

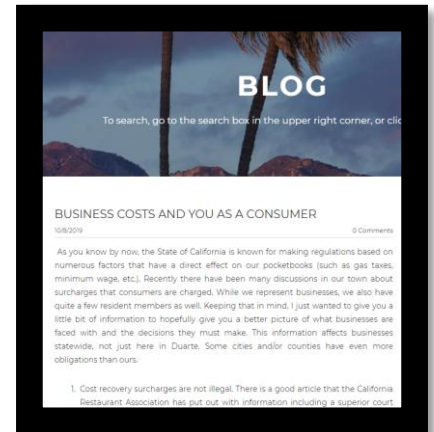
Quarterly City Council Report for October – December 2019

Advocacy, Community Input, & Workforce Development (includes Business Visit)

Business Costs – In October, there was an outcry from some residents on social media regarding a business (who is a Chamber member) regarding additional charges on their receipts. This matter was referred to the Chamber to possibly assist. The Chamber did reach out to the business, who was extremely receptive to the meeting, and eager to address the issue.

After reviewing both sides, the Chamber wrote a post to on the social media platform to articulate the position of the business (as well as a written response by the business) and to provide them with the link of an extensive blog item we wrote. The blog was an educational piece on the costs businesses incur and how they affect the consumer. That blog entry can be found on our website and was our top blog post in 2019

(<https://www.duartechamber.com/blog/business-costs-and-you-as-a-consumer>).



Letter of Agency – Local businesses were suffering a rash of burglaries in the wee hours of the evening that came to the attention of the City Council. The council asked the Public Safety office and the Chamber to work together to help keep their businesses safe. Working in partnership, the two entities produced a letter to inform over 300 brick and motor businesses in Duarte of a valuable tool available to them, the Letter of Agency, and invite them to Duarte’s Director of Public Safety, and Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department (LASD) regarding the burglaries.

In addition to the letter, the two organizations also assisted with questions from companies before the

meetings on December 5th of last year, two meetings were convened to let the businesses come in to meet with Public Safety. The first outreach was a business visit held at The Patio Mediterranean Cuisine during the afternoon. Several businesses came together, along with representatives from Duarte’s City Manager’s Office and the Community Development Department.

They were given information regarding how statistics are compiled, alarm calls are handled, crimes reported within the guidelines of local, state and federal guidelines, how to best report a crime, and the Letter of Agency (LOA). The businesses also took advantage of the opportunity to ask several questions

of the City that related not only to the issue of burglaries, but very important to them. That same day, a second meeting was held in the evening at the Chamber office, with the public safety and sheriff's offices. Four Duarte businesses turned in LOA's directly to the Duarte Sub-Station. It is unknown how many turned them in directly to LASD Temple Station (which was on the instructions).

Work Force Development Goes to KFI – On October 19th DUSD's Culinary Entrepreneurship Program was honored to appear on Neil Saavedra's "The Fork Report" on KFI - AM 640. This appearance was as a result of the Duarte Chamber's appearance in late spring to promote the Taste of Duarte. Neil was so impressed with not only the ice cream the students made, but also the story of their program. He invited them to appear on his program to hear more. They also discussed the pops ups, the tilapia farm, and aquaponics and their partnerships with NAF and the Duarte Chamber of Commerce. Neil and his crew enjoyed cricket flour cookies (learning about alternate proteins) and a drink prepared from guava and cheese that they couldn't get enough of. Neil and his team, producer Mondo Hernandez and engineer Jajuan were so gracious in making the group feel welcomed. The students even got a special tour of the iHeart Radio studios. You can listen to the broadcast on The Fork Report podcast entitled "@forkreporter – Crickets Fall Over The Crowd", starting at 62:22 minutes.



Holiday Mixer



Once again, the Duarte Chamber partnered with Advantage Ford and Lincoln to hold our annual Holiday Mixer and Toy Drive on December 4th. Admission to the event was an unwrapped toy. The Duarte Rotary Club's Interact group served at check in and had fun as well. The toys were given to the Duarte Community Service Council to be given to children in the community. Even with the rain, everyone came out to support and enjoy a delicious meal provided by Dickey's Barbeque.

Chamber Charley's Holiday Tour

Chamber Charley was on the move during the holiday season making appearances at 12 member locations from November 4th to December 15th. Nearly 150 entries were received, with the most entries at Planet Fitness and Baskin Robbins (tied with 31 entries each).



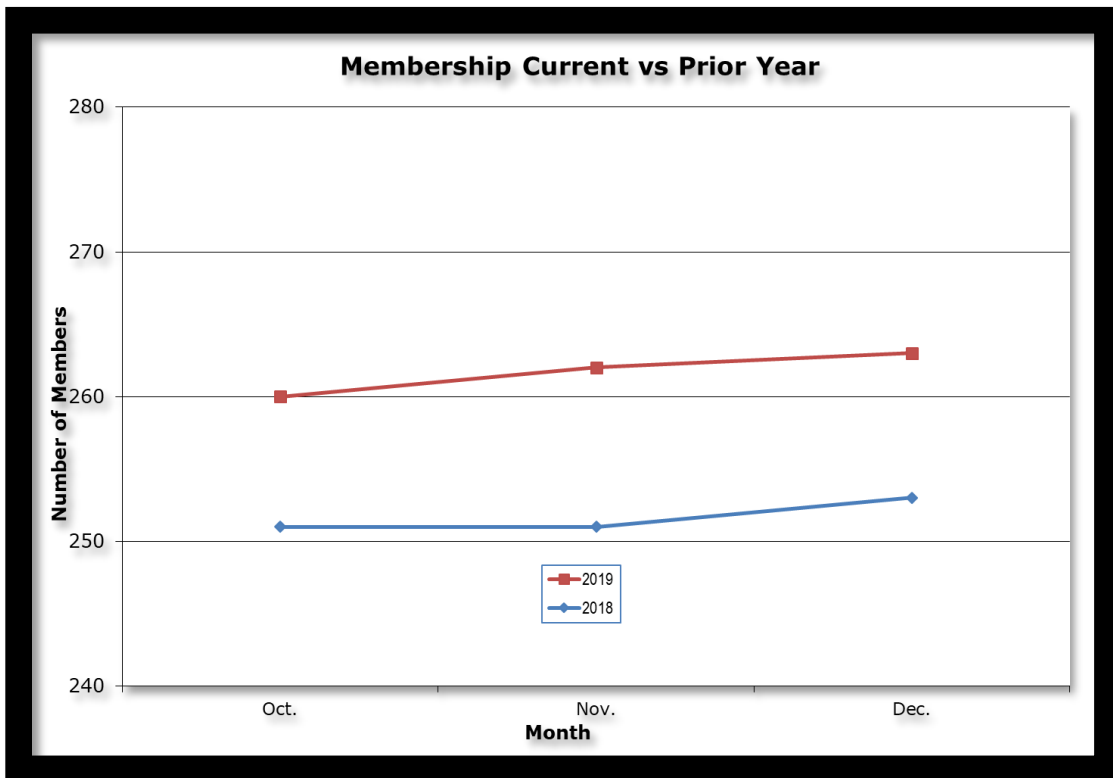
Community Activity

It's time to play the Duarte Family Feud Fun – and that we did. Several chamber members aided in making this event a complete blast. And the survey says - well done team DFFF! And that was the #1 answer.



Membership Activity

The last quarter had a slight increase in membership.



HOLIDAY POP UP SHOP – Six of our homebased businesses were excited to bring their goods to the Holiday Pop Up Shop on November 12th. As usual, this holiday event was our highest attended pop up and a ton of merchandise was sold. From what we have heard, most of them have repeat customers from that event. Thank you to Rodan and Fields (Lindsay Passarello), Origami Owl (Cheryl Reynolds), Cherry Blossom Subscription (Alicia Hynson), Hast-Eas-Y Crafter (Jacqueline Hasty), Jafra (Gail Jamison), and Tupperware (Karen Wilson).



Monthly Networking, Mixers and More



Ladies Brown Bag Lunch – These are monthly networking meetings held at different Chamber member locations. Starting in January, the lunches are changed to include all members.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Attendees</u>
October	16
November	19
December	Dark

Duarte Networking Breakfast – Held on the third Tuesday of each month, at Cabrera’s Mexican Cuisine. A program of local interest is presented, and networking time is available with current, new and prospective members.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Speaker/Topic</u>	<u>Attendees</u>
October	<i>DUSD – Partner in Learning</i>	27
November	<i>SCORE – Mentoring to Small Businesses</i>	22
December	Dark	

Business Seminar

October 24th, the Chamber’s business seminar on Branding 101 was presented by member Cuero Managed Print Production. Thirty-five attendees were challenged to think of branding differently than they had in the past and as a result, several contacted Cuero directly to continue the conversation.



31 Reasons to Love A Grand Opening



We haven't seen a grand opening like this in a long time. Binny and Arun Malik from Baskin Robbins (31 Flavors) went all out to celebrate their newest store, right here in Duarte!

The event was several hours long, and we estimate several hundred showed up throughout that time. We even heard some of our board members went back. We love a good grand opening!

A Tempting Event

As you may know, our breakfast group is well known for their love of the Motown music, especially the Temptations (My Girl). In 2019 we sang and danced to Motown every meeting. And then, as fate would have it, the Temptations came to perform in our backdoor. We took the leap of faith and purchased 30 tickets for a special member-only rate for the November 17th concert at the Haugh Performing Arts Center at Citrus College (one of our members). In no time at all, we sold out and had a waiting list. Because of this success, we are actively looking to do more of these events for our members.



Holiday Fun for Members



We wanted to do something fun for our members this holiday season and decided to get a little 2-3' tree and let the members decorate it. The caveat was that the tree would be decorated with their custom decorated businesses cards. Walmart heard of our idea and donated a 6' artificial tree complete with lights! We put the tree in the front window so that everyone could see. Our little idea turned out to be a blast. Thanks to everyone who brought out their creative side to share with the community.

