



By-Laws

Article I - Name

The name of this organization is Manasota Black Chamber of Commerce (MBCC).

Article II - Place of Business/Mailing Address

The Chamber's mailing address is P.O. Box 981, Oneco, FL 34264.

Article III - Purpose

The purpose of the Chamber shall be to teach capitalism and expand access to capitalization, technical support, procurement opportunities, effective networking, and sharing of information for Black owned businesses and other minority owned businesses as well as the African descendent community as a whole. The main vehicle of disseminating information concerning this purpose is through the Black chambers located throughout the United States and the entire Black Diaspora and via mass marketing. The activities are driven by a strategic plan. The Chamber is nonpartisan and non-sectarian and abides by the rules set forth via IRS 501(c)3 classification.

Article IV – Mission Statement

The mission of the Manasota Black Chamber of Commerce is to economically empower and sustain African-American communities through the entrepreneurship and capitalistic activity within the Greater Tampa Bay Area and via interaction with the Black Diaspora.

Article V – Vision Statement

The vision of the Manasota Black Chamber of Commerce is to create Black jobs through building Black-owned businesses.



Article VI – Motto

“Changing our community one business at a time!”

Article VII - Powers

The Chamber is empowered to raise and receive money and other property by gift, devise, subscription, dues, and other legal means and to expand and contribute the funds so raised and does all things necessary or desirable to carry out the purpose set forth in Article III of these bylaws. The Chamber shall have no capital stock and shall be operated solely for charitable purposes and for the furthering of the economic development of Black owned businesses/communities and other minority owned firms.

Article VIII - Membership

Any person, association, corporation, partnership, or estate having an interest in the objectives of the organization shall be eligible to apply for membership. The levels of membership are:

Student Membership – Available to college, university, technical and high school students up to the age of 26 years old.

Individual Membership – A citizen wishing to join the MBCC as a member.

Small Non-Profit – A small non-profit, association with 1-10 employees wishing to have direct membership with the MBCC.

Large Non-Profit – A large nonprofit, association with more than 10 employees wishing to have direct membership with the MBCC.

Small Business- A business with less than \$1 million in annual sales seeking direct membership with the MBCC.

Corporate – A business with over \$1 million in annual sales seeking direct membership with the MBCC.



Article VI - Board of Directors and Officers

Number and Title: The officers of the Chamber, elected from among the Board of Directors, shall consist of a Chairman, President/CEO, a Secretary, Treasurer, one or more Vice Presidents, and such other officers as the Board of Directors may choose to elect.

Board of Directors: There shall be no more than 11 Directors at any one time. There shall be elections as vacancies are filled for the duration of the period designated for the vacancy. The founding Board of Directors shall be fixed seats and the remaining seats shall be so fixed to serve a term of three years. Termed seats shall serve no more than 2 consecutive terms. In the event of resignation or death of a founding Director, that fixed seat shall become a termed seat. In the event of resignation or death of a termed seat, the Board of Directors may appoint someone to carry out the term of that seat. The Board of Directors shall make, implement, and supervise the policies of the Chapter, shall elect all officers, and may appoint vacancies in the Board of Directors, which occur, between Annual Meetings.

Chairman: The Chairman of the Board shall be selected from among the Board of Directors. The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the members of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. The term of the Chairman is one year. In the event of a split vote, the Chairman of the Board shall make the final determination of the split vote.

President/CEO: The President/CEO shall serve as the chief executive officer of the Board and shall implement Chamber policy as established by the Board of Directors. The President/CEO is responsible for all activities emulating from the local Office and implements and manages the Strategic Plan.

The president shall be a signor on all MBCC accounts and can also manage the monies that are received by the local office.

Executive Vice-President: The Executive Vice-President at the guidance and management of the President/CEO manages the staff and operations of the local Office. The Executive Vice-President can also manage the monies that are received by the local Office and in addition to the President/CEO, is a signor on MBCC accounts.



Treasurer: The Treasurer will oversee all financial records and manage the audits as they occur. The Treasurer will be ready at all times to accurately report to the Board of Directors the financial status of the Chamber. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all Chamber funds. At Chamber expense, he/she shall be bonded each year. He/she shall deposit all receipts in a bank or banks designated by the Board of Directors and shall disburse Chamber funds only by checks or other orders for the payment of money. The Treasurer shall make and submit to the Chamber such reports as the Chamber may prescribe relative to Chamber finances.

Secretary: The Secretary shall record and keep minutes of the meetings and shall prepare and transmit to the Chamber such reports as may be required by the Chamber pursuant to these By-Laws.

Vice-Presidents: Vice-Presidents, as the Board of Directors may from time to time elect, shall have such powers and perform such duties as the Board of Directors may determine.

Staff: The President/CEO will hire and train staff for the local Office. The positions and duties shall be consistent with the Strategic Plan and will be predicated on the Annual Budget and sufficient funding.

Committees: The President/CEO, by and with approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint all committees and committee chairmen. He/she may appoint such ad hoc committees and their chairmen, as deemed necessary to carry out the program of the Chamber. Committee appointments shall be at the will and pleasure of the President/CEO and in no event shall exceed the term of the appointing President/CEO. It shall be the function of the committees to make investigations, conduct studies and hearings, make recommendations to the Board of Directors and to carry on such activities as may be delegated to them by the Board. The committees will be, but not limited to, Nominating, Budget, Executive, Technology, International Trade, Title VI, and Section 3.

Divisions: The Board may create such divisions, bureaus, departments, or councils, as it deems advisable to handle the work of the Chamber. The Board shall authorize and define the powers and duties of all divisions, bureaus, departments, and councils. The Board shall annually review and approve all activities and proposed programs of such divisions, bureaus, departments, or councils.



Section 1: In the event of resignation or death of a founding officer, that office shall become a termed office of 3 years and shall serve no more than 2 consecutive terms.

Article IX - Finances

Funds: All money paid to the Chamber shall be placed in a general operating fund. Funds unused from the current year's budget will be carried over to the following year.

Disbursements: Upon approval of the budget, the Treasurer is authorized to make disbursements on accounts and expenses provided for in the budget without additional approval of the Board of Directors. Disbursement shall be by check.

Fiscal Year: The fiscal year of the Chamber shall close on December 31.

Budget: As soon as possible after election of the new Board of Directors and Officers, the Executive Committee (or Budget Committee) shall compile a budget of estimated expenses for the coming year and submit it to the Board of Directors for approval.

Procedure: The Chamber shall use its funds only to accomplish the objectives and purposes specified in these by-laws, and no part of said funds shall inure, or be distributed, to the members of the Chamber. On dissolution of the Chamber, any funds remaining shall be distributed to one or more regularly organized and qualified charitable, educational, scientific, or philanthropic organizations to be selected by the Board of Directors.

Article X - Parliamentary Authority

The current edition of Roberts Rules of Order shall be the final source of authority in all questions of parliamentary procedure when such rules are inconsistent with the By-Laws of the Chamber.

Article XI - Amendments

Revisions: These by-laws may be amended or altered by a 3/4 vote of the Board of Directors. Any proposed amendments or alterations shall be submitted to the Board in writing, at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which they are to be acted upon.