



QUADCITIESCHAMBER.COM
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QUAD CITIES CHAMBER 2022

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 22
JULY 1, 2021 – JUNE 30, 2022

A LETTER FROM THE

CEO

It's a privilege and an honor to serve our region as CEO and FY23 Board Chair for the Quad Cities Chamber. I anticipated one role after serving on the Chamber's Board for many years and most recently as Vice Chair. If you had told me six months ago that I would have the opportunity to serve as CEO, I would not have believed it. However, I do believe in taking every opportunity to bring people together to do the best work to achieve our region's vision and the Chamber plays an integral role in this vision.

This annual report is a look back at how the Chamber partnered with businesses, organizations and workers to create innovative solutions to challenges we had never encountered, much less imagined. We leaned on our QC tenacity and fortitude, and we emerged stronger. Our region is thriving. We see it in new businesses large and small, as manufacturers ramp up production, in downtowns that are alive with activity, and talent that is choosing to grow their career and families here.

The force of the pandemic caused many people to reimagine their lives and businesses to redefine their mission. It contributed to the Great Resignation we experienced and provoked young talent, mid-career professionals and families to re-root their lives in places like the QC that mirror their values. We've emerged as visionaries focused on creating a better future.

Looking forward, we are an effective and efficient organization, and we won't stray from our roots. The Chamber will continue to focus on attracting and retaining businesses, placemaking, attracting and developing talent and advocating for the QC. We will continue to be nimble and responsive, and I am confident we will grow stronger. We will re-evaluate our priorities and our past practices, and we will act on that insight to push our work to the next level. We will refine and reaffirm who we are and what we can do to make this a region where all can thrive.

I am honored to work with you to make this region stronger. Thank you in advance for your continued support and partnership.

Best,



LD
Dr. LaDrina Wilson
CEO





CHAMBER VISION

WHY WE DO IT

WHO WE ARE

A non-profit organization dedicated to creating a prosperous regional economy where all can thrive

WHERE WE WORK

6 counties - Henry, Mercer, Rock Island County, IL and Clinton, Muscatine, Scott County, IA

WHAT WE DO

Facilitate business growth by:
Advocating for business
Providing resources
Building networks

AMBITIOUS GOALS BY 2030



500,000
population
470,719 (2020)



\$35 billion
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
\$27 billion (2020)



25% of the region's employers engaged with the Chamber
9% (2022)



QC, THAT'S WHERE!



The QC is the heart of the Midwest, a proud, forward-thinking family of communities connected by one of the world's most renowned rivers, the mighty Mississippi. The region attracts returners and explorers, investors and entrepreneurs because it offers the well-being and comforts of the accessible, the homegrown and the local, combined with an inventive imagination that embraces arts, entrepreneurship and global aspirations. QC, that's where we enjoy an open-minded network and drive that make the region a hub of ambition for a new generation.

People love the QC because they want to be part of its roots and its reach - to live in a place that's as genuine as it is quirky, a region where they can start something and make a difference, and where they enjoy the well-being of an authentic community and the freedom of connection to the world.

QC, that's where we partner to brand our region

"QC, That's Where!" is a bold new brand and marketing campaign launched by the Chamber and Visit Quad Cities to attract talent, investment, visitors and more community pride.

Created by Resonance Consultancy with the support of a task force of community leaders and marketers, the campaign answers the question "QC, That's Where?" with an ever-changing variety of facts and feel-good aspects of the region. This unified and all-encompassing brand strategy is vitally important to the region's future and driving the Chamber's marketing efforts to grow the QC's economy and population.

QC, That's Where! allows Quad Citizens to celebrate the spirit that binds us: the pride we have in our backyard river and rolling land, in our long-standing companies and start-up corner stores, in our welcoming culture, activities and events.

To Quad Citizens, these things may seem intuitive – this is who and how we are. To the world, the life we enjoy here is very special. Through multi-platform marketing, the Chamber and Visit Quad Cities are sharing our region's story far and wide. We are boasting, sparking curiosity and an emotional connection in people who are seeking what we have: an easy rhythm of everyday life, a pleasing balance of urban and natural, a home that is a hub and a springboard, and where local becomes global.

QC, That's Where! binds our region as a collective. And it is reflected in all of the work we do. QC, that's where people approach you with assistance, resources and connections before you ask. It is where neighboring downtown businesses grant start-up seed money to help you open your doors. It is where the voice of advocacy builds and sparks action in the world. It is where partnerships create career pathways and rising talent realizes this is where they want to plant roots.

QCTHATSWHERE.COM

BUSINESS & ECONOMIC GROWTH




WINS

Business attraction, retention and expansion are crucial to strengthening and growing our region's population and GDP – and that is our focus. We work for and with you to strengthen the QC's legacy within five core industries - advanced metals & materials, agricultural innovation, corporate operations, defense and logistics. We also guide entrepreneurs and help home-grown small business that operate well-beyond those industries. The Chamber provides information, tools, resources and connections to help businesses, and our region, achieve every goal.

72
NEW ACTIVE PROJECTS

- 59**  business attraction
- 13**  business expansion

7
SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS

- 5**  Food/Ag Innovation
 - Agrisolutions
 - Bayside Bistro
 - Fair Oaks Foods
 - The Granary
 - Sweet Tooth Snacks
- 1**  Manufacturing
 - Quad City Engineering
- 1**  Office
 - TapOnIt



BUSINESS & ECONOMIC **GROWTH**



\$195,239,005
economic impact of
successful projects



\$140,509,862
total investment



305
jobs added



560
company outreach
connections



2,626
resource assists



90
ribbon cuttings and
ground breakings



\$64,694
Keep It QC
gift card sales



8
Peer Roundtables
with 84 participants

Fair Oaks Foods largest business attraction project

Fair Oaks Foods unveiled plans to construct a state-of-the-art food production facility in Davenport. The \$134 million investment in a new 150,000 square-foot facility, coupled with 247 new jobs, will result in a \$182.9 million annual economic impact on our region, making it the largest business attraction project in Chamber history. The company's site consultant worked with the Chamber in the past, and familiar with our region's advantages and highly-skilled workforce, he inquired about potential sites. Landing the company, which is the 11th largest Black-owned business in the U.S., was a collaborative achievement by the Chamber, City of Davenport and Greater Davenport Redevelopment Corporation and we are grateful for this partnership.

Manufacturing 4.0 grants awarded to six companies

Six companies in the QC region were awarded a Manufacturing 4.0 Workforce Innovation Grant or a Technology Investment Grant through the Iowa Economic Development Authority, funds that will be used to address workforce issues and integrate smart technologies. The Chamber shared the opportunity and provided the necessary connections for businesses to leverage the grants. Total investment in the QC region topped \$2 million. The six grant recipients were: Air Control Inc., Douglas Machine and Engineering, LeClaire Manufacturing Company, Lewis Machine & Tool Company, Schebler Company, and Sivyer Steel Castings LLC.

Minority business advisors to help entrepreneurs

We've raised the level of commitment to QC minority and women entrepreneurs. Recognizing the unique and additional challenges these owners and start-ups can face, the Chamber provided funding to the region's two Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) to hire business advisors to assist minority entrepreneurs. Through our partnership with the Iowa SBDC at Eastern Iowa Community Colleges and the Illinois SBDC at Western Illinois University – Quad Cities, these advisors are on-the-ground in our communities, providing one-on-one business counseling, guidance and resources to minority entrepreneurs.

Site consultants say QC is great for business

The Chamber hosted four national site consultants on a two-day tour of the region to learn about our targeted industries, businesses, workforce, infrastructure, available properties and the QC's progress and momentum. In just 48 hours, the group engaged with more than 50 business, economic development and higher education partners. They noted that being a bi-state area gives our community added strengths, assets and resources – advantages they will share with their clients and throughout their consultant networks. The tour is a significant business attraction tool that amplifies the QC's reach.

NewBoCo launched in QC to help start-ups

The New Bohemian Innovation Collaborative, Inc. (NewBoCo) and ISA Ventures announced expansion into the region to provide additional resources and multi-stage venture capital to support emerging and scalable businesses. This will boost the QC's investment network and further assist entrepreneurs. The Chamber continues to provide introductions to potential investors, entrepreneurs and government resources in the region.



TALENT ATTRACTION & DEVELOPMENT

WINS



32
minority businesses
engaged



250
students at QC Mayors'
Youth & Young Adult
Hiring Fair



66
apprentices and 17
employers in High School
Apprentice Program



6
Veterans moved to
the QC via Home
Base Iowa



2
Minority Business
Councils formed

This past year the Chamber stood up a new Talent Attraction & Development division to engage QC businesses, identify talent challenges and share innovative solutions. We invited experts, held events, identified gaps, worked closely with schools and the trades, then reached into markets beyond ours to draw new talent to the QC. Recognizing the need to strengthen the current and future workforce that is here now, we collaborated with partners to create and expand programs. Young talent and mid-career professionals are building the skills, education and core values to move their lives, and our region, forward.





TALENT ATTRACTION & DEVELOPMENT

Leadership QC program established

In alignment with our goals for the region, the Chamber launched Leadership QC, a nine-month program anchored in corporate social responsibility and action. The 23 members, already leaders in businesses, government and nonprofit organizations, met monthly to explore important issues facing our community and create collaborative solutions. Leadership QC aims much higher than individual success in the workplace. It positions each member with the core values, knowledge and network to drive the success of the collective region – now and in the future.

Marketing campaign to attract talent

The Chamber created, invested and launched a multi-media marketing campaign to tell college graduates, skilled trades and mid-career professionals in Chicago, Des Moines and more about the opportunities our region holds for them.

Program attracts Veterans to QC

Six Veterans took advantage of the new Home Base Iowa (HBI) program, administered through the Chamber in partnership with Scott County and the City of Davenport. These Veterans chose to relocate and enter the workforce within our QC family of communities. HBI provides a direct network for area employers to engage with Veterans transitioning from the military into new careers and we continue working to expand the program.

Forums address talent gaps

As workforce and talent attraction challenged businesses, the Chamber viewed it as an opportunity, too. We held two Business Forums to educate company leaders on demographic data about our region and national trends. Then, armed with information and insight from experts, community leaders came together to figure out how to solve this challenge individually and collectively.

Developing young talent

One of the best ways to keep young talent in the QC is to ensure they have the right resources and get engaged in our community. Aligned with many partners, including employers, schools, community colleges and workforce offices, participation in the High School Registered Apprenticeship Program increased by 40%, providing 66 students a pathway to a great career. At the QC Mayors' Youth and Young Adult Hiring Fair, more than 250 young adults had the chance to meet with 42 employers from across the region and begin building a foundation of workplace skills. Through InternQC, 225 college students engaged in a string of summer activities that showcased our region as a hub and home for ambition and creativity, and a great place to establish a career.

Advancing inclusion with Minority Business Councils

We wanted more people at the table, diverse voices and experiences to inform the work we do and the services we provide, so we put out a call. In all, 32 business owners – members and non-members – joined the Chamber's new African American Business Council and Women's Business Council. The meetings elevated our understanding of the challenges they face and the resources, opportunities and connections we can provide to help them succeed. In turn, Business Council members gained a better understanding of who the Chamber is and what we can do to continue to foster inclusion in our regional economy and help all businesses grow. More councils will be added in the coming year.



PLACEMAKING & PLACE MANAGEMENT

WINS

Placemaking is a collaborative approach to the planning, design and activation of public spaces. It leverages the unique physical and cultural assets that define the identity of our downtowns and commercial districts. Place management delivers key activities and services within a business improvement district beyond the services cities could provide alone. The Chamber invests in placemaking and place management because it supports healthy, vibrant downtowns and facilitates workforce attraction and retention. The Chamber also collaborates with all of the QC downtowns, and in doing so, our region becomes stronger. When we celebrate the authentic soul of the QC, it is a story and a spirit that resonates and sparks a lasting connection.

The Chamber provides place management services through the Downtown Davenport Partnership (DDP) and Downtown Bettendorf Organization (DBO) via the Quad Cities Community Partnership – as well as in downtown Rock Island through a contract with the City of Rock Island.



Downtown resiliency brings new investment

We've demonstrated our resilience with significant new investment and momentum following three years challenged by the pandemic and flooding. The strong foundations built over the last decade led to an incredible 15 projects and \$31 million invested. The demolition of the former YMCA sparked developers to seize future redevelopment opportunities, and new business and construction continued throughout downtown. To foster a more equitable and diverse entrepreneurial ecosystem, DDP launched and awarded its first Entrepreneur Grant and boosted small business promotions.

Downtown planning and flood mitigation

Guided by the Downtown Master Plan, DDP is seeking to make downtown a more sustainable, vibrant and inclusive destination. In its first year of implementation, 75% of the short-term initiatives were completed and the City of Davenport began work outlined in the flood mitigation plan for the nine-mile riverfront. The business community and residents have embraced the plan, the new amenities and the progress.

Livability and infrastructure improvements

Focused on elevating the quality of life, sense of place and drawing more people downtown, DDP hosted promotions and events as well as completed significant infrastructure improvements. Streetscape projects included the 100 200 block of E. 2nd Street, electric grid upgrades on 3rd Street between Ripley and Harrison Streets, and lighting improvements on Iowa Street and 5th Street. A Community Navigator was hired to interact with downtown residents, assist visitors and engage social service partners to address homelessness and mental health. DDP doubled its Cleaning Ambassador staff and logged 7,744 hours beautifying the downtown.



DOWNTOWN DAVENPORT

PARTNERSHIP (DDP)



PROJECTS

- **15** completed projects with a **\$31M** total investment
- **21** new & expanded businesses
- **8** projects under construction with a **\$56M** total investment
- **18** planned projects with a **\$27M** total investment



RESIDENTIAL

- **143** new residential units
- **1,679** total residential units
- **269** units under construction
- **194** future units planned
- **96%** market-rate housing occupancy



GRANTS

- **\$58K** awarded in facade grants
- **7** properties
- **\$582K** leveraged
- **\$20K** awarded in interior improvement grants
- **\$133K** leveraged



EVENTS

- Alternating Currents
- Bix Block Parties
- Red, White & Boom!
- Icestravaganza
- Deck the Downtowns
- Supported dozens of downtown events





9



new & expanded businesses

\$50K



awarded in facade & interior grants

5



properties
\$278K leveraged

99%



housing occupancy

I-74 bridge presents unprecedented opportunity.

The new iconic Interstate 74 bridge symbolizes more than progress; it is an opportunity to amplify the quality of life of residents and the success of businesses across the region. And while it took 25 years of planning, design, construction and advocacy, together we've built a new landmark that connects our family of communities that call this region home. Construction of the urban park, which will be the gateway to the I-74 pedestrian path, got underway.

#BettOnDowntown

The progress and momentum of downtown Bettendorf was highlighted in the #BettOnDowntown marketing campaign, which included the video, BETTendorf On Downtown. The campaign captured and showcased amenities residents and visitors can experience and enjoy throughout the city's vibrant core.

Downtown beautification expanded

The spirit of a community is reflected in the care it is given, which is also quickly noticed by residents and visitors alike. Elevating that first impression through downtown beautification was a DBO priority. It enlivened the thoroughfares with a hanging basket pilot program. Banners designed by two Bettendorf students and a commissioned artist were placed on light poles. It managed litter collection, weed control, graffiti removal, Be the Light Park maintenance, and cleaning and inspections of the new I-74 pedestrian path and oculus.

Events

- Be Downtown
- Food Truck Fights
- Deck the Downtowns

Mural project a placemaking win

The completion of the Riley Jones "Black Pride" mural was the first placemaking initiative to come out of the partnership between the Chamber and the City of Rock Island. Supported by Quad City Arts and other partners, the project was representative of the greater revitalization effort underway in downtown Rock Island.

Funding secured for improving shared spaces

In partnership with the City, the Chamber secured \$4.4 million for a mix of projects to transform the city's central business district including: new streetscaping with outdoor dining spaces, decorative lighting and signage, an improved business-to-riverfront gateway, and a dog park. The projects will be funded by the State of Illinois, City of Rock Island and private contributions. Additionally, the Chamber applied for a \$3 million State grant.

Private sector leads revitalization charge

Downtown Rock Island business leaders and property owners continued to explore the creation of a place management organization and Special Service Area (SSA) to kickstart downtown revitalization. Property owners and the City would pay for enhanced services, activities and improvements in order to maintain, program and promote downtown assets at a higher level. As advocacy and outreach efforts continue, entities outside of the proposed SSA boundaries have also committed to financially support the place management organization.

\$4.4M



secured for public space improvements

WHEN WE
CELEBRATE THE
AUTHENTIC SOUL
OF THE QC, IT
IS A STORY AND
A SPIRIT THAT
RESONATES AND
SPARKS A LASTING
CONNECTION.

3,826



total advocates

108



legislator
connections

8



advocacy
campaigns

D CITIES
AMBER

ADVOCACY

WINS

We hosted more than 20 chamber and economic development leaders for the Iowa Chamber Alliance's annual retreat, where we set a collaborative business policy while also showing off the QC.

Illinois Win

We asked the state to use all of its remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to reduce the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund deficit. A new law passed, earmarking \$2.7 billion in ARPA funds toward the deficit, a crucial step in reducing the burden on businesses.

Iowa Win

After years advocating for the Iowa Legislature to lower corporate taxes, it passed historic tax reform that will incrementally reduce the corporate tax rate in Iowa from 9.8% to 5.5%.


Rock Island Arsenal Defense Alliance Wins

- \$15 million was secured to continue the Jointless Hull project, a contract to build the largest metal 3D printer in the world at the Advanced Manufacturing Center of Excellence. This will help attract additional defense business to the region.
- Funding was secured and we supported efforts for the Army to develop an online real estate tool to make better use of underutilized facilities on the Rock Island Arsenal (RIA). This partnership with the Army could transform how the federal government manages its facilities.
- We encouraged and welcomed senior-level Army personnel to visit RIA, including the Secretary of the Army and Assistant Secretary for Acquisitions, Logistics and Technology.
- The Army Organic Industrial Base (OIB) modernization strategy calls for investments and upgrades at RIA and our advocacy efforts continue.



STRONG CHAMBER & FINANCIALS

- Integrated Foreign Trade Zone #133 into Chamber infrastructure.
- Maintained a member retention rate of 89% lead and 84% core.
- Received Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan forgiveness of \$452,470.
- Received an unmodified audit opinion with zero findings.
- Maintained 120 days cash on hand per Board policy.

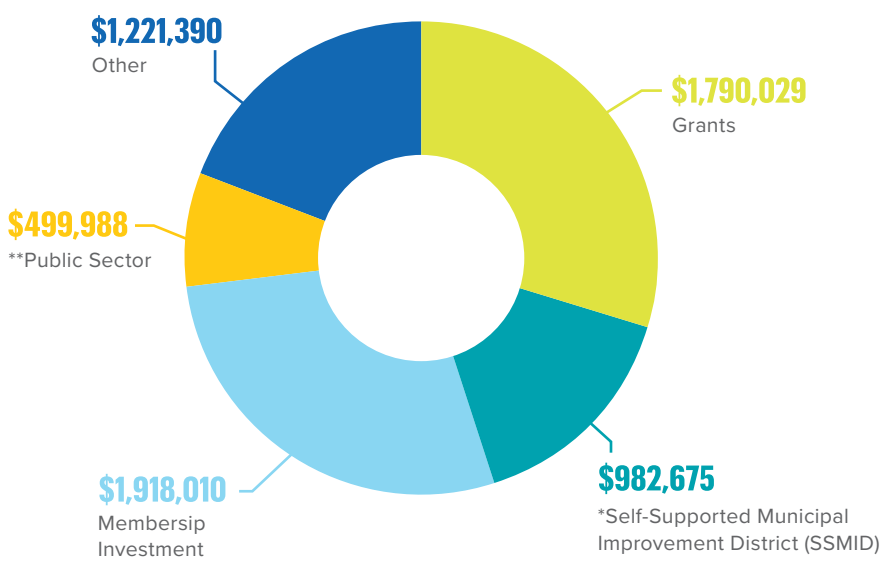

1,220
members


50
events


3,337
attendees


163,713
website users

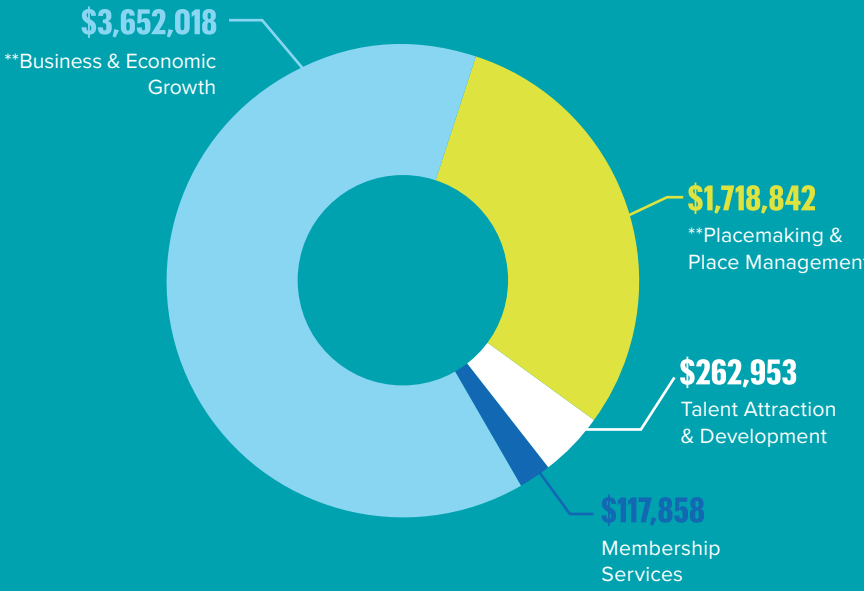
REVENUE



Total Revenue
\$6,412,092
Unaudited Results

**The Chamber received SSMID property taxes for the Downtown Bettendorf Organization and Downtown Davenport Partnership. All of these funds were expended to accomplish the DDP and DBO work plans in Placemaking & Place Management.*
***The Chamber received public sector funds to support business attraction, growth and retention. All of the funds received from the local units of government were expended to accomplish the work plans of Business & Economic Growth. None of these funds were expended for advocacy.*

EXPENSES



Total Expenses
\$5,751,671

TOP INVESTORS

American Bank & Trust	GreenState Credit Union	Regional Development Authority
Arconic	IH Mississippi Valley Credit Union	Rhythm City Casino Resort
Ascentra Credit Union	IMEG Corp.	City of Rock Island
Augustana College	ImpactLife	Rock Island County
Bechtel Trust	Iowa American Water Company	Royal Neighbors of America
City of Bettendorf	KWQC-TV 6	RSM US LLP
Black Hawk College	Lane & Waterman LLP	Ruhl&Ruhl Realtors / NAI Ruhl Commercial Company
Bush Construction Company, Inc.	McLaughlin Motors	Russell
CBI Bank & Trust	Mel Foster Co.	Scott County
Constellation (FKA Exelon)	MetroLINK	SENB Bank
Crawford Company	MidAmerican Energy Company	Shive-Hattery, Inc.
City of Davenport	Mississippi Valley Health	St. Ambrose University
Deere & Company	Modern Woodmen of America	TBK Bank
Deere Employees Credit Union	City of Moline	Tri-City Electric Co.
City of East Moline	The Moline Foundation	UnityPoint Health – Trinity
Eastern Iowa Community Colleges	Northwest Bank & Trust Company	US Bank
Estes Construction	Quad Cities Community Foundation	Van Meter, Inc.
First Midwest Bank	Quad City Bank & Trust	Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Geifman First Equity	Quad City Times / Dispatch-Argus	Western Illinois University – Quad Cities
Genesis Health System		WHBF TV / KGCW TV
IPG Photonics (FKA Genesis Systems Group)		WQAD News 8

QUAD CITIES CHAMBER

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AFFILIATED BOARDS

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		Nasreen Khan, Bespoke Beauty	Barry VanBlaricom, Davenport Electric Company	C. Dana Waterman III, Lane & Waterman	Tony Knobbe, Scott County	