



2025 Impact Report

The Access Tampa Bay (ATB), formerly known as Minority Empowerment Program, is an initiative of the Chamber designed to bring Black and Hispanic owned and led businesses and nonprofits into the community conversation through Chamber membership, resulting in a more inclusive environment and approach toward business growth throughout the region. As a program under the Tampa Bay Chamber's "Inclusive Organization" pillar, ATB strives to create an environment where all feel welcome. Along with the benefits of a [Enterprise Membership](#), participants also receive quarterly specialized programming, invitations to special sessions, and networking events with the Chamber's Tampa Bay Business Accelerator participants.

Purpose:

- AT&T, a member of the Tampa Bay Chamber, approached the Chamber about creating a program that would increase the participation and relationships of Black and Hispanic owned and led businesses and non-profits.
- AT&T, Amgen, Moffitt Cancer Center, Bush Ross, Florida Natural Gas, Regions Bank, Whiting Turner, Fifth Third Bank and Tampa Bay Food Trucks all have funded the **5th year** of the ATB program.
- The goal of the Access Tampa Bay program is to welcome more Black and Hispanic businesses and nonprofits into chamber membership, making the Chamber organization better positioned to listen to the input, and to represent the perspectives, of Black and Hispanic owned organizations that are vital to the economic and social health of the Tampa Bay area. This results in a more inclusive and equitable approach toward business growth and community engagement throughout the region, while also connecting more businesses with Chamber resources for growth and development.

Sponsorship Impact and Participant Engagement:

- The sponsors of the Access Tampa Bay program provide 15 one-year Enterprise (top tier) Chamber memberships to Black and Hispanic owned businesses and non-profits that were not already chamber members.

- All the participants attended an Orientation to learn about programs, events and initiatives that are available to them to engage with the Chamber while expanding their professional relationships and connections.
- 15 companies were identified as excellent candidates for this year long program that is designed to scale business development and growth.
- Participants are encouraged to attend premier networking events.
- Personal connections are facilitated at Business Around the Bay, a small group of business leaders' roundtable discussion to cover a variety of topics.
- Direct business connections lead to new business opportunities including ATB to ATB partnerships and ATB to member partnerships.

2025 Chair
Karl Davis
Karl Davis Consulting



Skills, Strategic and Instructional Sessions:

March 11th, 2025: Member Orientation “Welcome to the Tampa Bay Chamber”

Quarter 1: April 22nd – SBDC University of South Florida and Healthy Mindset for Entrepreneurs

Quarter 2: June 4th – Financial Wellness from a Banking, Tax and Investment Perspective

Quarter 3: August 20th – Legal and Strategic Planning/ Human Scoresheet

Quarter 4: December 3rd – Doing Business with the City and County

Bonus Session: Building Your Business and Personal Brand and Next Steps

2025 Cohort Participants:

Dash Marketing	Jeanette Hordge-Smith
ENTech Studios	Othniel (O.C.) St. Lawrence
Gcuts LLC	Gary Thomas
J.C. Healthcare & Associates	Jessica Chung
K2 Greenworks	Krystle Daniels
LeadHERship Academy LLC	Shirley Baez
Neely Technology Group LLC	William Neely
Roasted Rose Trading Company	TaJanna Mallory
TheraVolve Wellness Co.	Vanessa Alcala
Trinitek	Dexter Ramkissoon
Trinity Garden ALF	Kenneshia Martin
True Value	Chris Cunningham
Vie Wellness Center	Emmanuela Pierre-Charles
VODA Cleaning & Restoration of East Tampa	Farris Roach
YG Pro Solutions	Esperanza Guillen

Events Attended:

- Tampa Bay at Sunset
- Competitive Edge
- Leading Forward Forum
- Networking 101 and Return on Relationships
- Women of Influence
- After Five
- Priority Invitation to Benchmarking
- Public Policy Roundtable and Legislative Programs
- Circle of Influence
- Get Connected/Coffee Connection
- Business Around the Bay
- TBBA Receptions

Sponsors:



Community Partner Engagement Opportunities:

Fifth Third Thursdays – Come and be inspired and get empowered by a robust panel that encourages business owners to maximize their business opportunities within the community.

Moffitt Cancer Center held the Diversity Supplier Fair and Tampa Bay Chamber was well represented with member companies as well as representation of the chamber's economic inclusion programs.

- **Moffitt Cancer Center**
- **USF Business Opportunity Event**
- **Tampa General Hospital Outreach Events**
- **Florida State Minority Supplier Development Council (FSMSD)**

Impact Statements from 2025 Cohort:

*"As a first-generation college graduate raised by hardworking parents, I built my practice from the ground up with no roadmap. ATB and my Chamber membership changed that. I went from solo provider to CEO, grew a team, and increased revenue. The mentors, friendships, and access to resources and funding opportunities gave me a support system I never had before. ATB doesn't just grow businesses, it gives entrepreneurs like me the foundation to sustain them, and I am eternally grateful!" – **Vanessa Alcalá, TheraVolve Wellness Co.***

"Access Tampa Bay has really strengthened how I approach and grow my own business. The S.E.R.V.I.C.E. and G.R.O.W.T.H. framework particularly resonated with me because it brings leadership, structure and long-term vision together in a way that's practical and actionable. It also reinforced the importance of aligning goals, resources and operations from the get-go which are principles we apply every day at True Value America as we continue to build responsibly while investing in our community.

*Just as important were the relationships built through the Chamber. Being in a room with other leaders who are committed to service and real economic impact reminds you that sustainable prosperity in Tampa Bay is built on integrity, collaboration and long-term commitment." – **Chris Cunningham, TrueValue America***

*"Being a part of ATB and surrounded by incredible businesses has been extremely beneficial to me as a first-time business owner. Not only did I grow professionally because of the many insightful sessions offered, but the connections made with others who have taken the path we are currently on and found success. I can't wait to continue growth in the chamber so I can in turn use the success gained to mentor and uplift future professionals for greatness within business." – **Farris Roach III, VODA Cleaning and Restoration East Tampa***