

Celebrating CBCC's 40th Anniversary

THE ACUMEN

January 2025

BANKING ON CHANGE

A Conversation With
Malcolm Evans

BY DR. ANGELIC COLE

COMPOSING COLOR:
ALMA THOMAS
DENVER ART MUSEUM

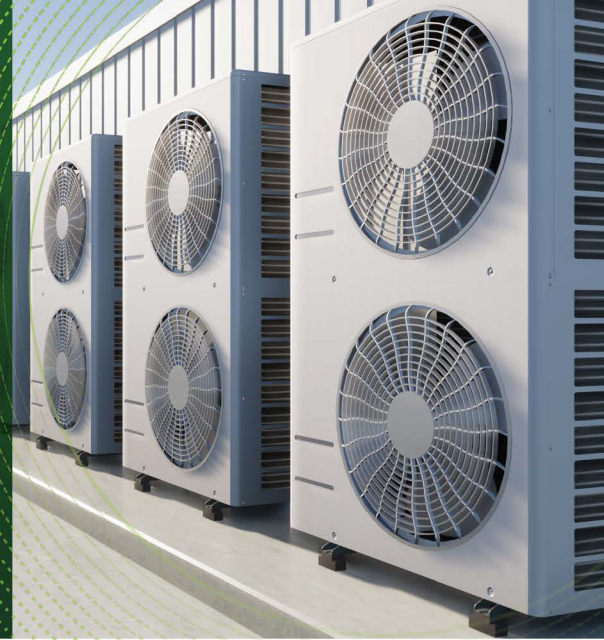
THE BUSINESS OF
WATER
DALE R. HUNTER

NEW EXHIBIT: HELD
IMPERMANENCE
CLYFFORD STILL MUSEUM



GET PUMPED

FOR THE DENVER HEAT PUMP REBATE PROGRAM



Pump up your efficiency and save money when you install a heat pump!

Efficient electric heat pumps cool your building in the summer and heat your building in the winter. Denver is offering rebates* for commercial and multifamily buildings. Save money when you upgrade your air conditioner, furnace, or hot water heater to a heat pump.

Denver offers heat pump rebates for:

- Ducted split air-source heat pumps: \$3,000-\$5,500
- Non-ducted mini-split air-source heat pumps: \$3,000-\$5,500
- Heat pump hot water heaters: \$2,500-\$3,500
- Heat pump roof top units: \$5,000-\$16,000
- Variable refrigerant flow heat pumps: \$2,000 per cooling tonnage
- Packaged terminal heat pumps: \$200-\$500 per packaged unit
- Single packaged vertical heat pumps: \$400-\$1,000 per packaged unit
- Water source heat pumps: \$3,600 per cooling tonnage
- Ground source heat pumps: \$3,600 per cooling tonnage



Equity Priority Buildings can get their rebates doubled. These buildings include deed-restricted affordable housing, naturally occurring affordable housing, and non-profit organizations. Save more when you stack Denver's rebates with rebates from Xcel Energy!

Getting your rebate from Denver is easy:

1. Get your project pre-approved! Use the application on denvergov.org/getpumped
2. When we confirm your eligibility, you will get a pre-approval letter that reserves your rebate
3. Work with a licensed contractor to install the pre-approved equipment
4. When the project is complete, send us your invoices and other documents for review
5. When the review is complete, you will receive an Equipment Rebate Approval Letter and a check in your mailbox

PUMP UP YOUR SAVINGS TODAY.

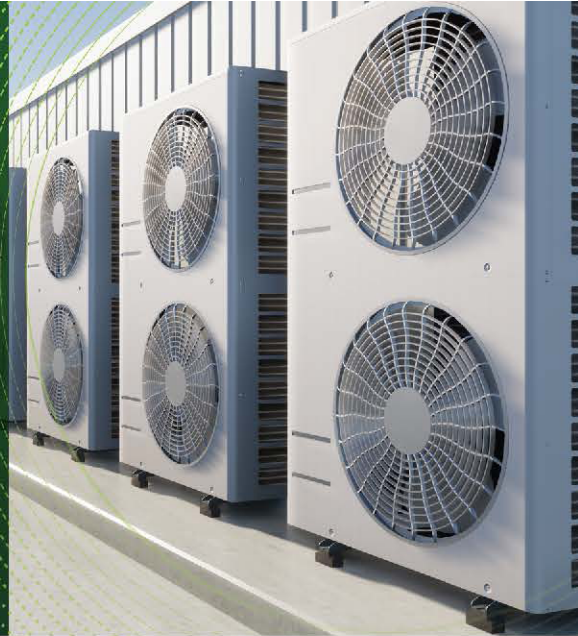
Learn more about our electrifying rebate deals at denvergov.org/getpumped.

If you have any further questions about the Heat Pump Rebate Program, reach out to DenverElectrification@michaelsenergy.com.



ANÍMATE

CON EL PROGRAMA DE REEMBOLSOS DE BOMBAS DE CALOR DE DENVER



¡Aumenta tu eficiencia y ahorra dinero cuando instalas una bomba de calor!

Las bombas de calor eléctricas eficientes enfrían tu edificio en verano y lo calientan en invierno. Denver ofrece reembolsos* para edificios comerciales y multifamiliares. Ahorra dinero al actualizar tu aire acondicionado, calefacción o calentador de agua a una bomba de calor.

Denver ofrece reembolsos para bombas de calor para:

- **Bombas de calor con fuente de aire dividido:** entre \$3,000 y \$5,500 dólares
- **Bombas de calor minisplit:** entre \$3,000 y \$5,500 dólares
- **Calentadores de agua con bomba de calor:** entre \$2,500 y \$3,500 dólares
- **Unidades de techo con bomba de calor:** entre \$5,000 y \$16,000 dólares
- **Bombas de calor de flujo de refrigerante variable:** \$2,000 dólares por tonelaje de refrigeración
- **Bombas de calor terminales empaquetadas:** \$200 y \$500 dólares por unidad empaquetada
- **Bombas de calor verticales empaquetadas individualmente:** \$400 y \$1,000 dólares por unidad empaquetada
- **Bombas de calor de fuente de agua:** \$3,600 dólares por tonelaje de refrigeración
- **Bombas de calor geotérmicas:** \$3,600 dólares por tonelaje de refrigeración

Los edificios con prioridad de equidad pueden duplicar sus reembolsos. Estos edificios incluyen viviendas asequibles con escritura restringida, viviendas asequibles naturales y organizaciones sin fines de lucro. ¡Ahorra más cuando combinas los reembolsos de Denver con los reembolsos de Xcel Energy!

Obtener tu reembolso de Denver es fácil:

1. ¡Obtén la aprobación previa de tu proyecto! Llena la solicitud en denvergov.org/getpumped
2. Cuando confirmemos tu elegibilidad, recibirás una carta de aprobación previa que reserva tu reembolso.
3. Trabaja con un contratista autorizado para instalar el equipo preaprobado.
4. Cuando el proyecto esté completo, envíanos tus facturas y otros documentos para su revisión.
5. Cuando se complete la revisión, recibirás una carta de aprobación de reembolso de equipo y un cheque en tu buzón.

AUMENTA TUS AHORROS HOY.

Obtén más información sobre nuestras electrizantes ofertas de reembolsos en denvergov.org/getpumped.

Si tienes más preguntas sobre el programa de reembolso de bombas de calor, comunícate con DenverElectrification@michaelsenergy.com.

* Los reembolsos están sujetos a cambios. Encuentra requisitos de equipo específicos en denvergov.org/getpumped.

Get Covered for 2025

Entrepreneurs and business owners,
we've got you covered!



You can enroll in health insurance during Open Enrollment
which runs **November 1 - January 15.**

We are the **ONLY** place to apply for financial help
to lower the cost.



*Scan the QR code to learn more about health insurance for
entrepreneurs and business owners*



Colorado's official health insurance marketplace
ConnectforHealthCO.com • 855-752-6749

CONTENTS



14

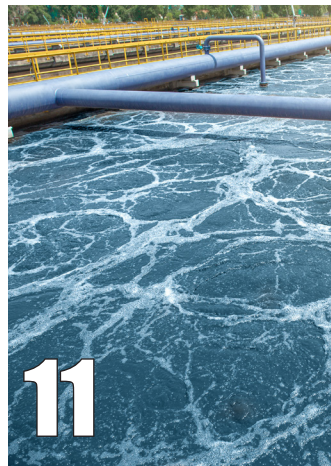


22

LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINORITY OWNED BUSINESSES

10



11



34

6 UPCOMING EVENTS

Explore exciting new offerings from the CBCC.

9 PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dr. Angelic Cole explains the importance of Martin Luther King Jr. day.

11 THE BUSINESS OF...

Dale Hunter examines the impact of water on business.

14 COMPOSING COLOR

Video with Black Creatives Explores Alma Thomas Exhibition at the DAM.

22 BANKING ON CHANGE

A conversation about leadership with Malcom Evans of Wintrust Bank.

30 HELD IMPERMANENCE

Clyfford Still Museum explores competing desires in the new exhibition.



30

WINTER SERIES

Black Construction Group Monthly Meeting

Hosted by: Whiting-Turner

Tuesday, January 14, 2025
4:30pm - 6pm

The Whiting-Turner Denver Office
7800 E. Union Ave.



RSVP via QR Code or
link below.

<https://tinyurl.com/4csrjym4>

cbcc
COLORADO BLACK
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BCG
Black Construction Group
of the Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce

WT
WHITING-TURNER



WINTER SERIES



SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Opportunities with Airbnb

RSVP TODAY!

WHERE:

CBCC Office
444 N. Sherman St.
Denver

WHEN:

Thursday, February 27
4:30 to 6pm



Scan QR Code or
use link below:



<https://tinyurl.com/5ajkjumn>

FOR MORE INFO, VIST ONLINE

CBCC.BIZ

Contributors

Editor

Alisha Harris, [Original Account Strategies](#)

Photographer

Shameka McBoat, [McBoat Photography](#)

Contributing Writers

Sanya Andersen-Vie, Carleen Brice, Dr. Angelic Cole, Dale R. Hunter, Hamza Rohtua, Andy Sinclair

Contributing Member Companies



Seeking Submissions

for Article Features



Would you like to share your story with a broader audience? Submit a 2,000-5,000 word article about your business or industry to be included in a future issue of [The Acumen](#), a CBCC monthly e-magazine publication.

**Need more details?
Contact Us!**

TheAcumen@cbcc.biz

President's Corner

Martin Luther King Jr. and His Impact on Small Black-Owned Businesses

Dear Reader:

Martin Luther King Jr., a prominent leader in the American civil rights movement, is widely known for his efforts to advance civil rights through nonviolence and civil disobedience. While his contributions to the fight for equality are well-documented, his impact on small Black-owned businesses is often overlooked. This article explores how King's work and legacy have influenced the growth and success of Black-owned businesses.

Early Support for Black Businesses

During the civil rights movement, small Black-owned businesses played a crucial role in supporting the cause. For example, during the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Black-owned taxi companies provided transportation for those refusing to use segregated buses. This support was instrumental in sustaining the boycott and demonstrating the economic power of the Black community.

Economic Empowerment

King's vision of economic empowerment was central to his message. He believed that economic independence was essential for achieving true equality. By advocating for fair wages, job opportunities, and access to capital, King laid the groundwork for Black entrepreneurs to thrive. His efforts helped to create a more level playing field for Black-owned businesses.

Community Support and Collaboration

King's leadership inspired a sense of community and collaboration among Black business owners. He encouraged them to support each other and work together to overcome economic challenges. This spirit of unity and mutual support has continued to benefit Black-owned businesses, fostering a strong network of entrepreneurs who can rely on each other for guidance and assistance.

Legacy of Advocacy

King's legacy of advocacy for economic justice has had a lasting impact on Black-owned



businesses. His work to dismantle systemic barriers and promote economic opportunities has paved the way for future generations of Black entrepreneurs. Today, organizations like the Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce continue to build on King's legacy by providing resources, support, and advocacy for Black-owned businesses.

Challenges and Progress

Despite the progress made, Black-owned businesses still face significant challenges, including access to capital, discrimination, and economic disparities. However, the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. serves as a reminder of the importance of perseverance and resilience. His message of hope and determination continues to inspire Black entrepreneurs to overcome obstacles and achieve success.

Conclusion

Martin Luther King Jr.'s impact on small Black-owned businesses is a testament to his vision of economic empowerment and equality. His advocacy for fair wages, job opportunities, and access to capital has laid the foundation for the growth and success of Black-owned businesses. As we celebrate his legacy, we must continue to support and uplift Black entrepreneurs, ensuring that his vision of economic justice is realized.

Dr. Angelic Cole
President & CEO
Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINORITY OWNED BUSINESSES

UP TO \$3 MILLION LOANS

Participants will learn about lending packages available to minority small businesses and how to apply for them.

First Bank Multicultural Banking Center
550 S. Wadsworth Blvd, Second floor
Lakewood, CO 80226

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2025

11am-2pm MT

SPONSORED BY:



SWIRE COCA-COLA

OUR PANELISTS INCLUDE:



Event is free to Chamber members. **RSVP deadline is February 6th.**

REGISTER NOW

<https://tinyurl.com/yc2v9ee7>



The Business of... Water

Water is the lifeline of our great state. All Coloradans must work together to preserve and protect this precious resource. Our food, economy, culture and survival depend on abundant, clean and affordable water. Period. Full Stop.

The precious liquid gold that starts high in the Rockies and meanders to the great Colorado River is ultimately stored, transported, and delivered to us as drinking water. Getting the fresh, sparkling mountain water from where it is, to where it's needed is the great challenge and mission of the Colorado water industry. Yes, there is a water industry. Much like the banking, healthcare, oil and gas industries. The business side of water is the buying, selling, storing, infrastructures, cleaning and distributing this precious natural resource. Understandably, most tend to focus on water quality, rates, droughts and floods.

That said, the US water industry is massive. According to a 2023 report, the water and wastewater treatment market was valued at \$113 billion and expected to grow to \$206 billion by 2032. In 2019, the US water and wastewater treatment technologies market was valued at \$280 billion and is expected to grow to \$440 billion by 2031.

The water industry provides drinking water, wastewater services and sewage treatments to residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural sectors of the economy. Typically, public utilities operate water supply networks. The water industry includes, but not limited to, water engineering, operations, water and wastewater construction, equipment supplies and specialists in water treatment chemicals. The water industry does not include manufacturers or suppliers of bottled water. That's an aspect of beverage production and belongs to the food industry.

The sprawling US water system is central to the national economy. Chronic underinvestment, increasing demand and the consequences of climate change have revealed the systems weakness. A 2020 study by water utilities, engineers and advocacy groups estimated that making all the needed investments in the US water infrastructure would add \$4.5 trillion and 800,000 jobs to the US economy by 2039.

A recent "state of the water industry" survey revealed that water industry optimism is on the rise. Even in the face of aging infrastructure, threat to water supply and other obstacles. As a member of the Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce, I encourage you to consider the Colorado Water Industry and the unique employment and potential business opportunities available. Consider joining the BUSINESS of Water.

THG is a government relations consulting firm that specializes in water and energy issues.

www.thg.consulting



Dale R. Hunter
Founder, The Hunter Group (THG).

ST. ELIZABETH'S SCHOOL
PREVIEW DAY
We're the perfect choice
 for your child's educational journey
 from kindergarten to eighth grade
OCTOBER 19, 2024
9:00 - 11:00 A.M.
 Sign Up
 stelizabethsdenvr.org






Place Your Ad Here!



Place Your Ad Here!



Place Your Ad Here!

GET INVOLVED

JOIN A COMMITTEE:

- **Business Policy Cabinet with Senator James Coleman**
First Thursdays, 3pm MT. Starts April 4th
- **CBCC Public Policy Committee**
Second Mondays, 4pm MT. Starts April 8th
- **CBCC Membership Committee**
Third Tuesdays, 3pm MT. Starts April 16th
- **Gala Committee**
Fridays, times To Be Determined

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact Dr. Angelic Cole:
 dr.angelic.cole@cbcc.biz




PHONE
 +303-831-0746

WEBSITE
 [HTTPS://CBCC.BIZ](https://cbcc.biz)

COLORADO BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
INVITES YOU TO

UNLOCK YOUR BUSINESS GROWTH WITH THE ACUMEN.



**RESERVE
YOUR AD
SPACE TODAY!**



WITH A FOCUS ON BLACK
BUSINESS LEADERS IN
COLORADO, WE OFFER A UNIQUE
PLATFORM FOR YOUR BRAND TO
CONNECT WITH A TARGETED,
ENGAGED AUDIENCE.

**HAVE QUESTIONS? PLEASE GET
IN TOUCH WITH US.**

303-831-0746

WWW.CBCC.BIZ

THEACUMEN@CBCC.BIZ



Gallery view of the Space and Sky section of *Composing Color: Paintings by Alma Thomas* from the Smithsonian American Art Museum.
Photo courtesy of the Denver Art Museum. Artworks © Smithsonian American Art Museum.



Video with Black
Creatives Explores
Alma Thomas
Exhibition at the DAM
By **CARLEEN BRICE**
& **ANDY SINCLAIR**

The Denver Art Museum recently collaborated with several Black women creatives and business owners on a video project to help introduce Denver to an iconic Black woman artist.

[Composing Color: Paintings by Alma Thomas from the Smithsonian American Art Museum](#) is a traveling exhibition from Washington, D.C., that explores the life of the groundbreaking artist and educator.

“Alma Thomas was a fearless American artist who boldly broke out of every confine her environment ever tried to impose on her, overcoming barriers and forging new paths for Black women artists,” said Christoph Heinrich, Frederick and Jan Mayer Director of the DAM. “Following up on impactful shows by Jordan Casteel, Shantell Martin and Senga Nengudi, this exhibition is the next of many presentations highlighting the creativity and artistic contributions of Black women artists.”

Alma Woodsey Thomas was born in 1891 in Columbus, Georgia, and moved to Washington,

D.C., with her family when she was a teenager. She became Howard University’s first student to earn a degree in fine art in 1924 and went on to teach art in D.C. public schools for more than 30 years, as well as serving as vice president of the Barnett Aden Gallery, one of the nation’s first racially integrated and Black-owned art galleries. At the age of 80, in 1972, Thomas presented solo exhibitions at both the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, earning her unprecedented recognition for a Black woman artist.

For the video, the museum was inspired by three themes in the exhibition—music and nature, space and sky and earth and seasons—to invite renowned choreographer and dancer [Cleo Parker Robinson](#), Denver-born artist [Jordan Casteel](#) and Dr. Breigh Jones-Coplin, owner of [Black + Blossomed](#) floral shop, to tour the exhibition with Rory Padeken, the DAM’s Vicki and Kent Logan Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art and local curator for Composing Color. The DAM



COMPOSING COLOR

Alma Thomas (1891-1978) sought out beauty every day and every place. “Art could be anything. It could be behavior—as long as it’s beautiful,” she said in the mid-1960s and against the backdrop of the Vietnam War and the burgeoning Civil Rights Movement in the United States. Thomas created paintings composed of dazzling interplay of pattern and vibrant color. Her work color became symbolic and metaphorical, evoking sound, motion, temperature, and even joy. Some of her work was created during the time in American life, the materialized belief in the recuperative power of beauty and decorative turned to its cultivation. Composing Color draws on the extensive holdings of Thomas painted at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, organized around the artist’s favored themes of color, the earth, and music. This exhibition invites you to see the world through Alma Thomas’s eyes.

COMPOSICIÓN DE COLOR

Alma Thomas (1891-1978) buscaba la belleza cada día y en una ocasión escribió: “Cualquier cosa podría ser arte. Podría ser un comportamiento, siempre y cuando sea hermoso”. A mediados de la década de 1960 y con el trasfondo de la guerra de Vietnam y el creciente movimiento por los derechos civiles en los Estados Unidos, Thomas pintó en sus pinturas impresionantes interacciones de motivos y colores vivos. En su obra, el color se convirtió en algo simbólico y multisensorial, pues evocaba sonido, movimiento, temperatura e incluso alegría. Durante una época de humo político en la vida estadounidense, ella dedicó a cultivarlo. Composición de color se basa en la amplia colección de pinturas de Thomas en el Smithsonian American Art Museum. Esta exposición, organizada en torno al espacio, la tierra y la música, temas favoritos de la artista, nos invita a ver el mundo a través de la mirada de Alma Thomas.

Graphic of Alma Thomas painting in her kitchen studio. Courtesy of the Denver Art Museum.



Visitors in *Composing Color: Paintings by Alma Thomas from the Smithsonian American Art Museum*. Photo courtesy of the Denver Art Museum. Artworks © Smithsonian American Art Museum.

hired [Human-Focused Media](#), a Black-owned local video production company we've worked with on multiple occasions, to create the video. Padeken discusses the 19 paintings in the show, which the iconic artist created in her most fruitful and generative period between the 1960s and late 1970s, creating a style of her own with dazzling interplays of patterns and colors.

"Thomas's exuberant art shows her love of how living things grow, change and renew themselves," Padeken said. "Her art practice blossomed in the 1960s and her vibrant artworks transcended established genres, reflecting the everchanging colors and sounds of her surroundings. Her artistic evolution reflected her belief in the need for new art expressions to represent a new era of world history."

In the section of the exhibition inspired in part by Thomas's love of music, Cleo Parker Robinson related to the sense of movement in the work. Speaking about a painting called *Wind and Crepe Myrtle Concerto*, 1973, Robinson said, "There's this kind of background and then there's

this coming forward. So you almost have this chorus, and then you have that soloist coming out and it's wonderful. I feel like the leaves are really speaking. They're moving. The pink is almost like the sky to me, how the sky can turn all those different colors. So hearing where she has taken her inspiration from, it just expands the imagination."

Padeken also explained that "Alma saw her art as forward looking. She aligned it with the scientific advancements of her day. She wanted to create a new art for a new future. Space was a place of liberation, right?," he said. "It was a space of freedom. So through painting that she could imagine another kind of world that was quite different than what was happening in our country."

Jordan Casteel marveled at the trailblazing artist. "She is really charting a path at a very difficult time for Black artists, for people like me and artists like me to kind of exist now," she said. "That there's a real honoring that I have for her and her ability to see my future as being so



From left to right: Jordan Casteel, Cleo Parker Robinson, Breigh Jones-Coplin and Rory Padeken.
Courtesy of the Denver Art Museum.

“Alma saw her art as forward looking. She aligned it with the scientific advancements of her day. She wanted to create a new art for a new future. Space was a place of liberation, right?”



Alma Thomas, *Wind and Crepe Myrtle Concerto*, 1973. Acrylic paint on canvas; 35 x 52 in.
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of Vincent Melzac, 1975.92.2.

beautiful and bright. It's absolutely a gift that she is giving us."

Dr. Jones-Coplin, who in addition to her floral design business has a [doctorate in clinical psychology](#), noted that, "Art is healing. Taking something that comes from within you and being able to externalize that mental health difficulty and allowing other people to hold it and share it with you."

Alma Thomas's constant source of inspiration was nature, whether seen through her kitchen window or from outer space. Throughout politically charged times in American history and life, Thomas maintained her belief in the healing power of beauty and dedicated her life to its cultivation and expression through art—something that feels especially important in today's world. As Thomas said, "Love comes from looking."

[Watch the video](#) and then explore Composing Color for yourself—it's on view at the DAM

through January 12, 2025, and is included with general admission, which is free for members and everyone 18 and under. Please also support the work of Cleo Parker Robinson Dance, Black + Blossomed, Jordan Casteel and Human-Focused Media.

Composing Color: Paintings by Alma Thomas is organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Generous support has been provided by the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation, Chris G. Harris, the Wolf Kahn Foundation and Susan Talley. Support for the presentation at the Denver Art Museum is provided by the Birnbaum Social Discourse Project, the donors to the Annual Fund Leadership Campaign and the residents who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD). Promotional support is provided by 5280 Magazine and CBS Colorado.

Carleen Brice is Associate Director of Content at the DAM. Andy Sinclair is Communications and Media Relations Manager at the DAM.

**MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR
MEMBERSHIP & JOIN A CBCC
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP**

Black Professional Services Group

**Meets every fourth
Thursday at 4:30 pm**

- **PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**
- **BUSINESS GROWTH
SUPPORT**
- **COLLABORATIVE
ENVIRONMENT**
- **AND MORE!**

For more information,
email Dale Hunter at
Dale.Hunter@cbcc.biz



Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce

CONNECT. GROW. THRIVE.

CBCC empowers African American-owned businesses and the communities they serve by providing access to economic opportunities, advocacy, and a strong network of professionals.

Benefits of Membership

Empowering Programs & Services that support business growth, including our signature Special Interest Groups.

Exclusive Networking with Black professionals, entrepreneurs, and corporate partners.

Resources & Advocacy that foster economic development for Black-owned businesses and their communities.

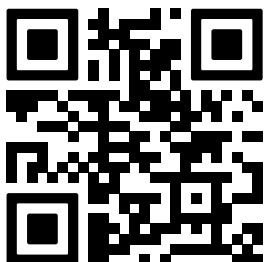
Strategic Partnerships with corporations that strengthen the Black business ecosystem.

**Looking to meet like-minded individuals?
Learn more about our Special Interest Groups.**

- » Black Construction Group
- » Black Professional Services Group
- » Black Retailer's Group



At CBCC, we're not just a network—we're your partner in building a thriving business and community. For more information, email us: contact@cbcc.biz



**JOIN US
TODAY!**

(303) 831-0746
<https://cbcc.biz>

cbcc
COLORADO BLACK
CHAMBER of COMMERCE



Leadership in Banking and Beyond

**A Conversation with
Malcolm Evans**

By DR. ANGELIC COLE

Images: McBoat Photography



Cole: What would you say is the primary motivating factor behind your leadership?

Evans: Let me answer the question from two positions of leadership.

First as Managing Director for Wintrust Commercial Banking, my motivation lies primarily in being in a position to provide high-level commercial and personal banking services to minority-owned businesses and entrepreneurs. This was especially essential during the COVID pandemic when many small, minority-owned businesses were unable to obtain Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans from some of the larger banks. During this period, many business owners realized that just because they maintained a depository (checking) account with their bank, didn't necessarily mean that they had a "banking relationship" with that particular institution allowing them access to the full suite of products and services offered to large corporate clients.

As Chair of the Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce, I garner motivation from the importance of ensuring that the chamber unwaveringly and steadfastly continues its role and mission of being a strong business advocate for its small business and corporate members and continues to provide them with educational resources and business growth opportunities through relationship building.

Cole: Who are your role models, and what life-changing lessons did you pick up from them?

Evans: My life role models were my parents and maternal grandparents. My mom and dad taught me the values of education and hard work. They pushed me to always thrive for being in the top quartile in both my academic and professional achievements. My grandparents taught me the importance of honesty, integrity, and commitment. As a result of their efforts, I was the first in my family to graduate college.



Photo: McBoat Photography



Photo: McBoat Photography

Cole: What inspired you to pursue a career in the banking field, and how did you get started?

Evans: From an early age, my parents instilled in me the importance of education, so I never considered not pursuing a college degree. In my junior year in high school, I began to explore career options. I knew I wanted to pursue a career in business but was uncertain as to what area of focus. This was a time before Google of course, so I went to the public library and checked out a copy of the “Job Outlook Handbook” published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Now I think it’s referred to as the “Occupational Outlook Handbook”. This periodical provides a description of the occupation, future outlook for the occupation and salary range. I focused on the Business and Financial section, ultimately landing on commercial banking. My major was Finance and Commercial Banking with a minor in Economics.

Cole: What do you believe to be the most important piece of advice for a leader to follow?

Evans: I believe it’s important to lead by example. To me that means not simply instructing someone on what to do, but rather being willing to work along side them to accomplish said goal.

Cole: How can you inspire others while also maintaining that you continue to be inspired by Wintrust Bank’s overall mission?

Evans: I continue to garner inspiration from the sacrifices made by my parents in support of my educational pursuit, the encouragement provided by my high school math teacher Mr. Washington, who saw and fostered my financial acumen early, and the overall need to provide financial advice and services to many underserved communities who otherwise would be subject to increase risk of predatory lending practices.

Throughout my career, I've been diligent in shying away from the large banks and seeking career opportunities with smaller, regional banks. I find that with the large banks it's process over people more often than not. Whereas with the smaller more nimble banks, it's people over process. It's also important for me to work for an organization that exhibits a great culture from the top down. It's important as well for me to meet and know the leader of that organization. That's not often possible with large institutions.

Cole: How do you prioritize work-life balance, and what advice do you have for junior professionals who are struggling to find balance?

Evans: It's important for me to "semi- unplug" on weekends from my day job at Wintrust. Semi-unplugged for me means responding to two or three emails over the weekend and attending one or two client weekend social/entertainment events monthly. I currently serve on five nonprofit boards and Wintrust is great with encouraging and being supportive of my board service and those organizations I'm affiliated with.

For junior banking professionals, I say your profession has to be just that—a profession/ career and not just a job. You should find something that rewards you financially as well as personally and emotionally.

Cole: As an African American leader, what do you consider to be one of the most difficult obstacles you've faced?

Evans: As a commercial banker, I'm often the only person of color in the room. That can lend itself to isolationism and/or intended or unintended micro aggressions. Growing up as an only sibling, I developed a fairly strong sense of independence and confidence early on and try not to allow negative energy to impede my mission and/or objective

Cole: What do you think are the biggest challenges facing the banking industry today, and how do you see Wintrust overcoming them?

Evans: The advent of the smart phone has led to a major shift in how customers transfer currency and process transactions. There aren't many reasons now to visit a bank branch. When I started my career in banking as a part-time teller in college, I would process an average of 150 transactions a day. Now the average teller transacts fewer than 20 transactions a day. The ability to transfer money via Zelle, Cash App, Venmo, etc., is super convenient. With this convenience comes the increased risk of fraud, which I view as one of the biggest challenges for the banking industry presently. I always encourage young people today to obtain and use a credit card instead of a debit card. If your credit card is stolen or comprised, it's the bank's money and not your money. Of course, you have to use the credit card wisely and try and pay off all charges monthly.



Photo: McBoat Photography



Photo: McBoat Photography

Advances in technology have led to fewer community banks as they tend to not be in a position financially to keep pace with the latest technological advances. The larger banks typically don't provide the best customer service to small and moderate sized businesses. Like many larger corporations, it can be challenging to find an individual to take ownership of the problem and get a satisfactory resolution quickly.

Cole: How clear is your vision for what the future of community responsibility should look like at Wintrust Bank?

Evans: At Wintrust, we believe corporate responsibility is vital in demonstrating our commitment to the communities we serve. We support local nonprofits through board service, donations and sponsorships and matching individual gifts donated by our employees.

Cole: In what direction does Wintrust Bank see itself going?

Evans: Since I joined Wintrust three years ago, we've grown from \$50 billion in total assets to \$64 billion, or 28 percent. We opened the Denver office in September 2021 with \$0 loans and \$0 deposits and one employee. We've grown Denver to over \$500 million in new loan commitments and \$100 million in new deposits and now have 10 full-time employees. We plan to continue to expand our presence in the metro Denver market by adding a second location within the next 12 to 24 months.

Let's switch gears and end with you as Board Chair of the Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce providing a positive and forward-looking statement about the Black Chamber's future.

I joined the board of the Colorado Black Chamber in 2012 and have served as Chair since 2016. One of my key objectives after assuming the role of Board Chair was to bring a level of



consistency, accountability, and responsiveness to the Chamber. With that perspective in mind, we brought on Lee Gash-Maxey in April 2016. Lee led the efforts to rebuild the Chamber's relationships with members, partners, and stakeholders. Lee served as Executive Director until April 2023 and left the organization on solid footing. Dr. Cole, you assume the role of President in April of 2023 and immediately looked to build on the momentum from Lee's tenure.

Under your watch we've redesigned our website, increased our social media presence, established our monthly e-magazine with excellent and informative content, and formed two new special interest groups under the Chamber's umbrella. I see the Chamber continuing to expand our value proposition to its members. We serve a vital role in the Denver Metro business community, connecting our African American business members with opportunities through relationship building with our corporate members. In addition, we serve as the premier business advocacy organization focusing on entrepreneurial development and business-oriented public policy issues. We have to be unwavering and intentional on both fronts.



Photo: McBoat Photography



BLACK RETAILERS GROUP

CBCC SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP



***Meets every first
Monday at 4:30 pm***

- Market Insights & Trends
- Collective Marketing Efforts
- Peer Support System
- and so much more!



For more info, contact Dale Hunter. Dale.Hunter@cbcc.biz



Guest curator Katherine Simone Reynolds with CSM director Joyce Tsa.
Image captured by Fireside Production. Photo: Clyfford Still Museum.

Clyfford Still Museum explores competing desires in the new guest-curated exhibition, *Held Impermanence*, on view January–September

By SANYA ANDERSEN-VIE

The Clyfford Still Museum (CSM)'s new guest-curated exhibition, [Held Impermanence \(Artists Select: Katherine Simóne Reynolds\)](#), illuminates multiple competing desires held in constant tension within the Museum. Organized by award-winning filmmaker, artist, and curator [Katherine Simóne Reynolds](#), the exhibition draws deeply on CSM's collections.

Reynolds is an artist, scholar, and curator who investigates emotional dialects and psychogeographies of Blackness within the Black Midwestern landscape. Her art physicalizes emotions and experiences through photo-based works, film, choreography, sculpture, and anxious writing practice. Reynolds has exhibited and performed work at the Pulitzer Arts Foundation, Museum of Modern Art, New York, The Luminary, and the Graham Foundation. She has exhibited

in national and international group and solo shows. She has spoken at the Contemporary Art Museum, the St. Louis Art Museum, and the Black Midwest Initiative at the University of Minnesota. She was also the 2022 fellow at the Graham Foundation. Alongside her visual art practice, she has embarked on curatorial projects at The Luminary, SculptureCenter, and exhibitions for Counterpublic 2023, the University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art, and the Clyfford Still Museum.

According to Reynolds, the Clyfford Still Museum collection testifies to Still's ambitious attempt to keep his entire corpus intact. The commitment to the integrity of that body of work allows viewers to see not only the acclaimed masterpieces but also paintings made in painful transitions and others that bear the scars of time. Artworks

change over time; their materials carry the stain of what conservators describe as inherent vice. Viewers see paintings that need to rest and heal, bearing marks that suggest, through their surfaces, condition, and textures, metaphors of viscera, bile, and wounds.

In the Museum's six largest galleries, Reynolds's exhibition asks viewers how they view healing over time, respond with their bodies to this corpus, and how they might approach Still's achievements from a perspective that contends with his and their own senses of mortality—and with it, a shared desire to hold impermanence. "The exhibition is a poetic meditation on love, grief, and care manifest on the surfaces of Still's paintings, in conservation records, and inscribed within the most personal and intimate pages written by him and his wife housed in the Archives," says Joyce Tsai, CSM director. "Still's art and archives are refracted here through Reynolds's art and thought, whose work has drawn sustenance from authors Still could never have known. The exhibition illuminates new ways we might all learn to draw strength from Still's art."

Exhibition Details

The exhibition runs from January 25 to September 14. The Still will host various programs and events during the exhibition, including a performance lecture with Reynolds on February 5. Visit clyffordstillmuseum.org/events for a schedule of upcoming programs.

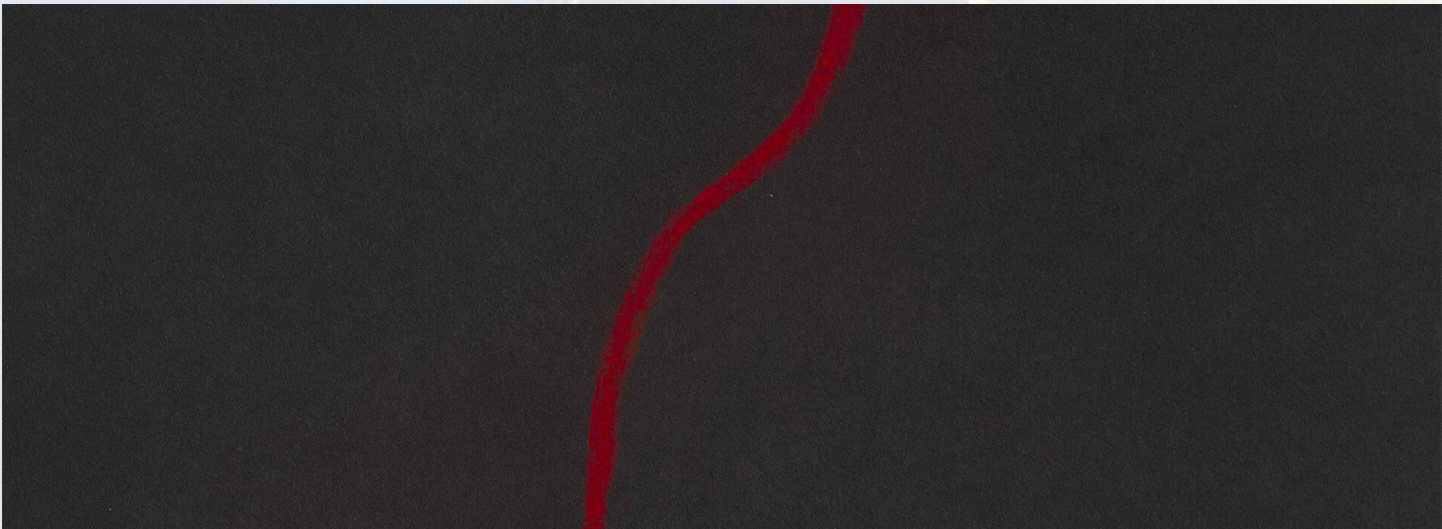
Reynolds chose several paintings with condition issues to highlight the impact of conservation throughout the exhibition. One exhibition gallery features the absence of PH-247, known by many as "Big Blue," which went off view in 2022 after more than a decade on display in the galleries. For the artworks in the collection to maintain and project their visual and emotional power, they must go off view periodically to limit the chemical and physical changes caused by excessive light exposure. Several works on paper, which are particularly light-sensitive, will also be on view in one of the skylit galleries (behind curtains to protect them from excess exposure). Museum

staff tracks the light exposure of paintings and works on paper as part of its ongoing conservation practice.

Additionally, Reynolds selected an intriguing collection of archival photographs, letters, and notes to demonstrate the themes and emotions throughout the exhibition. The show also includes two original archival objects, including a barn nail from Still's studio in Maryland and an exhibition banner of Still's that hung outside the Met in 1979. The exhibition also features several letters by Patricia Still, including a note about grass growing over the spot where Still's demolished studio once stood and a page from Patricia's diary recording Clyfford's death.

The Museum expands on exhibition content in its free mobile guide on Bloomberg Connects. The guide includes audio and video content, plus insights about Reynolds's curatorial process through the voice of her mother, Margery Handy, alongside archival letters and audio featuring Clyfford Still and his eldest daughter, Sandra. The guide also includes poetry excerpts and behind-the-scenes video highlights. The Held Impermanence guide is available in English, Spanish, and American Sign Language, as well as over forty additional languages via Google Translate.

Two resources with additional support and insights are available in the exhibition's first gallery in a wall pocket. Essays on Held Impermanence, a companion booklet to the exhibition, offers an in-depth look at the way this project came into being, as well as how questions of love, grief, rest, and healing are visible in Still's work; in Patricia Still's stewardship of his legacy; and in museum practice. In addition to a director's introduction, curator's essay, and gallery overview, the booklet features an extended conversation among guest curator Katherine Simóne Reynolds; chief conservator James Squires; Tom Learner, head of the Getty Conservation Institute; and Joyce Tsai, CSM director, that explores philosophical and emotional questions this exhibition raises for the field of art conservation. The Exploring Feelings and Art: A Family Guide provides conversation starters to help guide



Clyfford Still, PP-734, 1975 (detail). Pastel on paper, 18 x 12 in. Clyfford Still Museum, Denver CO.
© City and County of Denver / ARS, NY

caregivers and their child(ren) through the exhibition, as visitors may find this exhibition brings up heavy emotions for them or their child(ren).

Held Impermanence follows a chronological display of Still's works in the Museum's first three galleries.

About the Clyfford Still Museum

Designed specifically to display Clyfford Still's art, the award-winning Clyfford Still Museum is home to nearly everything he created, approximately 3,125 pieces representing 93% of his lifetime of work. The Museum supports new artistic endeavors, inviting visitors to draw strength from Still's art and life. At the Still, visitors will find a world-class collection gifted to the City and County of Denver, award-winning architecture, cross-disciplinary programs for all ages, and opportunities for visitors to explore their own creativity. Exhibitions stimulate curiosity, arouse emotions, and explore multiple perspectives. The Still invites visitors to refresh, recharge, and reconnect with joy. Connect with the Clyfford Still Museum on [Facebook](#), [Twitter/X](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#), [YouTube](#), or at clyffordstillmuseum.org.



Katherine Simóne Reynolds self-portrait.

Share Your Story with Us!

Are you making an impact for Black-owned Business in Colorado? We're seeking submissions for our "Black Businesses on the Move" section! In 500-1,000 words, tell us what sets your business apart, your contributions to the community, and any challenges you've overcome. Please include relevant photos and/or bios to accompany your story.

Send your submissions to:
TheAcumen@cbcc.biz.

Let's celebrate your achievements and inspire our community together!

ENGAGE WITH YOUR
MEMEBERSHIP BY JOINING A
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

BLACK CONSTRUCTION GROUP

Meets every second Tuesday at 4:30 pm.



Networking Opportunities



Policy Advocacy and Representation



Resource and Information Sharing



Industry Specific Insights

... and more!

Join Today!



For more information,
contact Dale Hunter
Dale.Hunter@cbcc.biz





Image: Adobe.

10 Techniques for Achieving a Lean and Efficient Supply Chain

By HAMZA ROHTUA

In every growing business, a lean and efficient supply chain is crucial for maintaining profitability and customer satisfaction. Achieving this requires deliberate strategies and continuous improvement. These techniques will guide you in optimizing your supply chain, making it not only more efficient but also more responsive to the shifting market demands. Read on for e-commerce solutions.

1. Implement Just-In-Time (JIT) Inventory Management

Adopt Just-In-Time inventory strategies to reduce waste and enhance efficiency. This method ensures that goods are received only as they are needed in the production process, thereby reducing inventory costs and minimizing stock holding. This sharp focus on inventory levels necessitates precise demand forecasting and responsive supplier relationships.

2. Optimize Transportation and Route Planning

Effective transportation and route planning significantly reduce logistics costs and improve service levels. Utilizing advanced transportation management systems can help in optimizing shipping routes, improving delivery times, and lowering fuel consumption. Often, companies engaged in comprehensive logistics consultants services embrace these technologies to offer better solutions.

3. Enhance Supplier Relationships

Developing strong relationships with reliable suppliers leads to better pricing, quality, and inventory availability. Implement regular performance reviews and collaborate on continuous improvement plans. Strong partnerships encourage mutual benefits and can lead to innovations in product and process improvements that enhance overall supply chain efficiency.

4. Streamline Processes Through Technology

Integration of advanced technologies like IoT, AI, and blockchain can dramatically improve supply chain operations. These technologies facilitate better tracking, forecasting, and management of resources. By enhancing visibility and accountability, technology ensures that every piece of the supply chain communicates seamlessly and operates efficiently.

5. Focus on Quality Management

Ensure that quality control is a central aspect of the supply chain. Initiatives such as Total Quality Management (TQM) can be instrumental in identifying areas for improvement and preventing defects. High-quality products reduce returns and increase customer satisfaction, thereby supporting a leaner supply chain.

6. Adopt Lean Manufacturing Principles

Lean manufacturing focuses on minimizing

waste without sacrificing productivity. Implement principles like Kaizen (continuous improvement), 5S (sort, set in order, shine, standardize, and sustain) and Six Sigma to improve efficiency and effectiveness in your production processes. These practices not only streamline operations but also boost worker morale and product quality.

7. Continuously Train and Empower Employees

Employees who are knowledgeable and empowered contribute positively to the efficiency of the supply chain. Offer ongoing training and development programs to ensure they are skilled in the latest techniques and technologies. Empowered employees are more likely to take initiative and identify improvements within their own spheres of influence.

8. Utilize Demand Forecasting and Responsiveness

Sophisticated demand forecasting tools allow for better planning and stock allocation. The more accurately a company can predict consumer demand, the more efficiently it can operate its supply chain. Make use of predictive analytics to optimize inventory levels and reduce holding costs.

9. Implement Cross-Docking

Cross-docking is an effective logistics strategy that reduces storage needs and streamlines the supply chain. Goods are unloaded directly from suppliers or manufacturing plants to outbound trucks, trailers, or railcars without long-term storage. This process reduces handling times and storage fees, resulting in a more lean supply chain.

10. Measure and Analyze Supply Chain Performance

Regular evaluation and analysis of your supply chain are essential for sustaining a lean operation. Implement key performance indicators (KPIs) like inventory turnover rates, order accuracy, and delivery times to track

performance. Using these metrics allows for continuous improvement and helps in identifying areas that require attention.

To achieve a well-optimized and efficient supply chain, it's essential to focus on continuous improvement and adapt to new challenges as they arise. Consider consulting with experienced logistics consultants to get personalized advice and strategies tailored to your specific needs. Remember, a lean supply chain not only reduces operational costs but also enhances customer satisfaction and business agility.

E-commerce solutions

Stay proactive in your approach and welcome the integration of new technologies and methodologies into your operations. Every step you take toward optimizing your supply chain can significantly impact your company's success and competitiveness in the market.



Image: Adobe.



JOIN THE CONVERSATION BUILD YOUR COMMUNITY

The Colorado Black Chamber is the voice of Black business owners and an advocate for resources and policies that impact Black business owners. Your success is our success.

At the Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce we:

- **Create** programs & services to support our Black-owned businesses
- **Connect** Black-owned businesses with each other
- **Collaborate** with corporate partners and other organizations to support Black-owned businesses

WE NEED
YOUR
VOICE!

Contact Us
303-831-0746



Visit the Website
<https://cbcc.biz>



JOIN TODAY

Editorial and Deadline Calendar

Featured Topic Space Reservations Materials Due

January 2025

A Salute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.	Tuesday December 10	Friday, December 13
---	---------------------	---------------------

February 2025

Black History Month	Tuesday, January 14	Friday, January 17
---------------------	---------------------	--------------------

March 2025

International Women's Day	Tuesday, February 11	Friday, February 14
---------------------------	----------------------	---------------------

April 2025

Black Women's Month	Tuesday, March 18	Friday, March 21
---------------------	-------------------	------------------

May 2025

National Small Business Month	Tuesday, April 15	Friday, April 18
-------------------------------	-------------------	------------------

June 2025

Juneteenth	Tuesday, May 13	Friday, May 16
------------	-----------------	----------------

July 2025

International Day of Cooperatives	Tuesday, June 17	Friday, June 20
-----------------------------------	------------------	-----------------

August 2025

National Black Business Month	Tuesday, July 16	Friday, July 19
-------------------------------	------------------	-----------------

September 2025

911 Memorial	Tuesday, August 13	Friday, August 16
--------------	--------------------	-------------------

October 2025

Health	Tuesday, September 16	Friday, September 19
--------	-----------------------	----------------------

November 2025

Youth Entrepreneurs	Tuesday, October 14	Friday, October 17
---------------------	---------------------	--------------------

December 2024

National Write a Business Plan Month	Tuesday, November 11	Friday, November 14
--------------------------------------	----------------------	---------------------

Advertisements

Boost your business's visibility by advertising with the Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce in **The Acumen**. Connect with a wide, engaged audience that supports local enterprises and gain unparalleled exposure within the community. Don't miss this opportunity - contact us today to place your ad and expand your reach!

Advertising Rates

Listed in cost per ad placement.

	1X	3X	6X	9X	12X
Full Page	\$1000.00	\$900.00	\$800.00	\$700.00	\$600.00
Junior Page	\$750.00	\$675.00	\$600.00	\$525.00	\$450.00
Half Page	\$500.00	\$450.00	\$400.00	\$350.00	\$300.00
Quarter Page	\$250.00	\$225.00	\$200.00	\$175.00	\$150.00
Eighth Page	\$125.00	\$112.50	\$100.00	\$87.50	\$75.00
Sixteenth Page	\$62.50	\$56.25	\$50.00	\$43.75	\$37.50

Advertisement Sizes

	Without Bleed (inches)	With Bleed (inches)
Full Page	8.500 w x 11.000 h	8.750 w x 11.250 h
Junior Page	5.000 w x 7.750 h	5.250 w x 8.000 h
Half Page - Horizontal	7.500 w x 4.875 h	7.750 w x 5.125 h
Half Page - Vertical	3.625 w x 10.000 h	3.875 w x 10.250 h
Quarter Page - Horizontal	4.875 w x 3.625 h	5.125 w x 3.875 h
Quarter Page - Vertical	3.625 w x 4.875 h	3.875 w x 5.125 h
Eighth Page (business card) - Horizontal	3.500 w x 2.000 h	3.750 w x 2.250 h
Eighth Page (business card) - Vertical	2.000 w x 3.500 h	2.250 w x 3.750 h
Sixteenth Page	1.750 w x 2.375 h	2.000 w x 2.625 h

To purchase advertising space, or to request more information, please contact TheAcumen@cbcc.biz.



ATTENTION ALL CBCC MEMBERS!

Want to share your story with fellow members?
Submit an article about your business or industry to be
included in **THE ACUMEN**, a Colorado Black Chamber of
Commerce monthly publication.

Are you a member of the Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce?

The CBCC is a thriving business community that is driving success for Black-owned business. We create programs and services for business assistance and support; we connect Black-owned businesses with each other for networking and visibility; and we collaborate with corporate partners and other organizations to support the community as a whole. The Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce is the voice of Black business owners and an advocate for resources and policies that impact us.

Our membership offers unparalleled networking opportunities, exclusive access to business resources, and strong advocacy for your business interests. Elevate your business with our educational workshops and events that keep you at the forefront of industry trends. Connect, grow, and succeed with a community that champions your success. Take the first step towards unlocking your business's full potential.

**Join today and be part of a network that drives growth and
innovation!**

[Explore Member Benefits](#)

[Begin an Application](#)