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BBOC NEWSLETTER



Black Business Owners of Charlotte's

MONTHLY MEMBERS MEETING



APRIL 22ND: (MOTIVATION) TIPS TO GET YOU MOTIVATED & KEEP YOU THERE!

MAY 20TH: (BRANDING) DEFINING YOUR BRAND'S IMAGE & IDENTITY

JUNE 24TH (MANAGING STRESS) LEARN TECHNIQUES THAT WILL KEEP YOU STRESS-FREE!

Location(s) will be sent via email!

You asked and we listened. Black Owned Coffee Shops In the Area

- Kokomo's
- Coppa Coffee & Tea
- Coffee Cone
- Spill The Beans
- C3 Coffee Crepes & Creamery
- Coffee Lux
- The Caravan

Learn about these coffee shops and more like them in the Charlotte area and share on our Facebook page.

[Black Business Owners of Charlotte Marketplace](#)

BBOC The Movement

Black Business Owners of Charlotte is more than about networking, it is a movement. BBOC is connecting our community through Commerce and our Charlotte Black Restaurant Week which garnered over \$725,000 for Charlotte's economy last year. This was a re-birth for the many Charlotte black-owned restaurants that were often unnoticed and unsupported.

Over the past few years, Charlotte has seen an increase in black businesses closing their doors. From restaurants, body shops, salons, and retail, black owned businesses were closing at an alarming rate.

The biggest problem cited by business owners was the lack

of support and not just from the black community but from the city at large. Black Business Owners of Charlotte is more than about raising the awareness to the black community of business for us by us, but it seeks to open the eyes of the city so that everyone can have the opportunity to support and immerse themselves in the culture, sites, and sounds offered by black business owners.

BBOC is helping to breathe new life into some of the more established businesses and they are embracing the newer ones. Education services, social media campaigns, service projects, and Black Food-Truck Fridays are just a few of the many ways that help Black Business Owners of Charlotte stand out as a

movement that is taking the city by force. We are empowering black business owners to flourish and remain a vital part of Charlotte's economy.

If you are a black business owner, now is a great time to join the movement. Please visit our website and engage in the many free events offered by BBOC and learn more about upcoming workshops, service projects, and collaborations coming soon.

Interested in joining the Movement, please visit our website at <https://bboclt.com> or email us at: Founder@bboclt.com. Please also check us out on Facebook and Instagram.

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www.BBOCLT.com



Contact: Deborah W.
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BLACK FOOD-TRUCK FRIDAYS

SHOP · EAT · DRINK · PARTY

Free Admission



April 27th (5-9pm)

Support
Black-Owned

Family Friendly
Event

Location: **Ruthie's on Tryon** (3468 N Tryon)

Black—

Black-Owned & Operated, a hyphenated word that to some may be seen as automatically stigmatizing. Yet to those that own and operate these businesses, the hyphen represents the gifts, greatness, and creativity, that serves not only the black community but introduces the many facets of our culture to the world.

Black—is not the new, now, next but it is the always has been and the what will be for future black-business owners and operators.

Imagine being told that your vision/plan would be unsuccessful because of the word Black. Well, that is exactly what happened to founder of Black-Business Owners of Charlotte, Cathay Dawkins, "I was told Charlotte Black Restaurant Week would not be a success because of one key word, BLACK!"

Well, based off of last year's success of CBRW, somebody got that notion wrong.

Dan Mask, a follower of BBOC

and friend to Cathay summed it up like this, "Being old or black is pretty hard to hide. Whatever is yours, accept it."

There are black business owners that have chosen to not add the Black—for many reasons including two offered by James Parker in an interview in Chicago Tribune for an article titled, **When building your business means hiding that it's black owned**, by Cheryl V. Jackson. Parker said, "As soon as you say it is black-owned, white people will believe it's only for

Black people, and black people will look for something wrong with it."

Apparently he has not had the opportunity to experience Black Business Owners of Charlotte because if he had, he would see that we are supported by all races and cultures with an excitement that is felt throughout Charlotte.

Black—is our pride, our responsibility, and it is our right to celebrate exactly who we are, black and unapologetic.



"I was told I had to knock on 50 doors to get one yes. The 23rd door was my opportunity."

*~ Nicole Cameron,
Spunkey Cleaning*

INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST COMMITTEES:

JOIN TODAY!

Membership & Communications

Contact:
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OTHER COMMITTEES:
EDUCATION
SIGNATURE EVENTS
SPECIAL EVENTS
COMMUNITY RELATIONS
FUNDRAISING & SPONSORSHIP



Connecting Our Community Through Commerce, Culinary Arts & Compassion

“One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well.” – Virginia Woolf

Dining well was the key to the success of Charlotte Black Restaurant Week in October of last year. CBRW didn't just spotlight black-owned restaurants, but it opened the door for amazing dining experiences to the citizens of Charlotte and beyond. It introduced a lot of people to the many gems throughout the city that offer splendid cuisines that you cannot find anywhere else but here in the Queen City. Because of the increase of business during CBRW, black-owned restaurants that partici-

pated, noted the increase in business and revenue.

Charlotte Black Restaurant Week also put the spotlight on some wonderfully talented culinary artist during the Crowning of QC's Best Black Chef, hosted at the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts & Culture. For the city of Charlotte, this was a phenomenon, seeing top black chefs go head to head to battle for the title of, “QC's Best Black Chef.”

But it all began with the compassion of Cathay Dawkins, the founder and visionary of Black Business Owners of Charlotte/

Charlotte Black Restaurant Week. He has a heart for his community and his culture and for him it is not about exclusion but he is on mission to introduce and include all to come and experience black owned businesses at their best. He no longer wants to see closed signs going up where thriving black businesses once dwelled, but he wants to see these businesses grow and acquire more business, more locations, and to be a model for other metropolitan areas.

Tying in with his compassion for the community, Cathay hosted a, “Day of Service”, which







closed out Charlotte Black Restaurant Week. During this event lunches were packed by several volunteers including children who wrote beautiful messages on the lunch sacks that were handed out throughout the city to the homeless of Charlotte.

Witnessing and seeing it all come together was absolutely astonishing. Never before had I seen anything like Charlotte Black Restaurant week in my thirteen years in Charlotte and I am already looking forward to what's to come this year.

Interns Needed!
 •Marketing •Business Development •Social Work
 Contact:
 Renee Hudson
 AdvisoryBoardPresident@Bboctt.com
 In your inquiry, please include your resume and/or portfolio.

#thinkbig

BBOC's Executive Team

 Founder & CEO Mr. Cathay Dawkins	 Executive VP Ms. Michele Magana	 Sponsorship Coordinator Ms. Tia Wilson
 Strategic Project Manager Ms. LaTecia Manuel	 Content Writer Ms. Deborah Denise Woolard	 Data Tech Manager Mr. Luis Peralta