



# NEW CHAPTER LAUNCH

New  
Chapter

Hybrid Ceremony

Thursday, March 11, 2021 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM





## Chairwomen Message

Distinguished Friends and Guests of HACCOF,

Welcome to the launch of the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida's (HACCOF) Treasure Coast Chapter.

The mission of HACCOF is to promote investment opportunities amongst members, to support economic development of our community and to foster alliances between Florida and Haiti. Our first chapter, The Haitian American Chamber of Commerce-Treasure Coast will mirror these objectives in our mission.

Additionally, this chapter is poised to be the leading voice for small business owners within the Haitian American community and other minority groups on the Treasure Coast. We are ready to speak out for the people of our community and get results, support projects and programs that grow our local economy, bridge the gap and connect this underserved group to financial access and workforce development, and bring different groups together to move our community forward.

We invite you to become a member of HACCOF-Treasure Coast and to be part of this vibrant team. We are prepared to partner with the surrounding cities, other organizations, and institutions to promote entrepreneurship development, to build healthy business climates and to bring business and community together.

Join us in thanking our board members from both chambers, our staff our supporting partners, sponsors, members, friends as we embark on this venture this Thursday, March 11, 2021.

Thank you all for attending and honoring us with your presence in person and virtually this evening to celebrate the inaugural of HACCOF's first Chapter in Treasure Coast.

Paola Pierre  
**Chairwoman**  
**HACCOF**

Marie Lissa Letin  
**Chairwoman**  
**HACCOF / Treasure Coast**



Treasure Coast Chapter Launch  
Thursday, March 11, 2021  
Port St. Lucie, FL

6:00 PM

## Hybrid Platform Presentation

### Program

Introduction

Welcome remarks by Ms. Paola Pierre,  
Chairwoman, Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida, (HACCOF)

Invocation by Jeff Lozama,  
HACCOF Past Chair

Special Remarks by Philippe Armand  
HACCOF Founder and Advisory Board Member

Remarks by Marie Lissa Letin,  
Chairwoman and Co-Founder of HACCOF Treasure Coast

### Messages of Greetings

Brief Remarks from the Treasure Coast Business Partners  
*Small Business Development Centers (SBDC, Katherine Culhane, Associate Director*  
*Black Business Investment Fund (BBIF), Caleena Shirley, Regional Director (North Florida)*  
*and Danielle St. Luce, Director of Development*

### Vote of Thanks

Dr. Lumana Joseph, HACCOF Vice-Chairwoman  
&  
Melyn Joseph, HACCOF Treasure Coast Vice-Chairwoman



## United States Senate

HOMELAND SECURITY  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND  
TRANSPORTATION  
BUDGET  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
ON AGING

March 8, 2021

Dear Friends:

Congratulations to the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of the Treasure Coast on the soft launch of your first chapter. Thank you for your work to continue Florida's economic growth and support aspiring entrepreneurs across the state.

Throughout my time as Governor, I worked to make Florida the best place for families and businesses to thrive. Thanks to our focus on cutting taxes and reducing burdensome regulations, Florida businesses created nearly 1.7 million jobs in just eight years. Our success would not be possible without partners like the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce. My goal in the United States Senate is to continue building on Florida's tremendous success so every Florida family has the opportunity to succeed and live their American dream.

Congratulations, again. Thank you for your efforts to make Florida the best state in the nation for businesses to succeed and families to live their American dream. I wish you the best for continued success.

Sincerely,

Rick Scott  
United States Senator



DALE V.C. HOLNESS, Commissioner/FY 2020 Mayor  
Board of Broward County Commissioners  
115 S. Andrews Ave, Room 421 Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301  
Tel: 954-357-7009 Fax 954-357-5622



March 3, 2021

Congratulations to the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida (HACCOF) on the soft launch of its first chapter, the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of the Treasure Coast.

Since its establishment in 2005, HACCOF continues to promote investment and trade with the Haitian private and public business sectors while serving as a resource to its members, partners, and affiliates.

This is an ideal time to present the Treasure Coast Chapter as it is important to continuously unify and empower the Haitian diaspora. I am confident that this Chapter will embrace the founding principles of the organization by promoting personal and business growth of all members.

HACCOF-Treasure Coast is poised to be the leading voices for small businesses owners within the Haitian community and other minority groups on the Treasure Coast and will continuously be an advocate for the community as well as a resource for consumers and businesses dedicated to serving both the needs of your members and the economic development needs of the broader Haitian community.

I am proud to be a longstanding supporter of HACCOF and look forward to being a member of the HACCOF-Treasure Coast Chapter.

Thank you HACCOF for its diligent leadership and giving its time, talent, and resources for the betterment of the Haitian community and diaspora.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale V.C. Holness".

Dale V.C. Holness  
Broward County District 9 Commissioner/FY 2020 Mayor

**Broward County Board of County Commissioners**

Nan H. Rich • Mark D. Bogen • Michael Udine • Lamar Fisher • Steve Geller • Beam Furr • Tim Ryan • Barbara Sharief • Dale V.C. Holness  
[www.broward.org](http://www.broward.org)





**JEAN MONESTIME**  
COMMISSIONER  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



March 8, 2021

Greetings!

Congratulations to the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida (HACCOF) on your soft launch of your first chapter, Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of the Treasure Coast!

I applaud your organization for serving as a resource for members, partners, and affiliates. Your conferences, workshops, and networking events help to promote business opportunities, partnerships, and economic development throughout Florida and Haiti. You have worked tirelessly to advocate on the behalf of Haitian and Haitian-American enterprises.

I salute you for the leadership and professionalism that you exhibit through your programs and services. On behalf of the community and especially the residents of Miami-Dade County, District 2, I thank you for your many contributions and dedication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jean Monestime".

Jean Monestime  
Commissioner, Miami-Dade County, District 2



"A City for All Ages"

# CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE

Office of the City Manager

**RUSS BLACKBURN**  
City Manager

March 4, 2021

Paola Pierre  
Chairwoman, Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida  
713 N.W. 125<sup>th</sup> St.  
North Miami, FL 33161

Marie L. Letin  
Chairwoman, Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of the Treasure Coast  
10380 S.W. Village Center, Box #37  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34987

Dear Chairwoman Paola Pierre and Chairwoman Marie L. Letin:

On behalf of the City of Port St. Lucie, I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida's first chapter, the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of the Treasure Coast. The City of Port St. Lucie welcomes this new chapter into our Treasure Coast community and shares your organization's principles of promoting the personal and business growth of Chamber members.

The fourth goal of our City's Strategic Plan is to provide a Diverse Economy & Employment Opportunities for all our citizens, and we are excited for the opportunity to promote and advocate for all of the small business owners in the Haitian community.

The City of Port St. Lucie embraces diversity. It is one of our core values, and we strive to promote inclusion and respect the unique qualities not only of our City team but of our community and its citizens as well. We are a City for All People.

Please feel free to reach out to my office by calling 772-871-5163 or by emailing [DeliaM@cityofpsl.com](mailto:DeliaM@cityofpsl.com). We're here to help.

Again, it is our great pleasure to congratulate and welcome the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of the Treasure Coast into our community.

Sincerely,

  
Russ Blackburn  
City Manager

121 S.W. Port St. Lucie Boulevard • Port St. Lucie, FL 34984-5099 • (772) 871-5163



## ST. LUCIE COUNTY Chamber of Commerce

The Unified Chamber of Fort Pierce,  
Port St. Lucie and all of St. Lucie County

March 4, 2021

Paola Pierre  
HACCOF-Treasure Coast  
103 SW Village Center, Box #37  
Port Saint Lucie, Florida 34987

Chairwoman Letin,

On behalf of the St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce I would like to congratulate you on launching the first Chapter of the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce here on the Treasure Coast!

You will find, our Chamber believes in alliances and partnerships with the potential to help all businesses with integration in all available markets. The Chamber looks forward to a strong partnership with your group as we are sure find many ways to be supportive of one another. After all, we are one county serving all people.

Please feel free to contact the St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce for any assistance you may need. Again, congratulations and thank you for serving our community.

Sincerely,

Terissa C. Aronson  
President/CEO

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2937 W. Midway Road, Fort Pierce, FL 34981 ☎ PH: 772.595.9999





Speaker

**Katherine Culhane**

Katherine Culhane – Associate Director of the Small Business Development Center at Indian River State College.

Provides consulting, coaching and training for the business community of the Treasure Coast drawing upon an extensive background in banking and commercial lending.

Educational background includes a Master's of Science in Organizational Learning and Leadership from Barry University as well as certifications as a trainer and facilitator in Emotional Intelligence and a Behavioral Analyst for DISC TTI Insights.

Speaker

**Caleena Shirley**

Caleena Shirley, Regional Director (North Florida), joined BBIF in 2019. Caleena is responsible for developing an eco-system consisting of community partnerships, capital resources and financial training for the purpose of growing underserved small businesses.

Caleena brings twelve years of community/economic development experience working with local governments; holding the positions of Housing Property Administrator and Operations Manager for the City of Jacksonville's Housing and Community Development Division. During her tenure she administered the City's Foreclosure Property Registry program and managed the City's 438 surplus property portfolio. Dedicated to community service, in 2019, Caleena was appointed to the Environmental Protection Board for the City of Jacksonville. Previous community appointments include serving on the Board of Directors for the Hannibal Square Community Land Trust (Winter Park, FL) and The Gardens at DePugh Nursing Home (Winter Park, FL). Ms. Shirley holds a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and Civic Urbanism with a minor in Economics, Cum Laude from Rollins College.

Speaker

**Danielle St. Luce**

Danielle St. Luce is a South Florida native currently working for BBIF Florida, a statewide Community Development Financial Institution, as their Director of Development out of their Miami office. Her focus is on growing BBIF's capacity to support the financing and educating underbanked clients throughout the Miami metro area. Danielle spent her secondary years in Togo, West Africa where she completed her baccalaureate before moving to the United States for university. After graduating from Cornell University with her bachelor's degree in Industrial and Labor Relations, she returned to the South Florida area to work in the non-profit world. Before working in finance, she started in education and moved to the arts. She has continued working with small arts organizations in the Overtown area as a consultant specializing in educating small teams in operations, sales and branding.

In work and life, Danielle consistently seeks individuals and institutions working towards creating equity in an inequitable world. Both professionally and personally, she finds herself involved with working groups focused on a range of issues from Opportunity Zones to facilitating dialogue among divergent groups.



## Ten Reasons to Join Your Haitian American Chamber of Commerce

### 1. Invest in Yourself & your Community-

When you join the Haitian American Chamber, you align with a group that is committed to your success. We believe, as you do, that we must work together, strategically, to achieve greater economic development in our community. When you join, you invest in yourself. L'union fait la force!

### 2. Intelligence-

You don't have time to stay on top of all economic, governmental, and local issues which could impact your business. We keep you informed so that you can concentrate on growing your business.

### 3. Business in Haiti-

Part of the Chamber's mission is to promote alliances between our Florida community and Haiti and the Caribbean. If you're interested in business, trade or research, we'll joint you in the direction of successful footsteps.

### 4. Stay Informed on Business & Local Issues-

We provide our members with interesting information about local businesses, a community calendar, upcoming chamber events, among other things.

### 5. Share Business Experiences-

The challenges you face in your business are shared by your brothers and sisters in the business community. One effective way to overcome challenges is by sharing and discussing with those who are working the same path as you.

### 6. Networking Opportunities & Connections-

The business owners and professionals you meet through the Chamber can help open doors, uncover opportunities, and unlock brilliant ideas.

### 7. Add Your Voice-

Business & community advocacy is part of our work. Your ability to influence public policy on common business issues becomes greater as more voices are added to our group membership.

### 8. Access to Members-Only Services-

The Chamber provides specific learning workshop, special discounts and other benefits only to its paid members.

### 9. Increase Your Visibility in the Community-

As a new member of the chamber of commerce, you will be listed in the Chamber's printed newsletter, e-newsletter on Haccof-treasurecoast.com and have the opportunity to be highlighted in other Chamber publications. You also grow your business by advertising with the Chamber and by sponsoring events.

### 10. Membership Brings Credibility to Your Business-

You increase positive perception among consumers and business owners when you're identified as a member. According to recent study by Shapiro Group, when consumers know that a small business is a member of their local chamber of commerce, they are 44 percent more likely to think favorably of it and 63 percent more likely to purchase goods and services.



## Membership Application

*(Please print clearly, membership packages vary by chapter location)*

Your annual membership dues allow you to participate in all Chamber activities.  
Your company will receive a membership certificate as well as any benefits available.

### Annual Membership

- ☐ Business \$250    
 ☐ Corporate \$450    
 ☐ Professional \$150    
 ☐ Student \$75  
☐ Corporate Partnership (per contract)    
 ☐ Trustee \$1,500  
☐ Institutional Partnership (per contract)

How to compute  
your Membership  
Investment

Check above for Investment Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Add first-year, one-time admin fee: \$ 50.00  
 Total amount due with application: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form and return it to HACCOF with membership investment:

Company Name			
President/Owner			
Contact Person		Title	
Telephone		Cell Phone	
Company Address			
City		State/Zip	
Telephone		Fax	
E-mail		Website	
Type of Business			Year Established

**Business References** (Business Name, Contact Person, Telephone, E-mail) Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby make application for membership in the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida. When accepted, I will abide by the Chamber's by-laws, support the Chamber's objectives and pay the prescribed annual membership dues until such time as I may desire to terminate by formal written notification. All Applications are subject to Board approval.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Investment Amount:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Payment: Check #** \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card: Visa: \_\_\_\_\_ Master Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Amex: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_ Credit card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Digit Code \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Your cancelled check is your receipt. Please complete and sign the application form and attach your check made payable to:  
Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Treasure Coast Inc. **Tax ID 86-1988294**

10380 SW VILLAGE CENTER Box # 37, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34987  
(877)- 422-2638 | [info@haccof-treasurecoast.com](mailto:info@haccof-treasurecoast.com) | [www.haccof-treasurecoast.com](http://www.haccof-treasurecoast.com)



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