

THINKING OF STARTING A NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION?

1

IDENTIFY GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS AREA

Sticking to a targeted area and shaping goals with a geographic focus will allow your group to have a greater impact sooner. A good starting point would be to talk to your District Business Liaison and your District Manager.

2

IDENTIFY STEERING COMMITTEE

Conduct outreach with stakeholders (business owners, community groups/organizations, philanthropic entities) within your geographic boundaries to determine interest and recruit members willing to support your effort.

3

BUILD SUPPORT FROM YOUR COMMUNITY

Community partners can include Property & Business Owners, Employees, Service Organizations, Residents, Churches and Community Groups, Local Governments, and Local Economic Development Organizations. This list can serve as a starting point for your group.

4

IDENTIFY WHERE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION WILL BE HOUSED

- Does your community already have an active community development organization willing to broaden its scope to serve your constituents' needs? If so, you can connect with them and strategize around the scope of work.
- Will you establish a new organization? You can start a formal non-profit by registering with LARA as a 501c3 or 501c6 organization. These types of organizations can be established by filing with the federal government.

5

BUILD CONSENSUS

Gather feedback on ideas to strengthen and enhance the business community from all community stakeholders. This can be gathered through surveys, community meetings, and door-to-door canvassing. The next steps include communicating back to the group and creating an action plan.

6

BUILD WORKING COMMITTEES

Committees take the vision and goals from the community and identify and implement projects that will support these goals.

7

CREATE A BUDGET AND A FUND DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Your budget should include project costs and organizational revenues. The more accurate your numbers are, the better!

