



AFRICAN AMERICAN
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

JUNETEENTH CEO
CELEBRATION AND

AWARDS *Gala*

“CELEBRATING FREEDOM, RESILIENCE AND EXCELLENCE”

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



LETTER FROM GALA CHAIRPERSONS



Dear Business owner and Community Leaders: On behalf of the AABA and our members, We are pleased to extend a special invitation to the INVITED BUSINESS/RECIPIENT NAME to become a valued sponsor of our 2025 Annual CEO Celebration and Awards Gala.

This year's highly anticipated event will take place on Saturday, June 20, 2026, at the elegant Renaissance Center Banquet Hall in Joliet, Illinois. We will kick off the evening with a cocktail hour at 5:30 PM, followed by the Gala program at 6:30 PM.

The AABA CEO Celebration and Awards Gala is a premier event that brings together more than 400 distinguished guests, including influential business leaders, corporate partners, elected officials, and community advocates—for a night of elegance, inspiration, and recognition.

This event honors entrepreneurs, community partners and CEOs who have demonstrated exceptional business leadership and a deep commitment to community service in Will County. It is a powerful celebration of excellence, resilience, and the collective impact of Black-owned businesses.

Why Sponsor? By sponsoring this prestigious event, your organization will:

- Showcase your commitment to transforming opportunities for our business community through equity, and economic empowerment.
- Gain brand exposure among influential business and civic leaders.
- Receive recognition through event signage, press releases, and social media spotlights.
- Enjoy exclusive access to VIP seating, networking opportunities, and future AABA programming. We are also hosting a VIP Reception for our top sponsors.

Your support will directly contribute to the advancement of Black-owned businesses through educational programs, mentorship initiatives, scholarships, and community engagement efforts—creating meaningful and lasting impact throughout our region.

We would be honored to welcome your business as a sponsor for this year's Gala. Attached, you will find our sponsorship packet outlining the various levels and associated benefits. We would be happy to speak with you further to find the best sponsorship opportunity that aligns with your company's goals and values.

Should you have any questions or wish to confirm your participation, please contact Christopher Parker, Laurie Veasy or Howard Wright via email at info@aabaconnect.org.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to partner with AABA in uplifting our business community. We look forward to celebrating together on June 20th.

Warm regards,
Laurie Veasy, 2026 Gala Chair
VP of Numark Credit Union

Howard Wright, 2026 Gala Co-Chair
State Farm Insurance



PLATINUM SPONSOR

\$7,500

- Premier table placement for 10 guests
- Video opportunity during an AABA event
- VIP reception access for all guests
- Special entry to vendors expo
- Corporate / Business logo placement in gala event program
- Full page ad in the gala program
- Recognition during the gala event
- Year-round recognition on AABA website* Table Top

GOLD SPONSOR

\$5,000

- VIP reception access for all guests
- Access to select vendors
- + Seating for 8 guests
- + Corporate / Business logo placement in gala event program
- + FULL page ad in the gala program
- + Recognition during the gala event
- + year-round recognition on AABA website* logo table top

SILVER SPONSOR

\$2,500

- + 8 gala tickets (Full Table)
- + Quarter-page ad in the gala program
- + Name listing in gala event program
- + Recognition during the gala event

BRONZE SPONSOR

\$1,000

- + 4 gala tickets (Half Table)
- + Name listing in gala event program

AD PARTNER

\$500/\$250

- Full page ad in the gala program
- Half page ad in the gala program

“MARCHING INTO MONDAYS”

Marching Into Mondays offers a valuable opportunity for business owners to gain insights from fellow entrepreneurs and guest motivational speakers. It serves as a platform for networking, where participants can bring colleagues or friends to connect and exchange ideas. Attendees also have the chance to join AABA, enhancing their professional network and access to resources. This event combines learning, networking, and potential membership benefits to support business growth and development.

“AABA INVADERS”

AABA Invaders is a new and unique opportunity where we’ve turned the phrase “Pop up” into a brand-new experience! Invaders is designed for any available AABA members to “pop up” and show support for one of the local business partners that are connected to the AABA Community. This could be, but not limited to purchasing goods, services, Social Media reviews and highlights, and even bringing the media with us to promote the business or advocating for policies that impact the businesses within our membership.



BUSINESS & INNOVATION CONFERENCE

The AABA Business and Entrepreneurship conference brings together visionary leaders, ambitious startups, and established enterprises for two days of inspiration, education, and unparalleled networking opportunities. This conference is the first of its kind for Will County; that offers the opportunity to meet a dynamic panel and hear from trailblazing entrepreneurs and industry titans who have shattered barriers and redefined success in their fields, attendees gain practical skills and insights in areas such as scaling your business, accessing capital, and leveraging technology for growth.



SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT

COMPANY INFORMATION:

Company/Sponsor Name (Exactly as you wish it to appear on all promotional material)

Address:

City/Zip/State:

Sponsor/Contact Name:

Sponsor/Contact Title:

Phone:

PLEASE SELECT SPONSORSHIP LEVEL

- ☐ Platinum Sponsor - \$7,500
- ☐ Gold Sponsor - \$5,000
- ☐ Silver Sponsor - \$2,500
- ☐ Bronze Sponsor - \$1,000
- ☐ Ad Partner - \$500
- ☐ Ad Partner - \$250
- ☐ Donation _____

SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT

I am unable to attend but wish to support the 2025 AABA of Will County Juneteenth CEO Celebration and Awards Gala with a fully tax-deductible contribution of

To confirm your sponsorship, please e-mail or mail completed form no later than **May 9, 2026**.

Payment Method

- ☐ Enclosed is my check payable to: African American Business Association of Will County
- ☐ Please send me an invoice.
- ☐ I'd like to pay by credit card
Call Christopher Parker for processing 779.707.0778

Please return this form (with check, if applicable), to:
African American Business Association of Will County
101 N. Reed St, Joliet, IL 60435

Or email Christopher Parker or Kiara Ford at: **INFO@AABACONNECT.ORG**

Submit Company Logo (High Resolution .jpeg or .tiff file) to: Christopher Parker or Kiara Ford @ **INFO@AABACONNECT.ORG** within two weeks of your submission (*prior to the May 9 deadline*).

Agreement: by signing this agreement you and your company agree to the above, and attest that the information is correct and completed to the best of ability.

Authorized Signature: _____

Name (Print):: _____

Title:: _____

Date:: _____



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