

The Downtown Business Association of Charlottesville (DBAC) was organized in 1999 in response to a need for the business community to work together to address our common goals. It is the latest of a number of membership organizations that have shared similar missions and faced similar challenges over the years since our Main Street became a pedestrian Mall.

That mission as stated in our Bylaws is to: promote desirable growth and development... to create an economic and political climate favorable to business, to promote the exchange of ideas between members, and to support other activities needed to further the business success of its membership. Furthermore, the civic, general welfare, and the quality of life...of the area shall be promoted and enhanced.

A 19 member Board of Directors, assisted by several committees of directors, members and other interested persons, governs DBAC. Our work focuses on serving our membership but also on addressing the needs of the greater downtown business community and the City. We are funded by our members' dues, sponsorships and donations. We have no paid staff and operate through the efforts of our members and other volunteers.

Bob Stroh (www.charlottesvilleparking.com, cpcinc8@aol.com)

Bob has lived in Charlottesville since 1960, attending public schools and graduating from UVA with a BS in Commerce in 1975. Shortly after graduation he accepted the job of General Manager for Charlottesville Parking Center, Inc. with responsibility for managing the newly opened Market Street Garage and surface lots in Downtown Charlottesville. Bob still holds the same title today after more than 30 years on the job.

Beyond his parking management responsibilities, Bob has served with many of the organizations that have worked to encourage and support downtown and regional development. He has served on the Board of Directors of Downtown Charlottesville, Inc., the Charlottesville Downtown Foundation, the Downtown Property Owner's Council and The Paramount Theater. He served two terms on the Board of Directors of the Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce, as Chairman of the Charlottesville Regional Tourism Council and as Chairman of the Charlottesville Albemarle Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

He currently sits on the City of Charlottesville's Economic Development Authority and serves on numerous other boards and committees in the community. Bob co-founded the Downtown Business Association of Charlottesville in 1999, and continues to serve as its Co-Chairman. He currently serves as President of the Virginia Downtown Development Association.