

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Long before Miami's incorporation in the late 1800's, this region has been a hub of international trade. All the more in this day and age, Miami-Dade is not only a hub for trade to and from Latin America, but in recent years we've experienced dramatic growth from Europe, and now Asia. It's no wonder that Miami is classified as an "Alpha – World City" by the World Cities Study Group.

MISSION:

The International Business Committee serves as a global resource center that identifies, examines and fosters issues and opportunities involving international trade and business that are both of interest and value to Chamber members, local businesses and business organizations, higher education institutions and the community at large.

OBJECTIVES:

- Keep members informed on new trade and policy issues; advise and support Chamber's advocacy efforts on international business issues, trade agreements, tariffs and trade facilitation
- Expand community outreach to Caribbean and Latin American consulates, trade officers and bi-national chambers
- Partner with local airlines, local organizations and government entities to host one or more overseas missions focused on promoting business opportunities for South Florida businesses relating to the targeted countries
- Provide programming that is relevant, interesting and informative to a diverse group of stakeholders involved with, or interested in, international business opportunities

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

Participation in the International Business Committee is open to chamber members who have interests or concerns related to international business. Members include businesses involved in international trade and related industries, consular corps officials, international industry professionals and key stakeholders in the international arena and those members interested in these areas.

LEADERSHIP:

The International Business Committee is led by a Committee Chair, who is designated by the Chair of the Board for a one-year term and approved by the Board of Directors. The Committee Chair is responsible for the effective functioning of the Committee and ensuring its goals and activities are aligned with the Committee's mission and objectives.

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2023-2024 INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE GOALS

- Increase trade members and their opportunities.
 - Continue to grow the foreign trade zone FTZ#32 by adding 10 companies.
 - Promote the usage of Swiftbox platform as a leading vehicle to facilitate and secure export/import documents online.
 - Participate in at least 2 educational sessions in person and/or via virtual platforms on topics related to international business and trade
 - Assign a liaison to the Governmental Affairs Committee to monitor and address issues affecting international businesses
- Encourage consulates and trade offices to be actively engaged in promoting and facilitating international business with Chamber members by:
 - Encourage at least 50% of new and established Consuls and Trade Representatives to attend at least 1 Chamber event, especially Trustee Luncheons, to help them become acquainted with Miami-Dade and the Chamber.
 - Encourage their participation in SEO program.
 - Hold a Chamber orientation tailored to their needs
 - Work with consulates and trade offices to identify programs addressing innovative technologies and promoting best business practices
- Expand international programming to create resilient opportunities for members:
 - Highlight and support international opportunities through Chamber newsletter, social media platforms, events and functions
 - Organize at least 2 outbound trade missions through the “Americas Linkage” program including the Latin America and Caribbean region
 - Recruit 10 new international members through the outbound and inbound missions
 - Work with universities, economic development agencies, and companies to develop a database of companies engaged in international trade

Alejandra Collarte, Group Chair / International Business Chair
Principal, Collarte & Associates LLC

Gina Polo, International Business Vice Chair
Shareholder, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC

Jose Rojas, Consular and Trade Representatives Chair
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