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# EXPLORING ECONOMIES 2026

SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 1, 2026  
CHICAGO

SPONSORSHIP  
OPPORTUNITIES



# PARTNER FOR IMPACT

## About the Experience

Exploring Economies: Chicago brings together 125+ executives from Charlotte for an intensive two-day immersion into what makes Chicago one of America's most dynamic economic powerhouses. This carefully curated experience goes beyond traditional site visits—it's a strategic learning journey designed to identify transferable best practices, innovative approaches, and actionable insights that Charlotte's business leaders can bring home to drive our region's growth.

Over two days, participants will engage with Chicago's leading experts and explore six critical economic pillars:

- Logistics, Trade & Transportation Infrastructure
- Life Sciences, Biotech & Medical Innovation
- Food & Beverage as an Economic Engine
- Sports, Entertainment & District Activation
- Urban Growth, Planning & Governance
- Talent Attraction, Commercial Real Estate & District Development

The experience includes a welcome reception [on the Chicago River], immersive site visits and expert-led sessions throughout both days, a signature dinner, and a networking lunch to synthesize insights and build lasting connections.

## The Power of Your Sponsorship

Your sponsorship of Exploring Economies directly powers cross-regional learning and economic development collaboration between Charlotte and Chicago. Contributions fund curated site access, world-class programming and facilitation, high-quality materials that participants reference long after returning home, and networking experiences that catalyze meaningful partnerships. Every dollar invested strengthens the connections and insights that drive the Charlotte region forward.

# PARTNER FOR IMPACT

## PRESENTING SPONSOR | \$10,000 (EXCLUSIVE)

**Impact:** Your organization becomes the cornerstone partner of this transformative experience, demonstrating visible leadership in advancing economic development between our two great cities.

### Benefits:

Everything included in Champion Sponsorship, plus:

- Logo placement across all printed and digital materials (signage, menus, name badges, presentations)
- Opportunity to place branded collateral in attendee materials
- Choice of one:
  - Panel participation in a relevant session (aligned with your organization's expertise)
  - Remarks at the opening or closing session
- Verbal recognition as Presenting Sponsor during the program
- Early recognition in pre-event communications leading up to the experience
- Inclusion in post-event insights and social media posts
- Facilitated introductions to select attendees, where appropriate
- Branded cocktail napkin and opportunity for remarks at Welcome Reception

## CHAMPION SPONSOR | \$7,500

**Impact:** Your organization champions the exchange of ideas and innovation that defines Exploring Economies, with meaningful visibility throughout the two-day experience.

### Benefits:

Everything included in Partner Sponsorship, plus:

- Logo placement on meal menus
- Logo placement on select presentation slides
- Recognition during a key program moment (e.g., networking lunch or session break)
- Inclusion in post-event recap materials



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# EXPLORING ECONOMIES

PARTNER FOR IMPACT

## PARTNER SPONSOR | \$5,000

**Impact:** Your organization partners in this important economic development initiative, supporting the connections and learning that strengthen the Charlotte region.

### **Benefits:**

- Logo placement on digital program / Linktree (with link to website)
- Logo placement in pre- and post-event emails
- Logo on event registration page
- Acknowledgement during program

