



THE NEW BRONX CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE, INC.

Dear Members, Partners, and Friends,

As our nation marks its 250th anniversary, I have been thinking about what this milestone means from our corner of America here in the Bronx.

When you spend your days working alongside business owners, community leaders, entrepreneurs and families across this borough, you are constantly reminded that the American story is not only written through major moments in history. It is also written every day, in communities like ours, by people who take a chance, build something of their own and create opportunities for others along the way.

For generations, our borough has welcomed people from across the country and around the world who came here ready to work, build a life and contribute to their community. They opened restaurants and shops, built companies, raised families, created jobs and transformed neighborhoods. Their cultures and ideas became part of the identity of the Bronx and, in many cases, part of the identity of America itself.

The influence of our borough reaches far beyond our 42 square miles. The Bronx gave birth to hip-hop, transforming neighborhood creativity into a cultural movement that changed music and culture around the world. Our borough has produced extraordinary leaders, artists, entrepreneurs, educators, healthcare professionals, athletes and innovators. And generations of Bronx businesses have helped build and sustain New York City while creating pathways to opportunity for countless families. It is a history we are proud of. But what makes me proudest is that the spirit behind that history is still very much alive.

Through my work at the Bronx Chamber of Commerce, I have the privilege of seeing it every day. I see entrepreneurs opening their first storefronts and longtime businesses preparing the next generation to take the reins. I see employers giving someone their first job, business owners supporting neighborhood organizations, and companies choosing to invest in the Bronx because they believe in its people and its future.

Here, business and community have always been deeply connected. Our neighborhood businesses are more than places where transactions happen. They are gathering places, employers, mentors, sponsors and neighbors. Their success strengthens families and commercial corridors. And when our communities are strong, our businesses have the foundation they need to grow.

America has always been shaped by people willing to imagine something more and then work to make it possible. Our history is filled with people who built businesses, institutions and communities without knowing exactly what would come next, but believing that their work could create something better for the generation that followed.

As America enters its next 250 years, my hope is that we continue to create places where an idea can become a business, where a business can become a legacy, and where success creates opportunity beyond any one individual. There is much in our nation's history to reflect upon, much to celebrate and still much more to build. I am proud that the Bronx and the businesses and people who call it home, will be part of building what comes next.

With pride in our borough and optimism for our shared future,

Lisa Sorin
President and CEO
Bronx Chamber of Commerce