

Black Chamber of Commerce of the Permian Basin Organizational Mission and Profile

Chartered in 1984, by the Texas Secretary of State, the mission of the Black Chamber of Commerce of the Permian Basin (BCCPB) is to foster the development and growth of small and minority businesses, and to encourage convention and tourism. Located in the City of Odessa, the Chamber's organizational charter encompasses the seventeen-county Permian Basin region. BCCPB is grounded in the philosophy that small and minority businesses are a source of economic strength and diversification and that the entire region benefits from the attraction of new commerce and the retention and expansion of existing business and industry. A non-profit organization as defined by Internal Revenue Code 501 (c) 6, the BCCPB is committed to conducting business in accordance with the highest ethical standards, accountability and efficiency.

Since 1984, the Board of Directors, comprised of an eight-member Executive Council has administered the Black Chamber's objectives. Since its inception, the Chamber has relied exclusively on membership fees, special fundraising events and corporate gifts to fund its mission. Membership in the chamber is open to any person, organization or business interested in promoting the civic, commercial and industrial development of the region.

Previous efforts to foster economic independence and diversity locally include the Chamber's involvement in the creation of the Odessa Enterprise Zone and the Small Business Loan Program. BCCPB is actively involved in promoting economic empowerment and diversification through the National Black Chamber of Commerce and is a charter member of the Texas Association of African American Chambers of Commerce. The Chamber also enjoys ties with the Greater Odessa Chamber of Commerce, the Odessa Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the University of Texas of the Permian Basin Small Business Development Center and other area Chamber of Commerce. . The BCCPB has purchased a building in South Odessa that will, after renovation, provide a permanent home for the Black Chamber. Although the Black Chamber has worked diligently to enhance the local economy, the breadth of its economic development activities is not restricted to any area within the City of Odessa. In recent years, the needs of the community have evolved beyond what an all-volunteer Board of Directors can hope to achieve without a full-time administrator.

In support of the Chamber's mission, the Board of Directors has developed a plan that will broaden its involvement in the economic diversification of Odessa. The Economic Development Plan supports increased collaboration between the Black Chamber, local and state agencies, nurtures the creation, expansion and retention of small, minority and home-based businesses, promotes development of the Enterprise Zone and markets Odessa as an attractive place to visit, work and live.