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**SPONSORSHIP**



**GENERATION**

**D A Y T O N**

The Place For Dayton's Young Professionals

*A Program of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce*

**Celebrating 10 Years**

**2006 - 2016**

**2016  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**



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BACK COVER

# Message from the Chair



*Jessica Blimbaum*  
2016 Chair

This year, Generation Dayton is celebrating its 10-year anniversary as a program of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce. Since its founding, Generation Dayton has made a positive impact on the Dayton community through our contributions, member value, and commitment to Dayton employers and our valuable sponsors.

Like Dayton, Generation Dayton is evolving to stay relevant for our members and I am so proud of the work the Steering Committee did this year to celebrate our successes and bring quality events to our members and future members.

In 2016, Generation Dayton held 34 events in support of over 28 local organizations and businesses in the Dayton community. We welcomed more new members, bringing our membership total to 259 and counting. We concluded

the year with 8 sponsors and 3 event sponsors. This 2016 Annual Report highlights the quality events of Generation Dayton that focused on the development of personal and professional growth through community service, business/social networking, and professional development activities.

In addition, we held our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Generation Dayton Day, which commences on the first Friday of May each year as a way to celebrate our founding. GenD Day enables our members and friends to “Get Out and Give Back” by volunteering with local non-profit organizations. This year we heard from Phil Parker, the president and CEO of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce and Niraj Antani, State House Representative and Generation Dayton member about the importance that young professionals have on the Dayton community. This year, we had 150 volunteers, donating 600 hours of work totaling over \$14,136 in economic impact to the Dayton region.

In 2017, as we embark on our 11<sup>th</sup> year as Generation Dayton, I would like to express my gratitude to the Generation Dayton Steering Committee, Sub-Committee members, the DACC, our sponsors, volunteers, employers, members and friends who continue to support our mission and organize and attend our events. I would like to also express a special thank you to LaDonna Wulfeck, who acted as our Chamber Liaison for the past 10 years. She has accepted a new position at the Chamber, but we will never forget all she has done for our organization and members.

Under the direction of the 2017 Chair, Michael Allen, and the Steering Committee, and our new Chamber Liaison Rachel Gensler, I am sure 2017 will be the best year yet!



# Future Direction from the 2017 Chair

This year I have had the pleasure of serving Generation Dayton in the position of Vice Chair as we peered back into the now decade long history of the organization and all its accomplishments. I learned that we have met as an organization over 400 times to improve the community we love while also improving ourselves. I've made some of my best friends through the organization, been inspired and energized by leaders in the community, and learned more things about the city of Dayton in the past year than I had since moving to the area in 1999.



*Michael Allen*  
2017 Chair

It truly has been an exciting decade for Generation Dayton, but I believe we are just beginning to scratch the surface of what's possible. In 2017 the theme will be "A Bright Future For Dayton" as our organization looks forward and dreams big to reach our potential. Our Speaker Series & Professional Development events will be focused on showing us what the future of the community will be like and how we can improve ourselves to have a bigger impact. We will showcase the future hot-spots of Dayton at our networking meetings and provide community service to the local organizations that care about Dayton's future the most.

2017 is going to be an exciting year for the Dayton region and I would like to invite anyone and everyone who cares about the community to join us in our mission to lead Dayton to an even brighter future!

# GenD Steering Committee



*Jessica Blimbaum*  
Chair



*Michael Allen*  
Vice Chair



*Michele Miller*  
Membership Chair



*Tristan Navera*  
Networking Chair



*Melissa Carr*  
Professional Development  
Chair



*Mary Mierzejewski*  
Marketing Chair

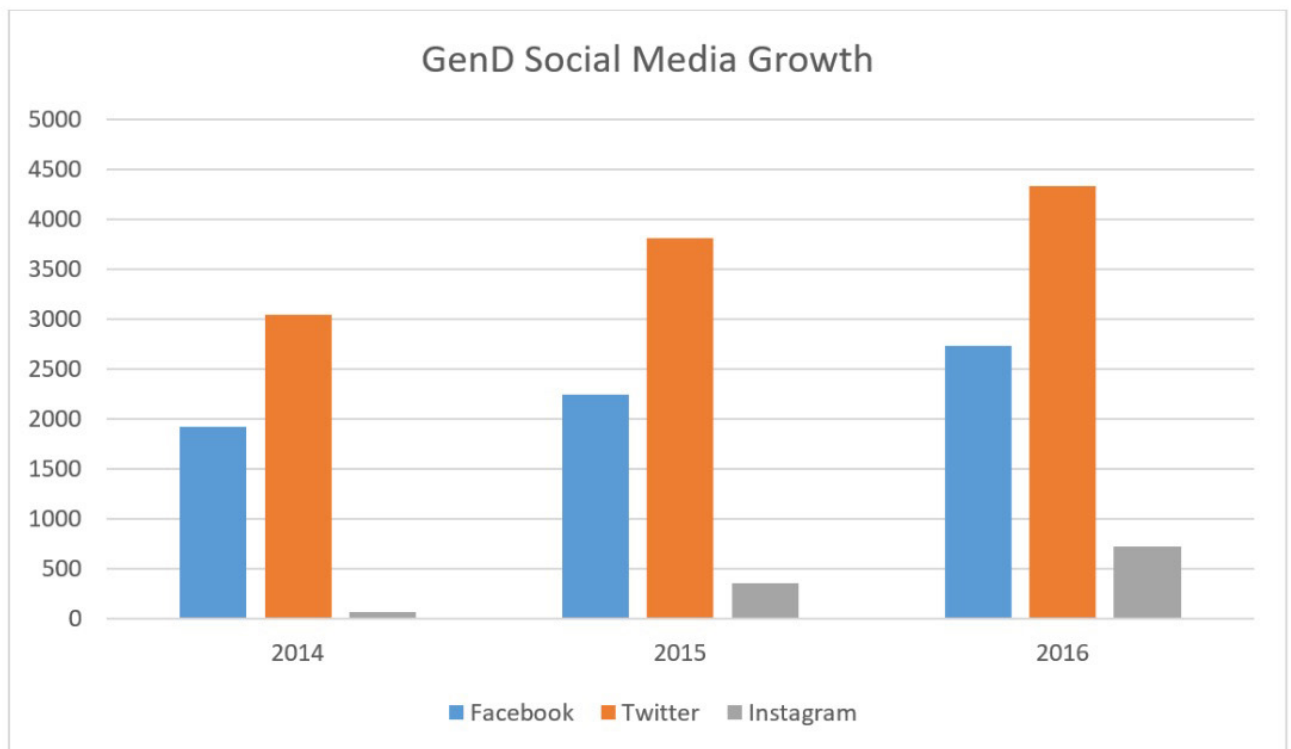


*Andrea Livingston*  
Community Service Chair



*Jerod Frenzl*  
Community Service Chair  
(Interim)

# A Look at 2016 Numbers



900% increase in Instagram over two years

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



*Melissa Carr*  
Professional Development  
Chair

In 2016 the Professional Development Committee for Generation Dayton aimed to carry out the purpose of the organization: engage, inspire, retain and attract talented young professionals in the Dayton Region by providing opportunities to connect with peers, develop professional skills, build relationships with businesses and community leaders, voice opinions and concerns to decision-makers, volunteer to improve the surrounding community, and have a positive impact on others and the Dayton region. With that at the forefront of our minds, we sought to provide programming that gave our members access to decision making processes, allowed them to hone their professional skills and gave them the opportunity to continue to network with each other as well as local businesses.

## PROGRAMS & EVENTS

### • Speed Networking

Held in March of 2016, the popular Speed Networking event drew a record number of 67 attendees. At the top of Kettering Tower, in the Dayton Racquet Club, members met one-another in quick 3 minute rounds. This enables the members to sharpen their elevator pitch and get to know their fellow members in quick order.

### • #Adulting

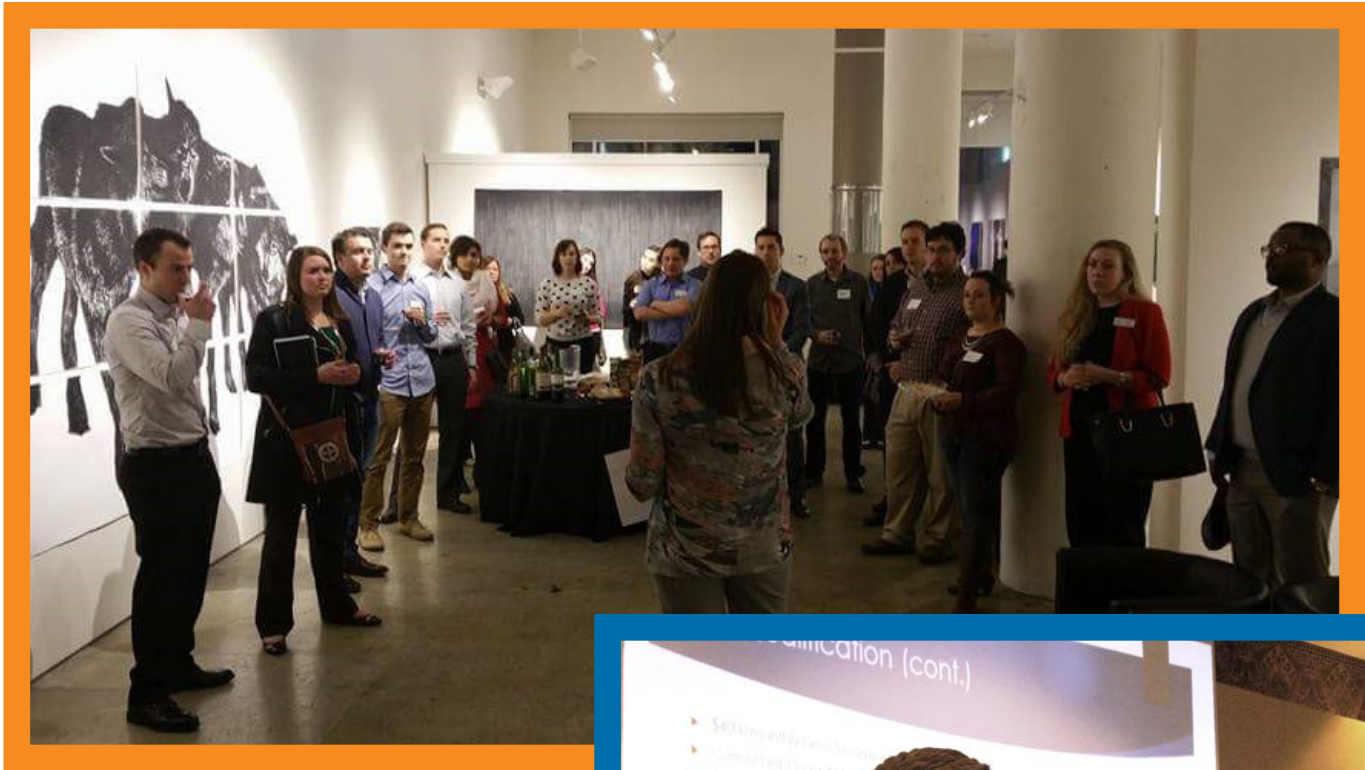
Hosted by the Drury Inn & Suites, #Adulting brought together 8 professionals to speak with our members about how to up their #Adulting game. The night started with learning what our financial IQ is, understanding how to purchase a home, and how to know when we should use a CPA. We wrapped up with how to find a career that you are passionate about, creating your personal brand, and stacking your closet with items to up your professional wardrobe game.

### • Stacey Lawson, 'Can You Handle the Truth?'

Joining us at the Dayton Women's Club, Stacey Lawson, HR Director at Premier Health Partners, challenged us to take a closer look at ourselves and the way we process critical evaluations in the workplace. Apart from being the HR Director, Stacey writes extensively about professional development in her personal blog and books. She also facilitates professional development workshops and acts as a mentor to fellow professionals in Dayton. Drawing from personal experience and her mentoring relationships, Stacey shared how we should seek constructive feedback and utilize it to grow, rather than focus on our shortcomings.

Moving forward, the Professional Development Committee will continue to engage key members of our community like Stacey Lawson, up our personal and professional #Adulting game, and connect Generation Dayton Members.



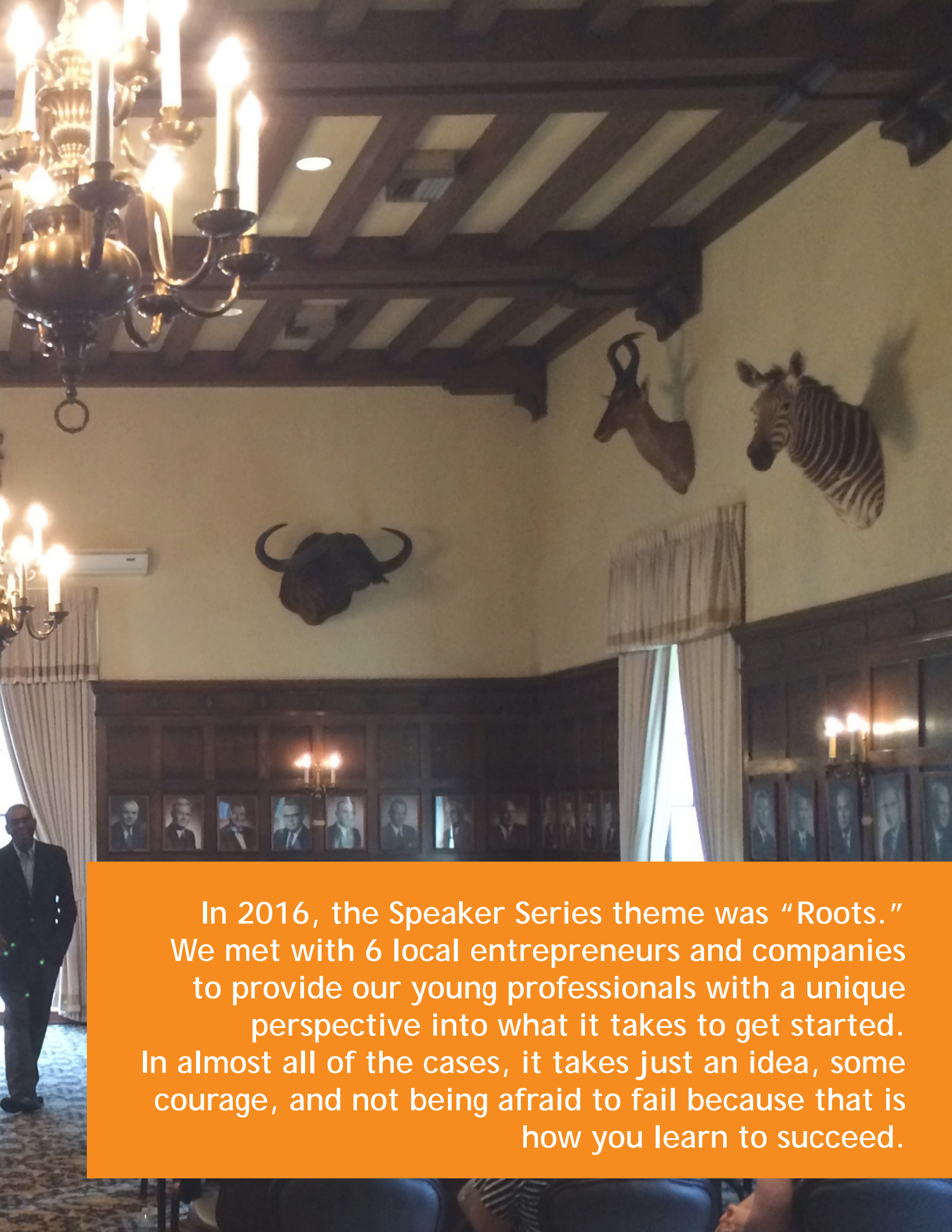




# SPEAKER SERIES







In 2016, the Speaker Series theme was "Roots." We met with 6 local entrepreneurs and companies to provide our young professionals with a unique perspective into what it takes to get started. In almost all of the cases, it takes just an idea, some courage, and not being afraid to fail because that is how you learn to succeed.

We invited our members into Dayton Visual Arts Center to look at the exhibits and hear from Eva Buttacavoli, Executive Director, about the uniqueness of DVAC and how it has been supporting and promoting art and artists in Dayton since 1991.

This event opened the door to the art community for many of our members and we thank DVAC for a great event.

## Speaker Series with Dayton Visual Arts Center (DVAC)







## Speaker Series with Belle of Dayton Distillery

Members gathered at Belle of Dayton for a free personal tour and tasting, where we learned about Belle of Dayton's special distilling process, and how the LaSalle brothers turned their dream into a reality; becoming a well-known distiller in Dayton, and the country.

Belle of Dayton opened its doors in 2014 with a specialty vodka that was designed to pay homage to the American distilling heritage from the prohibition era. Members had the opportunity to ask Murphy LaSalle how he and his brother started the business and what's next. Thank you Belle of Dayton for a one-of-a-kind event!

Jay Nigro, Generation Dayton member and Partner at Nucleus CoShare invited Generation Dayton for a tour of the space to learn about the goals and mission of Nucleus, and the inspiring way it is helping others collaborate and work with the community.

We heard from a panel of Nucleus partners, employees, and members. Event attendees were able to ask the panel about the business, what keeps them ticking, and what the future vision is.

Thank you Nucleus for the tour and keeping our city creative!

## Speaker Series with Nucleus





# FUSIAN EASY. CASUAL. SUSHI.

## SUGGESTED ROLLS

Let us help with your decision, below are a few suggested rolls that substitute a soy wrap for a seaweed wrap for +1.00.

1200 Brown St. Dayton, OH 45409 | p: 937.223.5173 | f:

### california 7.00

crispy roll, seaweed wrap, crab, mayo, avocado, cucumber, sweet soy, and sesame seed

### chicken 8.00

soy wrap, roasted chicken, green onion, cucumber, spicy mayo, and sesame

### shrimp tempura 7.50

crispy roll, seaweed wrap, tempura shrimp, avocado, teriyaki, spicy mayo, and sesame seed

### steak 8.50

soy wrap, roasted steak, green onion, green onion, ginger, soy, and

### spicy tuna\* 7.50

crispy roll, tuna, cucumber, avocado, green onion, spicy mayo, and sesame seed

### surf and turf 9.00

crispy roll, crab, steak, mayo, seaweed wrap, sweet soy, and sesame

### spicy salmon\* 7.50

crispy roll, salmon, green onions, green onion, spicy mayo, and sesame seed

### veggie 6.75

seaweed wrap, select fresh veggies and

facebook.com/eatfusian

fusian.com

twitter.com/

## SIDES

carrot-ginger salad	2.50
cucumber salad	2.25
seaweed salad	3.00
spicy edamame	2.00
edamame	1.75
miso soup	1.75

## DRINKS

[re]fresh
bottled
beer
sake
sparkling
hot tea

## Speaker Series with Fusian

Two brothers and a friend wanted to shake up the Sushi industry by providing an affordable, easy and casual dining experience. Zach Weprin, co-founder and CEO of FUSIAN talked to our attendees about how childhood friends made their vision of simple, fresh and affordable sushi a reality despite the bumps along the way.

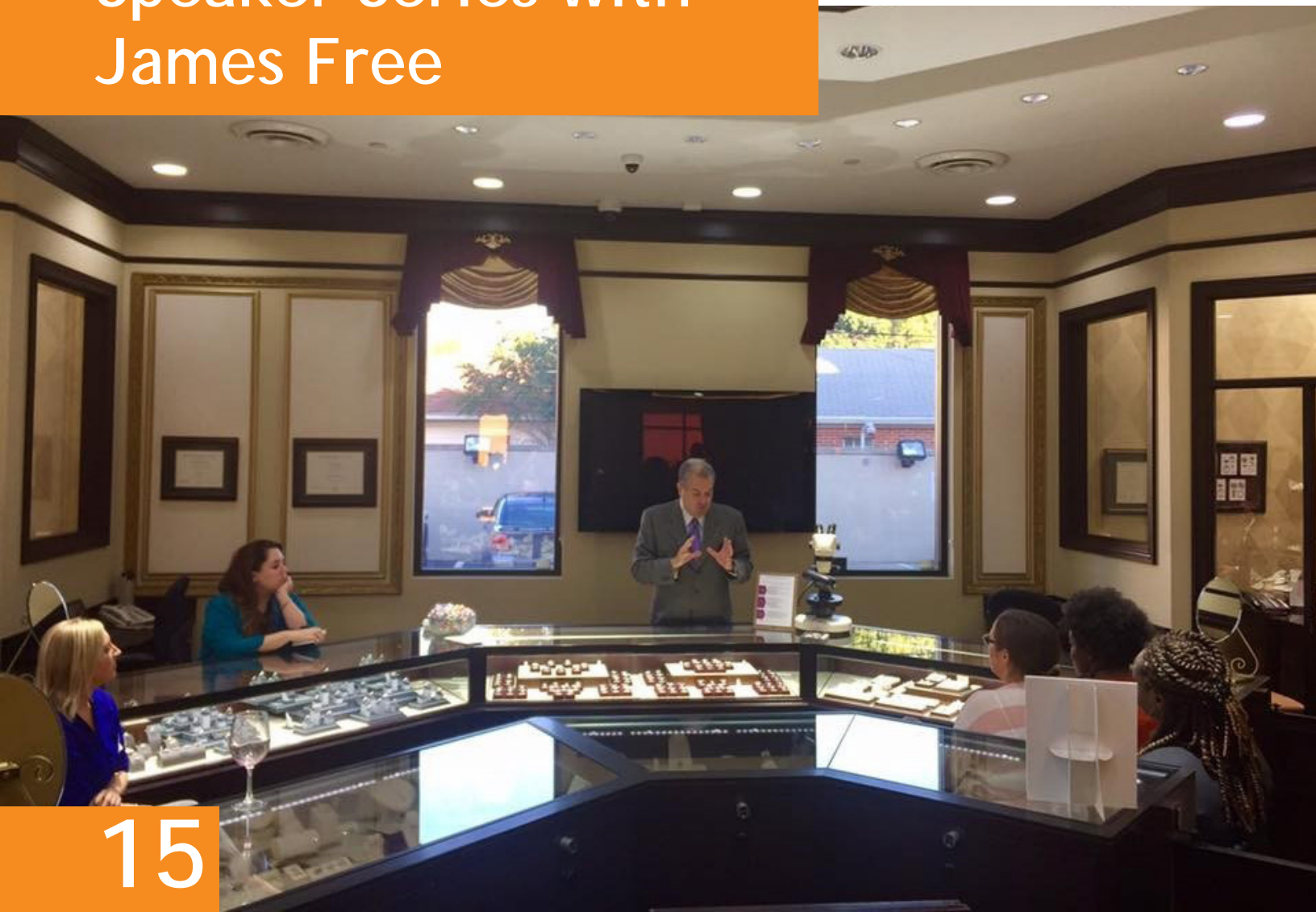
Zach offered fresh perspective into the fun and challenges that being an entrepreneur offers and inspired our members to take a chance and follow their passions.

Thank you Zach and Fusian!

James Free Jewelers is a locally, family-owned business with a 75 year history in Dayton. James Free has received national attention from national publications such as Town & Country Magazine, for its service and accomplishments in the jewelry industry.

We heard from owner of James Free Jewelers, Michael Karaman, for our October Speaker Series event. There was also a drawing for \$250 gift card, wine tasting, and small gift bags for attendees.

## Speaker Series with James Free





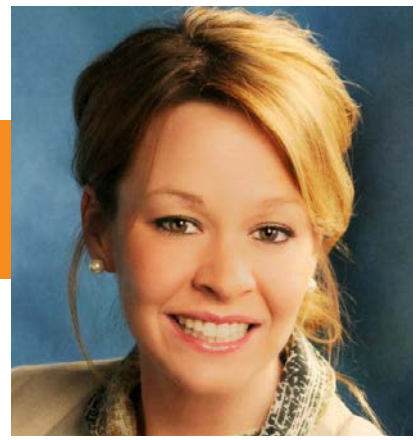


## Speaker Series with Proto Build Bar

Hearing from Tom Mitchell  
at @protobuildbar #DaytonInspires

Proto Build Bar is the world's first buildbar. This amazing creative and technology experience center is part 3D printing lab, part electronic maker space, and part café. Proto is a fun, hands-on place where people of all ages and experience levels can come together around a simple, yet powerful idea: "I want to make something great."

# COMMUNITY SERVICE



*Andrea Livingston*  
Community Service Chair

Each year, we work to provide opportunities for our members to participate in volunteer events. WE can help directly by making meals at House of Bread or at the Ronald McDonald House or indirectly by supporting events and fundraisers like the Epilepsy Foundation mud volleyball tournament or at Ale Fest, where funds were raised for 12 local organizations this year. Those who participate get back as much as they give to our community.

## *Giving back to our community*

The most obvious benefit of our events is the opportunity to give back and make a difference. Each one of our opportunities provides a chance for our members to work with amazing local charity partners in their work to assist those in need. We give our time and money to help these organizations move forward with their missions.

## *Learning from our community*

Many times, our events provide chances for us to see a different side of our community. Our members get to meet and interact with people they would not ordinarily had the chance.

## *Connecting to our community*

The more people we meet and new interactions we have, the more connected we are to our community. Without the restraints of large crowds and enjoying an experience as a group, we are able to create connections to our fellow members and our community. Those experiences connect and bond us together to something greater than us. Our service for and with other members of our community makes a difference for our community as a whole.

Join us as we work to give back to, learn from and connect to our community.



**GIVING** *back to our community*

**LEARNING** *from our community*

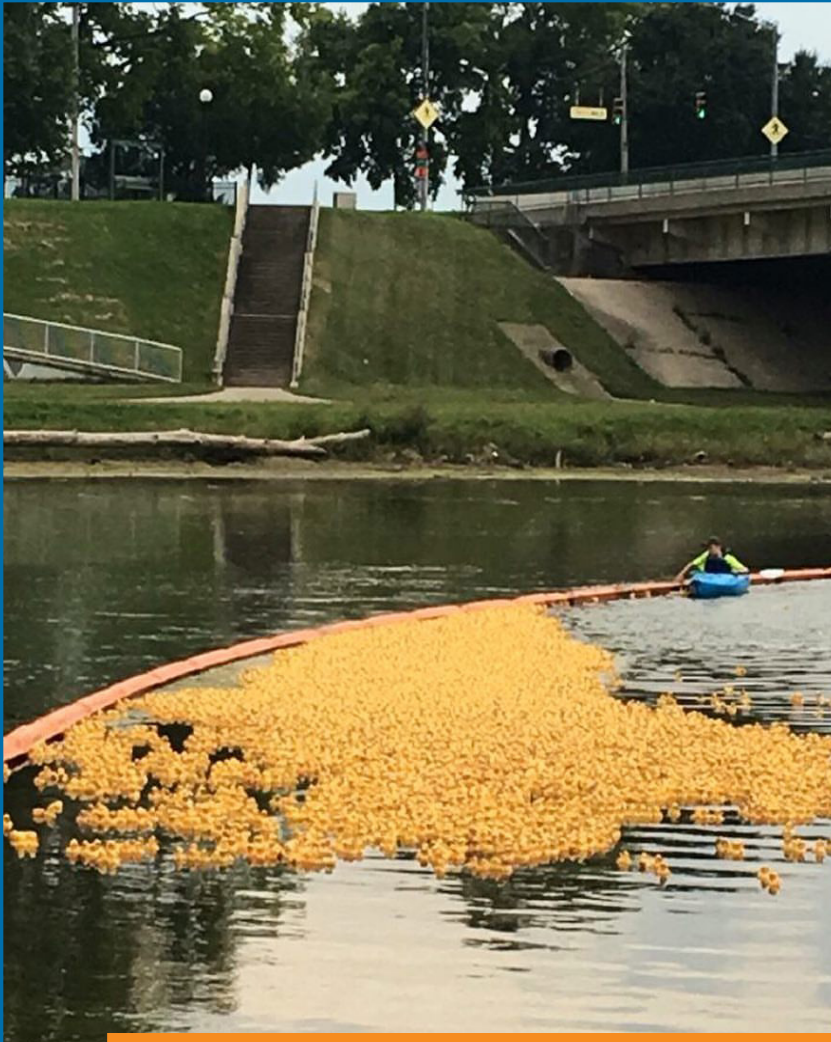
**CONNECTING** *to our community*















# GENERATION DAYTON DAY 2016

Get Out and Give Back Dayton





150 young professionals took to the streets of Dayton to give back to local charities.









# MEMBER SERVICES

## *OUR MISSION*

To be the advocate on behalf of our members, to provide value to those we serve, to enrich, support, connect, and motivate all young professionals in the Dayton region.



*Michele Miller*  
Membership Chair

## *MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS*

There are many exciting benefits of joining Generation Dayton including:

- Access to Member-Only Events, such as this year's Dayton Dragons Game Pre-Party.
- The first scoop on professional development, community service, networking, and social events with monthly newsletter and weekly updates.
- Opportunities to gain leadership experience as members of the Steering Committee or Sub-committees.
- Receiving employer recognition for outstanding contributions to Generation Dayton and the community via letters from the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce to employers highlighting employees' leadership, honors, awards, and service contributions.
- Saving on graduate school with the \$1,000 Wright State University Scholarship opportunity.
- Access to our member network through the Generation Dayton message board and the membership directory on our website.
- Discounts to a variety of businesses and restaurants via the Generation Dayton App's ACCESS card.
- Fun prizes and giveaways for participation, including event tickets, gift cards, and merchandise from local businesses.

As well as maximizing member benefits with the opportunities listed above, the Membership Committee has worked to fulfill the mission of Generation Dayton by:

- Ensuring Generation Dayton meets the needs of members and local young professionals by obtaining member feedback through the annual membership survey and other mechanisms.
- Helping new and existing members get involved and gain the most from membership.
- Increasing membership value with special opportunities such as the KHN and James Free Event.
- Serving as ambassadors to welcome new faces at events.



*Congrats to Tony Hermes on receiving the Generation Dayton scholarship to Wright State Graduate school! He is getting his MBA with a focus on project management to further his career as a logistics management specialist at Wright-Patterson AFB.*



*"I sincerely thank Generation Dayton for the scholarship help, and am proud to be a part of GenD!"*

# RECOGNIZING OUR MEMBERS

Generation Dayton's Featured Professional program recognizes a member of Generation Dayton each month who is nominated by fellow members because of their active involvement in the organization and the Dayton community. This person is highlighted in the Generation Dayton Monthly Newsletter in addition to Generation Dayton's home page for the current month, appears in the Dayton Business Journal, and a letter of recognition is sent to his or her employer. Over 72 members have been recognized as "Featured Professionals of the Month" since this honor was first given in 2009 and those recognized in 2016 include:

- January - *Krystle Marko*
- February - *Tiffany Reid*
- March - *Tyler Carver*
- April - *Jacob Current*
- May - *Jacob Rapport*
- June - *Kevin Quinlan*
- July - *Alan Ruddy*
- August - *Robert (Bobby) Baldino*
- September - *Tim Anderson*
- October - *Geena Cammorato*
- November - *Kialee Bowles*
- December - *Natalie Mescher Burke*

## 2016 Membership Awards

Generation Dayton would like to recognize three of our most outstanding members for their commitment to Generation Dayton with the 2016 Membership Awards.



Tim Anderson  
Advocate of the Year

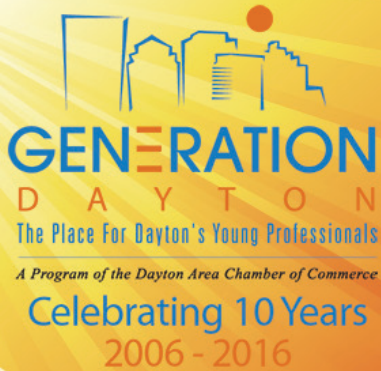


Tiffany Reid  
Featured Professional of the Year



Kialee Bowles  
Volunteer of the Year





# Congratulations!

## 2016

### Dayton Business Journal

## GenD Forty Under 40 Winners

**Niraj Antani**

Ohio House of Representatives

**Nathan Falu Febres**

United States Air Force

**Rachel Goodspeed**

Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio

**Kara McMillen**

Dayton Power & Light

**Michele Miller**

Headquarters Air Force Material  
Command

**Jay Nigro**

Liftoff Entertainment

**Kathryn Storm**

AES US Shared Services Company

# MARKETING

## OUR MISSION

*The feedback and recommendations received by the Marketing Sub-Committee (and Chair) ensure that the events and activities related to Generation Dayton support the Vision, Mission, Purpose, Core Values and Strategic Objectives of GenD. This committee has primary oversight responsibility for assisting GenD staff with marketing and advertising the Generation Dayton program and all associated activities. The committee also makes recommendations regarding social media websites including, but not limited to, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, online community calendars, and the GenD website.*



*Mary Mierzejewski*  
Marketing Chair

## 2016 FOCUS

The marketing committee's 2016 focus was to highlight our successes over the past 10 years through our members.

Video marketing was used to highlight a member once a month by simply asking them the question, "What has GenD done for you?" Their answers ranged, but the underlying message of our impact to the Dayton community gleamed from every response.

Social media marketing remained to be a focus as we continued to generate original content to share with our followers. Instagram saw more than 100% increase from the previous year, with Facebook at 24% and Twitter at 17% growth. Snapchat was added to our media mix during our largest Community Service event, GenD Day, with the use of a snapchat filter.

## CAMPAIGNS

Outside of promoting our events, the Marketing committee members took it upon themselves to go above and beyond their duties to create standalone campaigns to generate interest for the group.

- 10 Year Anniversary monthly videos featuring past and present members
- Lists of 10 to highlight various aspects of both Dayton and Generation Dayton Snapchat Filter for GenD Day
- #GenDDay Instagram Contest- To generate engagement and excitement around GenD Day, participants shared moments from their day on Instagram to be entered into a drawing for a prize basket.
- Valentines' Day, 'Why would you swipe right for GenD?' Gem City Podcast Debut; Get Behind the Bar, Light Side vs. Dark Side; #Adulting Promotional Products for members; 'A New Decade in Dayton' elections promotion.



GET OUT &  
GIVE BACK  
DAYTON  
#GenDDay



snapchat

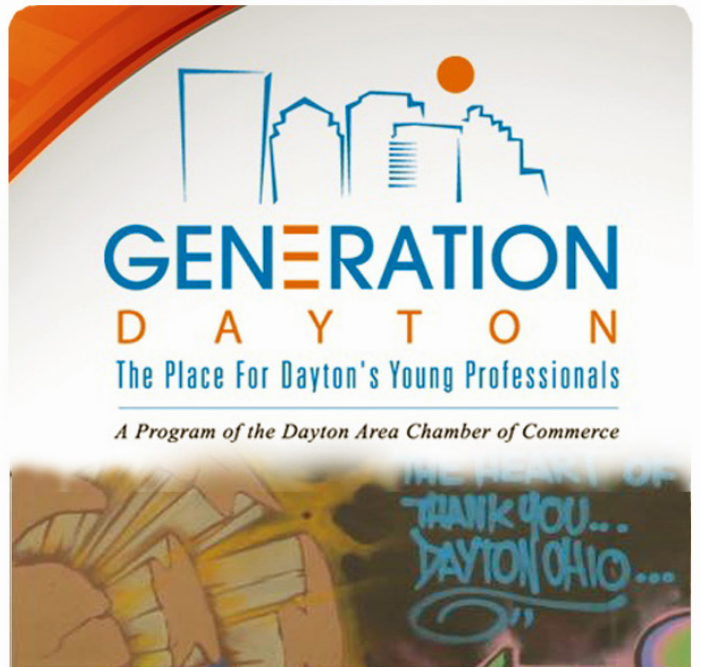
GENERATION  
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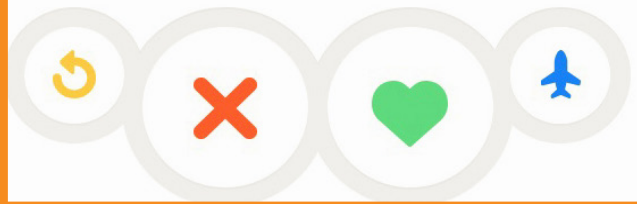
BELL 12:00 PM 100%



Ohio4Lovers



Generation Dayton, 10 300 0



# Adulting

Adulting (v): to do grown up things and hold responsibilities such as, a 9-5 job, a mortgage/rent, a car payment, or anything else that makes one think of grown ups

GENERATION  
DAYTON  
The Place for Dayton's Young Professionals  
A Program of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce  
Celebrating 10 Years  
2006 - 2016



What are you missing from your *adulting* game?



"I was trying to find my place here, and I did that through **GENERATION DAYTON.**"

#GenD10yrs

30



# BUSINESS/SOCIAL NETWORKING







“Being new to a city can be intimidating. For many new young professionals, Generation Dayton has made it easier to call this city home.”  
- Tristan Navera



# SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Generation Dayton's Social Committee continued its drive to help young professionals build new relationships in 2016, capped off with its monthly Thirsty Thursday events. Each one has been intended to drive young people to new businesses and restaurants in town – with our events this year taking us to the new Basil's on Market, Primanti Bros., Crafted & Cured, Park City Club, Crooked Handle Brewing Co. and Ollie's Place. The intention here has been to bring more interest and engagement from GenD members for local businesses.

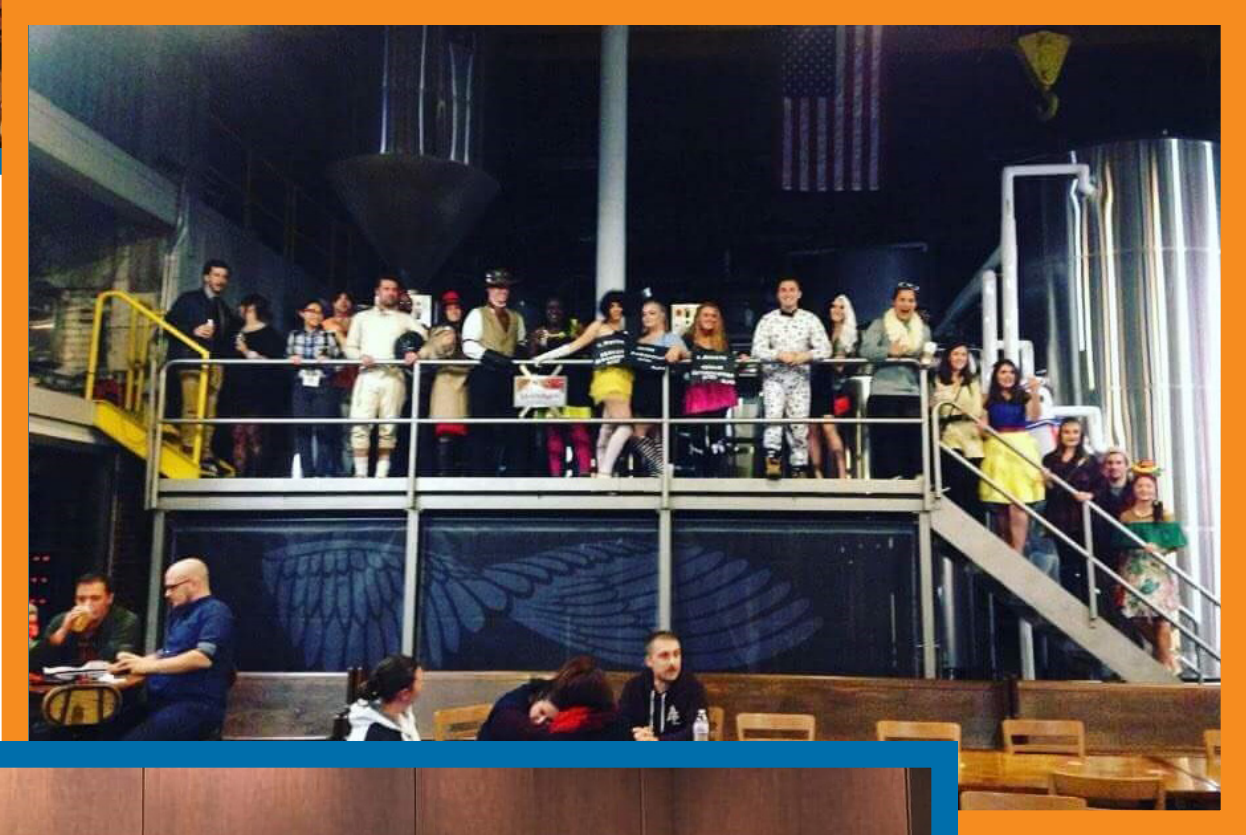


*Tristan Navera*  
Networking Chair

In the push to build more connections, Generation Dayton itself has been more of a community player than ever. We have partnered with other great local organizations to bring young people into the fold, followed by May's Spirits at the Vic, which brought over 100 young people into the Victoria Theatre for a haunted tour and a rare behind-the-scenes look at Dayton's 150 year old theatre house. We returned in force for Mud Volleyball for Epilepsy, the YP Cup, a night with the Dayton Dragons, and for our annual battle of the bartenders with the Young Lawyer's Division as well.

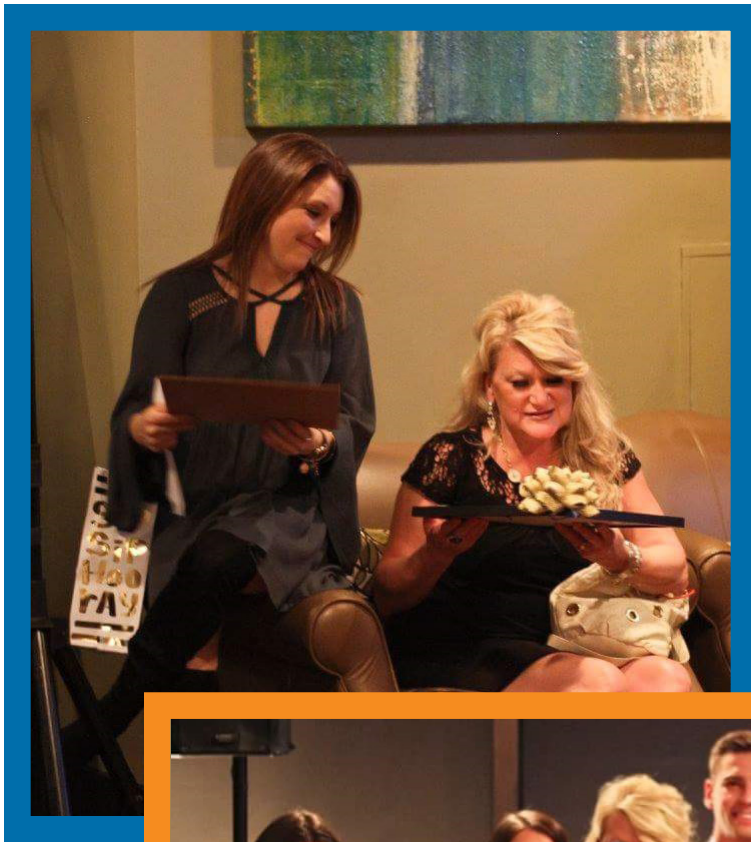
In all we have done, Social Committee's goal has been the same: to help young people in Dayton build relationships, whether they be business relationships, friendships, professional mentorships or new opportunities. It has been an exhilarating year in helping make Dayton feel a little more like home for dozens of people who now live in this city.







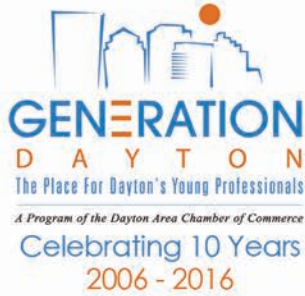
**THANK YOU  
FOR 10 YEARS,  
LADONNA WULFECK!!!**



**AND  
WELCOME  
RACHEL  
GENSLER!!!**







# THANK YOU

TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

GENERATION DAYTON 2016 EVENT SPONSORS

LEAD SPONSOR



GENERATION DAYTON 2016 SPONSORS

GENERATION DAYTON CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS



Generation Dayton  
is a program of the

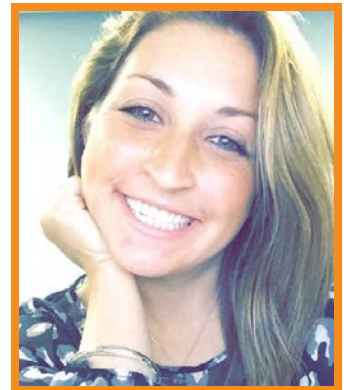
**DAYTON**

Dayton Area  
Chamber of Commerce

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For additional  
information regarding  
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