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## **BUSINESS REFERRAL GROUPS**

Leveraging the Chamber network  
to drive referrals your way

## About the Chamber

The Manhattan Chamber of Commerce is the convener, voice and advocate of the 125,000+ businesses across the borough of Manhattan, which is the heart of New York City's economy.

We're focused on advancing the economic vitality of our region by building a strong and thriving climate for the broad business community, including small businesses, startups and larger companies.

While there are significant advantages to doing business in New York, we provide meaningful solutions to overcome the biggest challenges facing businesses here. Since 1920, the Chamber's mission is to empower its business members to thrive.

Our organization is business-minded, community-focused and future-driven.

## About BRGs

Business Referral Groups (BRGs) help you develop a strong and lasting network that will drive business referrals your way.

These are lead generation groups of approximately 15-40 people who get together on a regular basis (either in-person or online) and learn one another's business so they can refer you to others. Only one person per industry/profession is allowed in each group in order to create a non-competitive environment where business referrals are openly given and received.

All members of the Chamber are eligible to join a BRG, as openings allow. There is an annual \$100 fee above membership dues in order to participate. We currently have 4 BRGs: BRG1, BRG2, BRG4 and BRG5.

## Meet the Groups

Currently, the Chamber has three dynamic groups (with more on the way). Each group has its own personality, style and meeting cadence. To determine which group might be the best fit, you may attend two meetings before committing to join a BRG. Information about each group can be found below.

## BRG 1: "The Original"

***Meets at a midtown location every other Wednesday, 8:35 AM to 9:35 AM***

### ABOUT

This is the first Manhattan Chamber Business Referral Group and they've been going strong for more than 10 years. This industry-exclusive group helps members develop strong referral sources and get new business by encouraging 1-on-1 meetings, attending member and Chamber events, and holding regular Group Activities to discuss pertinent business-related topics and challenges. BRG1's members represent a cross-section of the local economy, ensuring that its members never have to look far for the help and services that they need.

### LEADERSHIP

- **Carmen Jimenez**, Global Empire Logistics Inc (President). - We are a certified Minority Women Business Enterprise specializing in sourcing a wide range of products directly from manufacturers, ensuring quality and competitive pricing for any procurement need.  
[www.GlobalEmpireLogistics.com](http://www.GlobalEmpireLogistics.com) | [Carmen@GlobalEmpireLogistics.com](mailto:Carmen@GlobalEmpireLogistics.com)
- **Lauren Logan**, Orion Development Associates - Coaching & Nonprofit Consulting (Vice President) Coaching, strategic planning, leadership development, and fundraising consultation for individuals, nonprofit organizations and small businesses.  
[www.oriondevelopmentassociates.com](http://www.oriondevelopmentassociates.com) | [lauren@oriondevelopmentassociates.com](mailto:lauren@oriondevelopmentassociates.com)
- **Natasha Ambo**, Build it Right First Time Inc. (BiRFT)-CRM/IT Business Systems Consultant. (Membership Chair) Provides IT consulting in business system implementations, business process automation, and digitization; [www.birft.com](http://www.birft.com) | [nambo@birft.com](mailto:nambo@birft.com) | (212) 920 5649 ext. 501

### MEMBERS

- **Katherine Powers**, Shiatsu - Shiatsu Practitioner. From relaxation to assisting with life's difficult transitions, Shiatsu, a Japanese hands-on modality, is a supportive, beneficial addition to your self-care regime. [kbpsiatsu@gmail.com](mailto:kbpsiatsu@gmail.com) | (917) 432-8801

**To apply for membership to BRG1, please email Natasha Ambo: [nambo@birft.com](mailto:nambo@birft.com)**

## **BRG 2: "Business Connections Unlimited"**

***Meets at a midtown location every Thursday, 8:35 AM to 9:35 AM***

### **ABOUT**

Business Connections Unlimited is a business referral group focused on helping small businesses grow and thrive. Through developing personal and professional connections as well as our unique meeting programming, Business Connections Unlimited will help you develop your own network of business evangelists and informal advisors.

### **LEADERSHIP**

- **Russell Rivera**, CFA, CFP® (President). - [russell.rivera@voicewealth.com](mailto:russell.rivera@voicewealth.com)

### **MEMBERS**

- **Dalit Yarden**, Divorce Attorney- [dyarden@dyardenlaw.com](mailto:dyarden@dyardenlaw.com)
- **Ron Friedman**, CPA, CTRS Accountant - [ron@ronfriedmancpa.com](mailto:ron@ronfriedmancpa.com)

**To apply for membership to BRG2, please email Russell Rivera: [russell.rivera@voicewealth.com](mailto:russell.rivera@voicewealth.com)**



## BRG 4

***Meets at a midtown location every other Tuesday, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM***

### ABOUT

The BRG 4 has 15 years of networking experience with the excitement of a relaunch as we enthusiastically reach out to superior professionals for open business seats. Carefully protects each member's business category to ensure the non-compete status is always a priority. Relationship-building among their members is encouraged to promote business growth and opportunities, support for their businesses, and a broad network of resources. Blending well-run meetings and protocols with a friendly spirit, BRG 4 meets bi-weekly on Tuesdays from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM and offers a Hybrid format of both Zoom and/or in-person attendance near Grand Central.

### LEADERSHIP

- **Sharon Lee Ritchie:** HUMANSAPES, LLC. (President) Sharon Lee Ritchie is the founder/President of HUMANSAPES, LLC; full-scope interior design services: Interior Design, Renovations, Home Staging, and Relocation Services/ Furnishings Rentals. Over 25 years in the design industry, Sharon continues to be enthusiastic about beautifully solving clients' spatial challenges. Key to her success is making customer service the HUMANSAPES foundation factor. HUMANSAPES – "Creating ideal spaces for you. [www.humanscapes.com](http://www.humanscapes.com), Email: [SLR@humanscapes.com](mailto:SLR@humanscapes.com), Mobile: 917 439 8471.
- **Newelle McDonald:** "Newelle-ness" is a Health Coach. (Vice President) Her friends call her their "Wellness Sherpa" (you may have to look that up.) She uses 360 degrees of wellness including food plans, sleep solutions & supplement support. Newelle recommends Shaklee products to ensure her clients are getting the purest, clinically tested, affordable products to create the fastest and the most long-lasting results. Website: [www.newelleness.com](http://www.newelleness.com) - Email: [newelle@newelle-ness.com](mailto:newelle@newelle-ness.com).
- **Amy Geffen:** BRG 4 Membership Director – Amy Geffen, PhD is the founder and President of Geffen Careers. She helps job seekers find their next job or opportunity. She uses a 5-step process including Assessment, Branding with resume and LinkedIn profile, Connecting, Differentiating in interviews, and Enhancing. She is fluent in English, Spanish, and French. Email – [Geffen108@gmail.com](mailto:Geffen108@gmail.com)

### MEMBERS

- **Austin Williams:** Williams/Lind Video Productions is dedicated to crafting powerful visual stories that captivate and inspire. With 10+ years of experience, we partner with global brands and uncover untold narratives, delivering exceptional content that resonates across industries. [Williamslind.com](http://Williamslind.com).



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- **Carolyn A. Schultz:** Carolyn helps businesses and nonprofits with writing, editing, message development, and strategy to reach their target audiences. This includes proposals, websites, articles, brochures, bios, case studies, award submissions, and other compelling marketing and communications content. Certified Women-Owned Business (WBE). [www.carolynaschultz.com](http://www.carolynaschultz.com)  
Email: [carolyn@carolynaschultz.com](mailto:carolyn@carolynaschultz.com)
- **Elizabeth Polaniecki:** Elizabeth Polaniecki of cyberNow – 66% of customers would not trust a company with their data after a breach. If you own a business, you're in the data protection business. Are you prepared? Cybersecurity consulting for small and midsize businesses. Start securing your online presence today by signing up for a free consultation on my website. Website -[www.cybernow.nyc](http://www.cybernow.nyc), Email - [lizp@cybernow.nyc](mailto:lizp@cybernow.nyc)
- **Kim Morrison:** Unique Weddings and Tours Inc. She emerged as a pioneer with over three decades of experience in the destination travel, event, and hospitality Industry. Personally customized services are provided for domestic and international markets, with the Caribbean Islands as the wedding niche. .Licensed IATAN (International Association of Travel Agents, CLIA (Cruiseline International Association). ABC (Association of Bridal Consultants)  
Website: [www.Uniqueweddingsandtours.com](http://www.Uniqueweddingsandtours.com) | Emails: [uniquetravelwed@gmail.com](mailto:uniquetravelwed@gmail.com) | [Kim@uniqueweddingsandtours.com](mailto:Kim@uniqueweddingsandtours.com) | Phone: 718 693 1500
- **Pablo Velez:** Velez & Cipriano PLLC Immigration Attorney. Pablo Velez is an immigration attorney and managing member of Velez & Cipriano, PLLC, practicing in the areas of family-based, business-based, and investment-based immigration, as well as asylum and removal defense. His firm provides visa support from initial consultation to acquisition, whether in the United States or at all US Embassies and Consulates worldwide. The office provides language support in English, Spanish, and Japanese. Website: [www.velcip.com](http://www.velcip.com), Email: [pvelez@velcip.com](mailto:pvelez@velcip.com)

**To apply for membership to BRG4, please email Sharon Ritchie: [SLR@humanscapes.com](mailto:SLR@humanscapes.com)**

## BRG 5: "Out Business Builders"

*Meets at a midtown location every other Thursday, 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM*

### ABOUT

"Out Business Builders" is a Manhattan Chamber Business Referral Group that is an inclusive LGBTQ/straight-friendly networking group of professionals. Their goal is to build trust and long-term relationships within the group to create business opportunities. Business Builders offers a forum for business owners to market themselves and build their businesses in a supportive, proactive, peer environment.

### LEADERSHIP

- **Brian Boyd:** Cover My Risk Inc., Provides personal lines insurance of home, car, condo, coop, and personal umbrella as well as commercial lines of insurance including general liability, professional liability (E&O), and many other products. We write in various states throughout the United States. [www.CoverMyRisk.us](http://www.CoverMyRisk.us) 212-750-8800. Email: [BBoyd@covermyrisk.us](mailto:BBoyd@covermyrisk.us)
- **Thomas K. Chu, Esq.:** Thomas Chu is an experienced estate planning attorney focusing on wills, trusts, and lifetime documents to help individuals, households, and small business owners prepare for disability and whatever life presents, protecting those they love the most from those they love the least. Call (212)882-1128
- **Douglas Clark:** Interior Designer - Residential interior design & decoration [douglas@douglasclarkinteriors.com](mailto:douglas@douglasclarkinteriors.com)  
Custom residential interiors in all styles, traditional to modern, for private clients in the greater New York City area. Visit [www.douglasclarkinteriors.com](http://www.douglasclarkinteriors.com) or email [douglas@douglasclarkinteriors.com](mailto:douglas@douglasclarkinteriors.com)

### MEMBERS

- **Chad Young:** Law Office of Chad Young - Personal Injury Attorney (Vice President). Chad Young, Esq.: Law Office of Chad Young, PLLC — Injury attorneys representing seriously injured people. We fight insurance companies to get our injured clients the compensation they deserve. We never charge a fee unless we collect for you. Contact my office for an always free consultation at (212) 468-5540 or [cyoung@chadyounglaw.com](mailto:cyoung@chadyounglaw.com)
- **Amy Mayes:** Amy Mayes is an experienced headshot and event photographer creating honest, storytelling images for corporate clients, businesses of all sizes, and personal branding. With an eye for relationships and community, Amy brings a unique sensibility to her work. Portfolios and contact information can be viewed on her website [www.amymayesphotography.com](http://www.amymayesphotography.com) or [amy@amymayesphotography.com](mailto:amy@amymayesphotography.com)



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- **Andy Austin:** Words and Strategy - Communication Strategy & Editorial Services, Words, and Strategy Andy Austin is the proprietor of Words and Strategy, offering communication strategy and editorial services to small businesses, start-ups, and entrepreneurs. First, we identify key audiences and create strategies to reach and engage them. Then, we devise the right tactics to achieve their goals. Learn more at [wordsandstrategy.com](http://wordsandstrategy.com) or email [andy@wordsandstrategy.com](mailto:andy@wordsandstrategy.com)
- **Alex Sepulveda:** Founder of 10ZING Digital - An Agency specializing in Google Ads, Facebook & Instagram ads, Google Analytics, e-commerce, and cross-channel strategy. Contact me for an audit of your ad accounts to see how I can improve your online digital marketing. [alex@10zingdigital.com](mailto:alex@10zingdigital.com)
- **Carlene Jadusingh, Esq.:** Law Office of Carlene Jadusingh, PLLC - A general civil litigation practice dedicated to protecting and defending you, and limiting your liability. Practice areas include: commercial and residential landlord/tenant matters, contract disputes, and employment cases. Carlene Jadusingh, Bridging the Gap Between You and the Law. Email: [cj@cjadusinghlegal.com](mailto:cj@cjadusinghlegal.com)
- **Carol Dacey-Charles:** Leadership & Team Coach/Trainer. [carol@ynotthrive.com](mailto:carol@ynotthrive.com) - Founder of Why Not Thrive? Certified leadership & team coach partnering with the LGBT+ community and Allies to thrive and prosper. Experience less stress and more productivity. I believe everyone has a bigger life and the means to achieve it. Custom workshops & retreats for boards & more. [carol@ynotthrive.com](mailto:carol@ynotthrive.com)
- **Chuck Edwards:** Chuck Edwards, Gotham DataWorks LLC, is a Systems Consultant and partner in a team specializing in front-end analysis, design, and development of automated computer systems to best leverage your data, expertise, and time so you can get back to doing what you do best. Call: 1-646-434-8558 or email: [Chuck@GothamDataworks.com](mailto:Chuck@GothamDataworks.com)
- **Christine Abbott:** Christine Abbott, CFP, Financial Advisor at UBS Financial Services, Inc. Call: (212) 626-8844
- **Christine Wong, Esq.:** Christine is a real estate attorney focusing on residential and commercial real estate. She represents buyers and sellers of apartments and houses, as well as landlords and tenants negotiating commercial leases and sales. A native New Yorker, Christine has personally bought and sold her own co-op and condo and has been a landlord herself. She brings that experience and perspective to her work, striving to make the process as smooth and streamlined as possible. Email: [christine@cwonglaw.com](mailto:christine@cwonglaw.com) | Phone: 646-568-6089 | Website: [www.cwonglaw.com](http://www.cwonglaw.com)
- **David Phan:** David Phan, From David Designs - Architecture and interiors studio that specializes in high-end custom residential while prioritizing interpersonal relationships and holistic problem-solving. Let's book that coffee date to turn your napkin sketches into your dream home! Call 415-215-8194





- **Eileen Mullin:** GenuineClass – Web designer and developer helping small businesses create great-looking Web sites and quickly fix issues at a reasonable cost. Whether you use WordPress, Squarespace, or HTML, I'll ensure your online presence is professional and hassle-free. Contact me for a free consultation at (646) 329-4048 or email [eileen@genuineclass.com](mailto:eileen@genuineclass.com)
- **Jeff Goodman:** Jeff Goodman is a licensed residential real estate agent "extraordinaire" at Brown Harris Stevens, helping his clients to buy and sell property. He has a deep understanding of many of New York's neighborhoods, garnered in part through his award-winning neighborhood programming. More info at [www.jeffgoodman.nyc](http://www.jeffgoodman.nyc). You can reach Jeff at 646-306-4761 and [jgoodman@bbhsusa.com](mailto:jgoodman@bbhsusa.com)
- **Kae Bradford:** Owner of Amada Senior Care, offering comprehensive senior care services, including home care advising, assisted living support, and long-distance care management. Amada helps families find ideal senior care solutions for their unique needs and specializes in VA benefits and long-term care insurance. Visit [AmadaNewYork.com](http://AmadaNewYork.com) or Email: [Kae.B@amadaseniorcare.com](mailto:Kae.B@amadaseniorcare.com)
- **Louis Gagliano:** Louis Gagliano is the owner of the floral boutique- la fleur d'Harlem. Creating florals for individuals, residential and commercial buildings, social events, galas, holiday decorations, and the list goes on. Please feel free to contact me directly at 917-699-1240, boutique 646-850-5973, or email [fleur@lafleurnyc.com](mailto:fleur@lafleurnyc.com)
- **Michael Krochak, DDS:** Michael Krochak DMD is the Founder and Director of The NYC Smile Spa located at 30 E. 60th St. The Smile Spa is an unusually comfortable and relaxed dental office providing General, Cosmetic and Implant Dentistry. We specialize in treating anxious dental patients and provide flexible payment plans for portions of treatment not covered by insurance. Call us at (212)838-2900 or visit [www.nycsmilespace.com](http://www.nycsmilespace.com)
- **Richard Farley:** Richard Farley is a commercial real estate broker with over 40 years of experience. He has been the leasing agent for such iconic buildings as The Seagram's Building, and Lever House. Richard has also represented Tenants such as The Hearst Corporation, and Publicis. His expertise ranges from negotiating lease renewals, new leases as well as rent renegotiations. Richard may be reached at [Rfarley@Handler-re.com](mailto:Rfarley@Handler-re.com) or by cell at 917-539-7569
- **Stacy Sand:** Stacy Sand, CPA, -In New York, Florida, and throughout the USA and abroad. We help business owners focus on their business, while we handle their books, taxes, and provide financial and tax advice. We also do taxes for Estate & Trust, Individuals, and Not for Profit. We are the Accountants you can count on. [www.sandcpa.com](http://www.sandcpa.com) or email [stacy@sandcpa.com](mailto:stacy@sandcpa.com)
- **Cindy Levitz:** Are you in pain? Dealing with other health problems? Acupuncture care with Cindy E. Levitz, L.Ac. can help – Naturally! Don't wait for relief – Call today for a complimentary in-office consultation: (917)287-8486 - [www.cwonglaw.com](http://www.cwonglaw.com)

To apply for membership to BRG5, please visit their website directly at [outbusinessbuilders.com](http://outbusinessbuilders.com)



# HOW TO JOIN

Here are the steps you must take in order to join a BRG:

1. Make sure you are a member of the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce. You can join [here](#).

## How to Enroll in a BRG

To join any of our Business Resource Groups (BRGs), please follow the application process outlined below:

- BRG1: Contact Natasha Ambo via email at [nambo@birft.com](mailto:nambo@birft.com)
- BRG2: Contact Russell Rivera via email at [russell.rivera@voicewealth.com](mailto:russell.rivera@voicewealth.com)
- BRG4: Contact Sharon Ritchie via email at [SLR@humanscapes.com](mailto:SLR@humanscapes.com)
- BRG5: Visit their website directly at [outbusinessbuilders.com](http://outbusinessbuilders.com)

2. Attend a few BRG meetings as a guest (this is optional). To get this started, contact one of the leaders of a BRG and request to attend their meeting as a guest. See which BRG is the best fit.

You will also be asked to agree to the Chamber's BRG rules and code of conduct. All applicants are approved for membership by the respective group's president. If there are no openings available, you will be placed on our waitlist.

4. Pay \$100 annual fee upon being placed into a group. You will receive an invoice from the Chamber.

If you have any questions please contact the Chamber's Membership Manager, Elisabeth Rojtman, at [erojtman@manhattancc.org](mailto:erojtman@manhattancc.org) or (212) 473-7875.