Day One

The North American Chapter gathered for its fourth annual meeting October 4-5, 2016 in Washington, DC, hosted by member City First Bank of DC President and CEO Brian Argrett. The meeting was attended by all members of the North American Chapter, and welcomed guests from Missoula Federal Credit Union in the US and Kindred Credit Union in Canada.

The agenda for day one of the meeting comprised a broad range of topics including the state of values-based banking on both sides of the border and how best to advance it in our organizations; issues related to capital management; wealth management offerings in a values-based framework; and an update on the GABV’s long-term strategy.

The members agreed to explore areas of interest and refine areas of collaboration through the development of a strategic plan for the Chapter. David Reiling, who chaired the meeting, and host Brian Argrett offered to work with Chapter Chair Tamara Vrooman to develop the strategy.

In the meantime members would like to see the activity of the chapter ramp up with more knowledge and staff exchanges; greater use of leadership networks; and the opportunity to use the GABV brand more to support their work.

Participants also had an opportunity to join a private tour of the newly opened National Museum of African American History and Culture, one of the city’s hottest attractions.
Day Two
On day two of the meeting, CEOS attended a day-long summit hosted by City First Foundation.

The Community Development Finance Conference: Commerce, Culture and Community Investment was held at the Atlas Theatre on H Street, a development project of City First Bank. The goal of the conference was to forge the intersection of finance and the importance of arts organizations, non-profits and small businesses in Washington, DC’s emerging economy and diverse culture.

Peter Blom, Chair of the GABV, offered remarks at the close of the event.

This two-minute video will give you an overview of the day.

City First Bank of DC is a nationally chartered commercial bank with a mission to provide financial and other services in low and moderate income communities. City First Bank is Washington D.C.’s first bank solely dedicated to community development finance. Our mission is to support and strengthen underserved communities in Washington DC and the surrounding suburbs.

Our deposits are at work in low and moderate wealth communities financing high impact deals – deals that create or sustain jobs and provide vital community services. The bank targets neighborhoods east of 16th Street including far NE and SE Washington and other economically challenged suburban communities.

City First has been certified as a Community Development Financial Institution by the CDFI Fund of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and has won seven rounds of authority under the New Markets Tax Credit Program totaling $468 million.
Meeting Participants

Members
- Brian Argrett, President and CEO, City First Bank of DC, Washington, DC, USA
- Keith Costello, CEO, First GREEN Bank, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA
- Mark Finser, Chair of the Board, New Resource Bank, San Francisco, California, USA
- Mark Lane, CEO, Affinity Credit Union, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
- Keith Mestrich, President and CEO, Amalgamated Bank, New York City, New York, USA
- Rob Miller, CEO, VSECU, Montpelier, Vermont, USA
- David Reiling, CEO, Sunrise Banks, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA
- Kevin Sitka, CEO, Assiniboine Credit Union, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
- Kat Taylor, Co-Founder and Co-CEO, Beneficial State Bank, Oakland, California, USA
- Darrin Williams, CEO, Southern Bancorp, Arkadelphia, Arkansas, USA

Guests
- Jack Lawson, President and CEO, Missoula Federal Credit Union, Missoula, Montana, USA
- Brent Zorgdrager, CEO, Kindred Credit Union, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada
- Paul Brown, Executive Vice President, City First Bank of DC, Washington, DC, USA

GABV
- Marcos Eguiguren, Executive Director, Barcelona, Spain
- Mary Houghton, Honorary Director, Chicago, Illinois, USA
- Paula Martin, North American Regional Representative, Vancouver, BC, Canada (Vancity)

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