



**NOIR**  
BLACK CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE

For Immediate Release  
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## NOIR BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC. Becomes Kentucky's Newest Community Development Entity (CDE)

KENTUCKY (Ky) – On Sunday, July 226, 2020, Noir Black Chamber Of Commerce Inc. (NOIRBCC) become Kentucky's newest Community Development Entity (CDE) certified through the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund under The U.S. Department of the Treasury. The chamber will focus its efforts on identifying economic development projects that improve disinvested neighborhoods and create jobs for those living in those low-income communities.

On August 19, 2019, the launch of Noir Black Chamber Of Commerce Inc was announced in a press conference on the front steps of 1151 South Fourth Street, Louisville, Kentucky hosted by the Louisville metro Council President, David James.

Since its inception, Noir Black Chamber Of Commerce Inc., led by its Founder and Chief Executive Officer, John Howard Shaw-Woo, has made significant strides in helping Black entrepreneurs and small black businesses start, grow, and sustain themselves through the teaching of best business practices, business plan development, analytical thinking, formation of synergistic collaborative partnerships, as well as mentoring. Other accomplishments are the growth in memberships from 10 to 125 members, and the establishment of a national organization serving members in California, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, and Texas. The chamber has also created the following member consortiums to build collaborations between members and their industries: NOIRBCC Black Realty Consortium: NOIRBCC Black Political Education Consortium, NOIRBCC MBE Construction Consortium, NOIRBCC Black Lives Matter Consortium, and NOIRBCC Black Filmmakers Consortium, which is led by Nathaniel Spencer, is currently working on two reality tv shows and a documentary film on health issues facing Black Americans. The chamber also helped in the establishment of Kentucky Institute for Music Industry Development Inc. (K|M|D) led by R&B Recording Artist Brian Scott aka "B. Stille" from the American alternative Southern rap quartet Nappy Roots. On August 1, 2020 the chamber will move its headquarters into the NIA Center located at 2900 W Broadway, Suite 223, Louisville, KY 40211 to better serve its members and to provide programs centered around FDIC Money Smart Training Courses, Homebuyer Education and Home Acquisition. It will also launch its new Teens Professional Career Pathways Program to move Black youth toward higher professional careers that will lead to improved economic and social mobility. **"NOIRBCC is focused on breaking generational cycles by moving Black Americans towards success."** said Shaw-Woo.

"With this new Community Development Entity designation, Noir Black Chamber Of Commerce Inc. can now move forward with its plans to truly assist Black Communities and Low-Income areas across the country by identifying and supporting New Market Tax Credit projects that will create jobs and economic mobility for residents living in disinvested neighborhoods. NOIRBCC will support and take on projects that will truly beautify and uplift communities not gentrify and displace residents.



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Shaw-Woo is a Texas native who holds a bachelor's degree in Business Management from the University of Houston along with a minor in European Studies. He also has a certification in Intrapreneurship and holds Associates of Science and Associates of Arts Degrees from Houston Community College. He moved to Louisville in 2010, when his spouse Dr. Shiao Woo, who is Chairman of the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Louisville.

Shaw-Woo's first venture in Louisville was GMeals, a company that produced pre-packaged meals to go, which he started in 2013. He closed it after five years to focus on his nonprofit efforts. In addition to NOIRBCC, Shaw-Woo is a co-founder and President and Chief Executive Officer of the Kentucky Poverty Initiative Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to decreasing poverty in Kentucky. Louisville Business First recognized him as one of its 2018 People to Know: Nonprofits program.

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#### About NOIR BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

NOIR BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC., is a national 501c3 nonprofit Community Development Entity (CDE) headquartered in Louisville Kentucky, which is dedicated to reducing poverty of African Americans through the pursuit of economic development and social mobility. Our mission is achieved via the following avenues; Affordable Housing, Entitlement Reform, Community Health and Wellness, Small Business Support, Teen Professional Career Attainment, Urban Hunger, Workforce Development, and the Arts.

For more information, contact John Howard Shaw-Woo at (502) 777-6307 or [john@noirbcc.org](mailto:john@noirbcc.org). You can also visit website at [www.noirbcc.org](http://www.noirbcc.org).



#### About the CDFI Fund

Since its creation in 1994, the CDFI Fund has awarded more than \$2.2 billion to CDFIs, community development organizations, and financial institutions through the CDFI Program, the NACA Program, the Bank Enterprise Award Program, the Capital Magnet Fund, and the Financial Education and Counseling Pilot Program. In addition, the CDFI Fund has allocated \$43.5 billion in tax credit allocation authority to Community Development Entities through the New Markets Tax Credit Program, and \$852 million has been guaranteed in bonds through the CDFI Bond Guarantee Program.

[cdfifund.gov](http://cdfifund.gov)