

BUILDING A NEW TABLE

MAKING ROOM FOR NEW IDEAS, VOICES, & PERSPECTIVES

“Making space for others requires that we listen, we desire to learn, and we invest in new people authentically.”

B Kyle, President & CEO,
St. Paul Area Chamber

find a seat
@the table

“We are a 21st century Chamber and we know what it means to bring others to the table and we’re walking the talk.”

Lea Hargett, Principal,
JOG Associates & Board Chair,
St. Paul Area Chamber



LETTER FROM CHAMBER PRESIDENT AND BOARD CHAIR

The most important lesson we took from 2023 was that collaboration is critical for us to move ahead successfully. We are in a political and economic environment that has become divided and polarized; yet our future is intertwined. All of us. We must remember that we have weathered other challenging seasons through which we have been defined by our resilience.

That resilience must start with, and indeed be defined by partnerships. We know that commerce drives the good things we want. Your Chamber is intent on **building a new table**, with room for all who care about forging a vibrant and inclusive economy. **We have an obligation to one another, to our region, to build that table and bring together all who share in this vision.**

This year your Chamber was invited to more tables than ever before. If you are new to the Chamber, we welcome you. There is room for you! If you’re a long-time partner, know that we need you more than ever. True revolution happens when people come together aligned with a purpose, to shape a future based on shared leadership and shared prosperity.

Our fortunes rise and fall together. Know this: **our very purpose is to give voice to priorities that support your growth, sustainability, success.** We invite you: come, find your seat at the table, lean in with us. We are better together.

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

Lea Hargett, Principal
JOG Associates &
Board Chair, St. Paul Area Chamber

We champion our diverse employer community for an economically vibrant, inclusive, and globally competitive region.

Advocacy.

Organizing around the good things we all want – to live and work in a capital city and region that is the launching pad for opportunity.

Over the last year we proudly advocated for our members and business community and continue to leverage the collective voice of employers to promote economic vitality across the region. We believe that starts with a foundation of public safety.

PUBLIC SAFETY SURVEY

[Read survey summary here](#) ▶



The Chamber conducted year two of our **Public Safety Survey**, measuring resident and employee perceptions of crime and public safety in St. Paul. This is what we learned:

- ▶ A **significant drop** in the number of St. Paul residents that think crime is an increasing problem.
- ▶ **Public safety dropped to third** in respondents identifying “the most important issue facing St. Paul” behind public infrastructure and addressing homelessness.
- ▶ Public safety perceptions **impact residents’ choices** on where to shop, eat, and do business in St. Paul.
- ▶ **Three issues stood** out as needing additional focus: skyway safety and cleanliness, assisting the unsheltered, and recruitment/retention of police officers.

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

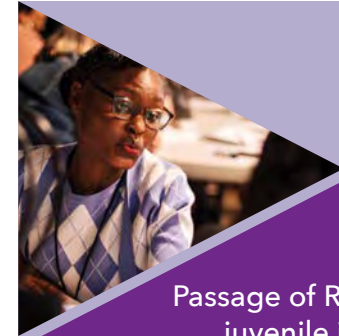
The St. Paul Area Chamber is a community-minded organization, and that shines through in our policy platform. To promote an economically vibrant region, people need to feel safe, they need to have employment, housing, and businesses need an environment where they can grow and prosper.

Each year our **Public Policy Committee** develops a policy platform to identify our positions on key issues and uses it as a lens through which we consider additional policy recommendations.

PRIORITIES:

SAFETY
HOUSING
BUSINESS GROWTH

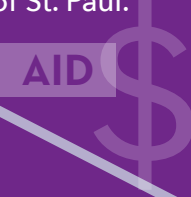
HIGHLIGHTS:



Legislative Victories:

Passage of Ramsey County’s juvenile justice initiative.

Local Government Aid increase for the City of St. Paul.



Hosted eight Government Affairs Issue Roundtable events, providing members opportunities to engage on issues such as addressing homelessness, the St. Paul sales tax proposal, and cannabis legalization.

8 ROUNDTABLES



Hosted a speed-networking event with candidates for St. Paul City Council, providing an opportunity for our members and city leaders to network.



Young Professionals Network

Building a strong network of young professionals across the region through networking, educational, and professional development opportunities.

Our Young Professionals (YPro) Network continues to gather momentum, growing to include partnerships with six other East Metro chambers. Our Young Professionals programming offers opportunities for inclusive civic engagement, community involvement, educational opportunities, and fun networking events.

Attendance grew by nearly **20%** over the last three years at YPro events.

"Fresh perspectives bring new ideas and new ways to challenge the status quo and look at things from a way we haven't seen before."

Savanna Givens, Executive Coordinator, Blaze Credit Union & Young Professionals, St. Paul Area Chamber

If your organization is a Chamber member, our programming is available to **everyone** in your organization.

find a seat @the table

STAY CONNECTED THROUGH THE EVENTS CALENDAR AND NEWSLETTER!

stpaulchamber.com/young-professionals



Equity and Inclusion

The future of our economy depends on how we address equity and inclusion today.

Reflecting on 2023 reminds us we have so much to celebrate. Our Chamber is more diverse than at any point in our 156-year history as we welcome new ideas, voices and perspectives.

DEI COLLABORATIVE

Our DEI Collaborative offers real-time support as crises arise and individual coaching with support beyond the cohort experience. **Highlights include:**

- ▶ Successfully held three cohorts, limited to 15 executive-level leaders, to share a confidential environment for critical conversations about the challenges senior executives face.
- ▶ This year saw a mix of nonprofit, for profit and government participants, and a HR cohort.
- ▶ Participants demonstrated deep learning and appreciation for the topics and conversations.

EQUITY LEADERSHIP SERIES

- ▶ Focused equity work on immersive experiences as our participants attended the Ordway's presentation of 'A Soldier's Play' and the Race Exhibit at the Science Museum of Minnesota.
- ▶ Introduced programming called *Learning from Place: Bdote and Hmongtown Marketplace*.
- ▶ Created a new partnership with the Minnesota Humanities Center and facilitated action planning for systems change.

EQUITY SUMMIT: TRANSFORMATION – SELF, ORGANIZATION, COMMUNITY

- ▶ Our sixth Equity Summit challenged attendees to dig deep with expanded workshops and explored the 50th Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act, emotional intelligence, the future of work, and the importance of data.
- ▶ We ended with stories of transformation from people who are doing the work, encouraging participants to move forward and continue to make progress with their own transformation.



"This collaborative is the only one that I've been to that teaches me how to do it systemically for a corporation and not just personally for myself."

Megan Gooden, Senior Director of Learning & Culture, Ellie Mental Health & Collaborative Member



find a seat @the table

STPAUL AREA CHAMBER

GET ENGAGED TO CREATE A MORE ECONOMIC

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JU



CHAMBER CONNECT ARE **FREE** MONTHLY NETWORKING EVENTS IN FUN LOCATIONS.

ALLY VIBRANT, INCLUSIVE, & GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE REGION.

JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC

LSP Masters

JULY Chamber Connect

AUG Young Professionals Network

SEPT 11 Lunch with Leaders

SEPT Leaders in Local Government Awards

OCT Chamber Connect

NOV Equity Leadership Series

NOV 13 Lunch with Leaders

JULY 8 Annual Golf Classic

JULY Roseville Business Council

AUG Vikings VIP Training Camp Experience

AUG Chamber Connect

SEPT Roseville Business Council

2000+ STUDENTS ATTEND!

OCT 15 Career Connect Day

NOV Leadership St. Paul

JULY Charitable Foundation Celebration

JULY Leadership St. Paul

AUG Roseville Business Council

AUG Equity Leadership Series

SEPT Chamber Connect

OCT Young Professionals Network

OCT Leadership St. Paul

DEC 10 Holiday Chamber Connect

DEI Collaborative

AUG Leadership St. Paul

DEI Collaborative

LSP Masters

SEPT/OCT InterCity Leadership Visit

OCT Young Professionals Network

OCT Roseville Business Council

DEC Roseville Business Council

100+ EVENTS EACH YEAR! THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.

CHECK OUT THE EVENTS CALENDAR! stpaulchamber.com/events



Talent Development

Believing in the art of the possible to generate continuous growth and prosperity across the broader East Metro community.

Career Connect Day engaged with more than **2,000 local high school students** and exposed them to career options before they make decisions about post-high school education and training. This was not your typical trade show as more than 100 businesses got creative, offering hands-on activities, bringing in technology and virtual reality simulators to authentically connect with young people. Additionally, we piloted our first adult job fair that welcomed adult jobseekers, with several who were hired on site.

Connected more than **60 local businesses** with resources to scale their businesses through partners like Ramsey County Workforce Solutions, Full Stack Saint Paul, Center for Economic Inclusion, and more!

Performed 24 Business Retention, Expansion, and Attraction visits in Maplewood, Roseville, and Oakdale to help local governments better understand their business community and how to support their growth.

"We have a unique opportunity to be able to build a better future for many people in our community and for businesses to thrive."

Ling Becker, Director of Workforce Solutions, Ramsey County

find a seat @the table



Foundation

Creating a network of diverse, connected, supportive leaders who invest in, educate, and support a strong, vibrant community.

The **St. Paul Area Chamber Charitable Foundation** makes targeted investments to prepare, challenge, and engage leaders to strengthen and support a vibrant East Metro business community. Now in its 44th year, Leadership St. Paul (LSP) continues to be touted as the premier leadership program in the Twin Cities for emerging and current civic and business leaders. The Foundation delivers on its mission through two core programs, Leadership St. Paul and the DEI Collaborative.

Over the last year, the Foundation supported Chamber members, LSPers, and Chamber Affiliates to make connections that count between stakeholders – including everything from connecting nonprofits with member event spaces to job references for LSPers. The Foundation also served as the fiscal sponsor for both the Rice & Larpenteur Alliance and the Minnesota Hmong Chamber of Commerce.

Leadership St. Paul

Introducing leaders from all sectors of the community and providing an opportunity to **connect** with other leaders; **cultivate** skills and knowledge; and **contribute** to the vitality of the St. Paul/East Metro Area.

“Each month you learn a little bit about St. Paul, different aspects such as government, media, communications, arts, entertainment, public service, and healthcare so you’re learning all while developing leadership skills.”

Liz Novotny, Sales Coach, VIBE Realty & Leadership St. Paul '23



“It’s great networking and it really broadens your horizons and opens your eyes to different things you had no exposure to.”

Brandon Ordway, Director of Acute Care Pharmacy Services, MN Health Fairview & 2023 Curriculum Chair, Leadership St. Paul





WorkStream

Strengthening business and community through trusted expertise and enhanced capacity.

WorkStream is our fee-for-service division providing professional support to mission-aligned partners. Clients are partners and WorkStream provides tailored services to meet their unique needs.

“Partnering with the St. Paul Area Chamber’s WorkStream division for professional services and marketing has allowed GABA to spend more time working with businesses on improving our business association. WorkStream has also helped GABA establish new relationships within our local community, including business and city leaders.”

Chris Jensen, President,
Grand Avenue Business Association

WORKSTREAM PARTNERS:



HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR WORKSTREAM CLIENTS:

The Minnesota Black Chamber of Commerce doubled their membership from 188 to 376 members in 2023.

From monthly member mixers to hosting a successful IGNITE Black Business Summit and gala, the MBCC grew in terms of membership, events and engagement in 2023 with the foundational support of our Chamber.



The Minnesota Hmong Chamber of Commerce received a \$1 million appropriation from MN-DEED to build an entrepreneurship training program tailored for Southeast Asian business owners and operators in Minnesota.

The courses are offered at no charge to participants and range from technology transformation and business fundamentals to sales and brand and social media training.

The Rice & Larpenteur Alliance celebrated its five-year anniversary

of staffing this innovative community development partnership with the Cities of Roseville, St. Paul, and Maplewood.



With support from the St. Paul Area Chamber Workstream program to create a new strategic plan, foundational communications, and marketing support, the Grand Avenue Business Association was able to attract new members and sponsors to successfully bring back



Grand Old Day in 2023 after several years of hiatus. The event welcomed more than 200,000 people to the Avenue on June 4.

The St. Paul Parks Conservancy successfully launched an endowment fund raising \$100K at the first annual Bad Luck Ball,

a Roaring 20s themed fundraiser. Pedro Park and several parks projects are



in queue thanks to SPPC advocacy and fundraising support to the City.

The Minnesota Hmong Chamber of Commerce sold out their very first Gala with more than 360 attendees

who gathered to promote and support the Hmong business community and the celebrate the Hmong Chamber.



The City of Oakdale was honored with a Leaders In Local Government Award



for their Business Retention Expansion and Attraction program which visited and surveyed local employers to assess what their businesses need to grow and thrive.



KNOW AN ORGANIZATION WHO NEEDS SUPPORT? REFER US TO YOUR NETWORKS!

Learn more at stpaulchamber.com/workstream

Meet the leadership & guidance behind your Chamber!



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & BOARD OF DIRECTORS



FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



YOUR ST. PAUL AREA CHAMBER STAFF



CHECK OUT THE EVENTS CALENDAR!
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MAKING CONNECTIONS THAT COUNT

ST PAUL

AREA CHAMBER

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