



Partnering to Create and Care for the Healthiest Community in the Nation

From the earliest days of caring for our neighbors, creating a healthy community was our goal.

More than a century later, we're proud that Boulder is ranked among the healthiest communities in our nation.

Whether is it bringing new lives into the world or saving lives with top-quality care close to home...

We are Boulder Community Health. We are Boulder.



Learn more at bch.org



TRUSTED ADVISORS. POWERFUL ADVOCATES. STRATEGIC PARTNERS.

THROUGH EVERY CHAPTER, A PART OF YOUR STORY.

BERG HILL GREENLEAF RUSCITTI HAS BEEN SERVING THE BOULDER COMMUNITY FOR OVER 20 YEARS. WE HAVE WORKED AND GROWN WITH YOU AND YOU HAVE GROWN WITH US AS WE HAVE BECOME WHAT WE ARE TODAY - A LEGACY FIRM.

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Be Boulder.



YOU ARE OUR WHY!

A LETTER FROM BOARD CHAIR DENNIS PAUL, AND PRESIDENT & CEO, JOHN TAYER

The two of us have had the good fortune of working closely together for the past eleven years, in different capacities, to advance the Boulder Chamber mission of business success, economic strength and general community vitality. Throughout these years, we have forged a shared sense of purpose in support of the Boulder Chamber membership. That's because . . . you are our why!

Throughout its 73-year history, Elevations Credit Union has demonstrated its commitment to the welfare of our community, primarily through financial services that meet the needs of their 177,000-member business and residents. They recognize that the success of every member means a brighter future for all of us.

Similarly, the Boulder Chamber has the interest of its 1,200-plus members as the focus of every action and program. That is why we work so hard to help you achieve your business goals, through powerful marketing tools, events that create the environment for building business development relations and so many other direct business support services outlined in this

issue of Boulder Chamber TODAY.

The success of each individual business also lies at the heart of the Boulder Chamber's advocacy and economic vitality efforts. Advocating for policies that appropriately consider business interests, in tandem with our environmental and social equity values, is critical to the conditions for business progress. The work of our Boulder Economic Council to strengthen the region's industry sectors and to advance innovative workforce development programming lifts our economy, for the benefit of all businesses.

And why do we do it? Because we know your success – the achievements of each Boulder Chamber member and the workforce your business supports – is the foundation for a healthy community. It's that simple.

The data confirms what many of us already know: Boulder is a special place to pursue business objectives, with our community continuing to outperform its peers in many economic vitality measures. Yet, certain local and national trends signify risks for













both your business and our economy in 2024. Issues as diverse as interest rate fluctuations, the super-charged political rising homelessness, environment, increasing traffic conditions and office vacancies will test us.

Fortunately, the Boulder Chamber is pressing forward with solutions that have a direct positive impact on your business. We've dedicated additional staff to reversing the homelessness trends. We're increasing our business retention and attraction efforts. And we're investing in enhanced networking opportunities and marketing support resources. It's all designed to help our members thrive, as well as the economy and community that supports your

business.

That's what we're doing in 2024 . . . so brace yourself for an exciting year ahead, and cheers to our partnership in your success!



Dennis Paul BOULDER CHAMBER **Board Chair**





John Tayer **BOULDER CHAMBER** President and CEO



BOULDER CHAMBER

WE BUILD COMMUNITY THROUGH BUSINESS

OUR MISION

To build a strong community by supporting local for-profit and non-profit businesses, advocating for a strong business environment, and sustaining economic vitality.

OUR VISION

To advance business success in service to our community.

OUR VALUES

- Leadership
- Integrity
- Collaboration
- Innovation
- Sustainability
- Inclusion

Boulder's Kev **Primary Industries**

- Aerospace
- **Natural Products**
- Bioscience
- **Outdoor Recreation**
- Energy
- Tourism
- Internet Solutions
- Research

Our Membership

1200+ Active Members

Small Businesses

14% Non Profit Organizations **25%**

Family, Community and Civic Organizations

The Equity Amplification Program now has

active participants!





304 subscribers



5.400 followers



13.300 followers



2,219 followers



24,363 newsletter subscribers

FunFact





You can chat in a casual environment with our President and CEO. John Tayer and the rest of the BOULDER CHAMBER Team at Coffee & Beer with John events! Register at: BoulderChamber.com/events



BOULDER CHAMBER DELIVERING FOR YOU 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

As you can see from the numbers we highlight in some of our many accomplishments during 2023, it is clear that we are advancing toward key project and program goals. But we aren't pursuing these goals merely to hang numbers of convenient commute trips or housing units on a wall. We pursue these goals because it matters to our businesses, it matters to the workforce they hire, and it matters to the customers they serve. A new apprenticeship program introduces a new member of our workforce to a career they never thought was accessible and helps keep the production line

for a life-saving pharmaceutical compound running smoothly. An affordable housing unit creates the opportunity for a restaurant to recruit new talent for their kitchen and helps provide a family with access to the amenities that make Boulder a special place to live and work.

Yes, when it comes right down to it, our work at the BOULDER CHAMBER is about the owners, employees, and customers of the businesses we serve. That is why we work so hard to achieve our goals for you and our community... with an exclamation point!

THE BOULDER CHAMBER IS WORKING FOR YOU THROUGH:



Ensuring accessible mobility options for our community by securing \$650K in funding through a collaborative partnership with the City of Boulder for the new Gunbarrel Shuttle System that will begin operation in 2024.



Supporting economic vitality by garnering commitments from 100% of city council candidates to continue prioritizing policies that support a strong economy, including the potential for future job growth.



Elevating member experiences by empowering 4,450+ businesses professionals for a successful year through educational programs, events, and insightful content such as the Economic Forecast and Economic Summit and celebrating the strength, creativity, and resiliency of our business community through Celebration of Leadership and Women Who Light the Community.



Bridging the gap between job seekers and employers by facilitating 310+ business and partnership interactions that helped to identify workforce needs and develop training programs that meet the needs of employers and our workforce.



Investing in the arts by securing voter approval for the investment commitment of \$3M in funding for arts and culture, a cornerstone in Boulder's innovation economy.



Delivering thoughtful business solutions through the activation and implementation of new programs and events. The recently established BOULDER CHAMBER 401k Program offers a cost-effective solution for business owners in response to the Colorado Secure Savings Program Mandate.



Pioneering micromobility advancements by playing a crucial role in making e-scooters widely available in the City of Boulder. In September 2023, Lime eScooters expanded their service area citywide, adding over 600 scooters.



Empowering industries by unveiling four sector partnerships:
Manufacturing, Food-Beverage-Hospitality, IT/
Tech, and Healthcare, accompanied by 25 sector events that engaged 350+ participants in real solutions to industry challenges.



Established funding for workforce housing by partnering in the campaign for passage of County Issue 1B, creating \$18.5M annual funding for affordable and attainable housing county-wide and advocating for secured zoning for the addition of 426 new attainable housing units along the Diagonal Highway, a major regional workforce corridor.



Expanding career pathways by adding three new apprenticeship pathways to the BOULDER CHAMBER apprenticeship program, with 5 more in the pipeline! In 2023, we worked to foster career growth by successfully graduating 14 adult apprentices in Healthcare and Manufacturing and welcoming 10 new apprentices.



Collaborating on transitoriented development to redevelop the Millenium Harvest House into 1,000 new mass transitaccessible student housing units and \$15M for affordable housing.



Driving positive change through zero-fare transit advocacy led to a 16% increase in bus ridership compared to 2022, reducing traffic congestion and enhancing air quality.

For a complete list of 2023 accomplishments, navigate **BoulderChamber.com**



BOULDER CHAMBER 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Peter Aweida
Westland Development
Services



Stephanie Brennan Strickler, Brennan, Catlin, LLC.



Kate Brown, RNB Boulder



Trent Bush
ARTILECT



Lori Call, Board Vice Chair CU Boulder



Bing Chou MojoTech



Ann Cooper Ann Cooper and Assoc.



Lora de la Cruz Boulder Valley School District



Bob Der Foothills Equity



Bob Gaddis BOK Financial



Mark Heinritz
The Sink



Harriet Ingham Holmes Solutions



Amy Long
Nothing Bundt Cakes



Nikhil Mankekar Naked Sunrise



Peter Marcus
Terrapin Care Station



Kristen Moorefield SparkFun Electronics



Dennis Paul, Board Chair Elevations Credit Union



Calvin Pennamon Northrop Grumman Space Systems



Danica PowellTrestle Strategy Group



Greg Sebring KBI Biopharma



Colleen Simpson
Front Range Community
College



Kristen Turnbull Kaiser Permanente

BOULDER CHAMBER 2024 STANDING STRONG PARTNERS

Those who stand strong with the **BOULDER** CHAMBER receive attention and recognition reflective of their contributions towards the vibrancy of the Boulder business community.

Flagstaff

Berg Hill Greenleaf Ruscitti LLP BioMed Realty Blue Federal Credit Union Corden Pharma Colorado

Elevations Credit Union The WW Reynolds Companies University of Colorado Boulder

Sanitas

Conscience Bay Company
Daily Camera
FNBO
Fowler Automotive
Google Inc
InTANDEM HR
Kaiser Permanente
KBI Biopharma

Plante Moran
Premier Members Credit Union
Tebo Properties
Twenty Ninth Street Mall
Warner Pacific Insurance
Services
Xcel Energy

Chautauqua

Accenture AdventHealth Avista **AGC Biologics** Alpine Bank **BDO Boulder Convention and** Visitors Bureau **Boulder Valley School District** Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP Capital One Café Caplan and Earnest LLC CBRE, Inc. CLA Colorado Enterprise Fund Crescent Real Estate Dean Callan & Company Inc

Eide Bailly LLP
Embassy Suites Boulder
Emerson
Employers Council
First Western Trust Bank
FirstBank - Boulder
Gibbons-White Inc
Hotel Boulderado

John Kirkland Group LLC JPMorgan Chase Bank NA KPMG LLP

InBank

Lake Valley Golf Club Landmark Properties

Lexmark International, Inc LJD Enterprises Inc Lockheed Martin Manufacturer's Edge MidFirst Bank Northrop Grumman Corp NREL National Renewable **Energy Laboratory** Pfizer Pinnacol Assurance PNC Bank - Boulder Savory Cuisines Catering She's Independent Smoker Friendly / Gasamat Snell & Wilmer LLP SOPHER SPARN ARCHITECTS Spencer Fane LLP The Colorado Group Inc Unico Properties LLC University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) Vectra Bank - Broadway Vectra Bank Colorado, N.A. Wells Fargo Bank NA Western Disposal Services Westland Development Services Inc WK Real Estate







Inspiring the Next Generation of Scientists

Friends of the National Center is the community engagement and fundraising arm of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. Friends' mission is to inspire, support, and educate the next generation of scientists and researchers. In a world where the only constant seems to be change, UCAR and NSF NCAR are committed to addressing the intricate challenges of our Earth by ensuring that cutting-edge research and innovation in atmospheric and Earth system science is carried forward into the future.

Get Involved

- Join us for an upcoming event
- · Make a donation

friendsofthenationalcenter.org



Real Estate is a local business.

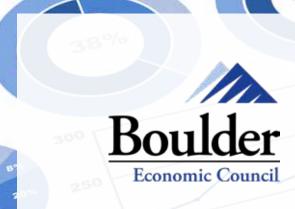
We love Boulder

The W.W. Reynolds team is ready to partner with you to navigate the complex, ever-changing real estate market. We understand because W.W. Reynolds has been there. Connect with us today to meet our specialized team.

leasing | property management | development | more



www.WWREYNOLDS.com



Get the rundown on Boulder's economy.

Visit BoulderEconomicCouncil.org for our latest publications and blogs.

36%



Ramp up your parking game.

Here's an insider tip: you can save time, gas, and emissions by going straight to one of the city's five convenient downtown BoulderPark garages.

Find easy parking without the hassle of lost tickets, broken gates, and long lines. Powered by Metropolis, we make parking as simple as a welcome text when you arrive and a thank you text when you depart. Register for a Metropolis account at app.metropolis.io or by scanning the QR code below.





Parking rates:*

 Hour
 Rate

 1st hour
 \$1.75

 2nd-6th hour
 \$1.25/hr.

 6-12 hours
 \$15.99 flat

 3 p.m. to 3 a.m.**
 \$3.00 flat

 Weekends & City Holidays
 FREE

*Rates are inclusive of fees.

**\$3 flat rate only applies if you enter and exit between 3 p.m. and 3 a.m.



Claim \$3 off parking in the BoulderPark garages!

\$3 off parking in City of Boulder parking garages through Dec. 31, 2024. To claim this discount, log into your Metropolis account at app.metropolis.io and enter promo code 30FFBOULDER24

Promo code valid for one use only.





metropolis

BoulderParking.com

BOULDER CHAMBER 2024 TOP LEVEL PARTNERS

PRESIDENT PARTNERS

Berg Hill Greenleaf Ruscitti LLP Altman Consulting LLC **BioMed Realty** Blue Federal Credit Union Cigna Healthcare Conscience Bay Company Corden Pharma Colorado Inc. **Elevations Credit Union Fowler Automotive** InTANDEM HR Premier Members Credit Union **Tebo Properties** The WW Reynolds Companies Inc

University of Colorado Boulder

Warner Pacific Insurance Services

ELITE PARTNERS AdventHealth Avista **AGC Biologics** Alpine Bank Amazon **Ball Aerospace** Bank of Colorado **BDO BizWest BOK Financial Boulder Community Health Boulder Medical Center** Capital One Café Caplan and Earnest LLC CBRE, Inc. Celestial Seasonings CLA Daily Camera **Denver International Airport Employers Council** FirstBank **FNBO** Google Inc **IBM Corp** InBank John Kirkland Group LLC Kaiser Permanente **KBI** Biopharma Lake Valley Golf Club Landmark Properties LJD Enterprises Inc

MidFirst Bank

Plante Moran

Pinnacol Assurance

PNC Bank - Boulder

Savory Cuisines Catering

Smoker Friendly / Gasamat

SOPHER SPARN ARCHITECTS

Pfizer

Spencer Fane LLP Twenty Ninth Street Mall Unico Properties LLC Vectra Bank Colorado Westland Development Services Inc **Xcel Energy**

VANGUARD ACADEMY BOULDER Accenture Aimco-- Apartment Investment and Management Company Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield AVERY BREWING CO BI Incorporated Big Red F Restaurant Group Blue Canyon Technologies Inc. **BOLO REALTORS** Boulder B-cycle **Boulder Valley School District** Citywide Banks Eide Bailly LLP **Element Properties Embassy Suites Boulder Emerson** Excelitas Technologies Corp. Frasier Hiltons on Canyon Hotel Boulderado Hyatt Place Boulder/Pearl Street JPMorgan Chase Bank NA Lexmark International, Inc Limelight Boulder Lockheed Martin Lumen McGuckin Hardware Medtronic Mountain View Bank of Commerce Pace Development LLC PlanGuru RE/MAX of Boulder Renaissance Solutions, Inc. S&P Global Saunders Construction, Inc. Seagate Technology St Julien Hotel & Spa St. Vrain Valley School District The Harris Law Firm Tolin Mechanical Veolia WTS Analytical Instruments, Inc

Wells Fargo Bank NA

Wilson Sonsini

TRAILBLAZER 8z Real Estate

American Medical Response **AMG National Trust Bank** Biodesix, Inc. Blackbelly Market Bobo's Oat Bars **Boulder Marriott Boulder Post Acute** Boulder Self Storage **Boulder Social Boulder Valley School District Print Shop Boulder Ventures Limited** BoulderCentre for Orthopedics and Spine Center Copy Printing **Comcast Business Services** Community Banks of Colorado Corwin Toyota Boulder **Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce** Dial Senior Living - Flatirons Terrace Dial Senior Living - The Pearl at **Boulder Creek** Fisher Auto Flatirons Subaru Frasca Food and Wine / Pizzeria Alberico GJ Mac dba McDonalds Green Dot Labs Hazel's Beverage World Holland & Hart LLP Housing Helpers **Hutchinson Black and Cook LLC** Independent Power Informa plc Jaguar Land Rover Flatirons JVA Inc K3 Technology Kurtz Fargo LLP Land Title Liberty Puzzles LIV Sotheby's International Lucky's Market - North Boulder Melton Design Build MojoTech Namaste Solar Electric Native Edge Associates Inc New Hope Network Nite Ize Northrop Grumman Corp NREL National Renewable

Energy Laboratory

OZO Coffee Company

OZ Architecture

PTA Plastics

RE/MAX Alliance Rudi's Bakery Safeway Stores Sage V Foods Santo Scout Clean Energy Snarf's Sandwiches Southern Sun Pub & Brewery SOVRN SparkFun Electronics Inc Sterling-Rice Group Sun Construction The Cain Travel Group, Inc. The Weitz Company Three Leaf Concepts-Restaurant Group University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) Upslope Brewing Company **US Bank** Vaisala Inc Wana Brands Western Disposal Services WK Real Estate



The Boulder Chamber is an invaluable resource not only to the business community, but the community as whole. With the leadership of the Chamber team, innumerable issues are being taken on and addressed to make our community a better place... so many of which the general public is unaware of but reaping the benefits of the Chambers efforts. The Chamber team does the hard work and heavy lifting for all of us, always with a smile, good humor, and humility. We couldn't do what we do without them - I love the Boulder Chamber!

Jeff Wingert | The W.W. Reynolds Companies

























Boulder Chamber City Council Candidate Forum, August



ECONOMIC FORECAST Boulder & Beyond



The Boulder Economic Forecast features nationallyrecognized economists who highlight the most up-to-date economic statistics and trends for the Boulder area.

CELEBRATION LEADERSHIP



For over four decades, the Boulder Chamber has brought the community together to honor the leaders and individuals who inspire and motivate us through the annual Celebration of Leadership.

BOULDER CHAMBER SIGNATURE AND NETWORKING EVENTS



The Boulder Chamber provided me with a calendar of events that allowed me to meet other business owners at networking events before and after my work day. The more events I attended, the better the staff knew my business, allowing them to refer chamber members who transitioned from prospect to client and in several instances friends. The value of the Boulder Chamber far exceeds my membership fees."

Carey Mason, Boulder Chamber member

Connect. revitalize. and maximize Boulder your Chamber membership benefits. Whether you aim to expand your network, boost business through events. showcase expertise as a enhance speaker, brand recognition with giveaways, or become a quarterly nonprofit partner with Bolder Young Professionals, engaging with us is the right choice. Contact our membership team to explore the full range of opportunities available to you through our various events and programs.

Networking Events















Opportunities and Benefits

EVENT HOSTING AND SPEAKING



SPONSORSHIP







Dust off your clubs and join us! The Boulder Chamber and Lake Valley Golf Club partner annually to carry on the beloved warm-weathertradition of the Boulder Chamber Golf Tournament. We host two editions, one in the spring, and one in the fall.





The Boulder Chamber and the Business Women's Leadership Group (BWLG) honor women who have made significant contributions that address meaningful business or community needs on a local, national or global scale.





The Boulder Economic Summit brings together businesses across industries to engage in a dialogue on economic trends and developments impacting Boulder. This event offers you a unique opportunity to actively participate in discussions regarding Boulder's economic vitality.





Join business leaders, CU football fans and community members at the Boulder Chamber's Colorado Buffs Kickoff Luncheon and pep rally.





At Women's Night of Connection, not only do we host Boulder trailblazers participating in a community discussion about inspiration and mentorship, but we also help introduce the next generation to networking and inspire them to reach the next rung on the ladder.



Meet the Newsroom brings together fellow nonprofit organizations for an informative afternoon of networking with influential local reporters, press, and media professionals. This event provides a unique opportunity for members to gain invaluable insights into effective storytelling and media engagement ahead of the fundraising season.



This luncheon features invaluable insights from a panel of experts who discuss the latest HR laws and regulations. Attendees discover the must-do strategies to successfully navigate the HR landscape before the year's end.



In collaboration with the Northwest Chamber Alliance, Day at the Capitol is an opportunity for guests to participate in direct communications with our state government leadership on issues important to them and their businesses.





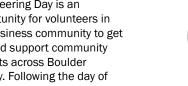
The Boulder Chamber Star Lighting Ceremony on Flagstaff Mountain is the kick-off to the holiday season, on November 11th. This event is held on Veteran's Day to honor the Active U.S. Military and Veterans that protect our Community and Nation every day. We are honored with the presence of elected officials, community guests and a joint Service Color Guard provided by members of the three Reserve Officer Training Corps Battalions at CU Boulder.

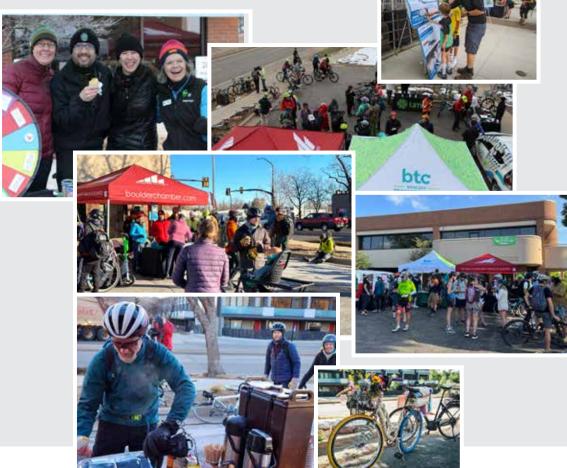


DAY OF CARING VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCH



Volunteering Day is an opportunity for volunteers in the business community to get out and support community projects across Boulder County. Following the day of volunteering and community service, participants gather for a delicious Volunteer Appreciation Lunch.







It's become a tradition! Our Boulder Transportation Connections team welcomed nearly 200 early-bird riders to our breakfast super station during the Winter Bike to Work Day event, braving cold temperatures of 30 degrees Fahrenheit. In the summer, the tradition continued, with over 500 participants joining us for Summer Bike to Work Day, also featuring a Bike Home Happy Hour!







Leadership Fellows **Boulder County provides** approximately 35 emerging and transformational leaders from across sectors with a broad understanding of Boulder County's economic, civic and cultural drivers. The program offers participants a deep appreciation for the social, environmental and economic interests our leaders must balance in their decisions. Additionally, the program is heavily focused on transformational and inclusive leadership practices.



The Equity Amplification Program supports and amplifies the voices and needs of businesses who have historically been marginalized and underrepresented. This special engagement opportunity for Black-owned and Black-led businesses provides complimentary memberships, special marketing opportunities, as well as specific programming to further understand how the Boulder Chamber can support their organizations.

BOULDER CHAMBER **CROUPS & PROCRAMS**





The Bolder Young Professionals is a program of the Boulder Chamber that helps connect young professionals in all stages of their career with one another through monthly social, professional development and service activities.

BYP Board

Harriet Ingham Holmes Solutions BYP President

Jarrod Ferstl Better Employee **BYP Vice President**

Katherine Shanaham Downtown Boulde Secretary

Brad Hugunn Adams Bank & Trust Service Chair

Tatiyana Brooks Comprise Agency **Marketing Chair**

Taylor Johnson Events Chair



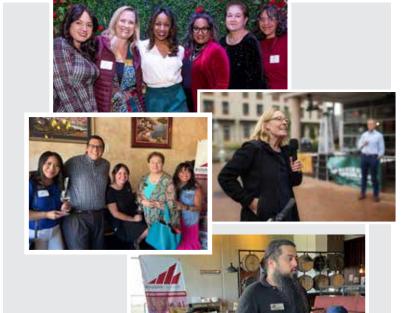


As one of the strongest and most active groups within the Boulder Chamber, the Business Women's Leadership Group (BWLG) provides Boulder's community of business women with education, networking, leadership and recognition through informative and professional programs. We invite you to join the BWLG to help you build your business and advance your career.

BWLG Co-Chairs Hannah Hester

Live West Realty

Kristina Lailas-Putterman Commercial Banker





Merix Gustin (she/her) **Events Chair** Plan Ahead Events

Debi Richards (she/her) Member Engagement Co-Chair JumpCloud

Nancy Chin-Wagner (she/her) ber Engagement Co-Chair

Abby Keefe Shear Abby Salon

Adam Kroll (he/him) Kroll Real Estate / DV8 Distillery

Beth Blacker (she/her) It's Just Stuff

Cam Low (she/her) Cultivate

Christine Harrell (she/her) SPAN (Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence)

Cynthia Case (she/her) Alpine Bank

Drew Allman (he/him) Board and Boldt

Jarrod Ferstl (he/him) Better Employee Benefits

Jean Schloesslin Individual

Jenny Desmond (she/her/ella) Vive Mas Tours

Kari Newman (she/her) Re/Max of Boulder

Kayla Carter Boulder Baskets

Lydia Whitecalf Central Boulder Living

Matthew Jensen (he/him) WK Real Estate

Pam Sunderland (she/her) Payroll Vault

Patty Breech (she/her) The Purpose Collective

Percy Alzamora (he/him)

Pierre Brogan (he/him) Individual

Randy Lis (he/him) First National Bank

Rebekah Hartman (she/her) **OZO Coffee Company**

Sara Pike (she/her) Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art

Ambassadors include BYP Board members and BWLG chairs. Learn more about them on page 16.

Chamber Champion

Hannah Hester was presented with the 2024 Chamber Champion Award for her outstanding contributions to the BOULDER CHAMBER mission and programing.



Being an ambassador gives me the chance to give back to a great organization, as well as be a center of influence where I can help members connect and make the most of their memberships.'

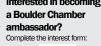
BOULDER CHAMBER 2024 AMBASSADORS

Ambassadors are chamber member volunteers. They provide outreach to new and prospective members by welcoming them into the community and assisting in their navigation of Boulder Chamber services. Ambassadors also play a key member support role at our monthly events and have quarterly networking events in the business community.











BoulderChamber.com/ambassadors



BOULDER CHAMBER **EQUITY AMPLIFICATION PROGRAM**

 \mathbf{C} ontinuing the success of our Equity Amplification Program in 2023 into 2024, and our continued and longstanding commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, we are excited to announce the production of a new signature event in 2024 focused on DEI. You can expect more details regarding this event and how to register later in the year.

2024 Equity Amplification **Program Participants**

AdderlyArt Amirah Counts, Realtor Ana's Art Gallery Ann Cooper & Assoc Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Rocky Mountain Realtors Boulder **Blackat Video Productions** Carol Banks Design LLC Code Ninjas (Louisville) Community By Design Curate Boulder DEI4BIZ

Delta Developmental Diverse Health Information, Inc. **ECAACE**

Georgia Schmid Lisbeth Joe

MAIDS AND BEYOND

Makeshift Entertainment Media Education Makeshift Film Group Mateo Restaurant McCord Consulting Group Mon-Rae Facility Services LLC Mukuyu Collective, LLC **NAACP Boulder County Naked Sunrise** New Orleans Chefs of Colorado LLC **Outworld Brewing** Rae's and Kay's Melting Pot ResEPA Substitoothfairy LLC The Dreamatorium Working Within LLC Writing To Change the Narrative



If you know a Black business owner in Boulder County, encourage them to contact the Boulder Chamber and inquire about the **Equity Amplification Program!**



boulderchamber.com/equity-amplification-program/

Carey Mason (he/him) | Diversity Professional

YJRollins Management

Young Professional Djs









Nyasha Williams is the founder and creative director of Fire + Honey Press.







We partner with Bookcliff Vineyards to bottle a special blend that features the Boulder Star artwork. A portion of the Star Wine proceeds will go towards the ongoing care of the Boulder



BOULDER CHAMBER ARTS & CULTURE

With highest concentration of artists in the country, Boulder's artist and cultural leaders are collaborating building and sustaining Boulder's economically vibrant community. In communities across the nation, the arts and business sectors are successfully collaborating to contribute to the quality of life in our region; drive economic development; stimulate innovation: creativity and and strengthen the ability of business to recruit and retain a diverse group of individuals who will bring exceptional skills to the community.

FunFact

Each year, at the Boulder Star Lighting Ceremony, we are honored by the Presentation of Colors by the University of Colorado Boulder Joint Service Color Guard, led by Ssgt Dylan Lodernot (not pictured).





Deborah Malden (she/her)
Art Liaison & Advisor - Volunteer

Want to know more about why the arts are good for business and why business is good for the arts?



boulderchamber.com/advocacy /arts-culture/





www.boulderchamber.com/member-services/401k



- Customized Workforce Training
- Job-Ready Career & Technical Graduates
- Continuing Education for Professionals















Economic Forecast, January











BOULDER CHAMBER MIX 1hr 33min







Omaha by The Counting Crows John Tayer (he/him) President and CEO

But I'll only dance to it with Molly-T!"



Carry Me Higher by The Blessed Madonna Jacqueline McCauley (she/her) Associate VP Finance, Human Resources and Operations



Dance Yrself Clean by 1cd soundsystem Amy Barz (she/her) Director of Operations



Happy by Pharrel Williams Judi Zrimec (she/her) Administrative and Scheduling Specialist



Shakedown Street by Grateful Dead Kathleen Baer (she/her) Admin and Event Assistant



Out of Body Experience by Rabbit In The Moon ft. Tori Amos Jonathan Singer (he/him) Senior Director for Policy Programs



BOOGIE Shoes by KC and the Sunshine Band-Devin Edgley (she/her) Policy Program Specialist



Groove Is in the Heart by Dece-Lite Joseph E Hovancak (he/him) Vice President, Economic Vitality and Executive Director of the Boulder Economic Council



Blinding Light by weeknd Matt Wiggins (he/him) Senior Director of Economic Vitality & Special Projects



Showdown by Electric Light Orchestra Olivia Beckstead (she/her) Economic Vitality Specialist



Computer Love by Zapp Louis Rosner (he/him) Economic Development Analyst



Gonna Make You Sweat by C+C Music Factory Scott Firle (he/him) Senior Director of Member and Investor Relations



Sweet Dreams by Eurythmics Cate Cook (she/her) Member Relations Manager



No Bad Days by Macklemore Lindsey Sharp (she/her) Member Development Partner



I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)

Karen Worminghaus (she/her) Senior Manager of Transportation



Fader by Róisín Murphy

Elaine Erb (she/her) Sustainable Transportation Planner



A Little Respect by Erasure Darcy Kitching (she/her)

TDM Outreach Specialist



FloorWax by DJ Zeph ft. Rashaan Ahmed Will Shepherd (he/him) TDM Outreach Specialist



Runaway Baby by Bruno Mars Maye Cordero (she/her) Director of Marketing & Events



Dancing Queen by ABBA Megan Sanders (she/her) Events and Programs Specialist



Walking on Air by Katy Perry Amanda Duffy (she/her) Marketing and Communications Coordinator



I Did Something Bad by Taylor Swift Courtney Warford (she/her) Marketing and Communications Manager



Dancing Queen by ABBA Erika McNab (she/her) Programs Coordinator

44 Or really anything from ABBA!"



Bad Girls By Donna Summer Deborah Malden (she/her) Art Liaison & Advisor - Volunteer



I Feel Good By James Brown Carey Mason (he/him) Diversity Professional



FunFact

Membership Orientation is a great time for you to connect with Boulder Chamber members, potential members, staff and our ambassadors. Reserve your seat at BoulderChamber.com/events



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YOU'RE NOT ALONE

SUPPORT FOR **MEMBERS**' **BUSINESS SUCCESS**

Scott Firle Senior Director of Member and Investor Relations Cate Cook Member Relations Manager Lindsey Sharp Member Development Partner

 $\mathsf{A}\mathsf{s}$ we head into 2024, Boulder businesses are up against some serious challenges. To name a few: the high cost of doing business, workforce shortages, and office vacancies. There are also interest rate fluctuations, traffic congestion, and a lack of accessible housing.

"This year's Economic Forecast highlighted our changing demographics. It showed a shrinking younger population in Colorado," says Scott Firle, Senior Director of Member and Investor Relations. "We need to build up the talent pipeline with young adults to fill open positions, especially as our current workforce ages."

Our latest Economic Summit reported that the commercial real estate office vacancy rate is the highest it's been in a long time. Right now, it's about 30%, compared to a pre-pandemic 8%. With much of our workforce moving towards a remote or hybrid in-person model, we need to get creative with our solutions.

"It can be scary to be a business owner," says Scott. "I want you to know that you have a partner in this. You're not going at it alone." Whether you have an issue with permitting or your supply chain, we are here to help. If we don't have the answer, we'll connect you with someone who does.

Our role at the Boulder Chamber is to support you, advocate for a strong business environment, and sustain economic vitalityso that your business can thrive. Learn about the opportunities you can take advantage of as you navigate the challenges of doing business in Boulder.

Find Your Match: Facilitating Connections Between 1,200 Members

At the Boulder Chamber, we love connecting members with one another. With 1,200 organizations and individuals in our membership, we all have something to learn from each other. "Boulder is very community-oriented, and we often get contacted by folks looking for a resource," shares Scott. "We can send them to our directory and to a member who does what they're looking for." Knowing who's in the room, and bringing people together is what we love to do. Scott reflects, "It's exciting to see that happen in real time."

Score Game-Changing Connections at Unique Events

Boulder Chamber events are a great place to foster connections. Take our Virtual Speed Networking event, which guarantees that you will meet 20 members in 60 minutes. We cap the event at 35 people, and it fills up every time. "Recently, we even had someone call in via Starlink from the van they were camping in," shares Cate Cook, Member Relations Manager. We're all about offering virtual options whenever possible for your convenience.

Another highlight of 2023 was our kickoff luncheon with CU Boulder, where we heard from Coach Prime and spent time with CU Athletics, the coaching staff, and the players. "Coach Prime brought out a lot of people that we hadn't connected with since before the pandemic," says Cate. We welcomed around 1,800 people to this sold-out event—think about all the connections made!

Last year, we made our Business Before and After Hours events industry-themed. Each event brings together members from a specific industry in a place that they normally wouldn't have access to. For example, our transportation-themed gathering was held at Via Mobility, giving attendees a chance to learn about Via's transit solutions. Another was held at the aerospace company Northrop Grumman, where members learned about their role

in the future of aerospace defense. Pretty cool!

Stand out From the Crowd Through No-Cost Marketing Perks

All members have access to several nocost marketing benefits through our Member Advantage Program. In your portal, you can submit news releases to go on our website and in our newsletter. If you're hosting an event in the community, post that on our calendar. If you're hiring, share the position on our job board to cast a wider net for applications.

Hot Deals allow you to run a promotion on your products or services to other members. For example, one local restaurant offered 10% off for holiday parties booked ahead of the busy season. Those Hot Deals are posted on our website, social media, and email newsletters.

"One of the most overlooked member benefits is our online directory," says Scott. You can use this to write a description of your business and set keywords for how people can find you. If someone Googles your business name, the online directory will likely be first or second on the search results page. Scott explains, "The online directory makes a substantial difference in how you're seen digitally." Member listings often come up hundreds to thousands of times in searches each year, and many have 50 to 100 click-throughs. It also shows potential customers that you support your local chamber, which is proven to improve the likelihood of business by 80%.

Enhanced Support for Your Success in 2024

Our Member Relations team continues to evolve and expand, allowing us to better support you and your business. "It's amazing to have a dedicated team that is out at community events, engaging with members, and working to provide value," says Scott. "We're better able to execute on initiatives and plans for the year ahead."

This includes a new CRM system for

members that will be launched this Spring. It will create a more efficient system for how we get information to you and how you can engage with other members online.

Another exciting development is our new Leads Group that started last year for home professionals, including realtors, mortgage brokers, title companies, plumbers, contractors, and roofers. It's a unique networking and business development group that is set up for a strong 2024.

As a membership organization, every initiative done for our business community is made possible by you. As you read through the pages of this publication, know that you have made this work possible. "We want our members to know that we love them," concludes Scott. "We care about you and want you to succeed." Thank you for being a member of the Boulder Chamber!



Boulder Chamber
is the link between
business and
community. It is
always there for
inspiration, key
business connections,
and support to
navigate impacts that
could affect our ability
to meet customer
milestones."

Debra Capra | Corden Pharma



ELEVATING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

WHERE LEARNING, CONNECTION, AND FUN MEET!

Maye Cordero Director of Marketing and Events
Megan Sanders Events and Programs Specialist
Erika McNab Program Coordinator

You might remember that in 2022, the Boulder Chamber hosted focus groups to find out what members like you wanted out of our gatherings. Members explained that it can be hard to figure out where to spend such limited time, resources, and energy.

"There are many competing demands on places to be and events or programs to attend. That's our biggest challenge when it comes to events and programs," shares Maye Cordero, Director of Marketing & Events at the Boulder Chamber.

You also told us that while work is important, there's also family, friends, and other aspects of a fulfilling life. "I think that work-life balance is on peoples' minds more today. Let's do our work, let's do it well, but let's also have some fun and enjoy our community," reflects Maye.

With your insightful feedback in mind, our focus has been elevating the experience of going to every event at the Boulder Chamber. How can we create safe spaces to connect with others, while encouraging learning and FUN?

"We all want to feel welcome," adds Megan Sanders, Events and Programs Specialist. "We facilitate spaces where members can have conversations and get what they're looking for, whether it's a connection, resource, information, or knowledge."

This past year, we set out to create unique, energizing, valuable experiences for members... and it paid off! Registration numbers tremendously increased in 2023, and several events sold out. Keep reading to find out what the highlights were.

A Night to Remember: Women's Night of Connection

The Women's Night of Connection last December featured Colorado Secretary of State, Jena Griswold, as the keynote speaker. She delivered a message of empowerment and shared her perspective not only as an elected official, but also as a woman. "It was a room filled with trailblazing leaders," says Erika McNab, Program Coordinator. "Many shared their perspectives on the balancing act of being a woman, from professional careers to motherhood."

While the evening brought together professionals, it expanded beyond business needs. It fostered meaningful connections, inspiring many attendees to reach for the next rung on the ladder.

Making Headlines at Meet the Newsroom

You might know that the end of the year is an important time for nonprofit organizations to raise money for their cause. At the Boulder Chamber, 14% of our members are nonprofits, and we wanted to support them ahead of Colorado Gives Day and the giving season. "I used to work at another nonprofit," shares Maye. "I know how difficult it is to get your story out there, get featured in the media, reach a wider audience, and fundraise."

Meet the Newsroom connected members who are nonprofit professionals with the top local media officials. Boulder reporters, press, and media professionals shared their do's and don'ts for effective storytelling and media engagement. It was a sold-out event, with over 30 nonprofits and five media outlets represented. As a result of connections made, local nonprofit and Boulder Chamber member Via Mobility was one of several organizations that got their stories featured—they even scored the front page of the paper!



Swinging Towards Inclusion at Wedges and Wine

Our now twice-annual golf tournament always sells out. But historically, it was male-dominated, with hardly any women in attendance. Maye thought, "How is it possible that we have a Business Women's Leadership Group, but we don't have women represented in one of our major events?"

So two years ago, we reached out to Lake Valley Golf Club to brainstorm solutions. They offered a clinic run by two pro golfers for women to hone in on their skills. Wedges and Wine has been a hole-in-one from the start! This year, two sessions will be offered to accommodate even more members.

Before this clinic, only one or two women would participate in the golf tournament. Last year, we had FOUR women foursomes! "This is what moving the needle towards inclusion looks like," reflects Maye.

Staying Ahead of the HR Compliance Curve

You likely know about the Colorado Secure Savings Program, which went into effect this year. It requires businesses with five or more employees to offer a qualified retirement plan, such as a 401(k). Last year, we hosted the Ahead of the HR Compliance Curve luncheon. It featured a panel of human resources experts and lawyers, who shared insights and information on the laws and regulations to prepare members for the changes ahead.

Additionally, we teamed up with Lincoln Financial Group and Future Plan by Ascensus to offer a Boulder Chamber 401k Program. It's a cost-effective opportunity for member small businesses looking to provide a retirement plan for their employees. We're proud that our plan is a better offer than open enrollment through the government. If you haven't already, check it out!

DEI Stays Central

You might remember that last year, the Boulder Chamber redefined its core values to include diversity, equity, and

inclusion. This year, we brought in a new DEI liaison, Carey Mason, who is helping to guide the DEI journey of the Boulder Chamber. Carey has been instrumental in exploring how we can bring more diversity and inclusion to each of our events.

In 2024, we will host an all-day signature event that brings together professionals in the DEI world with our members. There will be panels and breakout rooms, aiming to share best practices when it comes to DEI in the workplace. Keep an eye out for more details!

What's in Store for 2024?

We are excited to see you at our events this year, whether in-person or virtually. "I love creating experiences for people to convene and have a good time while also learning, advancing, and growing," concludes Maye. There are many events to do so in the year ahead!

A Big Milestone in the Horizon!

Did you know that 2025 will mark the 120th anniversary of the Boulder Chamber? Prepare yourself for a yearlong celebration and special events!





SHAPING BOULDER'S FUTURE

DRIVING WORKFORCE **DEVELOPMENT** AND ECONOMIC VITALITY

Joseph E Hovancak

Vice President, Economic Vitality and Executive Director of the Boulder Economic Council

Matt Wiggins Senior Director of Economic Vitality & Special Projects

f vou attended our Economic Forecast in January, you heard about the economic challenges that Boulder is facing today. They're in line with what the country as a whole is experiencing: gaps in the workforce, attracting talent, and housing affordability. "While Boulder is a center of innovation, we need to focus on the effects of Colorado's decreasing population," says Matt Wiggins, Senior Director of Economic Vitality and Special Projects. Boulder's economic vitality relies on both recruiting new businesses and retaining existing ones.

Attracting innovative startups and established companies fuels diversity and innovation, enhancing our city's reputation as a hub for creativity. Diversity in business sectors strengthens resilience and inclusivity, providing opportunities for local talent. Simultaneously, retaining existing businesses preserves community ties and institutional knowledge, fostering loyalty and stability. By investing in both strategies, the Boulder Chamber and our Boulder Economic Council are creating a thriving, diverse, resilient, and inclusive economy.

We work with businesses in the key industries that drive our economy to identify workforce needs. We then help fill those gaps by building career pathways for students and individuals looking to change jobs. "These access points push people in the directions our community needs them," says Matt.

Factors beyond job training impact the strength of Boulder's workforce. According to Joseph E. Hovancak, Vice President, Economic Vitality and Executive Director of the Boulder Economic Council, "there is a need for increased affordable housing to ensure that our talent can afford to reside in this area. In addition, improving the affordability and connectivity of commuter transportation can help minimize commute times and boost workforce productivity."

We provide innovative solutions that tackle the core of our community's challenges. Joe adds, "We stand out from other chambers—we're not conventional like chambers of the past!"

Joe was drawn to this job from Florida and joined our team in January 2024. Continue reading to learn more about our initiatives to meet the demands of both current and future job markets.

A Data-Driven Approach

"Our starting point for economic vitality is generating and accumulating data," says Matt. "We want to have a finger on the pulse of what's happening in Boulder: demographics, real estate, the economy." Doing so allows Boulder to compare itself to other cities. The data highlights areas for growth. This transparency also helps Boulder Chamber members make more informed business decisions.

You might be familiar with our reports, such as the Innovation Venture. In 2024, Economic Development Analyst Louis Rosner will be developing several new reports to share on a regular basis. Rather than just annual or quarterly reports, you can expect to see more real-time (monthly or even weekly) snapshots of Boulder's economy.

Connecting the Community Through Sector Partnerships

In 2023, we relaunched sector partnerships in advanced manufacturing, IT/technology, healthcare, and food-beverage-and hospitality. This year, we're gearing up to launch a new partnership in professional services. These partnerships connect business leaders with other organizations to address rising needs.

Across 25 events last year, we had 325 attendees. "During these events, we discuss the problems that businesses in each industry are experiencing," says Matt. For example, maybe their workforce is aging, and they need to backfill positions for those who are preparing to retire.

Then, we brainstorm solutions that community partners can provide. "For example, a school district could be looking for mentors or deciding what to add to their career education program," shares Matt. The school could pair up students with mentors and align their

career program with local demand. By bringing together the right people, solutions to real industry challenges are set in motion.

Apprenticeships Advance Careers and Fill High-Demand

Apprenticeships also fill gaps in the workforce and provide career opportunities to job-seekers. We build programs with instruction providers like Front Range Community College. That's paired up with an employer who can provide training.

Apprentices receive at least 144 hours of classroom instruction and 2,000 hours of on-the-job training. The Boulder Chamber serves as the intermediary and sponsor. In 2023, 14 apprentices in healthcare and manufacturing completed their apprenticeship, and 10 more began the program.

"I recently met with one of our apprentices at Excelitas Technologies," shares Matt. "Before, she was working retail jobs and wanted a leg up that would sustain her living in Boulder County. She's now on her way to becoming an optics photonics technician, excelling in her first year of the three-year program."

Other apprenticeships opportunities include healthcare, manufacturing, cybersecurity tech, and finance. In 2023, we grew to seven pathways, and have three more in the pipeline. "By the end of 2024, we want to offer 12 to 15 different pathways," shares Matt.

Opening Doors for Tomorrow's Workforce, Beyond the Classroom

Our K-12 partnerships with Boulder Valley and St. Vrain Valley School Districts connect workforce needs with career exploration programs. This takes the form of career fairs, mentorship programs, parent nights, and field trips. Exposing students to different industries allows them to imagine themselves in certain careers.

Matt remembers one field trip students took to a Larimer County hospital to highlight jobs in healthcare. "When we asked the students about what careers they knew of in a hospital, 'doctors' and 'nurses' were the top two answers. But then someone said, 'janitor.'" There are many jobs that exist between nurse and janitor at a hospital, which are all crucial for our community.

Our goal is to inform students and parents about career opportunities in Boulder that may be unfamiliar to them. Joe reflects, "Career opportunities can have a profound impact on a student's entire family and future generations. It also positions them as a significant contributor in the economy. This program is more than just a career opportunity; it's changing lives."

Economic Vitality is a Catalyst for Business Growth

"In 2024, we want to expand the opportunities we offer members, as a leader in workforce development and economic vitality," says Matt. We'll do this by connecting our 1,200 members through innovative events, advocating for elected leaders to prioritize business issues, and addressing Boulder's biggest industry needs with community partners. This collective impact will drive positive change.

"We want Boulder to be at the forefront of thriving, inclusive, resilient, diverse economies," concludes Joe. Economic vitality is a catalyst for growth. It fosters a business ecosystem that benefits every business and resident. "No matter what size business you work for or where you live, everyone deserves an equal opportunity for health, wealth, and happiness."



View the newly released 2023 Market Profile.

These are the comprehensive reports summarizing population, demographic and economic data for Boulder, Colorado.

bouldereconomiccouncil.org/economic_data/



ADVOCATING FOR

POLICIES THAT BOOST BUSINESS SUCCESS

Jonathan Singer Senior Director for Policy Programs

Devin Edgley Policy Program Specialist

The issues faced by our business community are too big for any one person to handle alone. At the Boulder Chamber, our 1,200 members make us Colorado's second largest chamber of commerce. Our responsibility is to amplify the voice of the business community with a megaphone!

Advocating through policy programs is a bottom-up process. First, we sit down with our Community Affairs Council, which includes businesses of all shapes and sizes. "We listen to what our members are experiencing, which informs our strategy to address each issue," says Jonathan Singer, Senior Director of Policy Programs. "We have to be responsive to our members' needs and proactive with our legislators and decision makers."

Across Colorado, one of the biggest challenges we're facing is the cost of housing for our workforce. "It's driving people out of Boulder, the county, and even the state," explains Jonathan. Without a strong workforce, other aspects of our community suffer.

"We want to make things easier, more efficient, and more equitable for Boulder residents," continues Jonathan. We envision a vibrant community that is environmentally responsible and provides opportunities for all. Keep reading to learn about the steps forward over the past year.

A Win for Affordable Housing

In 2023, the Boulder Chamber helped pass County Issue 1B. It's the first dedicated source of affordable housing dollars on a county-wide basis. Each year, \$18.5 million will help ensure that community members can afford to live near their workplace. This funding also includes services for people struggling with mental health or substance dependency to help maintain their housing.

City Council Pledges to Prioritize Business Issues

"In 2023, we had one of the most successful rounds of City Council candidates in the history of Boulder," says Jonathan. While we don't endorse candidates at the Boulder Chamber, we do ask them to weigh in on issues that affect the business community.

100% of candidates said economic vitality and job growth would be one of their priorities. Additionally, all but three of nearly a dozen candidates said they would make expediting the planning and permitting process a top three priority if elected. These are strong commitments from a City Council that's only

allowed to list five priorities. Our top issue made their top three!

Creating a Safer City

There's been a lot of discussion about the safety of residents, tourists, business owners, and employees in public spaces. The first of two big wins on this front is the City of Boulder's Reimagine Policing plan. It provides extra enforcement when necessary and outlines community responses for mental health and related issues. This allows law enforcement to focus on public safety. The plan was supported unanimously by City Council. "To have played a role in influencing our elected officials on something like public safety is huge," says Jonathan.

Voters also supported the Safe Zones initiative. It prioritizes areas of Boulder that are most vulnerable to illegal camping, including bike paths, sidewalks, and schools to keep pedestrians and students safe.

Investing in the Arts and Culture

Last year, there was a tax at the city level that was set to expire. Instead, we secured voter approval to re purpose it. It will provide the first dedicated source of ongoing funding for the arts and culture in Boulder. Each year, \$3 million will be invested. "When we look at the cities that are most successful in attracting a strong workforce, arts are a part of that," says Jonathan. Residents want the option to go to the ballet or the symphony, experience performing arts, or enjoy fine arts. Bolstering the arts makes Boulder more competitive with other innovative cities.

Federal Funding for Diagonal Highway Safety

For the past decade, Boulder Chamber and BTC have pushed for improved road safety and mass transit along the Diagonal Highway. Colorado recently qualified for a significant federal grant that will move this effort forward.

"This comes in the aftermath of a prominent young Olympic-caliber cyclist

who was killed on the Diagonal by a driver," says Jonathan. "This is not only about increasing transportation options to make it easier for employees to get to work; it's also about saving lives."

Additionally, we advocated to rezone 426 new affordable housing units along the Highway. Housing located near major workforce corridors like this helps people get where they need to go efficiently.

Revitalizing Millennium Harvest House

The beautiful Millennium Harvest House has fallen into a state of disrepair over the years. A new developer proposed transforming it into student housing, which we supported. We worked alongside the planning board on issues including the number of units and parking spaces. This housing is located next to the CU campus and decreases the need for driving. The developer will provide \$15 million in funding for Millennium Harvest House. It will create an incredible 1,000 new affordable, mass-transit accessible housing units!

Prioritizing Business Community Issues in 2024

The County, school district, and state are working to reduce the property tax burden on business owners. Currently, business owners pay about three times what a residential owner would pay on the same property. The Boulder Chamber will continue to be a part of the conversation this year.

As for the office vacancy issue, we're in discussions with our Governor, local officials, and commercial property brokers. Together, we will find creative ways to re purpose commercial spaces and incentivize renters to lease them.

2024 will also see a focused effort on solutions to chronic homelessness in Boulder. "It's unbelievable to me that in a community as affluent as Boulder, there are still people who are unhoused," says Jonathan. "It is a moral failing—and something we can solve." Hand-in-hand with this issue is criminal justice reform and improved mental health services.

"It's going to take a loud voice advocating to make these initiatives possible. We will continue to represent our business community in the best way we can," concludes Jonathan. Stay tuned for more updates in 2024!









DAY AT THE CAPITOL! This annual event, in partnership with the Northwest Chamber Alliance, offers members the opportunity to interact with top lawmakers in an open discussion about the local, regional and statewide issues that matter most.



SHIFTING GEARS

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR BOULDER COMMUTERS

Karen Worminghaus Senior Manager of Transportation Elaine Erb Sustainable Transportation Planner Will Shepherd
Member Development Partner
Darcy Kitching
TDM Outreach Specialist

Shifting Gears: Sustainable Solutions for Boulder Commuters Boulder has a significant number of commuters, with an estimated 60,000 daily commuters. The pandemic saw more people working from home, but congestion and vehicle miles traveled are back up to pre-pandemic levels. Big picture, this congestion harms our air quality. On the individual level, it's expensive for commuters to fill up their cars with gas. It also can

be frustrating and inconvenient; no one wants to sit in traffic!

But the alternative—transit—is not yet at the level needed to move the majority of single-occupancy vehicle commuters. "We need to offer more convenient, reliable, and affordable alternatives for folks driving into Boulder," says Karen Worminghaus, Senior Manager of Transportation at the Boulder Chamber. That means a wider network of bus and light rail routes and more frequent service.

Boulder Transportation Connections (BTC) became part of the Boulder Chamber in 2021. We help employers find eco-friendly transportation solutions. There's the RTD EcoPass, bike-shares, e-scooters, Vanpool, and carpool options.

"Many municipalities only offer one alternative to driving solo, so we are fortunate in Boulder to have several options," Karen says. "Even though we don't yet have 100% of the transit service we need, we want commuters to take advantage of the many tools already in the toolbox."

An increased demand for a wider variety of transportation options will accelerate progress. "In Boulder, we have a culture

that cares about sustainability," adds Karen. "This makes me hopeful that we can take a big step forward to driving less and making more sustainable transportation choices."

How Transportation
Perks Boost Employee
Satisfaction

"Offering transportation perks can help a business with recruitment and retention," says Karen. It saves them money and frees up their time. "Rather than being stuck behind the wheel and stressed out in traffic, bus or Vanpool commuters can catch up on work or read a book."

BTC helps businesses choose from a menu of options to get employees to work. "We'll get you set up with the solutions that are most cost-effective for your situation, based on location, industry, and timing," says Karen. We can also help you navigate challenges with your existing transportation benefits. For example, Google needed help switching over from RTD's card-based program to the mobile MyRide app, so we worked to get almost 1,000 employees set up.

Driving Down Costs and Emissions Through Transportation Tax Credits

The Affordable Transportation Tax Credit gives Colorado businesses tax savings on transportation perks. They can receive a tax credit for 50% of their spend on employee benefits! "Coupled with the new EcoPass pricing in 2024, rates are the lowest they've ever been," says Karen. "There's no better time to offer employee transit passes."

Expanding Access: Finding Commuting Solutions for All

BTC also works with essential workers and staff or contractors who don't meet the criteria of a traditional EcoPass transit pass program. "We want to provide transportation solutions for underserved populations," explains Karen. In 2023,

we added several Vanpool opportunities for essential workers.

Community Conversations at Connect Boulder Luncheons

Each quarter, our free Connect Boulder luncheons share the latest news about transportation in Boulder. "We ended 2023 with an engaging Connect Boulder meeting focused on the Northwest Rail and Front Range Passenger Rail initiatives," reflects Karen. Join us for an upcoming meeting!

The Eco-Friendly Advantages of Living or Working in Boulder Junction

Boulder Junction residents are eligible for free EcoPasses, as well as BCycle and Colorado CarShare memberships. BTC oversees the EcoPass program in Boulder Junction. We recently helped residents in the new housing development, Bluebird, get set up with EcoPasses. "Many people in transitional housing don't have access to a vehicle, so having a transit pass will have a meaningful impact," shares Karen.

In 2023, we held five events in Boulder Junction to promote the benefits of living and working in this area. The FUNKction at Boulder Junction series brought together our community for fun, food, music, and activities. It showcased the latest innovations, including an electric school bus and a hydrogen-powered car!

Boulder's Cycling Culture Shines on Winter Bike to Work Day

February's Winter Bike to Work Day was a success, with nearly 200 people who stopped by our Boulder Chamber breakfast station for hot drinks and burritos. Our winter and summer stations have been some of the best-attended in Boulder and Denver! With more than 300 miles of bikeways and 300+ days of sunshine in Boulder, biking can be a

feasible (and fun) commuting option—even in the winter.

Electrifying Micromobility with eBikes and eScooters

The Lime eScooter pilot program in East Boulder was successful, and we advocated for its expansion city-wide. In September 2023, Lime added over 600 scooters. "Since expanding, the number of Lime trips has grown exponentially," shares Karen. A big advancement for micromobility!

In 2023, our partners at Boulder BCycle converted to an all-electric fleet. As a result, the number of rides increased five times. With the majority of all vehicle trips being under six miles, eBikes are a great car replacement for those trips. Rebates from both the city and state last year helped eBikes grow significantly overall.

Fueling Transit Equity with Zero Fare Initiatives

RTD's Zero Fare for Better Air initiative in July and August led to a 16% increase in bus ridership compared to 2022. Youth ages 19 and under ride free on all RTD services for the rest of the school year. Karen explains, "The state is working to make zero fare for youth a permanent initiative, which we support." When more people ride the bus, traffic congestion and air quality improve.

Accelerating Change on the Road Ahead

In 2024, you can expect to see several transportation projects that focus on improved safety and equity. This includes the Gunbarrel Shuttle, the Safe Streets initiative, and a Boulder County grant for Electric Vehicle infrastructure. There's also the Association of Commuter Transportation Conference in Denver this August. "It will be a great chance spotlight Boulder's innovative transportation efforts on a national level," says Karen. In 2024, BTC will be here to help our community meet their transportation needs. Talk to us!



STEPS FORWARD ON

OUR DIVERSITY, **EQUITY,** INCLUSION, AND **ACCESSIBILITY JOURNEY**

Carey Mason Diversity Professional

Boulder is a great place to live, work, and play... but not for everyone. Some businesses and people are left out, and the issues surrounding diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility are complex.

After George Floyd's murder, businesses across the county voiced their support for Black Lives Matter. They placed statements on their websites and signs in their storefront windows. But over time, those affirmations disappeared. The businesses that really understood the issues did more than post; they developed action plans. They looked at their demographics as well as their internal and external processes to make meaningful, lasting changes to improve their community.

In Boulder, we often hear businesses saying that they would hire more people of color if they could. But it takes more work than posting a job opening. It takes recruiting from more diverse candidate pools and creating a more inclusive work environment. "That's the challenge for Boulder businesses," says Carey Mason, Diversity Professional at the Boulder Chamber. "A real commitment to DEIA requires effort, investment, and time." Carey joined the Boulder Chamber this January after being a member for almost a decade. In his role, Carey reminds others to consider those elements when planning programs and initiatives.

"No matter your gender, race, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or religion, you deserve to be a part of a community that embraces and celebrates your unique diversity," says Carey. Businesses have a front-and-center role to play in the DEIA journey. Keep reading to learn about our latest efforts.

The Equity Amplification Program Goes Beyond Networking

The Equity Amplification Program provides a platform 37 small Black-owned businesses. The group meets quarterly to network and access support. Beyond networking, members can bring a business challenge or opportunity for the group to discuss. "Because they are small businesses, tapping into the group's experience and perspective is key to tackling issues," says Carey.

EAP participants are also encouraged to take advantage of the benefits offered to all Boulder Chamber members, such as updating their online directory listing. Having an updated listing helps other members who want to support diverse businesses find them.

Our goal in 2024 is to double the number of EAP members. We encourage each participant to bring someone new to the next meeting, which is scheduled for May 3, 2024. This year, we will identify other diverse businesses and extend an invitation to join as we continue our efforts to strengthen our community by providing support.

Cultivating Tomorrow's Leaders

Leadership Fellows is a project between the Boulder Chamber and its Foundation, and the Community Foundation of Boulder County. "It's a yearlong program that's designed to attract the leaders of tomorrow," shares Carey. Participants learn about issues in Boulder, such as affordable housing and social justice. They discuss how businesses, nonprofits, and the government can better serve our community. Each cohort of about 30 individuals goes back to their workplaces and continues these conversations. They become ambassadors for change, planting seeds that will grow over time.

Coming Soon: DEIA Trainings and a Signature Event

Carey leads DEIA training for Boulder Chamber staff members and related groups. In 2024, we will offer DEIA training to members, covering topics such as terminology, unconscious bias, and the use of pronouns.

"Education helps businesses become more inclusive, not only for their staff, but also for customers and visitors," explains Carey. Training leads to increased self-awareness about diversity. which maximizes the likelihood that individuals will have positive experiences in Boulder. A strong tourism industry with diverse entertainment offerings gives Boulder an opportunity to show visitors that they belong here.

For example, last year, the NAACP of Boulder County brought the Nashville African American Wind Symphony to a sold-out Macky Auditorium. Carey remembers, "It was the first time in my life that I observed an orchestra comprised of Black musicians with a Black conductor—in Boulder, of all places. I was extremely elated by the experience and proud that such entertainment could



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be enjoyed in Boulder."

This fall, the Boulder Chamber is planning a signature event featuring DEIA professionals who will share best practices. It will be a forum for learning and discussion about DEIA for members.

The Business Case for DEIA

"No one does DEIA work just because it's the right thing to do," says Carey. "Businesses who derive a financial benefit from DEIA initiatives are more likely to nourish and develop them, which over time can impact the cultural fabric of the business." Having a more inclusive business expands the marketplace, attracting more diverse consumers who prefer to spend their money with businesses that embrace them and have employees who look like them.

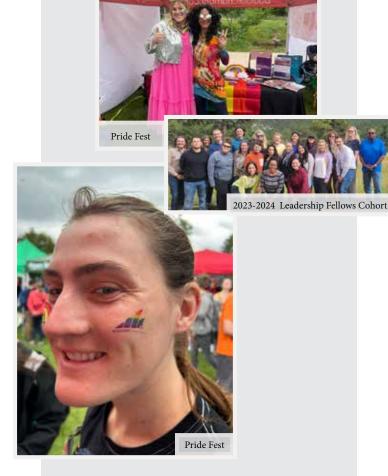
Younger workers increasingly want to work for companies whose values align with their own. Carey remarks, "Students at CU Boulder need a strong reason to stay after graduation. need an inclusive community in which they can see themselves starting careers and families." Creating a work environment that is valued by younger workers will become even more crucial as the Boulder workforce ages and jobs open.

Carey remembers one Boulder business he consulted with six years ago. At the time, the business had seven employees and was generating \$1 million in revenue. They were stuck at this size and struggling to grow. The business owner intentionally made changes that improved the diversity, inclusion of equity, and

his business environment, including reviewing their practices, recruiting HR policies, and social media presence. Today, that business has 20 employees, several of whom are remote, and revenue approaching \$3 million. The success of their intentional efforts to promote DEIA reflects what Carey affectionately calls "the ripple effect".

The Ripple Effect: **Small Actions, Big Impact**

DEIA work is a journey, not a destination. It's ongoing and incremental. Carey concludes, "If you take a pebble and throw it into a pond, that small action has a ripple effect." Implementing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility initiatives-however small-into your business will eventually lead to a better community that can be enjoyed by all.



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LEADERSHIP FELLOWS BOULDER COUNTY

Leadership Fellows Boulder County provides approximately 35 emerging and transformational leaders from across sectors with a broad understanding of Boulder County's economic, civic and cultural drivers.

The program offers participants a deep appreciation for the social, environmental and economic interests leaders must balance in their decisions and is heavily focused on transformational, inclusive leadership practices.

2023-2024 Cohort

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BOULDER TOGETHER

LAUNCHING INTO A NEW ERA OF IMPACT

John Tayer, Boulder Chamber President and CEO

Lauren Lambert, Boulder Together Co-Chair and Head of Government Relations and Public Policy for the Southwest Region at Google Patrick T. O'Rourke, Boulder Together Co-Chair and University of Colorado Boulder Executive Vice Chancellor and CEO

Scott Reichenberg, Boulder Together Co-Chair and President of the Colorado Group

Consider the biggest challenges that our Boulder community faces today. Homelessness, office vacancies, lack of transportation options, workforce shortages, and housing concerns might have come to your mind. Or maybe you thought of inaccessible childcare or unreliable internet.

"These are all difficult, complex issues that are not susceptible to quick fixes," reflects John Tayer, Boulder Chamber President

and CEO. "Solving them requires focus, time, effort, and attention. Yet, as a community, we tend to kick the can down the road, so to speak, in confronting these vexing challenges."

Enter Boulder Together. This initiative works to address the greatest barriers to success faced by our community. It allows us to apply our staffing resources and business community ingenuity toward finding the solutions that will bring long-term results. That's why your investment in Boulder Together is so important.

Recalibrating Course for Boulder Together's Next Chapter

The first push of Boulder Together was four years long. The second was three years long, as we assessed and addressed the immediate recovery needs following the pandemic. As we enter our seventh year, we're recalibrating our course of action and gearing up for the next focused effort.

"In 2024, we're thinking about Boulder Together like a rocket ship," shares John. "Over the past seven years, Boulder Together has built a track record of success and exceptional results—and learned a lot along the way. This has served as our launch pad as we take off towards greater heights and new galaxies of impact for our Boulder business community."

Right now, Boulder Together is in the stage of going back to our community to assess the new challenges that businesses like yours are facing. (You can expect to hear from us soon as we reach out to survey you on the challenges you are experiencing). That will be followed with deep-dive focus groups to provide a more complete picture of the barriers to business success in Boulder.

As we lift off and begin accelerating, we're making small adjustments to improve our ability to blast through the barriers to success that our business community is facing. We're reaching for the stars and the world we believe is possible.

Fueling Progress and Investing in the Future of Boulder

You might have already heard about one of the biggest achievements of Boulder Together this past year: securing \$650k in funding over three years for the new Gunbarrel Shuttle System. This was made possible through a collaborative partnership with CDOT, DRCOG, RTD, the City of Boulder, and Boulder County. The shuttle is on track to launch its operations this summer, providing accessible mobility options for commuters. If you work in the Gunbarrel area, you will soon have a much more convenient commute!

Apprenticeship programs, representing a wide range of fields, have also accelerated in the past year to meet our workforce challenges. Through relationship-building and training, new professionals are set up for success. They are positioned to enter the workforce, launch their careers. earn a stable income, and fill critical jobs for our local economy. Currently, we offer seven different apprenticeships, including medical assistant and sterilization technician. (Sneak peek: in the year ahead, you'll hear about a new series of job trainings and several more apprenticeship offerings). For local businesses, apprenticeships help sustain their business with a stronger workforce. Win-win!

In the housing arena, new units that will serve our workforce are beginning to be filled. This is a direct result of advocacy work through Boulder Together. The first development to receive direct assistance through our Boulder Together focus is called the Weathervane, a 400-unit complex. This project served as a test case of our ability to advocate for, support, and help bring to reality a substantial new housing development. It's just the front end of our investment in housing, a catalyst for thousands of new housing and mixed-use units that you'll soon see in our community. Boulder will be able to house many more members of its workforce.

That's not all! Last year, Boulder Together conducted an initial analysis of workplace childcare options. Next will be a more detailed study of the feasibility of such a program. In the broadband area, we're working with our private sector partners and the City of Boulder. Our mission is to secure reliable internet service for every business and resident across the community.

Changing Lives, One Business at a Time

"As we set our sights on the year ahead, I'm looking forward to seeing the smiling faces of those that directly benefit from our Boulder Together efforts," says John. Picture the employee of a local business as they open the door to their new housing unit for the first time, no longer having to endure a long commute. Imagine commuters as they sit comfortably on the new Gunbarrel Shuttle on their way to work. Envision new members of our workforce beginning their jobs at a Boulder business because they now have the skills to do so.

John reflects, "At the core of Boulder Together, we're charting a course for transformation by addressing real business needs and changing lives." As a result, businesses are better able to recruit and retain the workforce needed to produce products and serve the community. Soaring to new heights, individuals can better accommodate their families and own needs. We're igniting change, like a rocket ship blasting off towards the stars—together!

BOULDER CHAMBER 2024 BOULDER TOGETHER INVESTORS

Boulder Together is a strategic multi-year initiative of the Boulder Chamber designed to address the highest priority areas of Boulder's economic and community need.

Our local business leaders have pledged their support and investment in collaboration with community partners to achieve the goals in each of these strategic focus areas: quality business environment, workforce and development community infrastructure.

Thank you for your support!

BOULDER TOGETHER CO-CHAIRS

Lauren Lambert, Head of Government Relations and Public Policy for the Southwest Region at Google

Patrick T. O'Rourke, University of Colorado Boulder Executive Vice Chancellor and CEO

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Sara Pike | BMoCA



I tell everyone I'm talking to about the Boulder Chamber that it has changed my life, and it has! I have never been so immersed in such an amazing group of people anywhere at any time. The events are incredible! Having talked to other business owners in nearby towns, it is apparent that the Boulder Chamber is special, because clearly other people do not get as worked up as I do about their local chambers...and I'm quite sure there is no disc golf tourneys in nearby towns."

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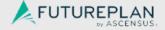


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