

ACTION PLAN (2023 - 2025)

southwest michigan first

WHY THIS ACTION PLAN?

At Southwest Michigan First (SMF), we see a **clear path to a more prosperous future** for everyone who calls our region home. The path starts with successful businesses and meaningful job creation; it leads to flourishing communities, thriving industries, improved quality of life, and enhanced **prosperity and opportunity for all.**

In order to advance along a more prosperous path, we know catalytic change is required and we believe **the greatest force for change is a job.**

This Action Plan operationalizes and builds upon the Pillars of Work established by our Board of Directors in 2021. Through a series of synergistic focus areas, strategies, and tactics, the Action Plan is designed to guide the effective delivery of our existing work while illuminating the path ahead.

You won't find much fluff or ambiguity in the pages that follow. Instead, you'll find a clear outline of what we intend to accomplish, along with resulting performance measures, and revised organizational structures to guide implementation.

This plan will enable our team to:

- 1. Operationalize, optimize, and enhance all existing Pillars of Work within four Focus Areas.
- 2. Accelerate and integrate Consultant Connect, our independent directorship, within a fifth focus area.

FOCUS AREAS



1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Retain, Expand, and Attract Businesses



2. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Enhance, Prepare, and Align our Workforce



3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Advocate For, Enhance and Promote Vibrant Communities and Business Environments



4. OPERATIONS

Maintain Organizational and Operational Excellence



5. CONSULTANT CONNECT

Provide Innovative Consulting Services to Economic Development Organizations

STRATEGIC SHIFTS, MILESTONES, AND ADVANCEMENTS

Through this Action Plan, we'll make the following strategic shifts:



Reposition SMF as a Community and Economic Development Organization



Unite Regional Partners Around Shared Goals and Strategies



Enhance and Align Regional Workforce Development Efforts



Integrate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within all Focus Areas



Position SMF as the Regional Convener of Catalyst Projects and Big Ideas



Revise Organizational Structure to Drive Results through Internal Focus Areas and Divisions

LEADERSHIP

Across the United States, you'll find many examples of regions that have risen or fallen based on the caliber of their leadership. At Southwest Michigan First, we're blessed with exceptional leadership and generous support from many of the region's most influential business, academic, and nonprofit leaders.



Aaron Zeigler Zeigler Automotive Group, President Southwest Michigan First, Chair



Jonas Peterson Southwest Michigan First CEO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Danielle Mason Anderson*

Miller Canfield, Principal

Dan Bartholomae

Western Michigan University, Director of Athletics

Brian Bellware

Gibson Insurance, Principal

Fritz Brown

Treystar, CFO

Steve Carlisle

Wightman, President

Joe Cekola*

Imperial Beverage, President

Lvnn Chen-Zhang

Zhang Financial, Partner & COO

Jamie Clark

Clark Logic, President

Wyatt Cline

Newell, VP of Industrial Design

Dan Coffman

Miller-Davis Company, President & CFO

Troy Cuvelier

Integrated Smart Technologies, President

Marlee D'Arco

Safety Services, Inc., CEO

Greg Dobson*

AVB Inc., COO & Principal

Jack Endres

Mann + Hummel, VP of Operations Automotive Filtration, NA

Byce & Associates, President & CEO

Jim Feltch

ELITE Companies, President & CEO

Jose Gomez

Edwards Garment, CEO

Bjorn Green*

TowerPinkster, President & CEO

Travis Grimsley

Duncan Aviation, Vice President of Aircraft Services

Bob Hance

Midwest Energy & Communications, CEO

Bill Huizenga

US House of Representatives, Michigan-District 4

Aimee Jachym

Miller Johnson, Member

Brian Janssen

Huntington Bank, Regional Banking Market Manager

Dan Jagua*

Jaqua Realtors, President

William D. Johnston*

Greenleaf Companies Chair

Mark Jones

AmeriFirst Mortgage Banking Group, CEO & Co-Founder

Michael A. Jones, Sr.

Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan, President & CEO

Ian Kennedy

Kalsec, VP & General Counsel

John Kerr

Denso, Senior Manager of Government

Dean D. Kindler, M.D.

Ascension Michigan Southwest, CEO

Scott LeBeau

Graphic Packaging, VP of Recycled Mills

Patrick Lennon

Honigman LLP, Partner

James Liggins Jr.

Warner Norcross + Judd LLP, Senior Counsel

Rich MacDonald

The Hinman Company, COO

Bill Manns*

Bronson Healthcare Group, President & CFO

Dave Maurer

Humphrey Products Company, President

Brian McDaniel

American Axle, Senior Human Resources Manager

Todd McDonald

CSM Group, Principal

Russ McFee

GHS Strings, President

Kenneth V. Miller

Millennium Restaurant Group, CEO

Mitch Moldovan

Kreis Enderle, Partner

Edward Montgomery

Western Michigan University, President

Kevin Murphy

Miniature Custom Manufacturing, President

Ben Nobis

Nobis Agri Science, Vice President

TG Nultv

Nulty Insurance, President

Jeffrey O'Brien

Workforce Strategies Inc., President & CEO

Greg O'Niel

O'Niel, LLC, Founder

Mike Odar

Greenleaf Trust, CEO

Mark Olson

Athletic Mentors, Founder

Chris Orlowski

Burke Porter, General Manager

William U. Parfet*

Northwood Group, Chair & CEO

Shawn Premer*

Consumers Credit Union, CHRO

Tim Ravman

Greenleaf Hospitality Group, CEO

Mike Rozewicz

Re:Build TEKNA, General Manager

Greg Salisbury

CMS Energy Corporation, VP of Electric Distribution Engineering

Fred Schubkegel

Varnum LLP, Partner Marc Schupan*

Schupan & Sons, CEO

Tyler Sheerer Armstrong International, CFO **Marjorie Simmons**

Landscape Forms, CEO

Rob Stachlewitz

Charles River, Corporate VP, General Manager - Mattawan

Eric Stoll

Advia Credit Union, VP of Commercial Services

Becky Thompson

Pfizer Global Supply, Sr. Manager of Strategic Product Planning

Nancy Turtle

Mercantile Bank, Community Bank President

Natalie Valentine

Peregrine Company, President

Michelle VanTorre-Werme

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Regional Sales Director

Devon Voster Whirlpool, VP of Organization & Talent

Center of Expertise

Thomas J. Webb* Energy Consultants LLC, Chair

Matt Weishaar

Sturgis Molded Products, Vice President

Flowserve, VP/General Manager, North America Seals & Systems

Sean P. Welsh

PNC Financial Services Group, Regional President

Perry Wolfe

Greenleaf Trust, Senior VP, Executive Director of Development

Carrie Yunker Bell's Brewery, Executive Vice President

Aaron Zeigler*

Zeigler Automotive Group, President

MISSION

Our mission is to increase economic prosperity for all in Southwest Michigan.

We pursue our mission by collaboratively advancing regional strategies and catalytic initiatives in the following areas:



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Retaining, Expanding, and Attracting Businesses



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Enhancing, Preparing, and Aligning our Workforce



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Advocating For, Enhancing, and Promoting Vibrant Business Environments and Communities

VISION

We envision Southwest Michigan as one of the most economically prosperous regions in Michigan and the United States.

GUIDING MOTTO

The greatest force for change is a job.

VALUES



LEADERSHIP

We believe in the transformational power of leadership. Our work is advanced by harnessing the collective power of our existing leaders while cultivating, fostering, and equipping the next generation.



EXCELLENCE

We provide the highest level of service and value to the region and believe that we can achieve more when we collaborate and work together. We value and develop our employees' diverse talent, initiative, and leadership to provide superior quality in all that we do.



INCI IISIVITY

We believe that diverse, equitable and inclusive communities and workplaces create greater vibrancy and engagement. We value everyone and treat people with respect, dignity, and professionalism.



INTEGRITY

We build trust through honest and transparent relationships. We make responsible decisions that support community vitality and are ethical.



INNOVATION

We research, anticipate, and respond to emerging trends to ensure a vibrant future for the region. We believe that the future is bright and we can curate the future through curiosity, collaboration, and unwavering commitment to challenge and change our best every day.

DEI STATEMENT

As Southwest Michigan's regional economic development organization, we are committed to fulfilling our mission to increase economic prosperity for all in our communities through inclusive and equitable actions that support businesses, entrepreneurs, and residents of all races, ethnicities, ages, sexual orientations, gender identifications, beliefs, disabilities, and backgrounds. When we feel free to be ourselves, we all thrive.

We will support these ongoing efforts by actively working to:

- Increase wealth creation opportunities for Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) and other historically underserved communities through our programming and community engagement.
- Integrate diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging within all areas of the Southwest Michigan First organization and its' work.
- Provide equitable access to economic growth opportunities for all who live and work in Southwest Michigan.
- Strengthen and support partner organizations who share similar commitments.

Our work will continue to evolve as we listen, learn, measure, and collaborate with our regional communities to increase economic prosperity for all.

CONTENTS

WHY THIS ACTION PLAN?	2
STRATEGIC SHIFTS, MILESTONES, AND ADVANCEMENTS	3
LEADERSHIP	4
VISION, MISSION, AND GUIDING MOTTO	5
VALUES AND DEI STATEMENT	6
TABLE OF CONTENTS	7
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	8
STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND THREATS	9
ACTION PLAN	
Focus Area 1: Economic Development	11
Focus Area 2: Workforce Development	13
Focus Area 3: Community Development	15
Focus Area 4: Operations	17
Focus Area 5: Consultant Connect	19
Key Performance Metrics	21
Appendix 2: Community Dashboard	23
Appendix 3: Revised Organizational Chart	24
Appendix 4: Board Committees	25
Appendix 5: Regional SWOT Supporting Data	26
Appendix 6: Target Industry Overview	31
Appendix 7: Industry SWOT + Growth Opportunities	37
Appendix 8: Prosperity Region 8: Southwest Michigan	43

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



FOCUS AREA I: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

IMPERATIVE: Retain, Expand, and Attract Businesses

- 1. RETAIN, SUPPORT, AND EXPAND EXISTING BUSINESSES
- 2. IDENTIFY AND ATTRACT NEW COMPANIES, JOBS, AND INVESTMENT
- 3. PROVIDE MARKET INTELLIGENCE TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS
- 4. SUPPORT AND GROW SMALL BUSINESSES AND ENTREPRENEURS (SMF Chamber)
- 5. STRENGTHEN AND LEVERAGE SITE SELECTOR RELATIONSHIPS
- 6. ENGAGE COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS LEADERS IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



FOCUS AREA 2: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

IMPERATIVE: Enhance, Prepare, and Align our Workforce

- 1. ALIGN EDUCATION AND TRAINING PARTNERS WITH INDUSTRY NEEDS
- 2. INSPIRE AND EQUIP LOCAL LEADERS
- 3. NEW: RELAUNCH AND ENHANCE INTERNSHIP MATCHMAKING PROGRAM
- 4. NEW: ATTRACT NEW TALENT
- 5. CONNECT EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES



FOCUS AREA 3: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

IMPERATIVE: Advocate For, Enhance and Promote our Communities and Business Environment

- 1. ADVANCE PRO-BUSINESS POLICY AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT
- 2. PROMOTE SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN AS AN IDEAL LOCATION TO LIVE, WORK, AND ENGAGE
- 3. LEAD, ORGANIZE, AND ADVOCATE FOR KALAMAZOO EVENT CENTER
- 4. INITIATE INNOVATIVE MARKETING TACTICS
- 5. SUPPORT AND CATALYZE INDUSTRIAL SITE DEVELOPMENT
- 6. NEW: IDENTIFY AND TRACK COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC VITALITY
- 7. HOST COMMUNITY BUILDING AND NETWORKING EVENTS
- 8. STRATEGICALLY PROMOTE SMF'S ROLE, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND IMPACT



FOCUS AREA 4: OPERATIONS

IMPERATIVE: Maintain Organizational and Operational Excellence

- SECURE ADEQUATE FUNDING TO DELIVER RESULTS RESPONSIBLY STEWARD FUNDS
- 2. ATTRACT, DEVELOP, AND RETAIN AN EXTRAORDINARY TEAM OF PEOPLE
- 3. INTEGRATE DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION WITHIN ALL FOCUS AREAS
- 4. OPERATE EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY
- 5. PLAN AND EXECUTE IMPACTFUL EVENTS



FOCUS AREA 5: CONSULTANT CONNECT (Taxable Non-profit, Independent Directorship) **IMPERATIVE:** Provide Innovative Consulting Services to Economic Development Organizations

- 1. PROVIDE SITE SELECTOR ENGAGEMENT SERVICES TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS
- 2. HOST ENGAGING AND RELEVANT EVENTS
- 3. PROVIDE FEE FOR SERVICE CONSULTING SERVICES
- 4. DELIVER AWARDS AND RECOGNITION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEADERS
- 5. NEW: DIVERSIFY AND EXPLORE NEW REVENUE STREAMS

STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND THREATS (SWOT)

During 2021, the Southwest Michigan First Board of Directors identified high level economic and social headwinds impacting our region. Subsequently, those initial observations have been added to, refined, and reorganized based on Board guidance, stakeholder surveys, and feedback from community outreach meetings in 2022. Together, these findings are organized as strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats below:

ORGANIZATIONAL SWOT **Helpful to Achieving the Objective Harmful to Achieving the Objective STRENGTHS WEAKNESSES** nternal in Origin • Team Major Investor Variability Culture • Incomplete Strategic Plan Mission • 1-Year Investor Commitments Adaptability + Creativity Broad Scope of Work • Office + Event Space • Limited Regional Collaboration • Site Selector Relationships Limited Integration of Operational Systems Private Sector Funding **OPPORTUNITIES THREATS** • Federal Funding Programs Revenue Variability Consultant Connect Growth Rapid Inflation • SMF Chamber Brand Growth • Economic Uncertainty Returning/Renewed Partnerships Changing Philanthropic Giving • External Organizational Perception

REGION/	AL SWOT
Helpful to Achieving the Objective	Harmful to Achieving the Objective
STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
 Overall Value Proposition Health Science + Pharmaceutical Industry Cluster Medical Device Industry Cluster Advanced Manufacturing Industry Cluster Design, Research + Development Industry Cluster Agriculture + Food Processing Industry Cluster Logistics Industry Cluster Automotive Industry Cluster Philanthropy Education Assets Quality of Life Amenities Affordability 	Limited Labor Force Availability Limited Industrial Buildings & Sites Limited Residential Development Limited Regional Alignment
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
 Regionalism ARPA Funding Availability Event Center Training and Education Capacity and Alignment 	 Population Decline Population Aging Business Ownership Transitions Global Economic Uncertainty Inflation Higher Education Enrollment Decline









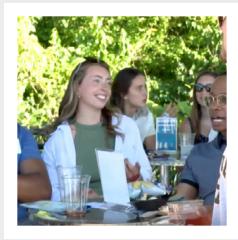
















FOCUS AREA I: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

IMPERATIVE: Retain, Expand, and Attract Businesses

WHY? Helping businesses create jobs and invest in our region is the foundation of our organization. We believe successful businesses will positively impact almost every aspect of community well-being and vitality.

DIVISION LEADS:

- Business Development + Market Intelligence
- SMF Chamber | Small Business + Entrepreneurship

STRATEGIES & TACTICS (listed in order of priority)

RETAIN, SUPPORT, AND EXPAND EXISTING BUSINESSES

- **1.1** Implement regional company visitation/consultation and assistance plan
- 1.2 NEW: Identify and report strengths and weaknesses of regional operating environment
- **1.3** Provide employers with access to resources and concierge support services
- **1.4** Identify supplier expansion and/or relocation opportunities
- **1.5 NEW:** Ensure minority-owned businesses are served by targeting them for existing industry visits, also connecting them to statewide and local resources.
- **1.6 NEW:** Host Advanced Manufacturing Consortium
 - **1.6.1** Lead Regional Supplier Summit
 - 1.6.2 Host Sustainability Collaborative

2 IDENTIFY AND ATTRACT NEW COMPANIES, JOBS, AND INVESTMENT

- **2.1 NEW:** Implement regional business attraction program
- **2.2** Identify and pursue supplier expansion and/or relocation opportunities
- **2.3** Actively pursue corporate relocation opportunities, with a focus on the following industry clusters:
 - Advanced Manufacturing
 - Health Sciences and Pharmaceuticals
 - Medical Devices
 - Design, Research and Development
 - Agriculture and Food Processing
 - Automotive
 - Logistics

3 PROVIDE MARKET INTELLIGENCE TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- 3.1 NEW: Enhance market analysis and reporting capabilities
 - **3.1.1 NEW:** Publish Major Development Map
 - 3.1.2 NEW: Publish Business Resource Guide
- **3.2 NEW:** Strengthen and formalize research partnership with W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research
 - 3.2.1 NEW: Explore Consensus Forecast partnership
- 3.3 Identify, analyze, and forecast industry trends, opportunities, and threats
- 3.4 Integrate market research into community marketing programs

SUPPORT AND GROW SMALL BUSINESSES AND ENTREPRENEURS

- **4.1** Implement Business First Education Series
- 4.2 NEW: Implement First Path Program for entrepreneurship training
- **4.3 NEW:** Implement Supplier Diversity Initiative
- 4.4 NEW: Provide awards and recognition for small and retail businesses
- 4.5 Provide ribbon cutting services
- 4.6 NEW: Grow Southwest Michigan First Chamber brand awareness and capacity
 - **4.6.1** Grow investors and membership
 - 4.6.2 NEW: Align Chamber brand with all small business, entrepreneurship, and retail assistance programs and services

 - **4.6.3 NEW:** Update Chamber membership benefits
 - 4.6.4 NEW: Update Chamber webpages
- **4.7** Host business networking and educational events
 - **4.7.1** Host business community townhalls
 - 4.7.2 Host Black & Brown Mixers
 - 4.7.3 Host Business Breakfast Roundtable Series

STRENGTHEN AND LEVERAGE SITE SELECTOR RELATIONSHIPS

5.1 Implement site selector outreach, communication, and engagement strategy to attract new business opportunities

ENGAGE COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS LEADERS IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

- **6.1** Organize, engage, and lead Regional Economic Development Partners
- **6.2 NEW:** Launch State of Economic Development Event

2024 MILESTONES / ADVANCEMENTS Expand Business Launch State Visitation/ Assist in the Creation **Enhance Market** of Economic Consultation Across of 800 New Jobs Intelligence **Development Event** Region NOTES

FOCUS AREA 2: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

IMPERATIVE: Enhance, Prepare, and Align our Workforce

WHY? The presence of a skilled and abundant workforce is the single most important ingredient of successful economic development. In order to grow our economy, we must guide, support, and lead innovative and robust workforce development strategies.

DIVISION LEADS:

Workforce Development

STRATEGIES & TACTICS (listed in order of priority)

ALIGN EDUCATION AND TRAINING PARTNERS WITH INDUSTRY NEEDS

1.1 NEW: Publish Workforce Blueprint for Southwest Michigan

1.1.1 Forecast occupation/skill set needs

1.1.2 Identify training and education gaps and/or surpluses

1.1.3 Identify top in-demand occupations and career paths

1.1.4 Create workforce and talent strategy

1.1.5 Establish Workforce Report Card to track progress

1.1.6 Educate and inform employers and regional stakeholders about critical workforce and talent issues

2 INSPIRE AND EQUIP LOCAL LEADERS

2.1 Provide thought-provoking, inspirational content through Catalyst University

2.1.1 NEW: Explore, identify, and implement revised event structure to improve financial performance

2.2 Provide leadership training through Leadership Kalamazoo and First 50

2.3 Provide fee-for service leadership training

2.3.1 NEW: Update, publish, and promote standard training offerings

3 NEW: RELAUNCH AND ENHANCE INTERNSHIP MATCHMAKING PROGRAM

3.1 NEW: Review, align, and maximize internship promotion through matchmaking portal

3.2 Collaborate with and promote Monroe-Brown internship opportunities

3.3 Pursue recognized internship matchmaking partnerships with higher education partners

4 NEW: ATTRACT NEW TALENT

4.1 NEW: Support Quality of Life and Talent Attraction campaign

4.2 NEW: Partner with Back to Michigan Statewide Talent Attraction efforts

4.3 Partner with local colleges and universities to leverage alumni networks for returning talent initiatives

5 CONNECT EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES

5.1 Advance MIX/Design and sustainability collaboratives

5.2 NEW: Explore workforce development partnership with Michigan Works!

2024 MILESTONES / ADVANCEMENTS		
Align Education and Training Partners with Industry Needs	Relaunch and Enhance Internship Matchmaking Services	Expand MIX Design Program Regionally
NOTES		

FOCUS AREA 3: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

IMPERATIVE: Advocate For, Enhance and Promote our Communities and Business Environment

WHY? Place is important to people and companies. We need culturally strong, vibrant neighborhoods and business environments where everyone can share in greater prosperity. We also need to aggressively promote our region and elevate our business brand nationally.

DIVISION LEADS:

- Public Policy + Strategic Initiatives
- Marketing + Communications

STRATEGIES & TACTICS (listed in order of priority)

ADVANCE PRO-BUSINESS POLICY AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

1.1 NEW: Publish Public Policy Guiding Principles for:

- Advanced Economic Development Programs + Services
- Enhanced Education + Workforce
- Competitive Tax + Regulatory Environments
- Efficient and Reliable Infrastructure
- Vibrant Communities and Housing
- 1.2 Leverage Economic Development Leaders for Michigan to advance pro-business policy
- 1.3 Leverage Business Leaders for Michigan to advance pro-business policy
- **1.4** Pursue partnership with West Michigan Policy Forum
- **1.5** Provide economic development training with elected/appointed leaders
- **1.6 NEW:** Increase connectivity with elected officials at all levels

2 PROMOTE SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN AS AN IDEAL LOCATION TO LIVE, WORK, AND ENGAGE

- **2.1 NEW:** Create and begin implementation of Quality of Life + Talent Attraction campaign
- **2.2** Create and share content highlighting the region on social media channels
- 2.3 Deliver First & 42 e-newsletter weekly

3 LEAD, ORGANIZE, AND ADVOCATE FOR KALAMAZOO EVENT CENTER

- 3.1 Commission and publish feasibility study
- 3.2 Create and publish operating structure
- 3.3 Create and publish concept design
- 3.4 Organize financing structure

4 INITIATE INNOVATIVE MARKETING TACTICS

- **4.1** Evaluate and adopt best practices
- **4.2** Streamline marketing and communications activities for consistent messaging and tracking
- **4.3** Increase engagement through new video content

5 SUPPORT AND CATALYZE INDUSTRIAL SITE DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Identify available and high-priority sites **5.2** Identify development obstacles and opportunities

6 NEW: IDENTIFY AND TRACK COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC VITALITY

6.1 NEW: Publish Community Dashboard **6.2 NEW:** Update Peer Regions

7 HOST COMMUNITY BUILDING AND NETWORKING EVENTS

7.1 Host First & Foremost **7.2** Host Policy Engagement Events

8 STRATEGICALLY PROMOTE SMF'S ROLE, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND IMPACT

8.1 Highlight assisted businesses through social media

8.2 Create and share team profiles

2024 MILESTONES / ADVANCEMENTS Launch Quality of Life + Talent Attraction Campaign Publish Public Policy Guiding Principles Host Policy Events Outside of Kalamazoo County Implement New Marketing Automation Program

NOTES			



IMPERATIVE: Maintain Organizational and Operational Excellence

WHY? Our plan is only as strong as the team and resources we have to execute it. In order to deliver the results we all want to see, we need to maintain a talented, equipped, and engaged team.

DIVISION LEADS:

- Operations
- Investor Engagement

STRATEGIES & TACTICS (listed in order of priority)

SECURE ADEQUATE FUNDING TO DELIVER RESULTS; RESPONSIBLY STEWARD FUNDS

- **1.1** Prepare balanced and fully aligned budget to support Action Plan
 - **1.1.1** Reengage, stabilize, and elevate major investors
 - **1.1.2** If necessary, explore multi-year fundraising campaign
 - **1.1.3** If necessary, explore investor level increases
 - **1.1.4** If necessary, scale back program and service delivery
- **1.2** Identify, secure, and manage new investors and revenue sources
 - **1.2.1** Identify, secure, and retain Council of 100 members
 - **1.2.2** Identify, secure, and retain Chamber members
 - **1.2.3 NEW:** Manage MEDC Revitalization and Placemaking (RAP) grants
 - 1.2.4 NEW: Explore grant opportunities through foundations, corporate giving programs and individual donors

2 ATTRACT, DEVELOP, AND RETAIN AN EXTRAORDINARY TEAM OF PEOPLE

- **2.1** Ensure sufficient staffing and support exists to achieve success
 - **2.1.1** If necessary, discontinue or pause select programs and services
- **2.2** Update performance review process
- **2.3** Establish year-end performance incentives tied to organizational goals
- 2.4 Foster a culture of continuous benchmarking, learning, adaptation, and improvement

3 INTEGRATE DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION WITHIN ALL FOCUS AREAS

- **3.1** Identify and adopt best practice processes
- **3.2** Foster a fully inclusive organization, which celebrates diversity of all types and strives for individual along with shared accomplishment

4 OPERATE EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY

4.1 NEW: Refresh organizational structure to improve efficiency and alignment

4.1.1 NEW: Empower Division Leaders to drive performance

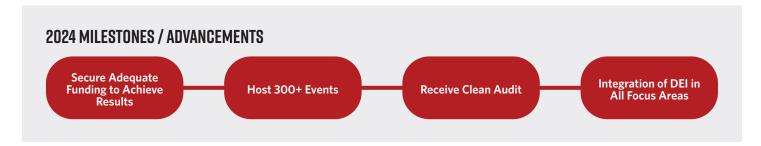
4.2 NEW: Adopt web-based payment processing

4.3 NEW: Adjust CRM to meet team needs and enhance reporting

5 PLAN AND EXECUTE IMPACTFUL EVENTS

5.1 Provide logistics and support services for SMF and partner-led events

5.2 Maximize Catalyst Center impact and revenue



NOTES	



IMPERATIVE: Provide Innovative Consulting Services to Economic Development Organizations

WHY? Through Consultant Connect, we're able to generate revenue for SMF, support key staff, build site selector relationships, and gather valuable market intelligence. Along the way, we're supporting and equipping economic development leaders across the United States.

DIVISION LEADS:

Consultant Connect

CONSULTANT CONNECT SWOT			
Helpful to Achieving the Objective	Harmful to Achieving the Objective		
• C2 Team • Client + Site Consultant Relationships • Existing Events • Existing Services	WEAKNESSES		
• C2 Team	Declining Growth Opportunities for Hosting		
Client + Site Consultant Relationships	Site Selector Events		
• Existing Events	Limited Scope of C2 Brand		
• Existing Services	Limited Recurring Membership Revenue		
Top 50 Economic Developer Awards			
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS		
Continued Growth of C2 Model	Increased Competition		
Leadership Training for Economic Developers	 Limited Capacity to Expand Site Selector Network 		
• Certificate Programs	Team Capacity		
• Additional Awards	• Inflation + Market Specific Cost Variables		
• ECONOMIX Growth			
• Online Content			
Certificate Programs Additional Awards ECONOMIX Growth Online Content IEDC Chairmanship 2023 International Opportunities			
■ International Opportunities			
State Partnerships			
Economic Development Association Partnerships			

STRATEGIES & TACTICS (listed in order of priority)

PROVIDE SITE SELECTOR ENGAGEMENT SERVICES TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

- 1.1 Provide fee for service Summit Series events
- **1.2** Provide fee for service Destination Summit events
- **1.3** Provide fee for service custom events (white label events)
- **1.4** Provide fee for service regional site consultant tours

2 HOST ENGAGING AND RELEVANT EVENTS

2.1 Host Annual ECONOMIX

3 PROVIDE FEE FOR SERVICE CONSULTING SERVICES

3.1 Provide Clifton Strengths Assessment and other leadership trainings

4 DELIVER AWARDS AND RECOGNITION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEADERS

4.1 NEW: Expand Recognition for Economic Development Organizations **4.2** Recognize and Promote Top 50 Economic Developers in North America

5 NEW: DIVERSIFY AND EXPLORE NEW REVENUE STREAMS

5.1 NEW: Identify new service offerings that increase revenue and profit margins

5.2 NEW: Leverage partners to deliver programs, services, and content

5.3 NEW: Engage Top 50 leaders in advisory role

2024 MILESTONES / ADVANCEMENTS Grow Total Revenue to \$2.5M Profit Margin Goal of 5% of Revenue Expand Services to 40 States and Two Countries

NOTES			



