

GLOBAL atlanta works

EMBRACING DIVERSITY

PROMOTING OPPORTUNITY

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In Depth with the Atlanta Business League's Leona Barr Cunningham



The **Atlanta Regional Commission** recently talked with Leona Barr Cunningham, president and CEO of the Atlanta Business League, Inc., which was established in 1933 to foster growth, creation and development of successful business enterprises that are owned, operated and managed by African-Americans in metro Atlanta. The **Atlanta Business League** has flourished under the leadership of Ms. Cunningham, with a membership of approximately 500 and a constituent base of approximately 13,000. This Q & A is the first of two installments on the Atlanta Business League,

currently celebrating 75 years of business development and advocacy. [Read the interview here...](#)

UPS' Unity Day Celebrates the World

Atlanta-based UPS has a long history of recognition as one of the best companies for minorities and for their commitment to a multicultural environment in keeping with its global reach. Since 2000, **Unity Day** has been an annual event organized by UPS to celebrate the unique richness of its employees from around the world with international exhibits and cuisine featuring Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe. ARC's Global Atlanta Works program and the Southern Center for International Studies were resource exhibitors. Learn more about Unity Day and read John J. Valeri, UPS's vice president of corporate international human resources, perspective on diversity here. [Read more...](#)

Events of Note

The **6th Annual Roswell Roots Festival** is the largest Black History celebration in the metro Atlanta area and celebrates black history and culture by sponsoring a variety of art exhibits, history and cultural events in February. Most events require reservations and space is limited. For specific details and contact information about each event, visit the City of Roswell website at www.roswellgov.com

The **Butler Street Y Hungry Club Forum** list of speakers during Black History Month includes the sons and daughters of some of the countries leading history-makers. For additional information, contact Ms. Serelia Morris, Director of Community Relations at (404) 659-0915.

Did You Know?

For every \$1million spent with Black businesses, 10 jobs are added to the business; 7 go to Blacks.

Every \$1 million of Black Business revenue adds \$3.1 million to total US output and 25 jobs to the economy.

Nationally, Black businesses operate in neighborhoods that are 44% black; 35% operate in high poverty areas.

In Georgia, only \$6 out of every \$100 is spent with Black businesses.

There are 22 states in which Blacks are the largest minority group: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, **Georgia**, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin. (Note: Minorities are part of a group other than single-race non-Hispanic white.)

The Chinese New Year, Lunar Year 4706, Year of the Rat, officially began on February 7, 2008. It is the longest and most important celebration in the Chinese Calendar.

Sources: Thomas D. Boston Ph.D., President of EuQuant, and the U.S. Census Bureau.

To commemorate Black History Month, **Underground Atlanta** in partnership with the APEX Museum, is hosting a variety of interactive and educational activities throughout the month of February. For more information regarding the exhibit, "The Georgia Negro" and others, visit www.apexmuseum.org.

Fridays in February is a month-long series of programming offered by the Atlanta History Center in recognition of Black History Month. This series of programming explores the significant impact and achievements of African Americans during four specific time periods. Each Friday includes a tour of a permanent exhibition, live performances, living history interpreters and hands-on activities. Reservations are required. For more information, please call 404-814-4110.

The **Asian Indian Chamber of Commerce** (AICCGA) invites participation in a conference "Destination India" which is scheduled for April 13-15, 2008 in Atlanta. This conference is designed to encourage and promote the incubation and growth of business alliances between India and the U.S. For additional information, contact Brenda Morant, Executive Director, 404-587-3126 or by email at brenda@mail.gtrr.net

The Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO) and the GALEO Latino Community Development Fund are accepting applications for the **GALEO Institute for Leadership**, Spring 2008 to be held in Atlanta, Columbus, Dalton, Gainesville and Savannah. The application deadline is February 22, 2008. For additional information, go to www.galeo.org/institute4leadership.php

This newsletter is a product of the Atlanta Regional Commission, the official planning agency for the 10-county region, including Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry and Rockdale counties as well as the City of Atlanta. For more information about [Global Atlanta Works](#), contact Carolyn White at 404-463-3329 or Darlene Daly at 404-463-3316