

Since 1947 the Mercer Island Chamber of Commerce has partnered with and advocated for Mercer Island businesses and nonprofits. The Chamber is a non-profit organization of businesses, nonprofits and professionals that join to help make connections to each other and the greater community on and off the Island. Our mission is "to support and foster the growth, development and advancement of the businesses of Mercer Island while promoting Mercer Island as a special place to do business, live, work and play." A physical office is maintained in Town Center to greet visitors and distribute information to businesses on the Island and those that want to come here. The Chamber currently has 167 members and connects via email and social media with 1,171 members and interested parties. Members pay dues and a volunteer board directs an executive director (.5 FTE)

The Chamber invests all its revenue back into the community through programs, events and support services. For example, connecting businesses to the MIYFS breakfast fundraiser, hosting Art UnCorked, getting little feet on the streets for Halloween Trick or Treat, and promoting shopping locally with the "Shop.Eat.Enjoy." campaign. The Chamber produces a local map and business directory. The Chamber hosts public luncheons, to inform residents and businesses of local and regional issues that impact our community. In 2020 the Chamber was a valued partner on the recent Covid-19 WeLoveMI and MInext campaigns. In partnership with the MI Community Fund, over \$250K was raised for Mercer Island Businesses and nonprofits during the WeLoveMI campaign. In 2020 and now into 2021, the Chamber serves as a conduit for pandemic related information and supported businesses with PPP loan information, grants and distributed PPE, as well as helped several businesses with one-on-one personalized assistance in the grant application process. Over the past three years, the total events in which the Chamber was either sponsoring or involved in averaged 32 per year.

All of these programs contribute to making Mercer Island a more vibrant community, a community where we support one another, our children and our businesses, because we care and because businesses that thrive help make Mercer Island a special place to live, work and play.



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