 35 or fewer employees, ensuring that the voice of local businesses drives our mission and actions.

**Our Impact** >> Over the years, the Bay County Chamber of Commerce has tirelessly worked to *Build a Better Bay* through impactful projects and partnerships that strengthen our community. Key initiatives include supporting the Panama City Bed Tax, championing the Renewal of the Infrastructure Surtax, securing Bay County's designation as a coveted Coast Guard Community, and supporting the Bay Defense Alliance.



LEARN MORE >>> [PANAMACITY.ORG/ABOUT](https://panamacity.org/about)

# CHAMBER COMMITTEES

**Ambassadors** >> Mission: Serve as the official representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, coordinating groundbreakings, grand openings, and other events to connect Chamber members with the community and foster positive interactions.

**Bay Chamber Connect Groups** >> Mission: Create opportunities for business professionals to network, exchange leads, and build relationships that support each other's growth and success.

**Bay Young Professionals (BYP)** >> Mission: Strengthen our community by uniting and empowering young professionals through development, networking, and leadership opportunities.

**First Responders Appreciation Task Force** >> Mission: Organize efforts to honor and thank our local first responders for their service, fostering a spirit of gratitude and support within the community.

**Governmental Affairs** >> Mission: Monitor and engage in local, state, and federal policy developments affecting businesses, while building strong connections between the Chamber and government leaders to ensure our members' voices are heard.

**Member Appreciation Month Task Force** >> Mission: Celebrate and showcase the companies that drive economic growth and business diversity in Bay County, recognizing their contributions to our local economy and community development.

**Military Affairs Committee (MAC)** >> Mission: Strengthen ties between Bay County's business community and local military installations, fostering collaboration and direct support for our service members.

**Tourism Appreciation Month Task Force** >> Mission: Celebrate Bay County's leading industry, tourism, each May with events that highlight its positive impact on our community and economy.



GET INVOLVED >>> BUILD A BETTER BAY

# ANNUAL & MONTHLY EVENTS

**Annual Dinner & Awards Ceremony** >> Kick off the new year with us every January at our Annual Dinner—a night to celebrate the Chamber's accomplishments, welcome our incoming Chair, and honor outstanding achievements within our community. Enjoy a lively reception, a gourmet dinner, a silent auction, and a memorable evening of networking with Bay County's finest.

**Tourism Appreciation Month** >> In May, we celebrate Bay County's leading industry—tourism! Join us for a month packed with events like a cornhole tournament, the Spring Classic Golf Tournament, and Tourism After Hours, all honoring the businesses and individuals that make our area a prime destination.

**First Responders Appreciation** >> This special event honors the incredible dedication of our local first responders. Celebrate with us as we award the First Responder of the Year in EMS, Fire, Law Enforcement, and Communications. It's a heartfelt luncheon where the business community comes together to say, "Thank you."

**Member Appreciation Month** >> Each September, we shine a spotlight on businesses driving economic diversity in Bay County. From an awards breakfast and sporting clay tournament, to cocktail hours and industry tours, the Member Appreciation Celebration has something for everyone to enjoy while connecting with the leaders of local industry.

**First Friday** >> A cherished Chamber tradition since 1957! Join us every first Friday of the month for networking, engaging programs, new member introductions, and refreshments. It's the perfect way to stay connected with fellow members and stay informed on community updates.

**Business After Hours** >> Get to know your fellow members in a relaxed, social setting! Each month, a different Chamber business hosts this event, offering food, drinks, door prizes, and a welcoming atmosphere. Build relationships that matter!

**Grand Openings and Ground Breakings** >> Celebrate Bay County's growth! Each month, we host grand openings and groundbreakings for new and expanding businesses. From ribbon cuttings to media opportunities, these events are a fantastic way to support and cheer on local success.

## **Ready to Make a Difference?**

Join the Bay County Chamber of Commerce and become part of a thriving network dedicated to building a prosperous community. For more information on membership, email us at [information@baychamberfl.com](mailto:information@baychamberfl.com).

# EDUCATIONAL + ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

## **Leadership Bay (LB)**

Founded in 1983, Leadership Bay is a premier community leadership development program. Built on the belief that people are our most valuable resource, the program provides emerging leaders with a dynamic curriculum that fosters community involvement and leadership growth. Participation is exclusive, ensuring an impactful and collaborative experience.

## **Junior Leadership Bay (JLB)**

Created by the Leadership Bay Class of 2000, Junior Leadership Bay is an inspiring program tailored for high school juniors. Through hands-on activities, interactive discussions with community leaders, and motivating presentations, JLB prepares Bay County's future leaders to tackle local challenges. Participation is selective to maximize engagement and impact.

## **Continuing Education**

Our continuing education opportunities and seminars empower members to elevate their skills and pursue personal and professional growth. Topics include public speaking, sales effectiveness, employment law, customer service, hurricane preparedness, and much more—all designed to refine skills and inspire excellence in business.

## **Investing in Economic Development of Bay County (EDA)**

The Bay County Chamber proudly partners with the Economic Development Alliance (EDA) of Bay County, a public-private collaboration committed to strengthening the local economy. As Bay County's primary economic development organization, the EDA collaborates closely with Select Florida to drive job creation, higher wages, and economic prosperity. Opportunities are available for private companies and individuals to invest in Bay County's economic future, supporting the EDA's initiatives to attract new businesses and foster community wealth.

**For more information about the EDA, visit [www.BAYEDA.com](http://www.BAYEDA.com) or call (850) 215-9965.**



INVEST IN TODAY >>> GROW TOMORROW'S BAY

# ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

## **Bay Biz Magazine “The Voice of Business in Bay County”**

Reaching over 3,500 readers, delivered to Chamber members, showcased in business lobbies across Bay County, and featured at Chamber events. The magazine is also accessible online via the Chamber’s website. Each issue covers essential topics like Economic Perspectives, Defense Intel, Education, Technology Trends, and more. Advertising options are available to help your business connect with a wide and local audience.

## **eBiz Newsletter + Exclusive Spotlight eBlast**

Our weekly eBiz Newsletter reaches over 3,500 individuals, keeping them informed on Chamber and community updates, including events, grand openings, business opportunities, and more. With multiple advertising options available, including a sponsored brand email, it’s an excellent way to stay visible among local business leaders.

## **Relocation Packet Program (RPP)**

The RPP offers members a unique opportunity to include their business information in our Relocation Packet, sent to individuals and businesses planning to move to Bay County. Multiple participation levels are available, ensuring your business is seen by newcomers exploring local services.

## **Chamber Website**

The Chamber’s website is a high-traffic resource, featuring a member directory, community news, and Chamber updates. With thousands of monthly visits, this site is a prime spot to boost your visibility. Advertise with banner ads, column placements, or enhanced listings to connect with individuals and businesses looking for services in Bay County.

## **Guide to Discovering Bay County**

This annual publication offers a comprehensive look at Bay County and its municipalities, assisting families, businesses, and visitors interested in exploring or relocating here. With a circulation of 5,000 copies and online access, it’s a valuable tool for reaching new audiences. Various ad sizes are available.

## **Chamber Lobby Display**

The Chamber lobby serves as a hub for visitors and members alike. Take advantage of free brochure space, or make an impact with a high-resolution digital ad on our display screen, viewed by thousands of visitors each year. Perfect for businesses looking to stand out and make a lasting impression.

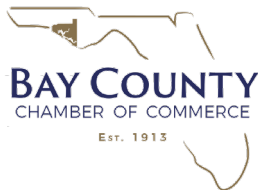


STAND OUT >>> CONNECT >>> GROW

# GET INVOLVED

**PLEASE CHECK THE BOX FOR EACH COMMITTEE YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING:**

- |                                                                         |                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AMBASSADORS                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> MEMBER APPRECIATION MONTH TASK FORCE                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BAY CHAMBER CONNECT GROUP                      | <input type="checkbox"/> LEADERSHIP BAY <i>*additional fee</i>                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BAY YOUNG PROFESSIONALS <i>*additional fee</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (MAC) <i>*additional fee</i>      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FIRST RESPONDERS APPRECIATION TASK FORCE       | <input type="checkbox"/> TOURISM APPRECIATION MONTH TASK FORCE                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE                 | <input type="checkbox"/> I AM INTERESTED IN SPONSORSHIPS                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I AM INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING                 | <input type="checkbox"/> I WOULD LIKE TO PLAN A GRAND OPENING / GROUND BREAKING EVENT |



PO BOX 1850  
PANAMA CITY, FL 32402  
INFORMATION@BAYCHAMBERFL.COM  
**PANAMACITY.ORG**  
850.785.5206

**BUSINESS NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

BUSINESS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ BUSINESS ☐ PERSONAL

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EXT: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

WEBSITE: \_\_\_\_\_

FACEBOOK: \_\_\_\_\_ INSTAGRAM: \_\_\_\_\_

LINKEDIN: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES: \_\_\_\_\_ FT \_\_\_\_\_ PT

BUSINESS CATEGORY/KEYWORDS: 1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

- |                                                |                                              |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> GENERAL BUSINESS      | <input type="checkbox"/> FOOD/BEVERAGE       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS | <input type="checkbox"/> HEALTHCARE FACILITY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIAL BUSINESS  | <input type="checkbox"/> RETIRED INDIVIDUAL  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PROPERTY MANAGEMENT   | <input type="checkbox"/> NON-PROFIT          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FINANCIAL INSTITUTION | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER               |

EMPLOYEES THAT WOULD BENEFIT FROM INVOLVEMENT:

1. MAIN CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

2. CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

3. CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT IS YOUR EXPECTATION OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH THE  
BAY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE? \_\_\_\_\_

REFERRED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

- |                                                       |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP INVESTMENT | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY AFFAIRS             | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AMBASSADORS                  | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BAY YOUNG PROFESSIONALS      | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WEBSITE ADVERTISING          | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____                 | \$ _____ |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                          | \$ _____ |

CREDIT CARD #: \_\_\_\_\_

EXP. DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ SECURITY CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME ON CARD: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD ONE TIME ONLY
- ☐ I AUTHORIZE THE BAY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO  
DRAFT MY MEMBERSHIP INVESTMENT FROM THIS CREDIT CARD  
ON AN ANNUAL BASIS

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ACCOUNT REPRESENTATIVE: \_\_\_\_\_

JOIN US >>> GROW TOGETHER

# NEW MEMBER BENEFITS



Welcome to our award-winning chamber organization! As a new member, you'll receive the following benefits absolutely FREE!

- **e-Biz Newsletter Advertisement - \$150 VALUE**

Promote your business in Bay County's premier business newsletter and reach a wide audience!

- **iHeartMedia Radio Spots - \$1,400 VALUE**

Hear your business promoted across all local iHeartMedia stations through a special Bay County Chamber broadcast.

- **Magic Broadcasting - \$1,400 VALUE**

Continued member appreciation support across all Magic Broadcasting stations celebrating your milestone during the month of your Chamber Member Anniversary.

- **BayBiz Magazine Feature - \$300 VALUE**

Enjoy the visibility of having your business listed prominently in our Bay Biz Magazine, reaching a wide audience of community members & business leaders with over 3,000 copies of each edition in print and available online to access anytime.

- **Membership Referral Services - \$150 VALUE**

With a multitude of phone calls, walk-ins, and online requests, the Chamber only refers its members to all customers seeking trusted services!

- **Grand Openings / Ground Breakings - \$500 VALUE**

Celebrate your business milestones with our expertly coordinated events - including access to our dedicated team of ambassadors. Boost your visibility in the community while we share your ribbon-cutting photos on our social media platforms (11k+ followers).

- **Premier Networking Opportunities + Events - \$150 VALUE**

Take advantage of our gatherings that offer unparalleled exposure, allowing you to meet & mingle with fellow professionals, potential clients, & key community leaders!

- **Exclusive Use of Chamber Boardroom - \$350 VALUE**

As a new member, you gain access to the Chamber boardroom for your business meetings. Utilize this professional and convenient space to host your team or clients, fostering growth and collaboration in a setting designed to support your success.

- **Chamber Lobby Advertising - \$450 VALUE**

Showcase your business prominently in our high-traffic lobby. Display business cards, brochures, and promotional materials in a prime location to increase your local presence.

- **Chamber Website Listing - \$150 VALUE**

Gain visibility and reach a wider audience with a dedicated listing on the Chamber website!

## TOTAL VALUE \$5,000!

*We're thrilled to have you on board & look forward to supporting your business growth & success. Welcome to the community!*

# Small Business Assistance



## How to Grow Your Business and More!

The Florida SBDC at UWF provides no-cost consulting services to current or aspiring small business owners. Services include training programs, market research, business plans, access to capital, feasibility studies, sales growth, marketing plans, government contracting, and assistance to minority-owned businesses.



Lewis Bear Jr.  
College of Business  
UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA



[sbdc.uwf.edu](http://sbdc.uwf.edu)



The Florida SBDC Network is state designated as Florida's Principal Provider of Business Assistance [§ 288.001, Fla. Stat.] and recognized as Florida's "premier source" for business assistance.