



City of Cincinnati

801 Plum Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Agenda - Final

Economic and Cultural Opportunity

Chairperson Jan-Michele Kearney
Vice Chair Seth Walsh
Councilmember Scotty Johnson
Councilmember Albi

Monday, August 3, 2026

9:00 AM

Council Chambers, Room 300

PRESENTATIONS

HISPANIC CHAMBER CINCINNATI USA

Pam Ricones, Executive Director

ASIA CHAMBER OF AMERICA

Leo Chan, Executive Director

EUROPEAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF GREATER CINCINNATI

Stacy Hanna, Executive Director

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Eric H. Kearney, President & CEO

INDIAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Nidhi Bedi, Vice President

MORTAR

Allen Woods, Co-Founder & CEO

AGENDA

1. [202602526](#) **PRESENTATION**, submitted by Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney regarding *HISPANIC CHAMBER CINCINNATI USA* update.
Sponsors: Kearney
Attachments: [Presentation](#)

2. [202602482](#) **PRESENTATION**, submitted by Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney regarding the *ASIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE*, Connecting Cincinnati to Global Manufacturing, Investment & Innovation.
- Sponsors:** Kearney
- Attachments:** [Presentation](#)
3. [202602529](#) **PRESENTATION**, submitted by Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney regarding the *EUROPEAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE* update.
- Sponsors:** Kearney
- Attachments:** [Presentation](#)
4. [202602497](#) **PRESENTATION**, submitted by Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney regarding the *AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE* & the Economic Impact of Black-Owned Businesses in Southwest Ohio Communities.
- Sponsors:** Kearney
- Attachments:** [Presentation](#)
5. [202602531](#) **PRESENTATION**, submitted by Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney regarding the *INDIAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE* for Indian American businesses & professionals in the Tri-state region.
- Sponsors:** Kearney
- Attachments:** [Presentation](#)
6. [202602537](#) **PRESENTATION**, submitted by Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney regarding *MORTAR* building businesses and transforming cities through entrepreneurship since May of 2014.
- Sponsors:** Kearney
- Attachments:** [Presentation](#)

ADJOURNMENT



HISPANIC CHAMBER CINCINNATI USA

THE MISSION OF THE HISPANIC CHAMBER

Our mission is to foster growth in the Greater Cincinnati region by connecting individuals across various fields and industries to create sustainable opportunities, and address key community needs involving the Hispanic/Latino community and businesses.

We aim to support leadership, entrepreneurship, and cultural awareness through our events, programs and services, while promoting recognition of the significant contributions of Hispanics/Latinos to the region.

Through strategic partnerships with for-profit and nonprofit organizations, Chambers of Commerce, and the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, we work to expand opportunities and support economic development.

Together with the HCCUSA Foundation, we support educational and cultural initiatives, and position Hispanics/Latinos to be a meaningful and impactful force in the progress and prosperity of the Greater Cincinnati region.



CHAMBERprograms

- Monthly Business Leads Lunch (Noon at Mi Cozumel in Oakley)
- Monthly Networking Meeting (4th Tuesdays at 5:30pm)
- Member-Company Expos (Career in Summer, Business Showcase in November)
- Cincy Sabroso
- Employer Benefit Services and Discounts
- Young Professionals Program
- Employee Resource Group Leader Network
- Hispanic Heritage Month Toolkit

HCCUSA FOUNDATION MISSION

To help advance the Greater Cincinnati Hispanic community by being a catalyst in meeting key needs of Hispanics, and creating awareness and appreciation of the contributions of Hispanics to the overall community.

As a consequence, Hispanics will be a positive and meaningful force in the progress of the Greater Cincinnati community.

GIVE!

Hispanics Avanzando Hispanics (HAH) dba Hispanic Chamber Cincinnati Foundation (HCCUSA Foundation) is a 501(c)(3) organization formed in 2004 with the goal of creating awareness and mutual cooperation between the emerging Hispanic population and the general community.



HCCUSA FOUNDATION Programs

- ▶ College Scholarship
- ▶ Cincy-Cinco Cultural Festival
- ▶ Price Hill Champions (Sports, Character Development, Nutrition, and Drug Prevention)
- ▶ Summer Camps
- ▶ Fiesta Salsera (Amateur Dance Competition)
- ▶ Family and Community Advocacy:
 - Domestic Violence Prevention and Awareness
 - Mental Health
- ▶ Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration
- ▶ Cincinnati: A City of Immigrants (Cultural Education & Anti-Bullying Tool Booklet)
- ▶ Hispanic Volunteer Day (Second Saturday in October)
- ▶ Annual Posada (A Christmas Celebration)

MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

HCCUS Board of Directors

- ▶ Daniel Conde, Vice President
- ▶ Jose Luis Esparza, Secretary
- ▶ Francisco Okhuysen, Treasurer
- ▶ Belinda Chavez-Imwalle, Kroger
- ▶ Ron Reblando, Community Action Agency
- ▶ Gerardo Pantoja, FC Cincinnati
- ▶ Nicole Bernal, Fifth Third Bank
- ▶ Jackie Aguilar, P&G
- ▶ George Fee, Fee Law Group

Alfonso Cornejo President

- ## HC CUSA Foundation Board of Directors
- ▶ Juan M. Arredondo, P&G Retiree
 - ▶ Maribel Cortes, GE Aerospace
 - ▶ Lorena Mora Mowry, Mujer Latina Hoy
 - ▶ Daniel Minera, Su Casa Hispanic Ministries
 - ▶ Giovanna Alvarez, Ohio Commission of Latino Affairs

- ## Chamber & Foundation Executive Staff
- ▶ Luz Elena Schemmel, Executive Director
 - ▶ Michael Jackaman, Marketing Director
 - ▶ Cecilia Magill, Manager Assistant
 - ▶ Monica Perdomo, Membership Services

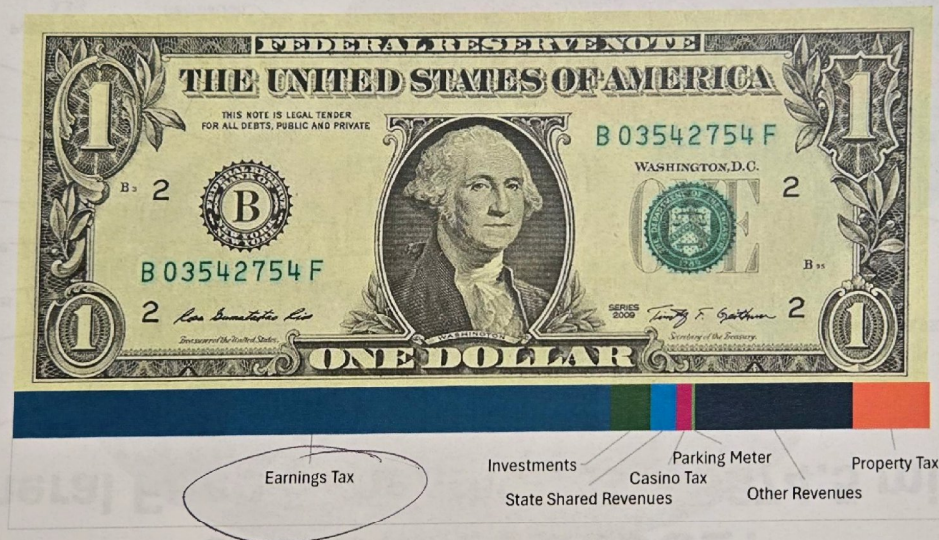


HISPANIC DEMOGRAPHICS

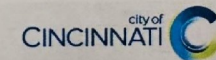
USA =	19%	> 63 Million
Ohio =	4.5%	> 540,000
Cincy-metro =	3.9%	> 90,000
Cincinnati =	4.6%	> 15,000

HISPANIC ECONOMICS AFFECT THE ONLY METRO AREA

FY 2026 General Fund Revenue - \$569.5 million



*Does not include \$5.0 million in transfers in, which would increase General Fund Resources to \$574.5 million.



HISPANICS ARE CRITICAL TO AMERICA PROSPERITY

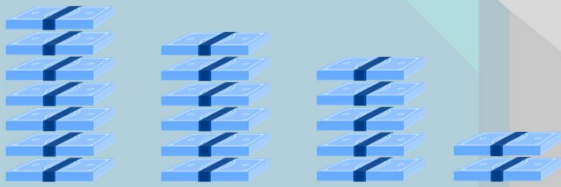
LATINOS ARE ECONOMIC POWER

\$3.2T

Latino GDP, among the 10 largest and the 3rd fastest growing.

\$3.4T

Purchasing power. Highest one within key minority markets in the country:



\$3.4T
Hispanic
Americans

\$1.6T
Black
Americans

\$1.3T
Asian
Americans

\$140B
Indigenous
Americans

If it were an independent country, Latino GDP would be the **5th** largest in the world. Hispanics are the employees & consumers of the future!

7% Annual Growth
Faster than
China!

Source: LDC U.S. Latino GDP Report (2023)

LATINOS ARE LEADING IN BUSINESS

86%

Of all new business in the last 10 years have been launched by Hispanics

46%

New home growth



Latino entrepreneurs start more businesses than any other ethnic group in the U.S. for the past 10 years.

25%

Average growth of Latino-owned companies in revenues. *(Pre-Covid data)*



One out of 5 entrepreneurs are Latino.



Latinas create small businesses 6 times faster than any other group in America.

Source: US Census Bureau 2018 National Projections, based on 2014 data

LATINOS ARE THE FUTURE

54%

Of projected population growth (2017-2027)

19yrs

Most common age of Hispanics vs. 58 for non-Hispanics

51%

of population growth, 26% of the youth population. The fastest growing and second largest segment in the country.

95%

in annual household spending, with an income growth of 77% and home ownership growth of 28%, we lead upward mobility.

17%

growth in civilian workforce.

Source: PEW Research - U.S. adults Survey 2020

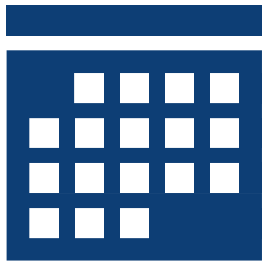
Minority Business Assistance Center

The Hispanic Chamber Cincinnati USA was recently awarded the Tier I Center Designation by the Ohio Department of Development for the Cincinnati Region

- Bullet 1
- Bullet 2
- Bullet 3
- Bullet 4



The HCCUSA MBAC



Will Open August 2026
Open House targeted for
September 2026



The MBAC office is in a
neighboring suite to the
HCCUSA new office
located at the Alloy
Development Building at
1776 Mentor Ave., Norwood



Website is under
development.
Partnerships are
established with a formal
MOU with the Latina
Entrepreneur Academy and
fellow Tier II MBAC offices



The MBAC will service
startup businesses with
business advising
services.



**Department of
Development**

Minority Business Assistance Center

2026 EVENTS TO COME

Collaboration with Summermuzik featuring Fabiola Mendez

- ☐ Pre-concert Fiesta on Sunday, August 16th at 2pm (concert at 4 p.m.)
- ☐ Exclusive meet & greet event on Thursday, August 13 (details TBA)

Career Connections Expo

- ☐ August 25 at 5:30 p.m.

30th Anniversary Celebration

- ☐ October 22nd at 5:30 p.m.

4th Quarter Events

- ☐ October 12th Hispanic Volunteer Day in Price Hill (Roberts Academy)
- ☐ December 12th Las Posadas - A Holiday Cultural Celebration

REFERENCE DATA



HISPANICS ARE CRITICAL TO THE ECONOMY

WE ARE THE WORKFORCE

The future of America's workforce is Hispanic.

78%

of US new workers are Hispanics.

40%

of U.S. workforce growth is Hispanic.

+250%

The growth of the latino workforce in the last 25 years.

Source: LDC U.S. Latino GDP Report (2022)

WE ARE THE VOTERS & TAXPAYERS

An aging America is counting on Latino contributions to Social Security and Medicare.

31.5M

Latinos were eligible to vote in 2020.

\$102B

to social security.

\$308B

Federal, State and Local tax revenues come from Hispanics.

Source: NBC News- Over half of eligible Latinos voted in 2020
Unidos US - How Hispanic Contribute to the U.S. Economy

WE ARE BREAKING STEREOTYPES

+80%

Are English speakers

73%

increase in adults earning Bachelor/ Advanced degrees. We're making inroads through education.

+21%

increased representation in Mgmt, Business, Science and the Arts. We're reaching higher skilled occupations.

+18%

growth in health care occupations.

+13%

growth in computer-related occupations.





HEALTHCARE

- Hispanic healthcare workers total over **2.2 million** nationwide



AUTO

- Hispanics drove **68% of industry volume growth** between 2011 and 2020.



SERVICE

- Service occupations, such as food service and cleaning, have the highest **Hispanic worker percentage at 22%**.



BIOMEDICAL

- Hispanics are strongly represented across biomedical fields, comprising over **10% of the workforce**.



ENERGY

- Black and Hispanic/Latino workers are underrepresented.** Hispanics make up around **17% of the clean energy workforce**.



FOOD/BEVERAGES

- Hispanic workers make up **25% of the restaurant industry**, from entry-level to ownership.



PHARMA

- In 2018, **57,000 Hispanic workers** accounted for 10.6% of the pharmaceutical and medical manufacturing workforce.



FINANCIAL

- Latino wealth** has grown annually at around **7% for 20 years**, double the rate of non-Latino White wealth.



CONSUMER GOODS

- They are expected to contribute **34% of the growth in apparel spending**, exceeding \$48.85 billion in revenue.



Asia Chamber of America

Connecting Cincinnati to Global Manufacturing, Investment and Innovation

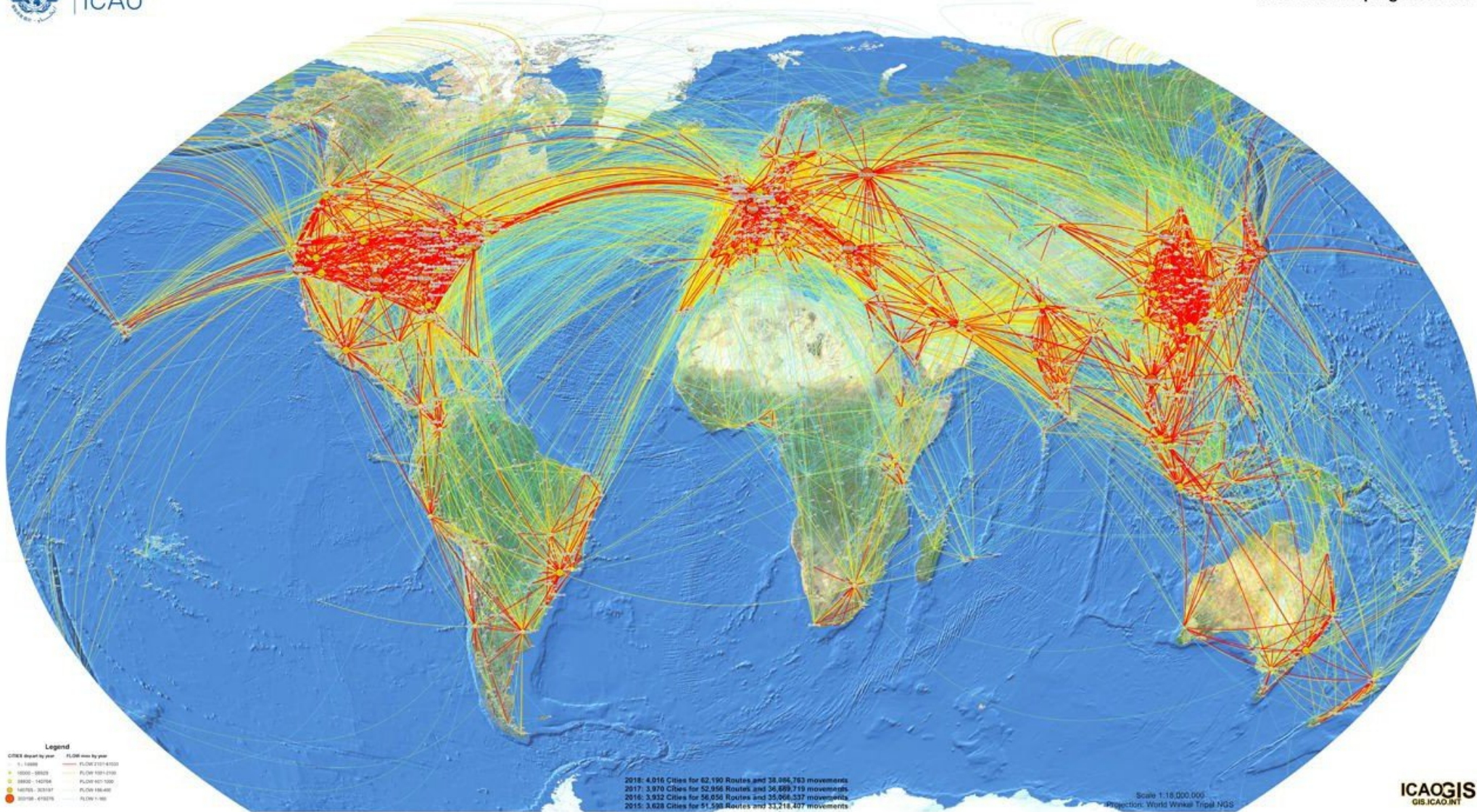
PRESENTATION TO

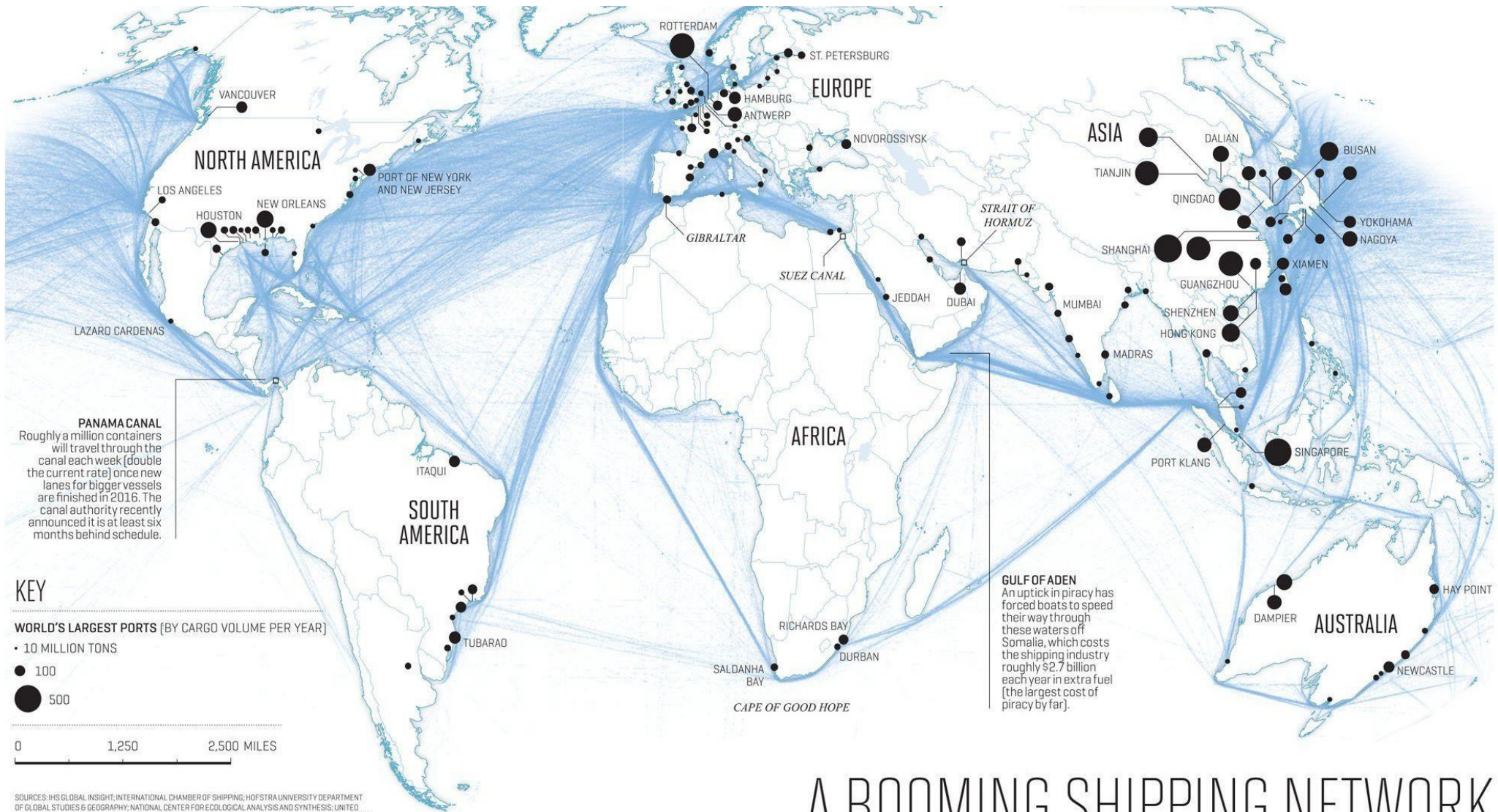
City of Cincinnati | Economic and Cultural Opportunity Committee

August 3, 2026 · Executive Director: Leo Chan

Air Traffic Flow Chart 2018

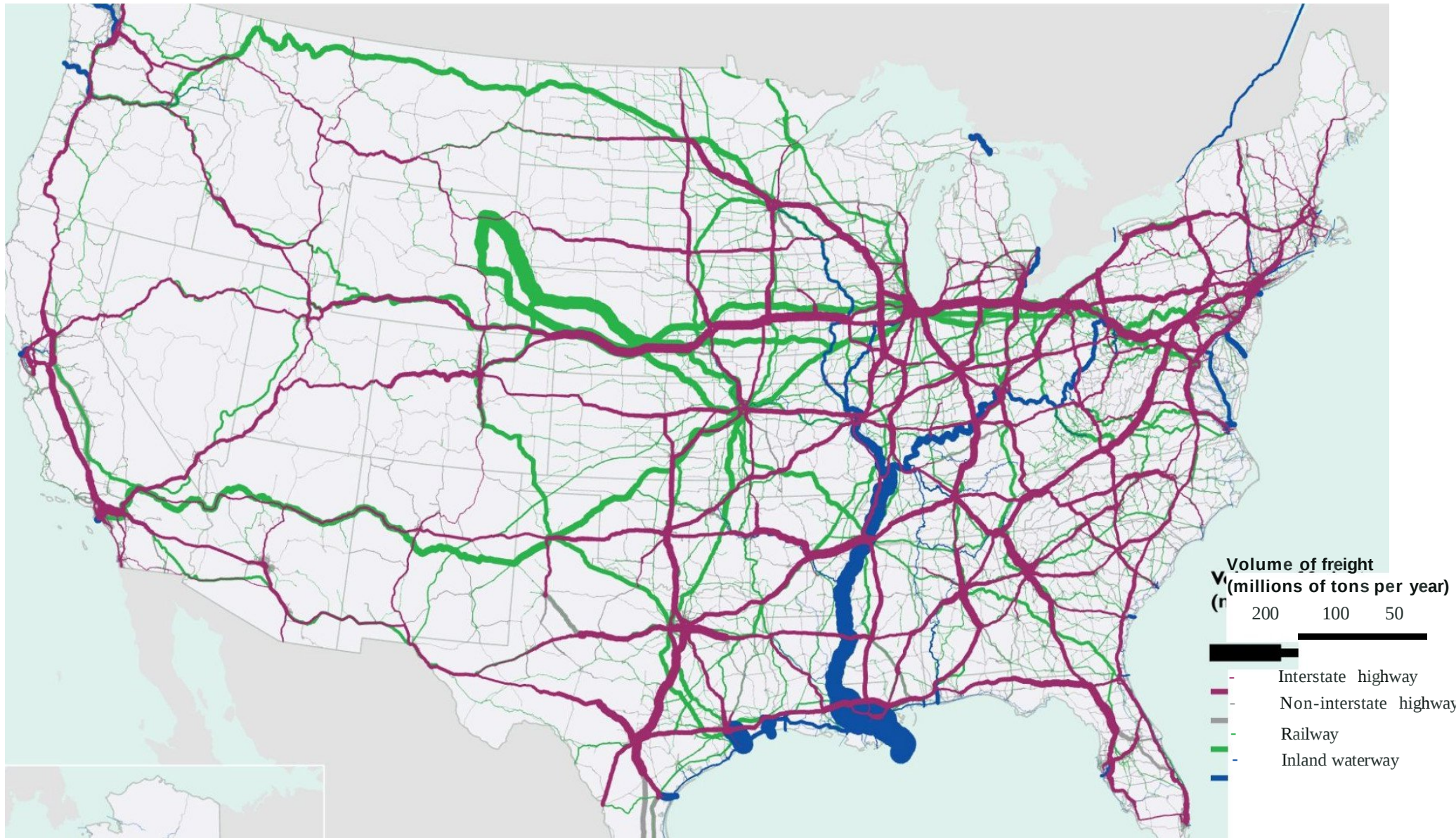
More Info: <http://gis.icao.int>

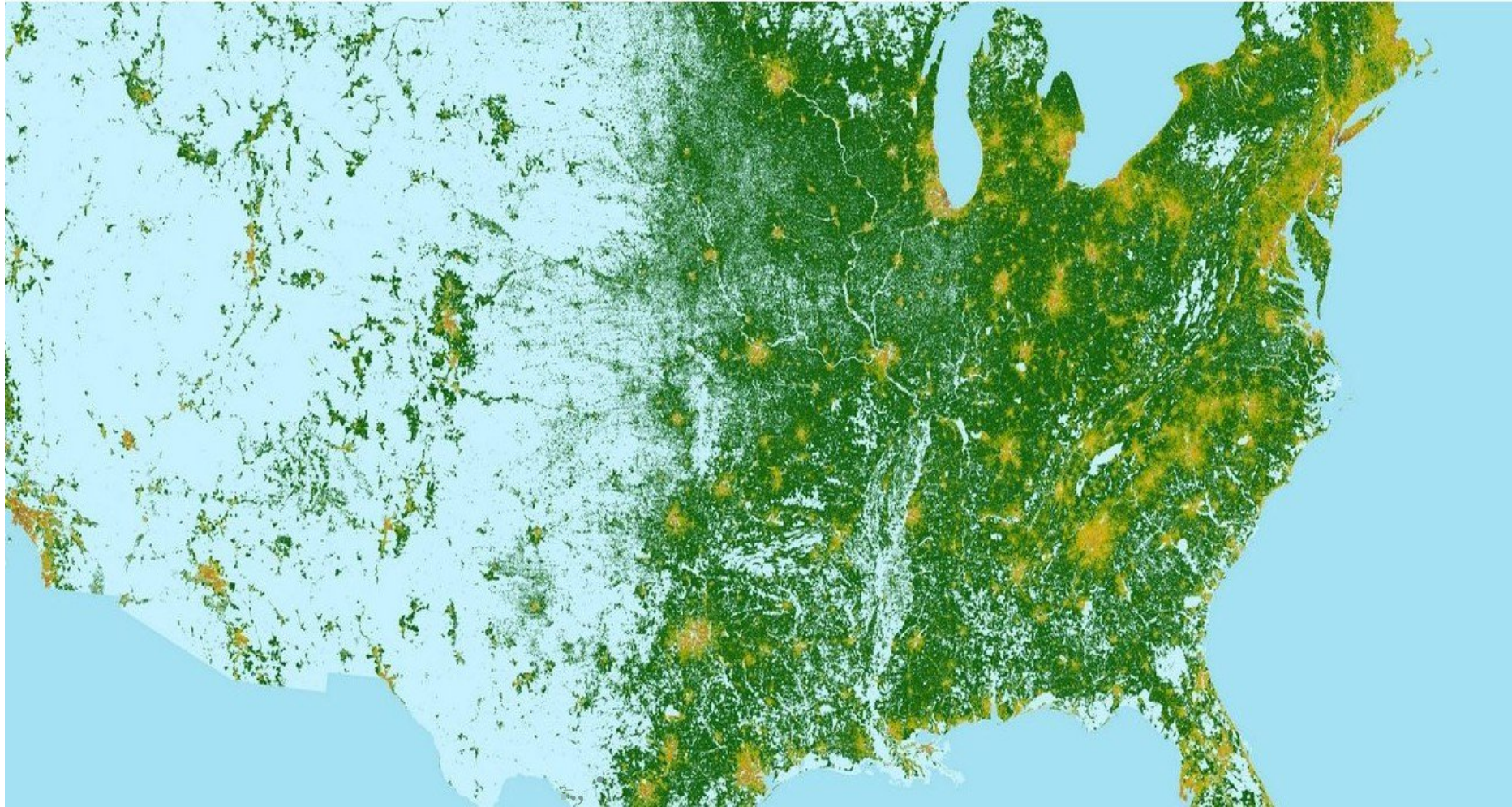


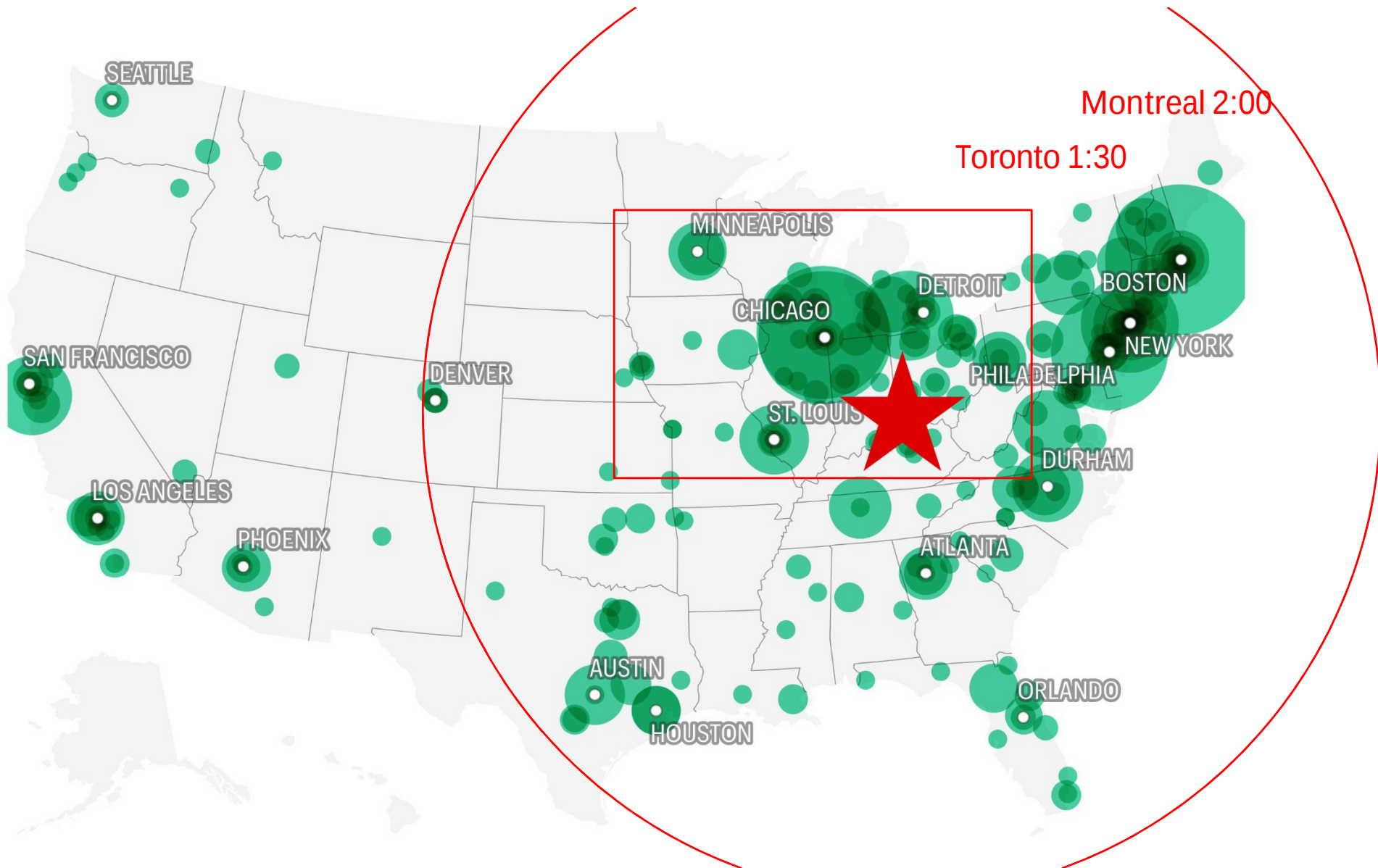


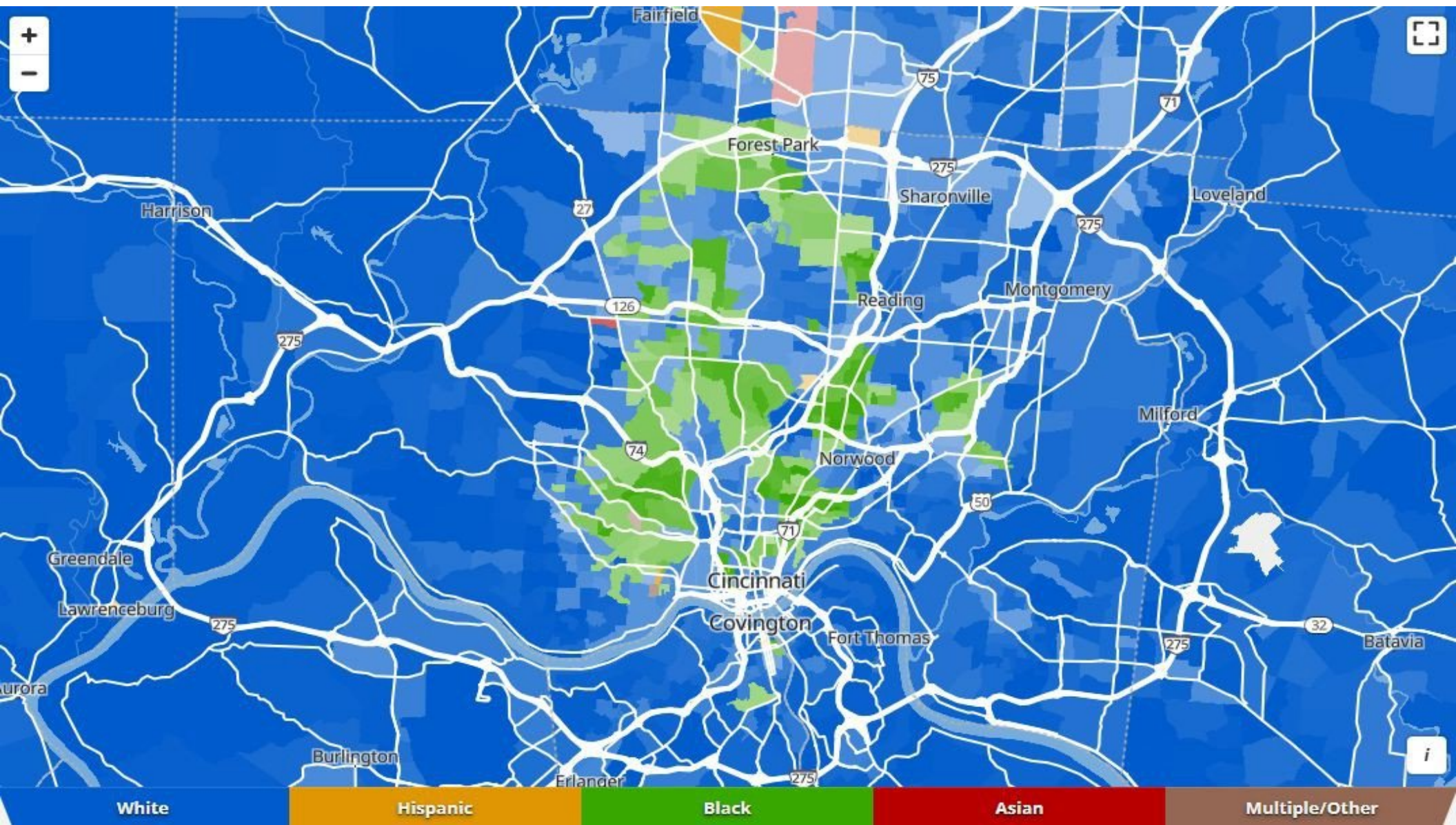
SOURCES: IHS GLOBAL INSIGHT; INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING; HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL STUDIES & GEOGRAPHY; NATIONAL CENTER FOR ECOLOGICAL ANALYSIS AND SYNTHESIS; UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT; CONTAINERISATION INTERNATIONAL; DREWRY SHIPPING CONSULTANTS; JOURNAL OF COMMERCE; WORLD SHIPPING COUNCIL

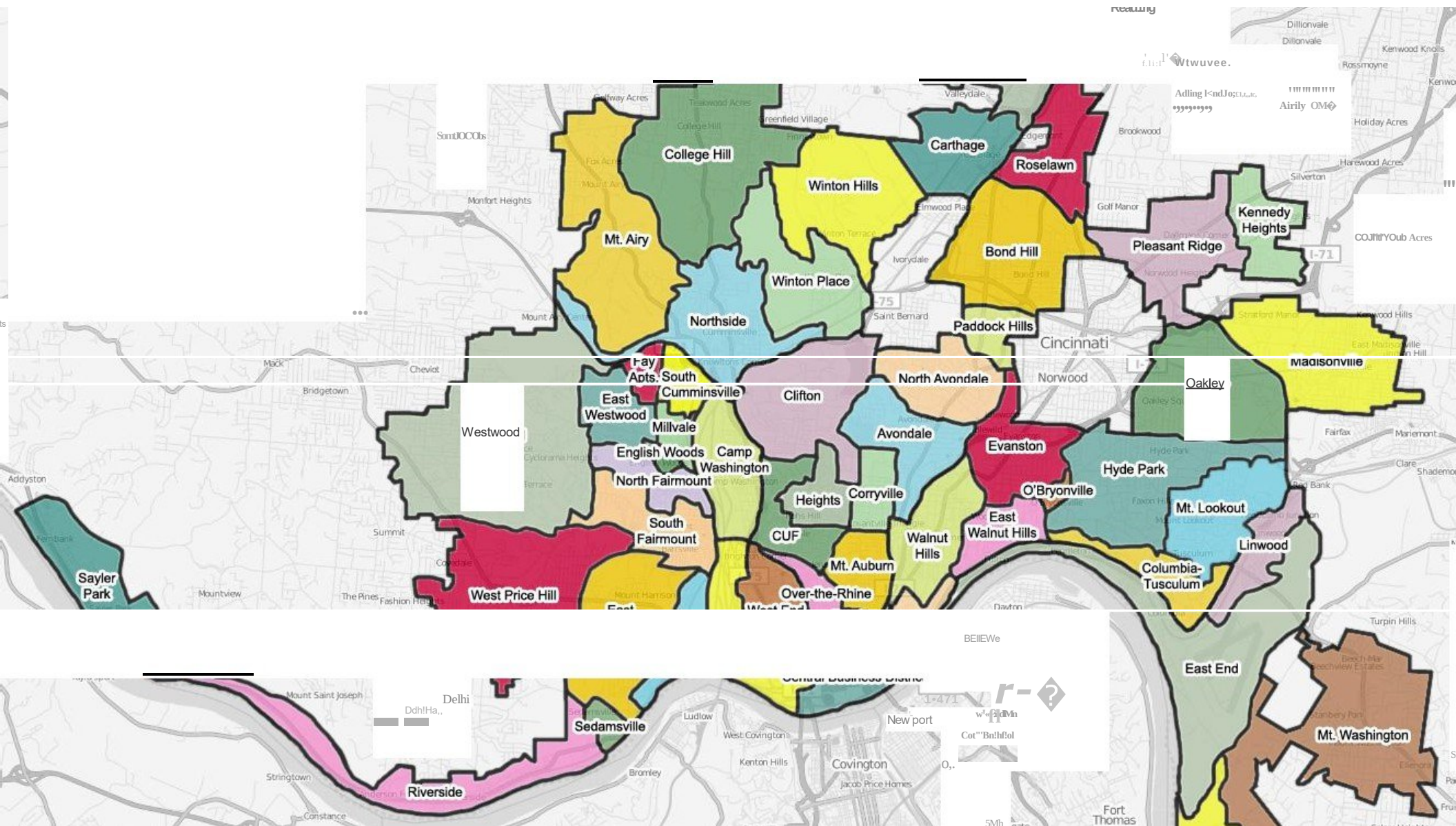
A BOOMING SHIPPING NETWORK











Who We Are: Asia Chamber of America



A nonprofit catalyst dedicated to empowering American businesses through strategic global connections and cross-cultural growth.

Export & Market Access

Expand reach into high-growth Asian markets with expert trade guidance.

Foreign Direct Investment

Link businesses with international investors for capital.

Reshoring & Manufacturing

Facilitate bringing production back to the U.S. for resilience.

Cross-Border Navigation

Navigate complex regulations in Asian and U.S. markets.

“Twenty years serving the Midwest—bridging American enterprise with Asian opportunity.”

What We Do: Four Pillars of Activity



Trade

- Organizing outbound/inbound trade missions to key global markets
- Providing expert export guidance and market entry support
- Facilitating B2B supplier matching and networking events



Investment

- Attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and promoting local opportunities
- Offering professional site selection and business setup support
- Connecting investors with local partners through matchmaking forums



Entrepreneurship

- Managing the GICC (Global Innovation & Collaboration Center)
- Accelerating cross-border e-commerce capabilities for SMEs
- Delivering startup training, mentorship, and incubation programs



International Relations

- Establishing and strengthening friendship city partnerships
- Engaging in high-level business diplomacy and advocacy
- Leading and hosting official international business delegations

"These activities are reflected throughout the chamber's programs and annual events, driving economic growth and fostering strong global connections."

Our Impact: Connecting the Dots

 20+

Years of Service
Serving the Midwest with unwavering dedication and regional expertise.

 20+

Global Partnerships
Friendship city alliances building bridges for cultural and economic exchange.

 Millions

People Reached
Touching lives through educational, cultural, and community-driven programs.

 Billions

Economic Value
Connecting regional economies to global markets for shared prosperity.

Key Initiatives & Community Impact

- **Trade Missions:** Facilitating market entry and business exploration across borders.
- **Global Forums:** High-level dialogues fostering economic cooperation and innovation.
- **Student Exchanges:** Nurturing cross-cultural understanding for future leaders.

- **Delegation Visits:** Hosting and leading official delegations to strengthen ties.
- **COVID Relief:** Donated millions in PPE to protect frontline workers and communities.
- **Cultural Bridges:** Events celebrating diversity and mutual respect.

Helping Cincinnati Companies Compete



Key Industries We Empower

- Advanced Manufacturing & Robotics
- Food & Beverage Producers
- Healthcare & Medical Technology
- Universities & Research Institutions
- Tech Startups & Innovation Firms
- Professional & Financial Services
- Logistics & Supply Chain Solutions
- Consumer Packaged Goods (CPG)

Strategic Growth & Market Access

- Connecting with new global buyers & partners
- Sourcing high-quality suppliers & distributors
- Guiding market entry strategies & compliance
- Facilitating attendance at top trade fairs
- Navigating cross-cultural business practices
- Developing sustainable competitive advantages

"Reducing **barriers to cross-Pacific business engagement and driving economic prosperity for Cincinnati businesses.**"

Global Connections: Friendship & Sister Cities

01. Chongqing: Friendship City (Est. 2018)

A Strategic Partnership for Economic & Educational Growth

-  Key Sectors: Deep collaboration in advanced manufacturing, smart logistics, and life sciences to drive cross-border innovation and industrial synergy.
-  JCI Program: The Sino-US Joint Co-op Institute with Chongqing University blends academic excellence and practical experience, a model for global talent development.
-  Market Gateway: Unlocks access to China's vast inland economy, connecting businesses to a rapidly growing consumer base and industrial heartland.



Trade & Investment Forum: A premier platform for business leaders to connect, negotiate partnerships, and explore market entry strategies, bridging the Greater Cincinnati region with Chongqing's dynamic economy.

02. Liuzhou: Sister City (Est. 1988)

35+ Years of Enduring Friendship & Industrial Synergy

-  People-to-People Bonds: Decades of cultural, educational, and municipal exchanges have built a foundation of mutual trust and lasting friendship.
-  Cultural Landmark: The Cincinnati-Liuzhou Friendship Garden stands as a living symbol of our sisterhood, celebrating shared heritage and public diplomacy.
-  EV Industry Linkages: Leveraging Liuzhou's status as a national automotive hub to explore new frontiers in electric vehicles and green mobility solutions.



Leadership & Legacy: Mayoral delegations continue to strengthen ties, while new economic opportunities in clean energy and automotive supply chains redefine our modern partnership for the future.

A Vision for the Next Generation of Manufacturing

Introducing the White Paper: Cincinnati Manufacturing Innovation District



Dongguan

A powerhouse of specialized manufacturing clusters, leveraging dense supply chains, economies of scale, and rapid production capabilities to dominate global markets.



Shenzhen

A dynamic hub of innovation and market-driven ecosystems, where tech startups, research, and manufacturing converge for ultra-fast product iteration.



Northern Italy

A model of resilient industrial districts with interconnected SMEs, combining artisanal craftsmanship, niche specialization, and strong regional collaboration.

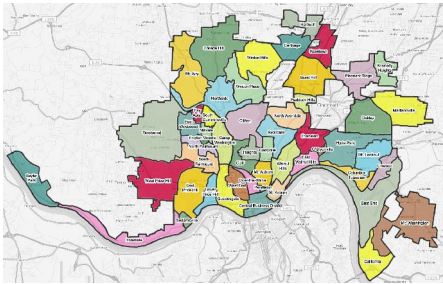


German Mittelstand

Home to global "hidden champions," defined by deep specialization, long-term strategic vision, and an uncompromising culture of precision engineering.

Instead of isolated factories, we envision a connected **manufacturing ecosystem**—where suppliers, R&D, logistics, and talent operate in seamless synergy.

The 52 Supply Zone Concept



Robotics & Automation

Smart factory systems & collaborative robotics integration.



Medical Devices

Precision manufacturing for diagnostics & surgical tools.



Industrial AI & IoT

Data analytics for predictive maintenance & optimization.



Battery & Energy

EV battery production & green energy storage solutions.



Advanced Materials

Composites, nanotech & high-performance material R&D.



Smart Logistics

Cold chain, warehousing & global export facilitation.

This creates: A resilient, high-efficiency manufacturing ecosystem



Shorter Chains

Localized networks eliminate long-distance delays.



Lower Costs

Reduced logistics and transportation overheads.



Faster Innovation

Proximity drives rapid R&D collaboration.



Higher Productivity

Integrated workflows optimize production cycles.



Resilient Systems

Local redundancy mitigates global supply shocks.

Partnership Opportunities with the City



Asia Chamber can assist with:

- Business attraction & retention
- Facilitating international delegations
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) support
- Export readiness & market entry
- Nurturing the startup ecosystem
- Hosting global conferences & events
- Sister city engagement & diplomacy
- Workforce education & skill-building
- Advancing manufacturing innovation
- Empowering student entrepreneurship

Positioned as complementary to existing city and regional economic development organizations — working in synergy to amplify growth, connect global opportunities, and strengthen Cincinnati's economic foundation for the future.

Call to Action:

Sustain | Empower | Inspire

- **Collaborate with City Council**

Foster direct partnership to align municipal policy frameworks with regional economic development goals and remove bureaucratic barriers.

- **Establish an Advisory Council**

Create an International Business Advisory Council to provide expert guidance on global market strategies and foster cross-border partnerships.

- **Launch a Global Hub Initiative**

Develop the International Manufacturing Hub to position the region as a premier destination for foreign direct investment and global talent.

- **Activate a Business Gateway**

Implement the Global Business Gateway Program to streamline market entry, provide export assistance, and connect local firms to international supply chains.

“Cincinnati has always been a city that builds. Together, we can build the next generation of globally connected manufacturing, entrepreneurship, and innovation—creating opportunities for local businesses while strengthening the region's economic resilience.”



ea european american
chamber of commerce
greater cincinnati

European American Chamber of Commerce

STACY HANNA, Executive Director
Greater Cincinnati Chapter



Who We Are

Our Mission: To strengthen trade, investment, and business relationships between the U.S. and Europe



- 8 chapters supporting the development of European + American business
- Greater Cincinnatiati was first U.S. chapter, est. 2007
- Funded primarily by annual dues & sponsorships
- Managed by a staff of 2 and guided by a board of directors.

Cincinnati • New York • Texas • Florida • Carolinas • Paris • Lyon • Netherlands



Board of Directors



2026 Exec. Director & Board of Directors

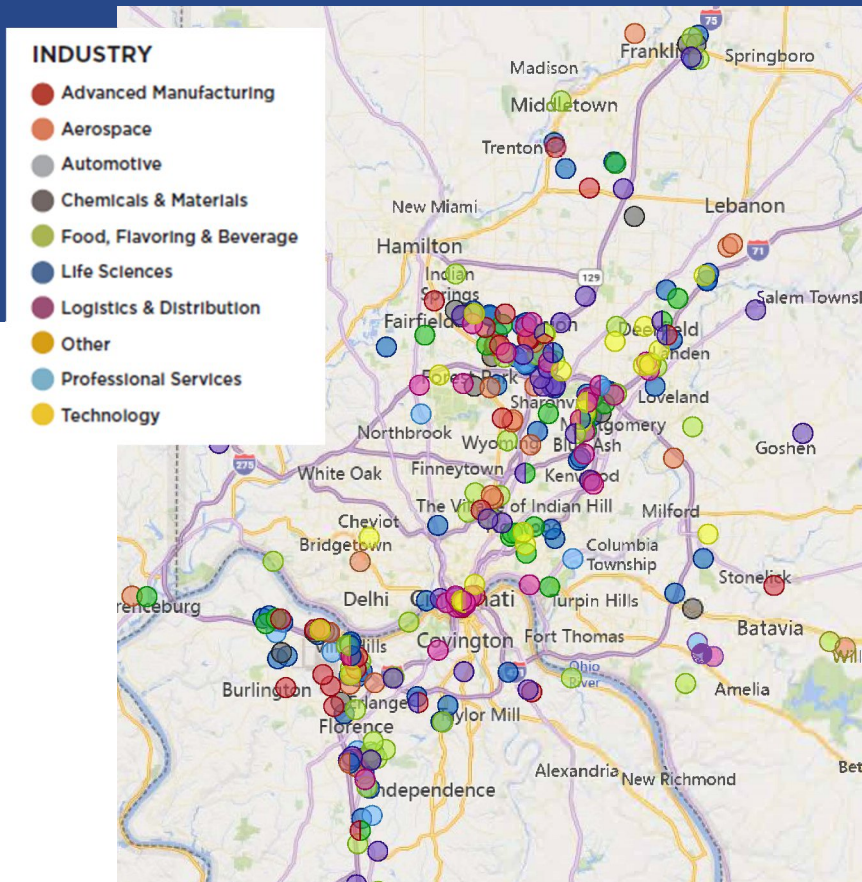
Board Officers:

President – Antonio Pagano, MGS Machine
Vice President – Fabian Schmahl, Melink Solar
Treasurer – Thorsten Schroeder, Ditsch USA
Secretary – Cierra Clymer, REDI Cincinnati

Board of Directors – Companies Represented

Miller-Valentine Group	DHL Express	Roedl-VL
Frost Brown Todd	BE NKY	Bannockburn
City of Mason	Vega USA	Altix Consulting
Clark Schaefer Hackett	JobsOhio	Bank of America
Deceuninck	DBL Law	Duke Energy
GCFTZ	5/3 Bank	CVG
HORAN Wealth	Prysmian	

Why Europe Matters to Our Region



- Hundreds of European-owned operations throughout Southwest Ohio & Northern Kentucky.
- European companies employ thousands of people in the Tri-State.
- Significant source of foreign direct investment.
- Manufacturing, advanced tech, logistics, food & flavorings, pharmaceutical, professional services

Membership Mix



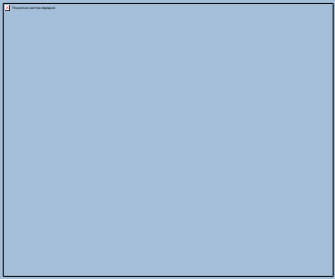
- Manufacturers (51%)
- Professional service firms (35%)
- Community Partners (14%)
 - Economic dev. organizations
 - Universities & technical Schools
 - Municipalities
 - Chambers of Commerce & Trade Groups
 - Sports/Arts/Culture



European companies operating in the U.S. & American companies doing business in Europe (or specializing)

Principal Focus: Corporate executive + *mid-level mgmt & young professionals*

Member benefits

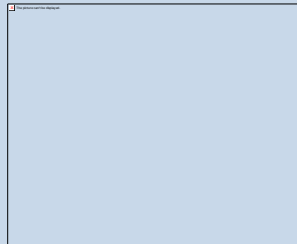


Business Connections

Executive networking
Peer introductions
Strategic partnerships

Education

Workforce
Automation
Sustainability
Growth & transformation

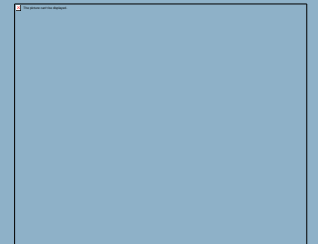


Community Integration

Expat resources
Social engagement
Regional and international intros

Market Support

Int'l expansion
Trade resources
Govt + community connections



EDUCATION • BUSINESS SHOWCASE • SOCIAL/NETWORKING

PROGRAMS & EVENTS



WORKFORCE strategic initiatives
TRANSFORM growth/tech
AUTOMATE manufacturing tech
SUSTAIN energy & sustainability



Annual Gala EU/US celebration
Executive Roundtable
Workshops for mid-level managers
Young Professional events
Casual Networking at Stammtisch



We Support Economic Development



- Connect international companies to regional resources
- Help companies establish and grow operations
- Support workforce initiatives
- Collaborate with REDI Cincinnati, JobsOhio, BE NKY, chambers, universities, municipalities, and workforce organization
- Provide a trusted entry point for European executives, employees, and families



THANK YOU!

We appreciate the opportunity to share about our organization. We are always seeking better ways to connect and support our community and welcome opportunities to strengthen Greater Cincinnati as a premier destination for international business investment and growth.

Visit our website for more: www.eacc-cincy.com

City of Cincinnati

Economic Impact of
Black-Owned Businesses in
Southwest Ohio
Communities

<https://aacconomics.com/>

<https://theaachamber.com/>

GREATER CINCINNATI & NORTHERN KENTUCKY
AFRICAN AMERICAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

AAC Economics
Black Business
Analysis



Why Study This?

- Minority-owned businesses are growing at almost twice the rate of other groups
- Gain better insight into Cincinnati's tax foundation
- Enhance comprehension of the local business environment.
- Aid in devising a strategic plan to attract more businesses.

Study Details

- Conducted by UC Economics Center
- Includes Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, City of Cincinnati, Montgomery, Campbell, Kenton, and Warren Counties
- Over 1,400 businesses were part of this study



Core Results

- \$2.8 Billion in Total Economic Output
- 9,000 jobs/Over \$341M in earnings
- \$20.1 million in local sales tax revenue in these counties
- \$12.3M+ in state sales tax
- \$15.7M+ in local earnings tax revenue
- \$28.1M+ in fiscal impact to the region and State



Share of Business and Wages by Industry

Source: Economics Center analysis using data retrieved from Lightcast

Industry		Share of Companies	Share of Wages
	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	0.7%	0.5%
	Health Care & Social Services	0.5%	0.3%
	Accommodations & Food Services	1.2%	0.8%
	Construction	1.0%	0.8%
	Wholesale Trade	0.2%	0.8%

CITY OF CINCINNATI RESULTS

Source: Economics Center analysis using data retrieved from Lightcast

TOTAL JOBS		TOTAL EARNINGS	TOTAL SALES
TOTAL IN CITY OF CINCINNATI	8,501	\$322,097,786	\$1,432,752,225



AACC Programs & Events

We host over 120 a year, below are some of our signature events.

Industry

Program Description



The Exchange Networking Event

A curated networking event designed to connect a high valued speaker to professionals across industries, fostering meaningful conversations, partnerships, and new opportunities.



Digital Growth Lab: AI, Website and Brand Essentials

A bi-monthly hands-on program designed to help small businesses improve their digital presence through AI tools, effective websites, and strategic branding for growth and success.



Business Essentials for Small Businesses

Monthly lunch and learn sessions covering some of the basics of operating a business, designed for all business levels. Topics include: marketing, law, leases, credit, accounting, taxes, and finances.



Contacts to Contracts

The Annual Contacts to Contracts conference will be for small businesses to gain insightful information on what it takes to develop your construction company to a prime level.



Social Media and Press Matters

A bi-monthly program for entrepreneurs to strengthen brand presence and build audience trust by learning practical strategies for utilizing social media and media exposure to increase visibility and support business growth.



Department of Development

Minority Business Assistance Center



CERTIFICATION
ASSISTANCE



MARKETING
SERVICES



BUSINESS
ASSISTANCE



FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE

Find out more by visiting
our website and other
resources in our LinkTree!

<https://linktr.ee/cincymbac>



566 BUSINESSES COUNSELED

JANUARY - JUNE 2026



284
BUSINESS &
CERTIFICATION
COUNSELING



282
FINANCIAL
COUNSELING
SESSIONS

60 STATE CERTIFICATIONS

12 CAPABILITY STATEMENT CREATION

31 EVENTS WITH OVER 900 ATTENDEES

THE MINORITY BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CENTER PROGRAM IS FUNDED BY THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE HANDICAPPED CAN BE MADE. PLEASE MAKE THIS REQUEST IN ADVANCE OF THE EVENT. THIS PROGRAM IS PROVIDED ON A NON-DISCRIMINATORY BASIS.



30th Anniversary Gala

Saturday, November 14, 2026

Turfway Park Racing & Gaming

For 30 years, the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky African American Chamber of Commerce has fueled business growth, economic opportunity, and regional collaboration. This milestone celebration honors that legacy while setting the vision for the future of Black business leadership. A 30th anniversary is symbolized by Emerald and Pearl, representing strength, wisdom, and enduring value —qualities reflected in the Chamber's impact and the businesses it supports.

The evening will feature Black Business Hall of Fame inductions, executive networking, entertainment, and a forward-looking celebration of what's next.

AAC Economics
Black Business
Analysis



Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky
African American Chamber of Commerce

Eric H. Kearney
President & CEO

kearney@african-americanchamber.com

📞 513-751-9900

🌐 <https://www.aacconomics.com>



The logo features the word "MORTAR" in a large, white, bold, sans-serif font. Below it, the letters "HQ" are centered within a white rounded rectangle. The entire graphic is set against a dark red background with a subtle paper texture. At the top, there is a horizontal band of orange and dark red squares in a checkerboard pattern, which appears to be torn away from the main background.

MORTAR

HQ

#WeAreMORTAR



FOR THE *Dreamers* & THE *Doers*

Founded in May of 2014, MORTAR exists to build businesses and transform cities through entrepreneurship.

For more than 12 years, we have worked diligently to assess the barriers and obstacles to success for Black and Women-owned businesses.

We then reverse-engineered those systems to develop solutions, delivering access to the tools and the resources needed to start, sustain, and scale successful businesses.



A black and white photograph of two men laughing and clapping. The man on the left has a beard and a topknot, wearing a dark t-shirt. The man on the right wears a baseball cap, glasses, and a t-shirt with a graphic. They are positioned on the left side of the slide, against a background of a red and white checkered pattern on the far left and a solid orange background on the right. A large, stylized orange wave graphic is at the bottom left.

MORTAR's Core Values

- We do this for our **Community**
- We are **Revolutionary**
- We fight for **Equity**
- We operate with **Integrity**
- We move with **Gratitude**
- We improve through **Continuous Growth & Learning**

THE MORTAR Makeup

- Academy
(15 Week Accelerator Program)
- Alumni
(Ongoing Mentorship & Support)
- Activation
(BRICK Pop-up Shops)
- Access
(Iron Chest Fund)*

*Total amount of funds disbursed as loans,
grants & equity: \$1,073,000.
Average grant amount: \$1500

MORTAR
HQ



MEET OUR PARTICIPANTS

87%

BLACK/AFRICAN
AMERICAN

82%

WOMEN

82%

HAVE CHILDREN AT HOME

72%

SINGLE OR DIVORCED

25%

HOUSEHOLD INCOME UNDER \$50K



THIS IS OUR **IMPACT**

95%

Said that MORTAR was useful
to them and their business

92%

Would recommend MORTAR
to other entrepreneurs

67%

Rated MORTAR
above other Cincinnati
organizations



MORTAR Alumni Tribes

MORTAR's alumni network spans six primary industries creating a strong “Tribes” of local businesses that are equipped to meet a wide range of contracting and procurement needs.



The Iron Chest *Fund*

Total amount of funds disbursed as
loans, grants & equity:

OVER
\$1.2M

Average grant amount: \$1500





THE MORTAR **BUILDING**

Building revenue is up by \$10k compared to this time last year, a reflection of increased building usage.

2026 Cincinnati Expected Activities

- 60 participants enrolled in the MORTAR Entrepreneurship Academy, with a 90% graduation rate across cohorts (83% are Black and Women); MORTAR is sustaining one of the most diverse entrepreneurial pipelines.
- 100-150 Alumni engaged through our continued wraparound support: 1:1 coaching, segmented technical assistance, TRIBE peer mentorship, office hours, and group events (including the MORTAR x Fifth Third Financial Resilience workshops).
- 25 local entrepreneurs will be provided with pop-up retail or café residencies and quarterly markets through the BRICK program, offering real-world experience, increased exposure, and revenue-generating opportunities for small businesses.
- \$150k Iron Chest Fund capital disbursements paired with financial coaching for responsible growth.





THE FUTURE IS OWNING YOUR *Legacy.*

We've launched our proven entrepreneurial curriculum in a flexible online format where you can grow at your own pace.

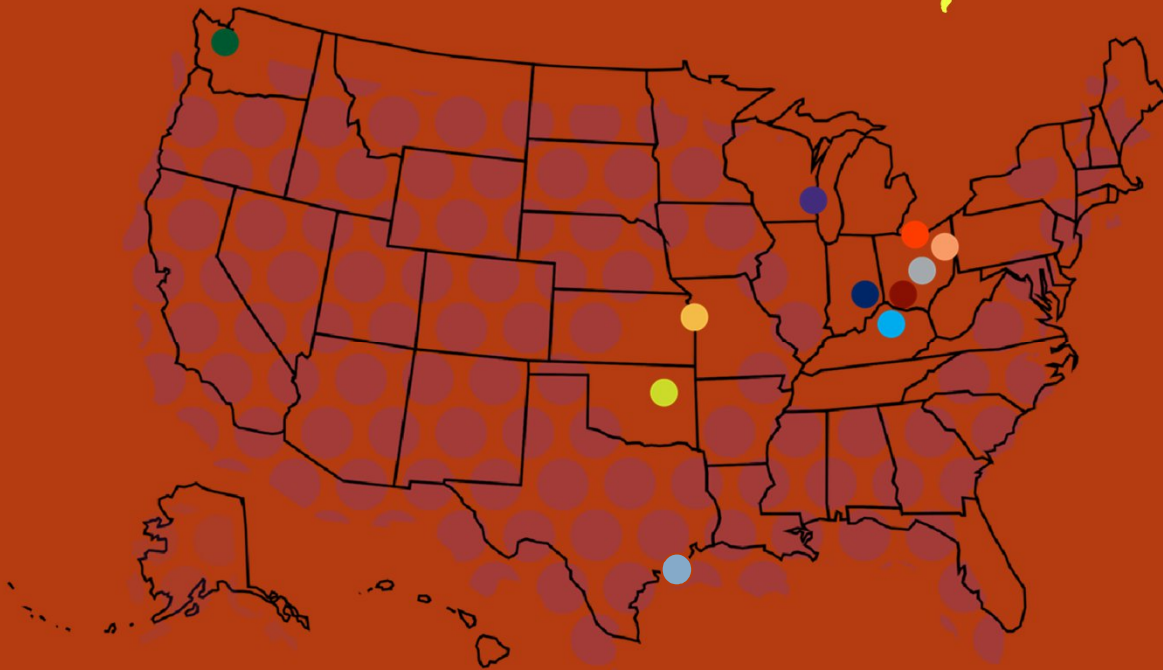
Scan the QR code to get 5 FREE chapters!



MORTAR
MASTERS
ONLINE

MORTAR IS

On The Map



MORTAR
HQ

The MORTAR infrastructure is a formula; a “liquid” that takes the shape of whatever container it’s poured into.

As the local anchor partner and funder work together to provide the viable “container”, we collaboratively come together to create a winning combination. In this relationship, we need each other for this to work!

Though the formula *can* effectively change the local landscape of entrepreneurship, without a container that has the cultural & historical context of the local infrastructure, it’s just a well intentioned puddle on the floor.

A FEW STATS

Our reach across the nation

Over 1,000 entrepreneurs, 11 cities, and 80+ cohorts

Active Cities

Cincinnati, OH: 531 graduates, 46 cohorts

Akron, OH: 169 graduates, 13 cohorts

Milwaukee, WI: 108 graduates, 9 cohorts

Cleveland, OH: 63 graduates, 4 cohorts

Galveston, TX: 42 graduates, 5 cohorts

Columbus, OH: 30 graduates, 3 cohorts

Legacy Cities

Kansas City, MO: 56 graduates, 4 cohorts

Tulsa, OK: 34 graduates, 5 cohorts

Indianapolis, IN: 34 graduates, 3 cohorts

Covington, KY: 16 graduates, 3 cohorts

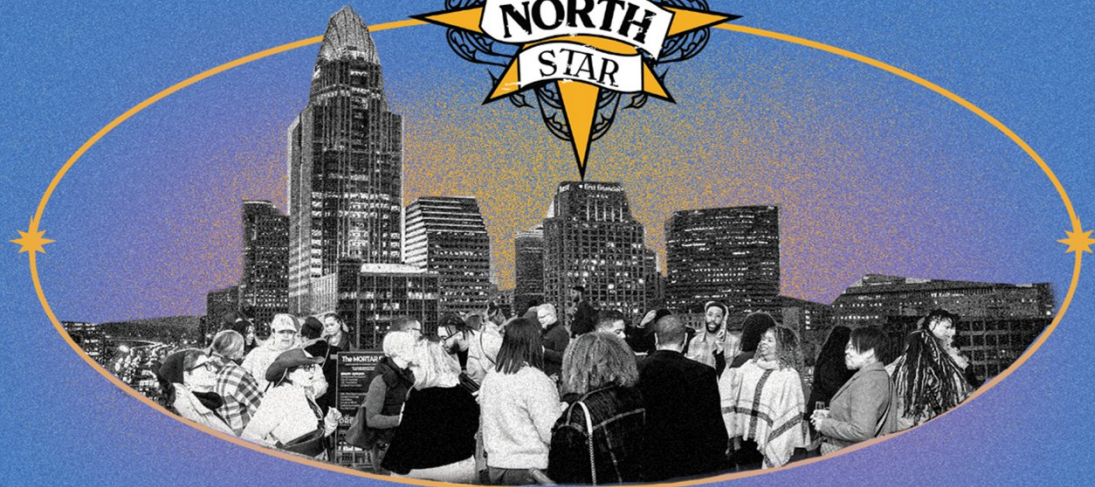
Seattle, WA: 12 graduates, 1 cohort



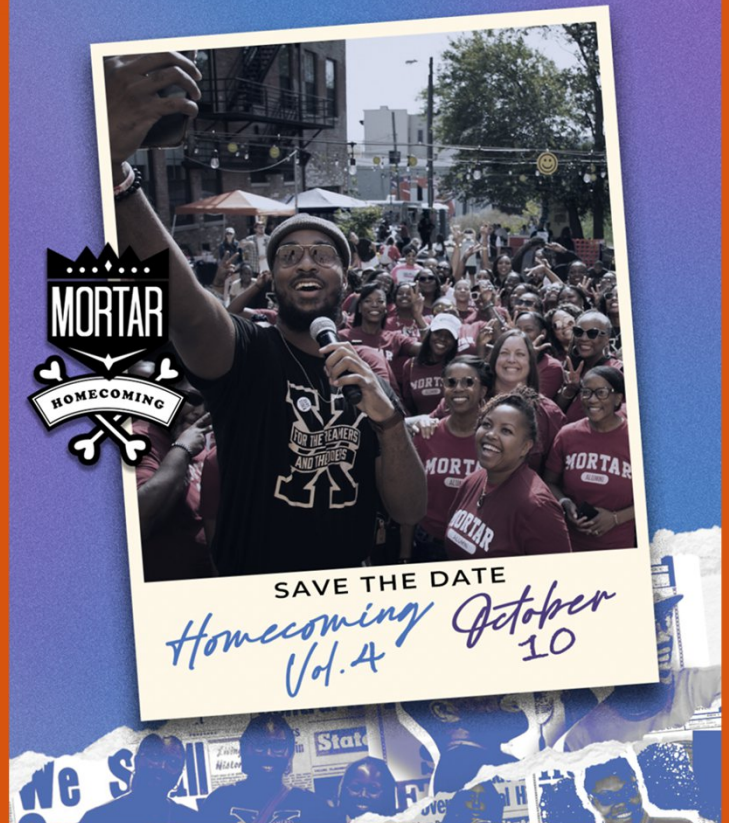
MORTAR Community Activations

You're Invited To
MORTAR's First
Convening

Entrepreneurs
and ESOs coming
together to find
"Our North Star"



DESTINATION
CINCINNATI * OCTOBER
8TH-10TH





FORWARD Together

Every morning, we wake up ready to fight for the dreamers and doers - but we don't do it alone.

MORTAR partners with national funders, local organizations, stakeholders, influencers, and entrepreneurs to customize the MORTAR experience to best fit the needs (and fill potential gaps) of local entrepreneurial ecosystems.

By doing this, we not only ensure that MORTAR organizational standards are upheld, but also that minoritized entrepreneurs are receiving the highest-quality programming and service.

NIGHTLY
NEWS
WITH LESTER HOLT

People

FAST
COMPANY

SPECTRUM
NEWS 1

Inc. ESSENCE

MORTAR

HQ

THANK YOU!

#WeAreMORTAR