



## About the Chamber

Since 1917, the Chamber of Commerce has been the leader in promoting business and business interests in Clarksdale and Coahoma County. Today, as a part of the Crossroads Economic Partnership, the Chamber of Commerce offers its members and the community a broad variety of programs and events, as well as sponsoring Clarksdale's premier musical and cultural festivals. The Chamber is led by a board of dedicated volunteers who, each year, donate their time and vigor to provide our community with meaningful programs and events, creating a more fulfilling experience for Clarksdale residents and visitors. The Chamber is funded through business and individual memberships, as well as the significant contributions of the City of Clarksdale, Clarksdale Public Utilities, and the Economic Development Authority of Coahoma County.

## **EVENTS**

### **Annual Chamber Banquet**

Each Year the Chamber of Commerce host our Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet for our members. Included in this event is a presentation for our Chamber Business of the Year, Citizen of the Year, and a featured speaker.

### **Annual Christmas Parade**

Our Christmas Festival Parade happens every December and takes place in Downtown Clarksdale. The parade consists of local bands, floats, and many marching groups and is concluded with a fireworks display off the Second Street bridge.

### **Fridays at the Stage**

On the first Friday of the month of May and continuing each Friday during the month, the Chamber of Commerce host its Fridays at the Stage concert series. Every week a new musical act takes the stage to perform and welcome the arrival of the Summer months.

## **PROGRAMS**

### **Youth Leadership Clarksdale**

Youth Leadership Clarksdale is a program hosted by the Chamber of Commerce. Each year the Chamber selects 25 tenth and eleventh grade students from Coahoma County



Schools. These students are then exposed to a variety of leadership styles in order to encourage a greater understanding of leadership.

## **SPONSORSHIPS**

### **Juke Joint Festival**

The Juke Joint festival is Clarksdale's premier festival of the year. It happens each spring and is attended by a global audience. The Juke Joint Festival is "half blues festival, half small-town fair, and all about the Delta." It celebrates Clarksdale's past and living history by presenting over 100 blues acts including many Delta legends! The Juke Joint festival is Truly one of a kind and has been written about in the New York Times and seen on the PBS Newshour. Come experience the Blues!

### **Sunflower River Blues & Gospel Festival**

The first Sunflower River Blues Festival took place in 1988 and was funded primarily by Clarksdale's downtown merchants and organized by Jim O'Neal and Dr. Patricia Johnson. It featured dozens of musicians performing on outdoor stages on the banks of the Sunflower River beneath the Riverside Recreation Center and in the open space between Sunflower and Delta Avenues. The Sunflower is a sister festival of the International Notodden Festival in Norway. The Sunflower River Blues & Gospel festival will return August 13-15, 2021.

### **Mississippi Delta Tennessee Williams Festival**

The annual Mississippi Delta Tennessee Williams Festival is hosted by Coahoma County College. The festival includes interactive workshops, scholarly presentations and talks, along with performances of Williams' work.

### **Live from Clarksdale**

Live from Clarksdale is an organization seeking to grow Clarksdale's audience via social media platforms and live concerts. Live from Clarksdale streams Live Blues, 7 nights a week until you can come to Clarksdale in person to experience yourself! Find them on Facebook!



## WHY JOIN?

The primary benefit of Chamber membership is knowing that through your membership you are supporting programs and events that support our community and promote business activity in our area. Your membership provides the financial support for the annual community Christmas Parade, the Fridays at the Stage concert series supporting local musicians, Youth Leadership Clarksdale, the annual Chamber Banquet, Citizen and Business of the Year recognitions, as well as significant sponsorship in the Juke Joint Festival, the Mississippi Delta Tennessee Williams Festival, and the Sunflower River Blues and Gospel Festival. The Chamber also is a sponsor of Live from Clarksdale, an online concert series featuring live Blues music accessible to fans around the world.

Additional benefits of membership include an exclusive listing on our website, providing both residents, newcomers, and visitors an online reference to goods and services in the Clarksdale and Coahoma County area. Inquiries made to our office result in referrals to Chamber members. Membership also provides you and your business the opportunity to gain high visibility through sponsorships of various chamber events, such as Fridays at the Stage and the annual Chamber Banquet.

We provide space in the Chamber office to display your business cards or promotional brochures.

We provide ribbon cutting and grand opening or reopening ceremonies for new or relocated Chamber businesses. We require a minimum of two weeks' notice for this service.

Finally, your membership cost of belonging to the Chamber is 100% tax deductible.



## Join the Chamber

Joining the Chamber is easy and a meaningful way to support the Coahoma County and the Clarksdale community. Please Complete the following application and return to [samantha.edmonson@CrossroadsEconomicPartnership.com](mailto:samantha.edmonson@CrossroadsEconomicPartnership.com).

Company/Organization Info			
<b>Name</b>			
<b>Title</b>			
<b>Address</b>			
<b>City/State</b>			
<b>Email</b>			
<b>Phone</b>		<b>Alt Phone</b>	
<b>Website</b>			
Primary Contact/Member			
<b>Name</b>			
<b>Title</b>			
<b>Cell #</b>		<b>Work #</b>	
<b>Email</b>			
	<b>Receives Mail</b>		<b>Include in Directory</b>
Secondary Member Representative			
<b>Name</b>			
<b>Title</b>			
<b>Cell #</b>		<b>Work #</b>	
<b>Email</b>			
	<b>Receives Mail</b>		<b>Include in Directory</b>



## Membership

*Your equitable investment has been computed based upon the following:*

INVESTMENT SCHEDULE	Rate	# of Employees	Amount
Owner/President/Manager	\$164.50		
Each Employee(Up to 50 employees)	\$9 /Each		
Each Employee (Over 50 employees)	\$7/Each		
Each Part-Time Employee	\$4/Each		
		<b>TOTAL</b>	
		<u>Please Pay this Amount</u>	

**Your Investment is PAYABLE IN ADVANCE (for All new Members)**

**Please make checks payable to:**

**Clarksdale Chamber of Commerce**  
**PO Box 160**  
**Clarksdale, MS 38614**