

# INVESTING IN TOMORROW

PEOPLE > CULTURE > TECHNOLOGY

**ST PAUL**  
AREA CHAMBER

2023 REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY

# → TOMORROW IS UPON US



## LETTER FROM CHAMBER PRESIDENT AND BOARD CHAIR

This year was challenging as we wrestled with the realization that **TOMORROW** is upon us. We look at our **people**, our **culture**, and our **technology** – all reflect a tomorrow that requires us to think in new ways. The opportunity before us is that tomorrow can take us to new places, catalyze us for good, and we must grab hold of it.

Our focus continues to be on advocacy on behalf of our members, business development, and our ongoing efforts to elevate advancement in DEI. We also hear your feedback – you are asking for more specific resources and investment in our small businesses. The answer to that is a resounding “Yes!”

We are adapting in terms of how we deliver it all. We are embracing the innovative mindset in our platforms, our new partnerships, and new resources to reach next generation leaders and businesses.

We believe that **TOMORROW** is about embracing innovation in both how we do our work and the mindset we develop. It’s about leaning in, in the midst of the uncertainty we all are facing, and imagining the incredible possibilities we can create when we strengthen our human connection and come together.

We are well positioned to make deeper connections and deliver even more benefits to you, our members, in 2023. Stay tuned for more.

We look forward to meeting more of you in the year ahead, advocating on your behalf, doing all we can to ensure your organization and your people thrive here!

B Kyle  
President and CEO  
St. Paul Area Chamber

Mike Hauswirth, Board Chair  
Division Manager & Senior Vice President  
US Bank

## How we do this work:

When someone asks you what the St. Paul Area Chamber is about, we want you to be confident as you speak to our four primary areas of focus:



CULTIVATING  
RELATIONSHIPS



DRIVING  
PROGRESS



BUILDING  
CAPACITY



GROWING  
LEADERS

We bring all our resources to bear on your behalf, to champion our diverse employer community for an economically vibrant, inclusive, and globally competitive region.



# We are **CONNECTORS.** We Cultivate Relationships.

We are united by a shared idea that making connections that count today helps grow business and community prosperity tomorrow. Your Chamber offers unique opportunities to build relationships to take us there. And the next generation of leaders want to have a great impact on their community and their world.

## Highlighting a few 2022 Connections:



### Ribbon Cuttings ▲

We welcomed dozens of new and expanding businesses through ribbon-cutting events.



### Speakers ▲

We came back together for in-person events and heard from fabulous speakers at nearly 100 Chamber events.



### Partnerships ▲

We are honored to be growing along with the **Minnesota Black Chamber of Commerce** and the **Minnesota Hmong Chamber of Commerce** and working shoulder-to-shoulder to help build a more inclusive and sustainable future economy for everyone in our region.



### Events ▲

From free Chamber Connect networking happy hours to our new Career Connect Day, we brought members together in meaningful ways at interesting venues.



### Small business Supports ▲

We created a Small Business Committee to strengthen the ecosystem for robust entrepreneurship and small business growth. We supported the Full Stack initiative, leveraging the power of tech and innovation to drive sustainable, equitable economic development in Saint Paul.





# We are **THOUGHT LEADERS.** We Drive Progress.



Our role as your voice in business advocacy is more critical than ever. Our public affairs team is bolstered by the new leadership of **Amanda Duerr** and her thoughtful, nuanced approach to our advocacy priorities. The business community needs our voice to be strong, clear, and impactful. And we need to be relevant to today's – and tomorrow's – priorities.

## Advocacy

In 2022, we took a deep dive into four major issue areas:

4

### Public Safety

### Housing

### Addressing the Benefits Cliff

### Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund (UITF)

Subcommittees for each issue met throughout the year, hosting policy experts and elected officials to educate ourselves in best practices and effective policy solutions we can pursue on behalf of our members.

We convened listening sessions for each St. Paul City Council ward for member businesses to share their **public safety** experiences and commissioned a scientific public opinion survey about perceptions of safety and its impact on decisions about working and playing in St. Paul.

We continue to advocate for more **housing** AND oppose St. Paul's **rent control** measure, while monitoring the Mayor's Rent Control Stakeholder Group and City Council action.

A top legislative priority of the Chamber was addressing the **Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund** deficit. After months of negotiation, a deal was reached and the State repaid funds owed to the federal government and replenished the UITF, preventing significant tax assessments on Minnesota businesses.





# We are a **RESOURCE.** We Build Capacity.

## WorkStream Clients:

East Metro Strong  
Full Stack Saint Paul  
Grand Avenue Business Association  
City of Maplewood  
Minnesota Black Chamber  
Minnesota Hmong Chamber  
Oakdale Area Chamber  
City of Oakdale  
Ramsey County  
Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy  
Rice & Larpenteur Alliance  
City of Roseville  
City of Saint Paul  
Saint Paul Downtown Alliance  
Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP)  
Saint Paul Parks Conservancy

We are intentionally leaning into partnerships and affiliations. We want to work with mission-aligned organizations to share resources wherever possible, to deliver the most impactful support for our community. WorkStream, our professional services division, continues to grow in its service to mission-aligned nonprofits in the region.

Learn more at [stpaulchamber.com/workstream](https://stpaulchamber.com/workstream) or reach out to us to discuss new partnerships.



## WorkStream: Stronger Together

Your Chamber now actively contracts with a growing list of municipal partners, associations and chambers of commerce, building our network and impacting a broader cross-section of our community than ever before. In 2022, WorkStream was proud to welcome the **Saint Paul Parks Conservancy** and the **Grand Avenue Business Association** to our list of client-partners.



## We are **COACHES**. We Grow Leaders.

Our role is to give next generation leaders the opportunity to learn how to lead and then make sure they have access to opportunity.



### Regional Young Professionals Network

One of the **fastest growing** areas for the Chamber is our Young Professionals Network (YPro). Now a regional network, this year included the most popular programming to date, attracting hundreds of young professionals to learn more about what a Chamber has to offer and enhance their skills and grow their network.



### Business & Talent Development

Aiming to support the business community with more resources, **our capacity grew this year with the addition of Kevion Ellis** and our Business and Talent Development Division. We also became an Inclusive Employer Champion with Ramsey County Workforce Solutions.

**Our first Career Connect Day was a huge success!** This job fair-styled event focused on career exploration for high school students and will expand to a two-day event in 2023, with the second day focused on adult hiring, internships, and training programs.

We also **expanded our Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) Services** to better understand and support businesses in the East Metro that are looking for assistance in addressing challenges and growing their business.



**2,000**  
STUDENTS FROM  
THE EAST METRO



**100** EMPLOYERS



## St. Paul Area Charitable Foundation

The St. Paul Area Charitable Foundation continues to grow a network of diverse, connected, supportive leaders who invest in, educate, support, and build a strong and vibrant community. We facilitate professional growth opportunities, expose leaders to a wide range of ideas and industries, support organizations, big and small, and encourage ownership and pride in our community.

In 2022, we successfully ran our 42nd year of **Leadership St. Paul** – all in-person. Our Foundation is poised to make more of an impact in the region with the work of the **We Love St. Paul Fund** and the **Fiscal Sponsorships** that will be possible for organizations and entrepreneurs wanting to make change in the East Metro.

## Equity & Inclusion

**New Program Director, Kristie Lazenberry**, joined the Chamber and led another successful year of our DEI Chamber programming, including:

### Equity Leadership Series

The 2022 series focused on equity historically, our role in equity leadership, systems change, an inclusive workplace, and the use of data and action planning. With expert speakers, panelists, and the guidance of a seasoned facilitator, we explored these areas and nurtured transformational leadership. Planning for 2023 promises to keep this programming fresh as we move away from speakers and panels to more immersive experiences.

### Equity Summit Inspiring Human Centered Leadership

Our fifth Equity Summit offered the opportunity for our members to immerse themselves in a comprehensive experience that promotes connections and learning.

### DEI Collaborative

Featured two cohorts in 2022 and plans three more in 2023. Participants found great benefit in creating close bonds with their cohort peers, building deep connections that have proved to be invaluable.





# We make **CONNECTIONS THAT COUNT!**

We welcomed more than 4,200 members and partners throughout the year and watched in awe as you made connections that count, expanded your knowledge and built relationships through our programming.

**Events are back and better than ever.** We have seen great interest in our largest events and in fun, low-key networking events, and will continue to expand and highlight those options.



We refreshed our content-focused events, moving our Lunch with Leaders and Business Education Series to be quarterly, and are reimagining our Equity Leadership Series to focus on more immersive learning experiences. Finally, we continue to be strategic about partnering with other organizations for our events where it makes sense, to build connections among broader audiences, and to maximize our attendees' time.





# ANNUAL EVENTS - SAVE THE DATES!

JANUARY 26 Breakfast With the Mayors	SEPTEMBER 13 Leaders in Local Government Awards
MARCH 2 Annual Meeting	OCTOBER 1-3 InterCity Leadership Visit
MAY 25 Executive Reception	OCTOBER 17-18 Career Connect
JUNE 22 Foundation Celebration	NOVEMBER 14 Equity Summit
JULY 31 Golf Classic	DECEMBER 5 Holiday Chamber Connect

# RECURRING EVENTS & SERIES

- 4 PER YEAR

Lunch with Leaders
- 6 PER YEAR

The Equity Leadership Series
- 12 PER YEAR / MONTHLY

Chamber Connect Networking\*
- 6 PER YEAR

Young Professionals Network
- 4 PER YEAR

Business Education Series\*
- 9 PER YEAR

Public Affairs Issue Roundtables\*
- 11 PER YEAR

Roseville Business Council\*

Calendar of Recurring Events & Series shows what month the events above are scheduled to occur:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
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\*Admission free to members

“Moving to a new community, I was looking for fun and affordable ways to start building a network from scratch. The St. Paul Area Chamber offered so many opportunities, all of which have helped me make valuable connections, both professionally and personally.”

– Beni Westgor,  
Business Relationship Manager,  
Greater Twin Cities United Way

# BE PART OF TOMORROW WITH US!

We'll save a place  
at the table for you.

How do you find your place at the  
table? Get Engaged:

Make sure you're getting the news  
tailored to your interests – subscribe to  
get connected and forward to others in  
your organization. **Sign-up here ►**



Invite us to help promote your important  
**moments:** ribbon cuttings, renovations,  
relocations, anniversaries, business successes,  
or expansions. We love to celebrate you!

Invite a "friend we haven't met yet." This is the  
place to build relationships, and we look forward to  
the introductions. And remember – your Chamber  
benefits apply to everyone in your organization!

We look forward to seeing you soon!

## GET TO KNOW YOUR CHAMBER!

Many thanks to our dedicated  
Chamber team who work  
tirelessly throughout the year  
to serve our members and  
community.

Sam Bevacco  
Alyssa Binsfeld  
Beth Breidel  
Staci Christensen  
Amanda Duerr  
Kevion Ellis  
Megan Forgrave  
Jill Grimme  
B Kyle  
Kristie Lazenberry  
Sasha Lee  
Kathleen Lohmar Exel  
Evie Mouacheupao  
Kim O'Brien  
John Perlich  
Madisen Rogers  
Megan Ryan  
Tong Thao  
Sherryln Thompson  
Yao Yaj

Find our contact information  
at [stpaulchamber.com/staff](http://stpaulchamber.com/staff)



**Back row:** John Perlich, B Kyle, Megan Forgrave, Madisen Rogers,  
Kathleen Lohmar Exel, Amanda Duerr, Tong Thao. **Front row:** Sasha Lee,  
Beth Breidel, Kim O'Brien, Yao Yaj, Megan Ryan, Alyssa Binsfeld  
**Not pictured:** Sam Bevacco, Staci Christensen, Kevion Ellis, Jill Grimme,  
Kristie Lazenberry, Evie Mouacheupao, Sherryln Thompson



## ST. PAUL AREA CHAMBER LEADERSHIP & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### 2023 Executive Committee

**Mike Hauswirth**  
U.S. Bank  
*Board Chair*

**Marcia Droege**  
Land O'Lakes, Inc.  
*Immediate Past Chair*

**Lea Hargett**  
JOG Associates  
*Vice Chair*

**Scott Rynda**  
Travelers  
*Finance Chair*

**B Kyle**  
St. Paul Area Chamber  
*Treasurer*

**Jeff DeYoung**  
Baker Tilly

**Duchesne Drew**  
Minnesota Public Radio

**Courtney Henry**  
KCB Corporation

**Lara Juras**  
Minnesota Vikings

**Ron Orlando**  
Comcast

**Jim Pearson**  
Xcel Energy

### 2023 Board of Directors

**Jeff Aguy**  
2043 SBC

**Elizabeth Allen**  
Twin Cities  
Public Television

**Andy Barkley**  
Wells Fargo

**Kate Blair**  
Marathon Petroleum

**Sandra Buehler**  
Pope Architects

**Mike Burbach**  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

**Marc Cove**  
First Resource Bank

**Andre Creighton**  
TurnSignl

**Nicki Donlon**  
Baker Tilly

**Abel Ebane**  
Minnesota Black  
Chamber of Commerce

**Natalie Foster**  
Delta Airlines

**Mark Gibbs**  
Redpath CPAs

**Savanna Givens**  
Hiway Credit Union

**Julia Gutz Moller**  
Allianz Life

**Nancy Haas**  
Poul Haas, PA

**Jennifer Hellman**  
Goff Public

**Joe Johnston**  
Hubbard Broadcasting/  
KSTP-TV

**Rayanna Kieffer**  
Treasure Island Resort  
& Casino /Prairie Island  
Indian Community

**Chad Kulas**  
Midway Chamber  
of Commerce

**Matt Lemke**  
Flint Hills Resources

**Allie Lenzmeier**  
Infor

**Lisa Maloney-Vinz**  
Ecolab, Inc.

**Kiel McElveen**  
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.

**Kelly Mellberg**  
3M

**Mike Miller**  
Taft Law

**Paula Montgomery**  
Gillette Children's

**Hue Nguyen**  
Target

**Johnny Opara**  
JO Companies

**Richard Pakonen**  
PAK Properties

**Jeff Payne**  
Huntington Bank

**Jeff Pellegrom**  
Minnesota Wild

**Vince Rivard**  
HealthPartners

**Kathy Robideau**  
Minneapolis/St. Paul  
Business Journal

**Sally Saba**  
Medtronic

**Kelly Sam**  
Grand Casino Hinckley/  
Mille Lacs Corporate  
Ventures

**Tony Sanneh**  
Sanneh Foundation

**Kathryn Sarnecki**  
Saint Paul Port Authority

**Alyssa Schlander**  
Securian Financial

**Chris Schwab**  
St. Paul Saints

**Tony Schwartz**  
eXp Realty

**Aaron Sillanpa**  
CHS, Inc.

**Maureen Smith**  
Minnesota United FC

**Joe Spencer**  
Saint Paul  
Downtown Alliance

**Dan Stoltz**  
SPIRE Credit Union

**John Swanholm**  
M Health Fairview

**Tiyo Symalla**  
Bremer Financial

**John Wilgers**  
Greater Twin Cities  
United Way

**Yao Yaj**  
Minnesota Hmong  
Chamber of Commerce

### St. Paul Area Chamber Foundation Board

**Nicki Donlon**  
Baker Tilly  
*Board Chair*

**Amanda Knutson**  
Launch My Health  
*Immediate Past  
Board Chair*

**Scott Rynda**  
Travelers  
*Treasurer*

**Karyn Berg**  
Ramsey County

**Dana Cottrell**  
Xcel Energy

**Therese Gales**  
Catholic Charities

**Julia Jensen**  
Western National  
Insurance Group

**B Kyle**  
St. Paul Area Chamber

**Emily Post**  
Securian Financial

**Tamara Prato**  
Connect The Dots

**Rachael Reiling**  
Venture Solutions

**Suchi Sairam**  
Kala Vandanam, LLC

**Patrick Sievert**  
Boyum & Barendscheer,  
PLLP

**Sara Swenson**  
Goff Public

**Carol E. Wilkie**  
University of St. Thomas

Thank you!



**DON'T MISS A THING! ▶**

Check out the online  
Chamber events calendar







**◀ SEE MORE IMAGES!**

So many great photos  
in our Flickr album  
[flickr.com/photos/spacc](https://www.flickr.com/photos/spacc)

**MAKING CONNECTIONS THAT COUNT**

**ST PAUL**  
**AREA CHAMBER**

**[stpaulchamber.com](https://stpaulchamber.com)**

-  St. Paul Area Chamber
-  @SPACC #connectingstp
-  @stpaulchamber
-  St. Paul Area Chamber

