

## SEATTLE DISTRICT

**Date:** Dec. 10, 2018

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### **SBA Seattle District Office Teams Up with Seattle Latino Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce to Support Latino and Hispanic Entrepreneurs**

*Two-year Strategic Alliance Memorandum (SAM) signed at chamber meeting*

**SEATTLE** – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Seattle District Office and the Seattle Latino Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (SLMCC) formalized a two-year strategic alliance and celebrated with a signing ceremony during a chamber meeting this month.

The Strategic Alliance Memorandum (SAM) will allow both organizations to cross promote and collaborate on business training and services which will better connect and empower Latino and Hispanic entrepreneurs throughout the Greater Puget Sound Area.

“This is a great opportunity for the SBA Seattle District Office to expand its outreach to such a significant and growing group of entrepreneurs,” SBA Seattle District Director Kerrie Hurd said. “We look forward to supporting this new alliance with the Seattle Latino Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce.”

Hurd and SLMCC Founder and President Marcos Wanless signed the SAM in front of the room full of Hispanic and Latino-American business owners last week.

“The importance of our partnership with SBA is significant,” Wanless said. “Now we can provide a direct pipeline of valuable tools and resources to our members and our Latino business community from the top authority on small businesses in the country.”

Hispanic and Latino Americans are the second-largest ethnic group in the United States. Hispanics owned 12 percent of all businesses in 2012, up from 8.3 percent five years earlier. The rate of increase in receipts for Hispanic-owned firms also outpaced that of all firms. Hispanic-owned firms totaled \$473.6 billion in receipts in 2012, an increase of 35.1 percent from \$350.7 billion in 2007.

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The SBA supports diverse American entrepreneurs of all backgrounds through an extensive network of small business resources. For small business tools and resources in the Spanish language, visit [SBA en español](#).

*Editor's Note: Hi-res versions of the following photos available upon request.*



*SBA Seattle District Director Kerrie Hurd (left) and SLMCC Founder and President Marcos Wanless (right) sign the SAM which formalizes the relationship between the two agencies for two years.*



*Hurd and Wanless present the signed SAM.*



*Hurd discusses the importance of the new strategic alliance between the SBA Seattle District Office and SLMCC in front of the Hispanic and Latino small business owners in attendance of the chamber meeting.*

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### **About the U.S. Small Business Administration**

The U.S. Small Business Administration makes the American dream of business ownership a reality. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to start, grow or expand their businesses, or recover from a declared disaster. It delivers services through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more, visit [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov). The **SBA Seattle District Office** serves Washington and northern Idaho with office locations in Seattle and Spokane.

### **About the Seattle Latino Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce**

The Seattle Latino Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization with the mission to serve Latino business owners and professionals to achieve progress and development. SLMCC aims to provide Latino businesses and professionals with powerful business networks to create profit and growth; foster direct connections to government programs designed to advance Latino businesses; provide special tools and events that promote education, unity and progress amongst members and the community. The SLMCC is based in Seattle, but supports Latino businesses and professionals across the state of Washington. SLMCC has a 15 member advisory board and a membership base of more than 1,100 people. To learn more, visit [seattlelatino.org](http://seattlelatino.org).

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