COVINGTON
BUSINESS COUNCIL

Annual Report 2026

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PAT FREW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Covington Business Council continued to advocate for its members collectively and individually at a time of economic and political uncertainty for much of 2026. More than 3,100 people combined, attended our 100+ networking and educational events this year. Additionally, the CBC enjoyed a number of strong partnerships with local organizations including:

- Creating an ongoing dialogue with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet on updates regarding the I-75 Brent Spence Companion Bridge and Fourth Street Bridge replacement linking Newport and Covington. These interchanges include regular updates by KTC to the CBC Advocacy Committee as well as informational updates we pass along to CBC members at monthly luncheons or part of the monthly CBC Advocacy newsletter.

- Collaborating with Life Learning Center and the City of Covington to develop a litter cleanup plan in the central business district during the summer. Generous support from the Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile Jr. Foundation and the RC Durr Foundation made this possible. The CBC plans to double the financial commitment through the Haile Foundation in 2027. The cleanup crew is comprised of participants in Life Learning Center's Foundation For a Better Life work readiness program assisting enrollees trying to overcome life challenges.

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- Continued support of rent subsidies for 10 entrepreneurial tenants at SparkHaus along with free six-month CBC memberships, allowing them to more effectively connect with businesses of relevance for these startups.

We are pleased to share highlights/accomplishments of the CBC in the past year as we seek to provide value to our stakeholders and fulfill our mission of advocating for a healthy business climate in the City of Covington.



JACKIE ROBERTO
BOARD CHAIR

Last year, we focused on Ignite—sparking momentum and new possibilities. This year, our theme is Powered By Partnership. It's a natural next step, because while it takes a spark to get things started, it takes relationships, collaboration, and a shared commitment to keep that momentum going.

That's what the Covington Business Council is all about.

At CBC, our focus is on our members—their businesses, their goals, and their success. We work to create an environment where people feel welcomed, supported, and connected. And we know those connections make a real difference

Our members tell us they feel seen, heard and known. They share that new business opportunities have come directly from relationships they've built here. One member said, "I've built relationships in CBC more than any group I've seen or been around." Another described our meetings as having "an aura of friendship that I haven't experienced anywhere else."

That spirit of partnership will continue to guide our priorities in 2026. We'll advocate for Covington businesses, create more opportunities for members to connect through the CBC Circle, and work with community partners on initiatives that make Covington stronger—including our COV Clean program in collaboration with Life Learning Center.

We're also seeing the power of partnership in action through the City of Covington's business roundtables. Sparked by conversations with CBC, these meetings brought city officials, business leaders, and community partners together to better understand the needs of our life sciences and technology, digital and creative, and manufacturing industries. By listening and working together, we can address challenges like workforce development, talent retention, and housing affordability —and help ensure our businesses continue to thrive right here in Covington.

As we look ahead, I encourage each of us to keep making those connections, opening doors for one another, and investing in the relationships that make our community stronger.

The future of Covington is something we build together. And together, we are truly powered by partnership.

Thank you for being a part of CBC.

Our Staff



PAT FREW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



LAUREN SENVISKY
MARKETING AND EVENTS MANAGER



JENNIFER DANNER
OPERATIONS MANAGER

Board of Directors



JACKIE ROBERTO
BOARD CHAIR,
MADISON DESIGN



TONY MILBURN
FOUNDATION CHAIR,
THE MILBURN GROUP



GREG PAETH
SECRETARY,
COVINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD COLLABORATIVE



KENNETH WEBB
TREASURER,
REPUBLIC BANK



STEVE TRACY
PROGRAMMING CHAIR,
ATWORK PERSONNEL



EMILY BADGER
HOLLAND
RESTAURANT GROUP



ANTHONY BRADFORD
A.M. TITAN



SARAH CAMERON
DINSMORE



LIZ HOUSE
FIRST FINANCIAL BANK



JOHN HURD
DUKE ENERGY



DR. FERNANDO FIGUEROA
GATEWAY/ KCTCS



JOHN KELLER
PNC BANK



JOE KLARE
THE CATALYTIC FUND



PATRICIA NORTMANN
ST. ELIZABETH HEALTHCARE



CARLA QUERCIOLI
meetNKY



BRENDEN ZENNI
MESSER CONSTRUCTION



LIZ REEDER
STRAUSS TROY



SHARMILI REDDY
CITY OF COVINGTON



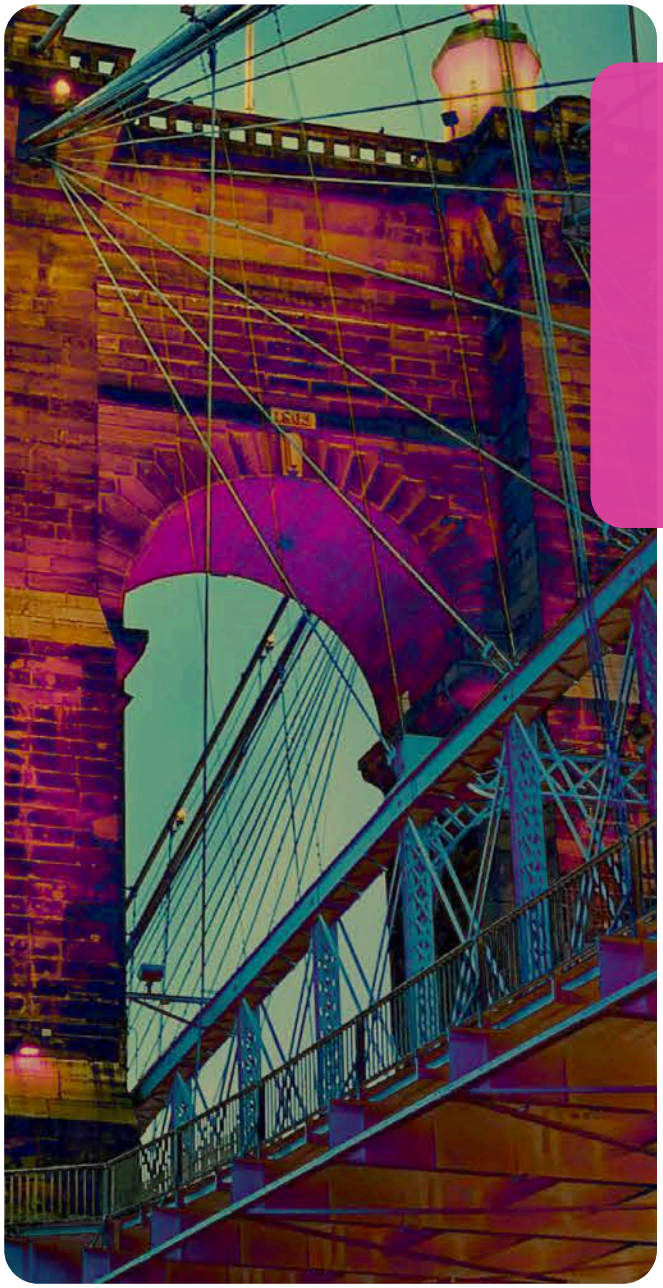
BETSY WEBER
DBL LAW



WILL WEBER
SOUTHBANK PARTNERS

About The
Covington Business Council

With a member-centric focus, the Covington Business Council delivers an experience that is personal and focused on the success of its members. CBC provides educational programming, impactful assistance and meaningful opportunities for its members to advance their business and professional growth.



Our Vision

The Covington Business Council maximizes the potential for economic growth in the City of Covington

Our Mission

To actively promote and build a positive business environment in Covington, Kentucky

Reasons to Join & Renew

- Covington Centric
- Relationship Driven Culture
- 1-1 Assistance
- Broad Membership
- Impactful Connections
- Relevant Programming

Our Year
By the Numbers

532
MEMBERS

55
NEW MEMBERS

100+
EVENTS

53%
EMAIL OPEN RATE

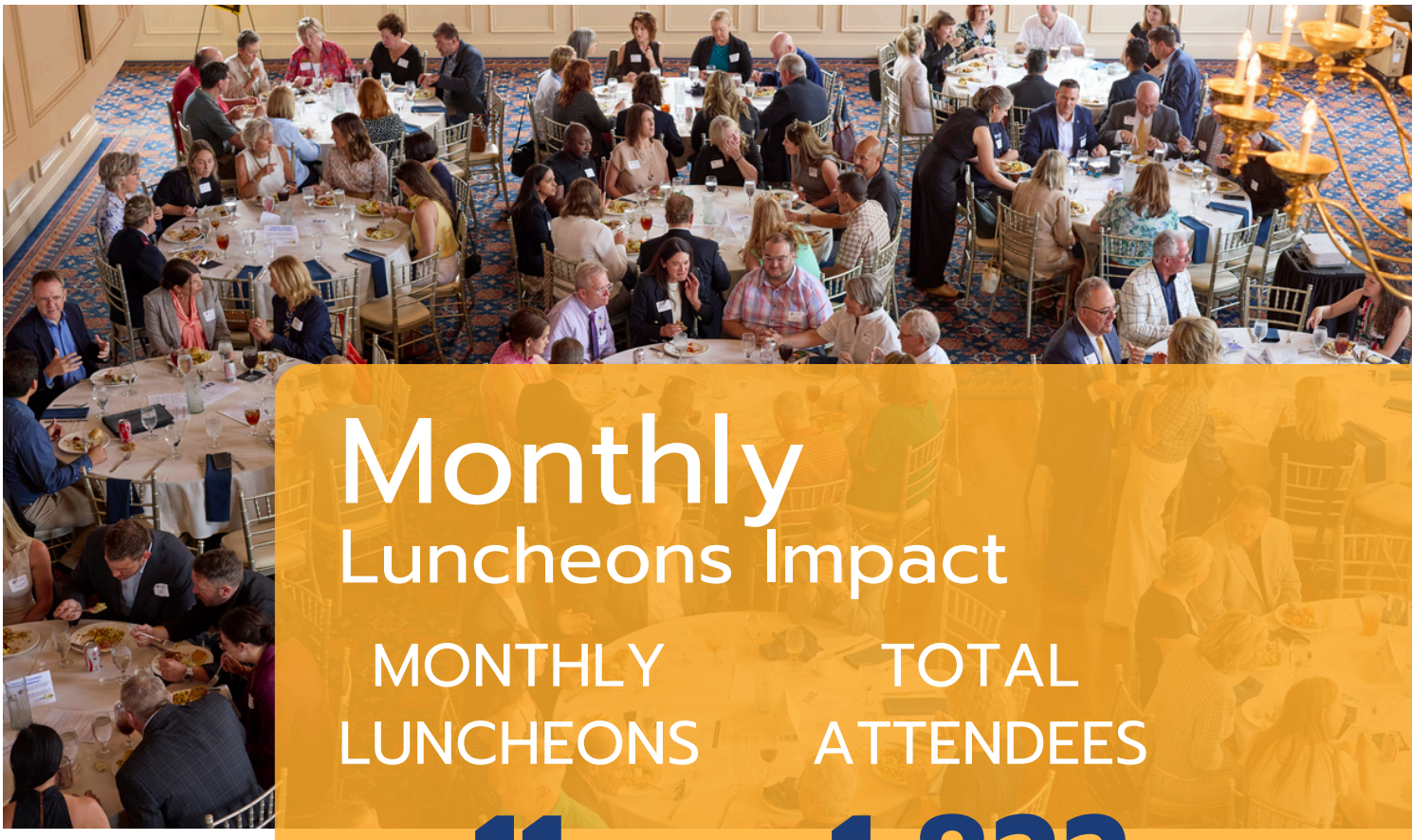
142
CBC CIRCLE MEMBERS

3158
TOTAL ATTENDANCE



Monthly
Luncheons

These luncheons are a cornerstone of the council's programming, offering a regular opportunity for members to come together for networking, education, and community engagement. Held at various venues across Covington, these luncheons feature keynote speakers, panel discussions, or presentations on topics of interest to the local business community. Attendees enjoy a delicious meal while gaining valuable insights, industry updates, and actionable strategies to enhance their businesses. With a focus on fostering connections and facilitating knowledge-sharing, Covington Business Council Monthly Luncheons provide a platform for members to stay informed, inspired, and engaged in the vibrant business ecosystem of Covington.



Monthly
Luncheons Impact

MONTHLY LUNCHEONS	TOTAL ATTENDEES
11	1,822

CBC Connects

CBC Connects events are designed to facilitate networking and collaboration among Covington Business Council members. These gatherings offer structured networking sessions, interactive activities, and engaging discussions on topics relevant to the local business community. CBC Connects events provide attendees with valuable opportunities to expand their professional networks and forge new partnerships.



CBC Connects Impact

EVENTS HELD	CONNECTIONS MADE
51	**1386+**

Our Leadership Team

Terry Dean - Dean of Sales Marketing
Jenn Klein - KV National
Melissa Frazier - Waterleaf Solutions
Mary Kay Laird - Supporting Strategies
Diana Niceley - Niceley Heating, Cooling & Applicance Repair
Scott Shy - Vision One IT Consulting
Steve Tracy - AtWork Personnel
Lori Wall - Spanish on the Fly
Tonya Wolfe - City Wide Home Mortgage

Golf Outings



The Fall and Spring Golf Outings offer members of the Covington Business Council a chance to enjoy a day of golf while networking with fellow professionals. Held at prestigious golf courses in the Covington area, these outings combine friendly competition with opportunities for business networking and relationship-building. Participants can enjoy a round of golf in a scenic setting while connecting with peers from across the business community.

Spring Outing Participants

140

Fall Outing Participants

46

Signature
Events

Business Insight Series

The Business Insight Series offers a platform for in-depth conversations on specific topics or issues affecting the Covington business community. These events are held quarterly and are led by industry leaders or subject matter experts. Sessions encourage participants to share insights, best practices, and solutions to common challenges. Business Insights foster collaboration, innovation, and knowledge-sharing among attendees, ultimately driving positive change and growth.

Total Attendance 139+

After Hours Socials

These events provide a relaxed and informal setting for professionals to unwind after a day's work while fostering meaningful connections. Held at various venues throughout Covington, After Hours Socials offer attendees the chance to mingle, exchange ideas, and build relationships in a laid-back atmosphere. Whether enjoying drinks or hors d'oeuvres, participants can network in a vibrant and dynamic environment.

Total Attendance 194+

Non-Profit Lunch & Learns

Nonprofit Lunch and Learns are educational sessions, held quarterly that tailor to the needs of nonprofit organizations in Covington. These events provide valuable resources, tools, and expertise to help nonprofits thrive and fulfill their missions. From fundraising strategies to board development, Nonprofit Lunch and Learns offer practical insights and actionable advice to support the nonprofit sector's success.

Total Attendance 147+

Hard Hat Tours

Hard Hat Tours provide exclusive behind-the-scenes access to upcoming development projects and construction sites in Covington. Led by industry experts and project managers, these tours offer participants a unique opportunity to learn about the latest developments shaping the city's landscape. From commercial buildings to revitalization efforts, Hard Hat Tours provide valuable insights into Covington's growth and progress.

Total Attendance 121+

Advocacy
Initiatives



Provided regular updates on I-75 Brent Spence Companion Bridge construction. Had the local lead for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet provide separate briefings to the CBC Advocacy Committee and the general membership on the latest vital information for businesses and residents.



In partnership with meetNKY, we convened leading bars and restaurants to identify their needs and understand any challenges associated with the closure of the Fourth Street Bridge connecting Newport and Covington in Q1 2026. We also provided ongoing updates through our monthly Advocacy newsletter and shared timely information during monthly luncheon meetings to keep stakeholders informed and engaged.



Partnered with Life Learning Center to provide litter cleanup in the central business district for the entire summer thanks to grants from the Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile Jr. Foundation and the RC. Durr Fountation. The CBC plans to double its investment of Haile Funds in the coming year to further strengthen and grow the program.

Welcome
Our New Members

Aegis Protective Services
Archon Accounting
Assistants on Call
ATA Architects
Be Growth Impact
BrandFuel Co
Cumulus Media
Custom Design Benefits
DayMark Wealth Partners
ECS Midwest, LLC
Elyrian Systems
Excelsior Accounting Services
Forged N Foundry
Foundress Made
Fractional CFO Inc.
GEST
Graduate by Hilton Cincinnati
Gravity Technology Solutions LLC
Guardian Savings Bank
Gustin Construction, Inc.
Hardin's Grove Benefits
Holy Cross High School
Honeysuckle House Residential Assisted Living and Memory Care
Impact REP
Iofina Chemical, Inc.
JC Health Insurance
JLL
JWS Commercial Properties
MKDG
Kentucky Nonprofit Network
Let's go!
Linden Grove Agency
LK Tech
Maxwell Construction Company
Mayer Daily Innovations
Newtekone
Oak and Stone Development LLC
One Holland Corporation
Our Home Town LLC
Pink's Window Services Greater Cincinnati
Protegium Insurance Solutions
R-3 Restorations/Reset Ministries
Remedy Technologies
RUDLER, PSC
Single Batch Designs
Stays & Visits LLC
Success You Can Live With
Surrey Benefit Advisors
Taylor Oswald
Text My Wedding
Tom Turcich
UC Skills
UpSpring
Urban Outreach NKY/Cincinnati
Vitis Technologies








COVINGTON
BUSINESS COUNCIL








COVINGTON
BUSINESS COUNCIL
UES


University of
CINCINNATI.
skills.uc.edu





