STANDING COMMITTEES

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Advance company growth, recruitment and international opportunity



THE COMMITTEE'S ROLE

Advance the EDC's business retention, expansion, recruitment and international strategy. Members help identify opportunities, strengthen the regional business case and connect the team with companies and decision makers.

VALUE OF PARTICIPATION

- Help shape strategies that attract, retain and grow companies.
- Build relationships across Tampa Bay's corporate and economic development network.
- Put market knowledge and professional connections to work for the region.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE

- Executives in target and growth industries.
- Commercial real estate, site selection, utilities and infrastructure leaders.
- Banking, legal, accounting and professional services leaders.
- International trade, export and global business leaders.

COMMITTEE CHAIR



Phillip Lee

Market President, West Florida, Florida Blue

PAST COMMITTEE CHAIRS

FY25

Jason Woody

President & CEO, Lions World Vision Institute

FY26

Jennifer Bolivar

Chief Retail Officer, Suncoast Credit Union

STANDING COMMITTEES

INVESTOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Strengthen the network that powers the Tampa Bay EDC



THE COMMITTEE'S ROLE

Support the attraction, retention and expansion of investor relationships. Members help ensure current and prospective investors understand the EDC's value and find meaningful ways to engage.

VALUE OF PARTICIPATION

- Help shape a strong, relevant investor experience.
- Build peer relationships with leaders across the region.
- Expand the network through warm introductions and authentic storytelling.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE

- Relationship-driven senior executives.
- Corporate and community affairs leaders.
- Business development, sales and client service professionals.
- Current investors with broad Tampa Bay networks.

COMMITTEE CHAIR



April Grajales

Tampa Bay Market President and Commercial Banking Area Executive, Regions Bank

PAST COMMITTEE CHAIRS

FY25

Gina Curry

CEO, NextPath Workforce Solutions

FY26

Joanne LeBlanc

Vice President, Colliers

STANDING COMMITTEES

MARKETING + COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Tell Tampa Bay's story to the audiences that matter



THE COMMITTEE'S ROLE

Guide marketing, communications, talent attraction and public relations efforts that strengthen Tampa Bay's reputation with companies, talent, investors and national influencers.

VALUE OF PARTICIPATION

- Influence how Tampa Bay's competitive story is told.
- Collaborate with peers on high-impact campaigns and content.
- Connect the EDC with media, creative talent and new audiences.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE

- Marketing, brand and communications executives.
- Public relations, media and public affairs leaders.
- Creative, digital, social media and content professionals.
- Talent attraction and employer brand leaders.

COMMITTEE CHAIR



Elizabeth Dvorak

CEO and Founder, Workscapes, Inc.

PAST COMMITTEE CHAIRS

FY25

Christine Turner

CEO, ChappellRoberts

FY26

Karl Strauch

Vice President of Marketing, Port Tampa Bay



STANDING COMMITTEES

COMPETITIVENESS COMMITTEE

Strengthen the talent and place-based systems businesses rely on

THE COMMITTEE'S ROLE

Develop projects and insights that support the EDC's talent and place-based priorities. Members help assess Tampa Bay's competitive position and shape strategies for inclusive, long-term economic growth.

VALUE OF PARTICIPATION

- Help frame research and priorities that influence regional strategy.
- Bring employer needs into talent, education and place-based discussions.
- Connect business, education, government and community perspectives.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE

- Workforce, HR and talent development leaders.
- Education, research and data professionals.
- Infrastructure, housing and community development leaders.
- Public sector and target industry executives.

COMMITTEE CHAIR



April Neumann

Executive Vice President, Workforce Transformation, Vocate Education Solutions

PAST COMMITTEE CHAIRS

FY25

Ian Anderson

President & Publisher, Tampa Bay Business Journal

FY26

Merritt Martin

Vice President, Chief of Staff, Public Affairs and Strategic Communications, Moffitt Cancer Center