



The St. Louis Regional Business Council

Overview

The St. Louis Regional Business Council (RBC) is a consortium of chief executives of leading St. Louis mid-cap companies, directly engaged in high-impact business, civic and philanthropic initiatives for the betterment of the St. Louis region. RBC models a new breed of civic engagement combining hands-on involvement, entrepreneurial energy and focus, and proactive collaboration to pursue a positive regional agenda. Since its establishment in 2000, its mission-driven ethos has earned the RBC a reputation as the “go-to” organization to get results. Collectively, RBC members employ more than 100,000 people and generate more than \$50 billion in annual revenue.

RBC is focused on uniting and engaging members to act on high-impact business, civic and philanthropic initiatives for the betterment of the St. Louis region. RBC’s goals are to work closely with major business organizations on select high-impact issues to: develop a more networked and united regional business community; enhance the business climate in the region; improve the quality of life of the region; create an increased pool of business leaders involved in regional initiatives and civic projects; and increase the level of civic and philanthropic investment in those projects.

Regional Priorities

RBC members work collaboratively to advocate for advancing progress in five key areas: supporting regional governance efforts, improving educational opportunities, supporting business diversity, strengthening regional arts and cultural institutions, and increasing member involvement and investment in the St. Louis region. RBC works in partnership with other business and civic groups to accomplish regional objectives. For example, RBC is a collaborative partner in Forward Metro St. Louis with Civic Progress, St. Charles Partners for Progress, RCGA and the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois. Forward Metro St. Louis is the business community’s effort to unite on policies directed to job creation and economic growth and equity for the St. Louis region.

In terms of K-12 education, RBC has selected two very distinct programs that support disadvantaged youth. The Council is

ORGANIZATIONAL SNAPSHOT

Type of Organization

CEOs of St. Louis’ leading private and public mid-cap companies

Unit of Membership

Company/organization

Number of Members

2003: 95
1998: 50

Membership by Company Size

Small Companies: 0%
Mid-sized Companies: 70%
Large Companies: 30%

Dues Determined by

Board of Directors

Annual Dues Paid by

Largest Member Companies: N/A
Smallest Member Companies: N/A

Annual Operating Budget

2003: \$1 million
1998: \$250,000

Staff Members (FTE)

2003: 3
1998: 2

Board Members

2003: 95

Regional Priorities

Regional Governance; Transportation and similar issues; K-12 and Higher Education; Business Diversity (Employment and Supplier); Arts & Culture; Member Involvement & Investment in St. Louis’ 12-County Region

supporting three city elementary schools located in the Vashon Education Compact. The Regional Business Council will complete a substantial financial and volunteer commitment made to support the three schools and the Compact. It is also a priority of RBC to advocate for urban school district reform and board/school accountability through Mayor Francis Slay's Education Coalition.

"Our member companies have a long history of being involved in the community, working to make the region a better place to live and work," said RBC Executive Director Kathleen T. Osborn, who in 1999 spearheaded the organization's formation. "The RBC brings those individual efforts together to create results that are more powerful and enduring than any single member or group of members could accomplish individually. We anticipate issues and provide advance, in-depth education to our members so they are informed and ready as challenges and opportunities emerge."

Structure and Operations

RBC membership is comprised of the CEOs of St. Louis' leading mid-cap private and public companies. Their impact on the region's economy is evidenced by total employment exceeding 100,000 people and combined annual revenues greater than \$50 billion. About 70 percent of member CEOs lead companies employing 100 to 500 staff members. The remaining 30 percent employ staffs exceeding 500. RBC is governed by a 20-member Executive Committee comprised of the chair, past chair and chair-elect plus four vice-chairs and 13 members-at-large. Members serve as members of the board of directors, functioning in leadership and committee positions for each of the RBC's main initiatives. Staff leadership is provided by Executive Director Kathleen T. Osborn, assisted by two full-time staff members. Additional services are contracted as needed. The RBC's annual budget in 2003 was \$1 million.