FORWARD INTO A NEW ERA.  ADD YOUR VOICE.

Plexus is committed to advancing economic equality, standing up for diverse communities and helping create welcoming workplaces. Adding your voice unites our business community in this work.

BE A MEMBER
Joining Plexus showcases you and your organization in the LGBTQ business community and increases our influence in Northeast Ohio.

ATTEND PLEXUS EVENTS
Build meaningful business relationships to keep our community connected and prosperous.

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME
Share your skills and talents through Plexus to enhance the community experience and energize the Plexus mission.

ADVOCATE FOR EQUALITY
Tell local, state and federal officials that you want to live and work in communities that celebrate diversity, protect all their citizens and provide equitable opportunities. Vote in every election.

STAY INFORMED
Follow Plexus on social media to amplify your voice and broaden our reach so others join us. Sign up for the Plexus newsletter.
PLEXUS AT WORK: LGBT BUSINESS CERTIFICATION

An important part of the work of Plexus is to promote certification for businesses that are more than 50% owned, operated, and managed by LGBT individuals. As an LGBT Certified Business Enterprise, you will better position your company with organizations seeking diverse suppliers and spotlight the role of LGBT entrepreneurs in the economy.

PLEXUS MEMBERS WITH LGBT CERTIFICATION IN 2018

- Brigadier Construction Services
- Branches and Roots
- Call Management Resources
- Cory Electronics
- Energetic Awakenings
- Felty and Lembright, LPA
- FIT Technologies
- Full Color Printings, LLC
- GreenRock Lighting
- IM Creative, Inc.
- Incisive Analytics, LLC
- ICS
- Kairos Consulting
- LDR Worldwide
- Linear Creative
- Nightsweats & T-Cells
- Outsmart Office Solutions, Inc.
- PRN Solutions
- Reddy or Knot Design
- Thinking Habits
- Westside Marketing Firm

SUPPLIER DIVERSITY:

A program that encourages contracting with businesses that are owned by individuals belonging to groups that have been historically disadvantaged in the competitive procurement marketplace.

PLEXUS AT WORK: LGBTQA EMPLOYEE RESOURCE GROUP COUNCIL

Plexus convenes leaders from Northeast Ohio corporations with existing and emerging LGBTQA ERG programs to share best practices, explore relevant topics and improve ERG effectiveness.

- Cleveland Clinic
- Covia
- Cuyahoga Community College
- Cuyahoga County
- Cuyahoga Valley National Park
- Ernst & Young
- Eaton
- Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland
- Fifth Third
- GE Lighting
- Huntington
- Hyland Software
- Goodyear
- Kent State
- KeyBank
- Lubrizol
- Marsh & McLennan
- MetroHealth
- Morgan Stanley
- PNC
- PolyOne
- Progressive Insurance
- Rockwell Automation
- Signet Jewelers
- Starbucks
- Tek Systems
- United Way
- University Hospitals
- Louis Stokes VA Hospital
- Westfield

EMPLOYEE RESOURCE GROUPS:

ERGs are employee-led affinity groups organized to foster diverse, inclusive workplaces aligned with a company’s values, goals and practices. ERGs mobilize for advocacy or strategic purposes in areas like professional development, market development, employee engagement and supplier diversity.
PLEXUS IN MOTION

ACTS AS A RESOURCE TO CONNECT BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS
- Network Nights
- Plexus Luncheons
- Annual Meeting
- Newsletters + Social Media

EXPANDS THE ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF LGBT & ALLIED BUSINESSES
- Business2Business Speed Networking
- Plexus Business Directory
- LGBT-Owned Business Certification Facilitation
- Business Spotlights and Sponsorships

PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO BUILD SKILLS AND INCREASE CAPACITY
- Power of Business Certification
- LGBT-BE Supplier Success Program
- LGBTQ Cultural Competency Training
- Allyship 101 Facilitation
- Training + Consultation Services

ADVANCES WORKPLACE INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY EFFORTS
- LGBTQA ERG Council
- Panel Presentations + Speaker’s Bureau
- Community Partnerships
- Advocacy On Issues and Legislation

Our Mission: To promote and advocate for LGBT and Allied businesses and act as a catalyst for economic vitality in Northeast Ohio.
Founded 2006

Our Mission: To improve the workplace environment for LGBTQ individuals through education, research, development and advocacy.
Founded 2008

plexus
LGBT & Allied Chamber of Commerce

plexus education
FOUNDATION
IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

280 MEMBERS STRONG AND GROWING

224% GROWTH IN OVERALL MEMBERSHIP

22% INCREASE IN PLEXUS EVENT ATTENDANCE

250 ATTENDEES at Plexus Akron events

48% increase in ERG Council representation

31% INCREASE in social media followers

50% INCREASE in trainings + speaking engagements

16 CORPORATE SPONSORS RECEIVE 100% ON HRC CORPORATE EQUALITY INDEX

56 Plexus members signed on to Ohio Business Competes

1 PLEXUS COVER STORY in Prizm magazine

1,000+ LGBT-Certified businesses in the United States

1.7 MILLION employees represented by ERG Council member companies worldwide

51 AFFILIATE CHAMBERS of the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce across the US

45% GROWTH in NEW members

MEMBERS

Small Businesses
Nonprofit/Government
Professionals
Corporate

9% 2%
42% 47%

LGBTQ
Allies

67% 33%

Renewals
New Members

22% Increase in Plexus event attendance

23,000+ average monthly social media impressions

61% 39%
PLEXUS CHAMBER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Michelle Tomallo | President
FIT Technologies
Leslie Bednar
LLBednar Consulting
Gina Dalessandro
The Dalessandro Group
Raland S. Hatchett
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Luz Pellot
Xerox
David Phillips
Energetic Awakenings
David Rabinsky
The Ritz-Carlton, Cleveland
LaShawn Reed
Essentials for Success
Jacki Schaffer
Liberty Mutual Insurance
Isaac Bendele
Pica9

PLEXUS EDUCATION
FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
John F. Garofalo | President
Akron Community Foundation
Kathryn Bryan, Ph.D
Skylight Financial Group
Thomas Hawn, MA CDP
Facilitator and Consultant
Steven M. Licciardi
Morgan Stanley
Joe Matuszewski
Ernst & Young LLP
Brian Schultz
Candid

PLEXUS STAFF
Alysses Dalessandro
Ready To Stare
Erik F. Meinhardt
Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
Lauren Morales
Cuyahoga Community College
Angie Pohlman
Grounded in Clarity

SPECIAL THANKS
®
Special thanks to Howling Print & Promo, TOTHmktg. and Photographer Dale Yee Dong for their contributions to produce our annual report.
P.O. Box 91697 Cleveland, OH 44101-3697
Contact Info@ThinkPlexus.org to connect with us.