



# MEETING AGENDA

AFRICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION \*VIRTUAL\* MEETING  
Wednesday, October 13, 5:30PM

**Wednesday, October 13, 2021 | Virtual Meeting: <https://duluthmn.gov/live-meeting> | 5:30 PM**

If you are unable to use internet or mobile data to access the meeting, please contact [enygren@DuluthMN.gov](mailto:enygren@DuluthMN.gov) or [pwebb@duluthmn.gov](mailto:pwebb@duluthmn.gov) for a call-in number. Individuals may also email or mail comments to the Commission prior to the meeting. See contact information on the second page of the agenda.

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Approve Meeting Minutes from July 14, 2021 (attached)
3. Public Comment
4. New Business
  - a. Attendance
  - b. Meeting Times
5. Old Business
  - a. Cultural Center/ African Heritage Hub
  - b. Community Outreach
  - c. BIPOC presentation
6. Subcommittees
  - a) Community Center/Grants (Pepper)
  - b) Employer Engagement/Demographics and Data Research (Carter, Green, Thornton)
  - c) Historic Preservation (Staine, Edmunds)
  - d) DCSI Law Enforcement Accountability Proposals (Staine, Green, Thornton)
7. Next Meeting Topics (November 10)
8. Individual Commissioner Updates
9. Announcements
10. Adjourn



## MEETING AGENDA

Effective Thursday, August 12, the City of Duluth will revert to virtual meetings for City Council and Boards and Commissions. The City Attorney, Rebecca St. George, and Chief Administrative Officer, Noah Schuchman, sent a determination to the City Clerk's Office today that due to the substantial risk in transmission rates within St. Louis County and Duluth public meetings would again be held virtually pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.021. In accordance with Minnesota Open Meeting Laws, the City is providing a three-day notice that beginning on August 12, all City of Duluth City Council, and Board and Commission meetings will be held virtually. The African Heritage Commission will be holding its meeting by other electronic means pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.021 in response to the COVID-19 emergency. Members of the Commission will be participating through video conference. Due to the COVID-19 emergency and the closure of City facilities, public comment will not be taken in person. However, members of the public can monitor the meeting and provide public comment on agenda items through WebEx Events. Visit <https://duluthmn.gov/live-meeting> to access the meeting. The public is also encouraged to submit written comment to Phillis Webb prior to the meeting by emailing [PWebb@duluthmn.gov](mailto:PWebb@duluthmn.gov) or mailing comments to 411 W 1st St, City Hall Room 160, Duluth, MN 55802. Please note that all public comment is considered Public Data.



**Planning & Development Division**  
*Planning & Economic Development Department*

Room 160  
411 West First Street  
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

218-730-5580

planning@duluthmn.gov

African Heritage Commission Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, July 14, 2021, 5:30 p.m.**

Virtual Meeting –Web-Ex

Commissioners present: Verna Thornton, John Staine, Bernice Pepper, Antonio Carter

Commissioners absent: Susie Green, Jebbeh Edmunds, Breanna Ellison

Staff present: Mollie Hinderaker, Ben VanTassel, Phillis Webb

1. Welcome & Introductions

The meeting started at 5:45 PM.

2. Approve Meeting Minutes for June 9th, 2021

Staine first/Carter second to approve the minutes for the June 9th, 2021 meeting. **Motion passed 4:0**

3. Public Comment

Councilor Gary Anderson spoke to the Commission as Public Safety Chair of the Duluth City Council. Councilor Anderson gave a formal introduction and let it be known he wanted to be accessible to the Commission. He gave highlights of the City's preliminary plan to spend American Rescue Plan funds. Councilor Anderson also mentioned the City's pilot program for alternate responses to policing; including deployment of social workers, nurses, etc. instead of armed officers.

Councilor Anderson also mentioned his work with community engagement efforts. In response, Commissioner Pepper shared an idea, which was a request for funds that would assist in conducting community surveys for the African Heritage community. The surveys would include incentives be conducted in order to get data on the current needs of community members. Another component to the survey could be a paid position to conduct the work, similar to what a different community member has done for the Latinx community in Duluth. Commissioners agreed this would be a good idea and said it should be further discussed at next meeting with the intention of putting together a proposal to submit to City Council for support.

4. System Mapping Report St. Louis County Homelessness Programs (SLC Staff)

Courtney Cochran and Laura Birnbaum, St. Louis County staff, introduced themselves and presented a PowerPoint to describe homeless statistics throughout St. Louis County. The presentation and discussion highlighted demographics of homeless people served. Areas needing extra focus that were identified through the research include more permanent supportive housing and better shelter navigation. Staff also shared meeting information for a listening session on St. Louis County's American Rescue plan allocation for homelessness programs.

5. Commission Goals

a. Cultural Center

City staff asked for specific directions on what funding opportunities would be the most beneficial for the Commission during their initial planning efforts. Commissioner Pepper stated that communicating through email could work to discuss categories for funding that are currently available. Looking at similar cultural examples around the state was another topic that was discussed to help move along the project and help in forming a business plan/approach. Commissioners discussed the possibility of bringing a proposal to Duluth City Council and whether to receive funds as a 501(c)3 non-profit versus a City entity.

b. Community Outreach

Discussion held earlier.

6. Subcommittees

a. Community Center/Grants (Pepper)

Discussion held earlier.

b. Employer Engagement/Demographics and Data Research (Carter, Green, Thornton)

No discussion.

c. Historic Preservation (Stain, Edmunds)

No discussion.

d. DCSI Law Enforcement Accountability Proposals (Staine, Green, Thornton)

No Discussion.

7. Next Meeting Topics (August 11)

No discussion.

8. Announcements

Next meeting (August 11) will be held in person at Duluth City Hall at 5:30 PM.

9. Adjourn

Meeting Adjourn 7:30 PM.

## **First meeting for the African Heritage Commission was on November 16, 2020**

During this time, the Commission has been actively meeting, even through a Global Pandemic. Meetings have had to be virtual, which can be a hefty task due to technology, but despite individuals not meeting face to face accomplishments have been achieved.

Key achievements:

- Work Plan approved
- Bylaws were developed and approved
- Resource for agencies to -increased outreach /awareness for connection with the African Heritage Community
- Community Center discussion
- Participation with the Duluth Police Department, including the Racial Bias Audit
- Data/Demographic research on employment and race
- Introducing the African Commission to the public

## **Commission Goals & Subcommittee updates - From Chair Staine**

- Jebeh & John met (8/20) with Parks Planning regarding Historic Preservation--Bonga Family statute/monument.
- Cultural Center (African Heritage Hub (Chair Glenn Simmons) progress and potential to merge our efforts with theirs? They will be working with Family Freedom Center, Family Rise Together & potentially NAACP for funding and maintaining of the building-they will have 501.C.3 status, which is a current barrier for the Commission--we can provide support in other ways...)
- Commission Attendance & Feelings in general about the direction of the commission. Should we meet every other month? Should we change the meeting time/length?
- Discussion regarding Duluth Tourism direction and how this affects our African heritage/Black population of Duluth. Should we be included in the conversation and in what ways?



BIPOC

Business Directory



---

September 2021

# Today's Agenda



## Overview

- Definition + History
- Why we need a BIPOC Directory
- Overall Goals
- Community Support + Feedback
- Why the 1200 Fund?
- Questions



# BIPOC Business Directory



---

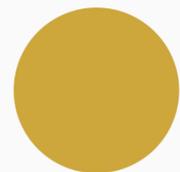
## ✓ Definition.

A BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) Business Directory is a directory that exclusively lists businesses and services offered and run by people of color. Support our region's Black, Indigenous, People of Color-owned businesses and check out resources for the entire BIPOC community.

## ✓ History.

In an effort to support historically excluded communities, organizers created directories to raise awareness of businesses and to support them directly. Supporting BIPOC-owned businesses is one way of lifting up those who have overcome so much.





# Why We Need A Directory

✓ Assist BIPOC Entrepreneuers

✓ Grow Community & Thriving Ecosystem

✓ Strengthen Community.





# Community Support + Feedback

## Community Needs

- Visibility
- Support
- Input
- Shared governance
- Transparency

## Community Feedback

- Historical Context
- Transparency

## Community Status

- Ready to start
- Willing to lead



# Project Team

---

Building a coalition towards real change.

---





# Why the 1200 Fund?

---

## ◆ Community

---

The community partners, with input from BIPOC entrepreneurs, support the business directory being hosted by the 1200 fund.

---

## ◆ City of Duluth

---

The City is committed to being an active and instrumental part in creating and maintaining this directory.

---

## ◆ Future

---

The 1200 Fund offers an opportunity for sustainable and positive support.

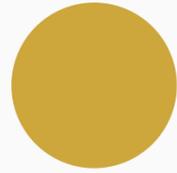




# The work continues

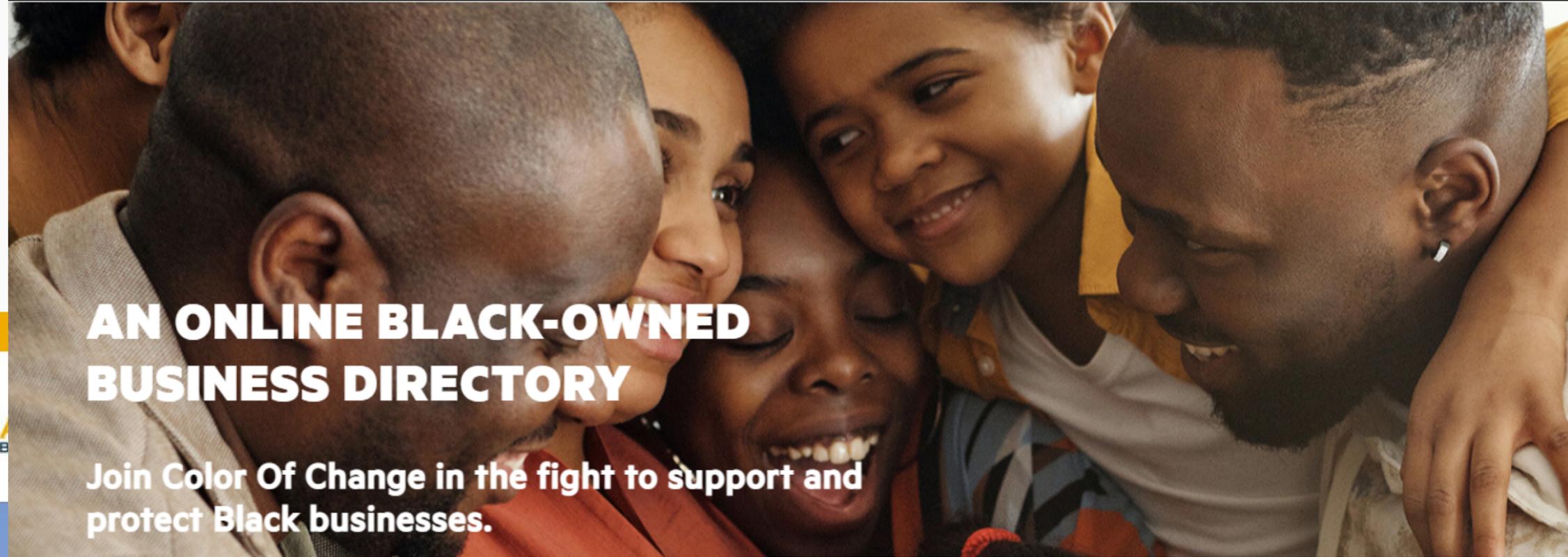
---





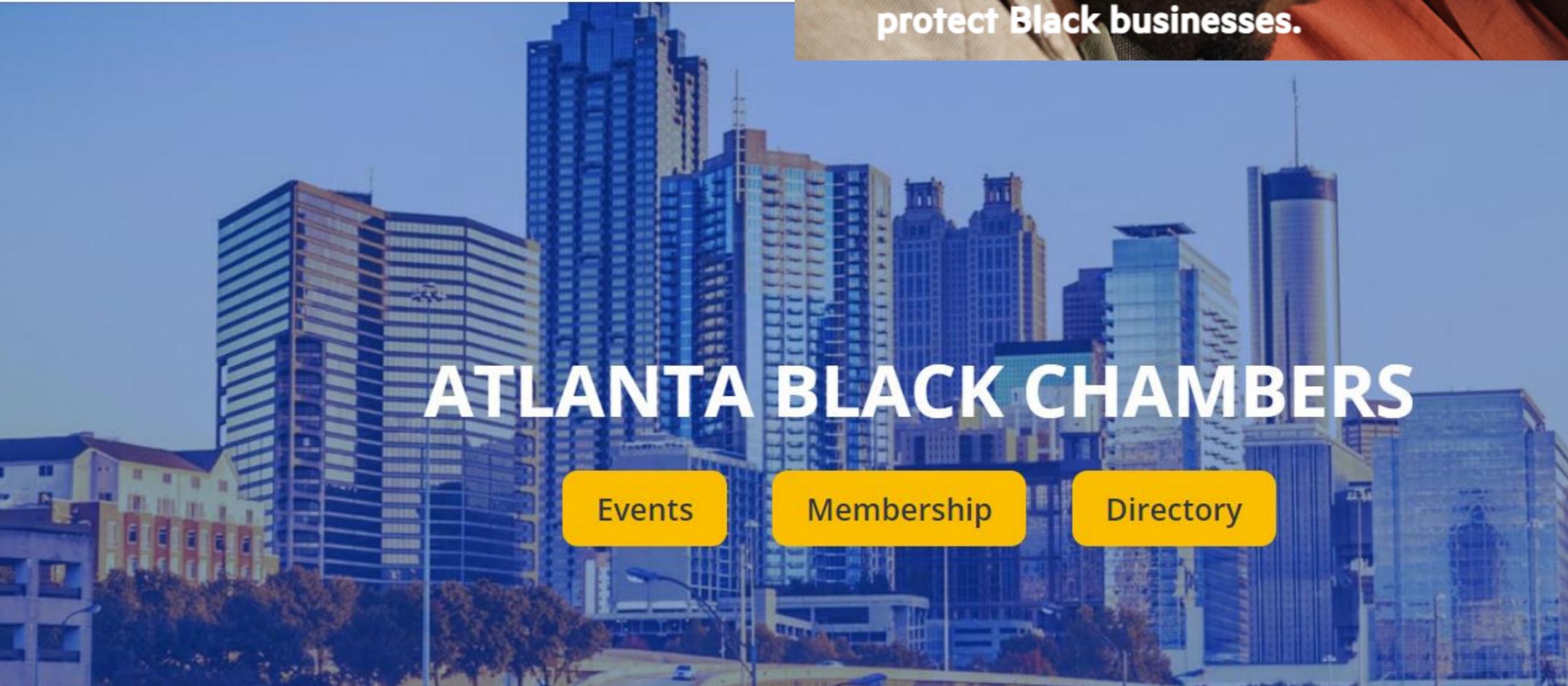
(877) 964-6222 ext. 101 info@atlantablackchambers.org

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR OPEN HOUSE



## AN ONLINE BLACK-OWNED BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Join Color Of Change in the fight to support and protect Black businesses.



# ATLANTA BLACK CHAMBERS

Events

Membership

Directory

# EXAMPLES



# BIPOC-OWNED BUSINESSES

[Home](#) / [Things to Do](#) / [Our Community](#) / [BIPOC-Owned Businesses & Resources](#)

[LGBTQIA+ Businesses & Resources](#) [BIPOC-Owned Businesses & Resources](#) [Women-Owned Businesses & Resources](#)



## BIPOC-OWNED BUSINESSES & RESOURCES



[Home](#) [Cities](#) [Category](#) [Recs](#) [Blog](#) [Agency](#)

### Bonjour

## Global Guide to Inclusive and Socially-Conscious Brands

[Places](#) [Events](#) [Jobs](#)

What are you looking for?

What city?

# EXAMPLES

# Next Steps

---

✓ Survey to BIPOC Entrepreneuers.

---

---

✓ Continued Outreach to Community.

---

---

✓ Launch BIPOC Business Directory.

---



# Questions?

