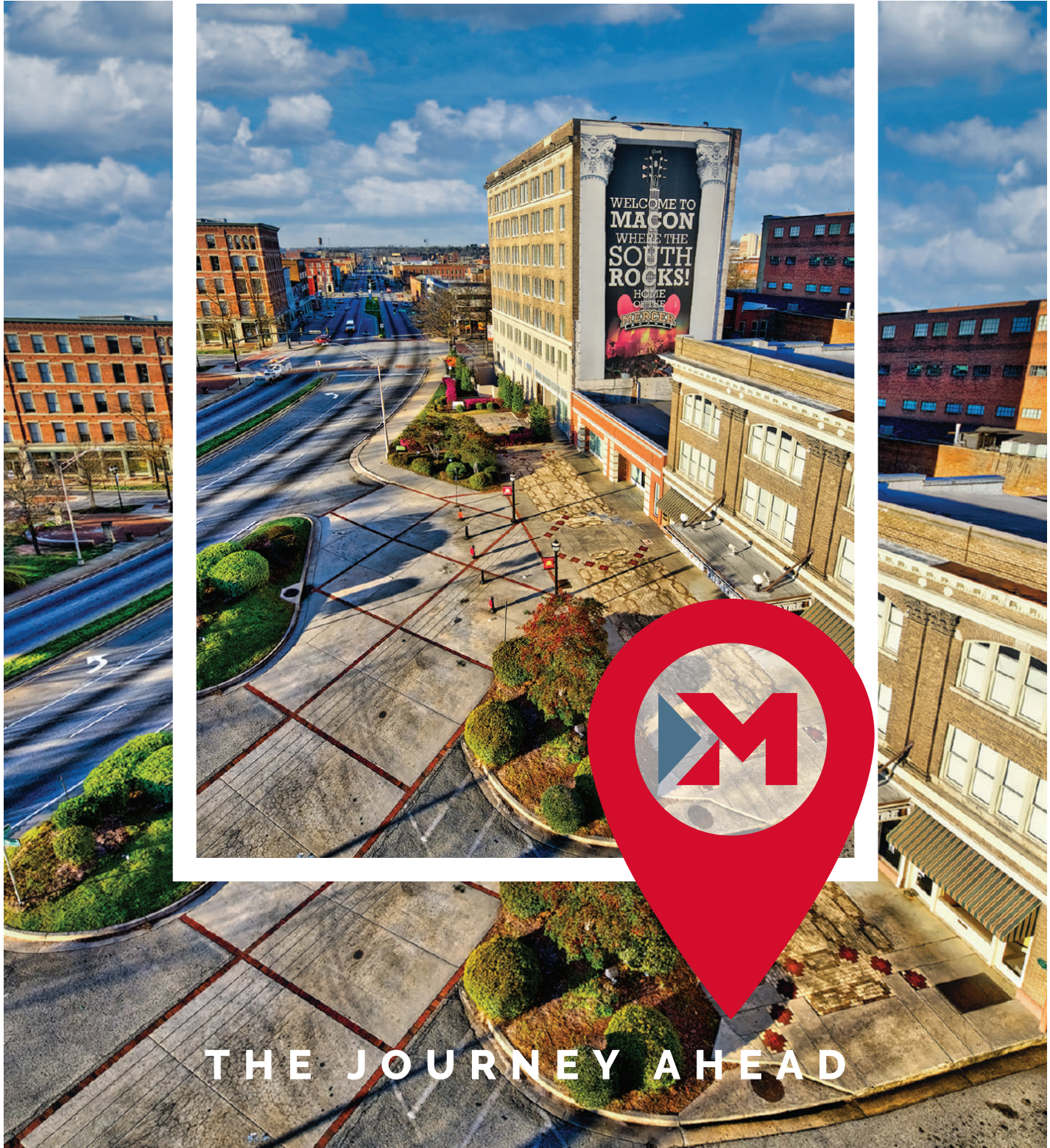


2021-2022 GREATER MACON CHAMBER
REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

GREATER GUIDE



THE JOURNEY AHEAD

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

DR. IVAN ALLEN/CHAIRMAN

2022 GREATER MACON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Though the past two years have been a trying time for our nation and for our community, the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce has remained focused on advancing business success in the region. In our 162nd year, the Chamber is proud to support 800+ members with over 50,000 employees. As we continue to work through our strategic vision for the Macon-Bibb community, we hope that you will recognize the value of your connection with the Greater Macon Chamber and come grow with us in 2022.

Our Chamber's vision is to provide the best location for business. To realize this vision, we are committed to connecting businesses and professionals to resources, to advocating to maintain a pro-business environment, to educating and retaining a strong workforce, and to accelerating business and community success. As we endeavor to connect, advocate, educate and accelerate, we hope that you will join us and help our community reach its full potential.

REROUTING TO FIND THE RIGHT PATH

When we embarked upon the journey into 2021, some of us believed that our time of navigating ever-changing roads was almost over. Unfortunately, we still had many more challenges to face. With confusing directions and uncharted paths, the arrival of 2021 signaled another year of disruption. If you are like me, Zoom and Teams, once just short-term solutions for COVID-19 precautions, are now part of the regular cadence of life. The world seems much smaller, yet more interconnected than ever. So where does that leave us?

The Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce is evolving to address the contemporary concerns of our growing membership. We are addressing the challenges of workforce development and talent attraction with innovative Macon Works programming. From the Georgia Chamber Hub Council to small business listening forums, we are actively looking in every direction for opportunities that will drive positive change for our diverse membership and our entire community.

By remaining focused, we have captured a glimpse of the new horizon. I am excited about where we are headed to position Macon as the "Best Place for Business." Engaged educational partners, low operating costs and an enthusiastic entrepreneurial spirit support an established industrial hub that is situated in a vibrant and easily accessible central location in the heart of Georgia. We may encounter a few speed bumps, but the Greater Macon Chamber believes that the power of partnerships will help us reach our destination. So, buckle up and join us on this journey to keep moving Macon forward!



RON SHIPMAN,
INTERIM PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER MACON CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

DRIVEN

CONNECT
ADVOCATE
EDUCATE
ACCELERATE



2022 STRATEGIC PLAN: ROADMAP TO SUCCESS

Chairman's Vision: Military Affairs, Major Industry and Membership

- We will create strategic partnerships to assist Robins Air Force Base with its transition into a new mission
- We will host executive roundtables and other events to re-engage our major industries
- We will provide value to our members with responsive member services and new initiatives

Connect members to resources and the community at large

- Keep Chamber members positively engaged and provide responsive member services
- Develop a list of services and providers available to small businesses
- Increase alignment of the Chamber's services to meet our members' needs for business growth
- Enhance recognition of Chamber successes

Advocate at the local, state and federal levels

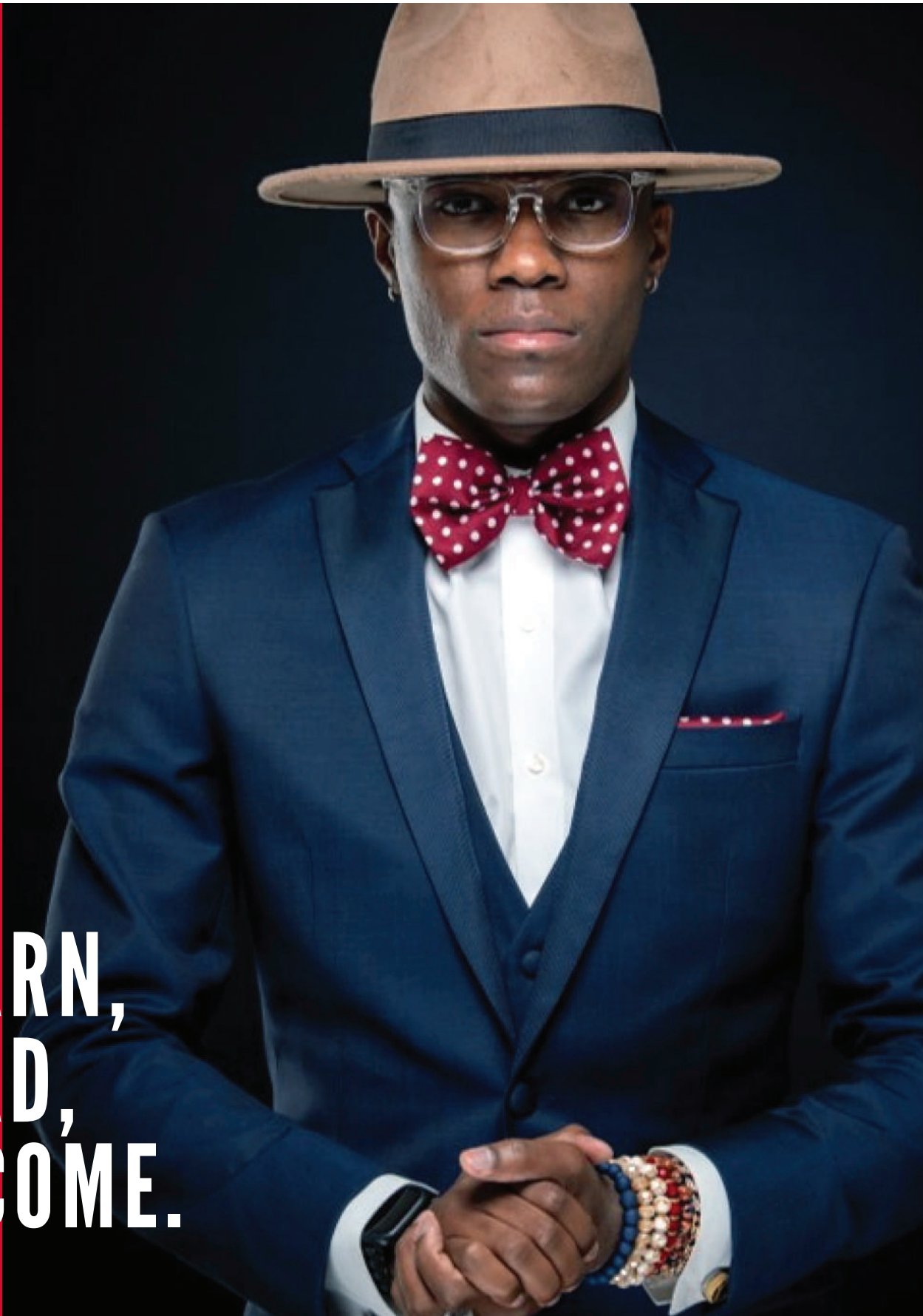
- Address legislative issues regionally with Chambers through Georgia Chamber Hub Council
- Determine how to advance success of new Robins Air Force Base mission and communicate how to advocate for this new mission – utilizing Middle Georgia Military Affairs Committee
- Create more opportunities for member feedback on the issues that are affecting their businesses

Educate with impactful programs and events

- Develop our region's next generation of business leaders and community stakeholders through Leadership Macon
- Increase diversity and inclusivity of our programs
- Engage new and emerging talent in Macon through Macon Young Professionals
- Small business listening forums and executive roundtables

Accelerate economic growth through workforce development and talent retention

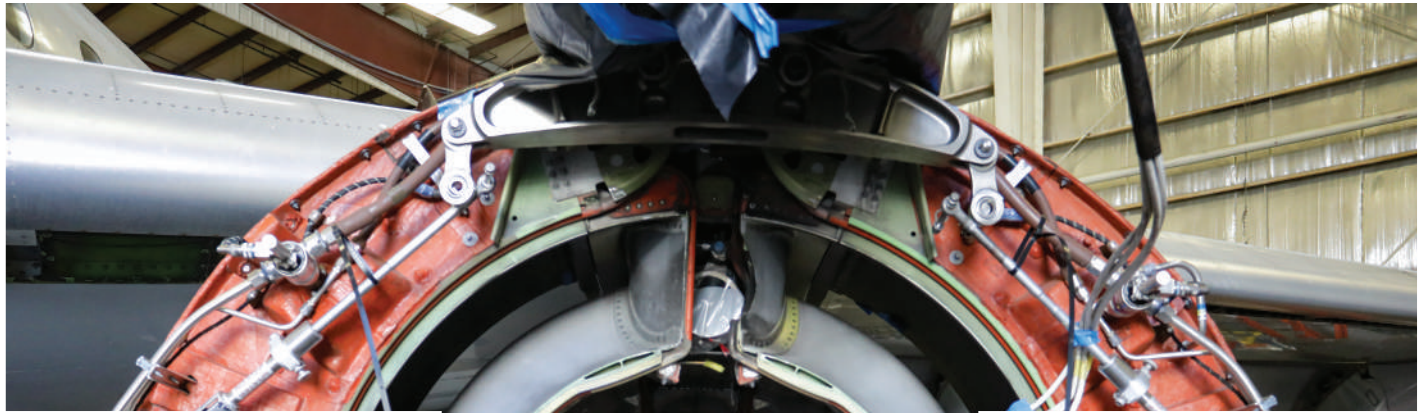
- Market Macon Works programs to the community
- Sustain and grow workforce pipeline and talent retention plan with website
- Improve quality of life for all residents
- Advance strategic collaboration to meet workforce needs



**I LEARN,
I LEAD,
I BECOME.**



Bibb County Schools Graduate and Entrepreneur
Shun Quinter Jr. delivered the keynote address to inspire students during the inaugural virtual job fair on greatermaconworks.com.



Leadership Macon Charles Jay Award Winners Bernard Young and Erin Hawkins



Macon Young Professionals connect at Macon Bacon game

LEADING THE WAY

MACON WORKS PROGRAMS

Macon Works is the Greater Macon Chamber's talent retention and workforce development partnership with Forward Macon.

Macon Works is creating a defined workforce pipeline in Macon-Bibb where partners and stakeholders can align to coordinate and secure resources.

Macon Works plans to develop home-grown talent and strives to retain the best and brightest workers from our community through programs such as the Greater Macon Works platform, community job fairs, **Macon Young Professionals** and **Leadership Macon**.

I BELIEVE,
I BELONG,
I BECOME.

EMBRAER EMPLOYEE MELINDA RICHIE
believes in her capabilities and embraces an exciting
industrial career. She belongs here in aviation.





CHAMBER PROGRAMS

Greater Macon Works – This interactive workforce development platform links recruitment, skill building and career navigation into one comprehensive system. It was developed to close the workforce gaps by informing, educating and developing students and job seekers while directly connecting them to employers, career pathways and local jobs.

Job Fairs – Macon Works partners with the community to provide virtual and in-person career fairs to connect business and industry with potential interns, externs and employees.

Leadership Macon – Leadership Macon's mission is to identify and develop leaders through continuing education, networking and community involvement for the purpose of creating opportunities and encouraging graduates to participate in community leadership.

Macon Young Professionals – Macon Young Professionals brings together young talent for not only networking opportunities, but events that allow them to engage with the community in meaningful ways, exposing them to reasons why Macon is a wonderful place to live, work and play.

Ambassadors – The Ambassador Committee coordinates a membership retention program that enhances relationships with our stakeholders. Ambassadors represent, promote and encourage participation in Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce programs, serving as the welcoming committee for ribbon cuttings and special events.





LEGACY LEADERS

ALEX HABERSHAM, MELVIN KRUGER AND DR. KIRBY GODSEY celebrate Mr. Kruger's Lifetime Achievement Award presented at **Toast of Macon.**



SIGNATURE EVENTS

State of the Community - April 21, 2022

The State of the Community luncheon features an address from Macon-Bibb Mayor Lester Miller with an update on the state of local government, as well as the Mayor's vision for the community and plans to reach that vision. The event will be held for a second year at historic Luther Williams Field.

Macon Matters Legislative Social - May 19, 2022

The Greater Macon Chamber will welcome our state senators, regional representatives and local government officials to the pristine Walnut Creek Shooting Preserve to show our appreciation for their efforts to promote and protect Central Georgia's best interests.

HEAL Healthcare Series - June 28-30, 2022

The Chamber will host HEAL, a three-day series featuring a Healthcare CEO Panel, a New Medical Residents Welcome Reception in partnership with Piedmont Macon and Atrium Health Navicent, a healthcare job fair and a virtual nonprofit healthcare forum.

Legacy Golf Classic - October 31, 2022

Celebrate the Greater Macon Chamber's 162-year legacy of advocacy and leadership. Come join us on the green for the premier golf tournament in Middle Georgia! This event brings together hundreds of golfers, volunteers and sponsors every year. Network with Macon-Bibb business leaders while supporting our mission. Featuring VIP players, exciting raffle prizes and the chance to win big. You don't want to miss this!

Toast of Macon Annual Awards - December 1, 2022

The Chamber will host an elegant celebration to recognize the business and community leaders who have made a significant impact in the community throughout the year.

Contact Tanner Smith at tsmith@maconchamber.com for more information.



A man with dark hair, wearing a dark blue suit jacket over a light blue and white checkered button-down shirt, stands in front of a school bus. The bus is out of focus, with the words "SCHOOL BUS" visible on its side. The man is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera.

WE BELIEVE, WE BUILD, WE BELONG.

"Like many businesses across the country, Blue Bird struggles to find the professional talent we need. We believe that a proactive talent attraction campaign showcasing Macon's quality of life, cultural narrative and economic vitality will help our company recruit the right prospects."

- Felix Lin, Vice President of Human Resources and External Affairs for the Blue Bird Corporation

FORWARD MACON

Macon is experiencing a renaissance. Our downtown is a vibrant destination, and industries are choosing **Macon-Bibb County** for relocations and expansions. While we felt COVID's severe impact, Macon did not experience job loss as sharply as other communities. We celebrate our return to prosperity.

The good news doesn't stop there. Macon-Bibb County is seeing an unprecedented level of cooperation between government, business, education and nonprofits. By working together more effectively, we see positive results more quickly.

While we celebrate success, we must still do more. When compared to peer cities in Georgia, **Macon** still lags in nearly all measures of economic success. Employers struggle to find employees, entrepreneurial growth is not as robust as we want and some communities within Macon have not seen prosperity come their way yet.

Thanks to increased partnership and cooperation among community stakeholders, the stage has been set and we are actively addressing these challenges. The **Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce** and **One Macon** have come together to pinpoint key initiatives that we believe will accelerate our trajectory. The joint plan, called **Forward Macon**, focuses on building the workforce, attracting and retaining talent and revitalizing neighborhoods.

The Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with **United Way**, the **Community Foundation of Central Georgia** and **SparkMacon**, will execute the Forward Macon plan.



To learn more, visit forwardmacon.com or scan the QR code to watch the campaign video.



Forward Macon plays a critical role in rebuilding the community, ensuring future growth, strengthening livability and creating a sustainable and broadly beneficial economy for all residents of the region. Forward Macon is now seeking investors and community leaders who share its vision of economic growth and prosperity, one where a "rising tide lifts all boats."

By the end of 2025, Forward Macon estimates the positive impact to be:

- > 2,400 to 3,100 more jobs in Macon-Bibb County above the average projected job growth.
- > Projected consumer expenditures to increase by \$56 million a year.

2022 CHAMBER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The members of the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors are elected by the Chamber's members and are ranking executives in their organizations, representing many of the area's leading firms and industries, as well as the small business segment. These executives provide leadership as the Chamber pursues its strategic plan to foster a strong and growing economy in the Macon-Bibb County area.

- Dr. Melody Blake**, *Wesleyan College*
- Stephen Daugherty**, *Piedmont Macon*
- Col. Lindsay C. Droz**, *Robins Air Force Base*
- Tyson Firlotte**, *Irving Tissue*
- Luis Fonseca**, *Atrium Health Navicent*
- Robby Fountain**, *Macon Bibb Industrial Authority*
- Jami Gaudet**, *Macon Transit Authority*
- Myrtle Habersham**, *Habersham Enterprises*
- Toni Hannah**, *Georgia Power*
- Sam Hart**, *Macon Water Authority*
- Dr. Curtis Jones**, *Superintendent, Bibb County Schools*
- Christy Kovac**, *Sheridan Construction*
- Michael Kruger**, *L.E. Schwartz & Sons, Inc.*
- John Kubinec**, *21st Century Partnership*
- Joseph (Joey) Leverette**, *Macon Water Authority*
- Keith Lolley**, *Kumho Tire Georgia, Inc.*
- Allen London**, *Mercer University*
- Laura Mathis**, *President, Regional Commission*
- Sylvia McGee**, *Advisory Board Chair, Leadership Macon*
- Lester Miller**, *Mayor, Macon Bibb County*
- Stacy Moore**, *Cherry Blossom Festival*
- Jack Nichols**, *James, Bates, Brannan, & Groover*
- Charles Olson**, *1842 Inn*
- Ariane Parham**, *HamTech Solutions*
- Starr Purdue**, *Hutchings Funeral Home*
- Stewart Rodeheaver**, *Vizitech USA, LLC*
- Josh Rogers**, *NewTown Macon*
- Chris Sheridan**, *Chair, Urban Development Authority*
- Dan Slagle**, *Chair, 21st Century Partnership*
- Walter Stafford**, *Stafford Builders & Consultants*
- W. Asbury Stembridge**, *The Stembridge Agency*
- Bill Underwood**, *Mercer University*
- Moises Velez**, *Que Pasa*
- Gary Wheat**, *President, Visit Macon*
- Nancy White**, *Macon Volunteer Clinic*
- Wright Woodal**, *Piedmont Construction Group*

2022 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



DR. IVAN ALLEN
 2022 Board Chair
 Central Georgia Technical College



SCOTT SEIGEL
 2023 Chair Elect
 2023 Vice Chair of Macon Works



PATRICK GOFF
 General Counsel
 Jones Cork, LLP



ROB BETZEL
 Past Board Chair



ANDREW ECK
 Vice Chair of Member Engagement
 Georgia Artisan



CRISTEN CARTER
 Treasurer
 Clayton, Carter LLC, CPA



EMBER BISHOP BENTLEY
 Vice Chair of Regional & Government
 Partnerships & Military Affairs
 Middle Georgia State University



ROBBO HATCHER
 Vice Chair of Forward Macon
 H2 Capital



IVEY HALL
 Vice Chair of Programming
 Habitat for Humanity



YVONNE WILLIAMS
 Greater Macon Chamber President

CHAIRMAN'S CLUB MEMBERS



----- CORNERSTONE LEVEL -----



----- PLATINUM LEVEL -----

Georgia Power Truist

----- GOLD LEVEL -----

Bearings & Drives Industrial Magda Law Synovus

----- SILVER LEVEL -----

13 WMAZ – TV
All Care Home Health, LLC
Atlanta Gas Light Company
Cadence Bank
Fickling & Company, Inc.
GEICO
Grit Consulting, LLC
Hargray
James-Bates-Brannan-Groover-LLP

Jones Cork, LLP
L. E. Schwartz & Son, Inc.
Legends Fitness
Macon Occupational Medicine, LLC
Mauldin & Jenkins, CPAs & Advisors
McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks & Co., LLC
NewTown Macon
North Macon Plaza, LLC
OneDigital

OrthoGeorgia
Primary Pediatrics, P.C.
Progressive Communications, Inc.
Robins Financial Credit Union
Sierra Development Group
Waites & Foshee Insurance Group
YKK USA

----- BRONZE LEVEL -----

Aflac – Kent McKinney
Argus Eyed Partners, LLC
Bashinski Fine Gems & Jewelry, Inc.
Beverage South of Macon
Blue Bird Corporation
Community Foundation of Central Georgia
Cox Communications
Dunwoody/Beeland Architects, Inc.
ESG Operations, Inc.
Fincher's Barbecue and Catering, Inc.

Freudenberg Performance
General Steel Co. / Triple S. Steel of Ga.
Georgia Artisan Furnishings
Georgia Farm Bureau
Habersham Enterprises
Internal Medicine Associates, P.C.
Macon Coca-Cola
McDonald's – Bass Road
Merrill Lynch Wealth Management
MeTV – Marquee Broadcasting Georgia

New Horizon Primary Care/ Westside Medical
Pellicano Construction
S & S Cafeterias
SCANA Energy
Seminole Precast, LLC
Sheridan Construction
Stafford Builders and Consultants, Inc.
TechChup, LLC
U.S. Postal Service Macon

CHAMBER STAFF



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YOU BELONG HERE.



FULLER JACKSON
FullersFoto



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BECOME A MEMBER.

Put your business in the spotlight, right where it belongs. We believe that you have something important to say and we are ready to listen. Feel free to voice your ideas and tell us about your challenges. Scan the code and find out how you can join us on the bandwagon.

The Chamber supports the growth and development of business by offering networking and marketing opportunities, providing valuable benefits to its members, advocating for legislative issues that will promote a healthy business climate and participating in the economic development efforts for Macon-Bibb.