

Kamal Boulos  
President  
The Refectory Restaurant and Bistro



## WHY THE COLUMBUS CHAMBER?

The Refectory joined the Chamber in 1991.

"It's just the right thing to do," Boulos said.

"The Columbus Chamber represents the Columbus Region. To be successful in growing business and promoting the Columbus image, it needs businesses to be members. If you do business here; you need to support the activity of the city. To me, there's never been a 'what's in it for me?' mind set."

Boulos values the resources and programs the Chamber delivers, as well as the energy that is put forth to stimulate small businesses. He says the more you're involved, the greater the benefits you'll derive.

## THE RESULTS

"One of the things I have learned is that if you're not visibly engaged, then your business isn't either. That's an important correlation to make. Much of it is building relationships," Boulos said

"If you have a small business, your name and face are the name and face of that small business. The more you're out in the community, the more you're engaged, the more benefits your business will achieve just by virtue of your visibility as an individual."



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-Kamal Boulos

Boulos received the Chamber's Small Business Leader Award in 2009. The Small Business Forum and Leader Awards recognizes some of the most successful business leaders in the Columbus Region.

"It wasn't just the recognition; it was what it gave me a glimpse of—the programs, the energy and the effort the Chamber puts forth to help small business," he said.

"It was eye-opening, and I took away a profound new insight into the real value of what the Chamber provides its members. This realization transformed me from just a member to an advocate." Boulos is now a member of the Chamber's Small Business Council. Boulos also is excited about the Columbus2020! regional economic growth initiative, in which the Chamber plays an integral role supporting the retention and expansion of existing businesses.

"I'm out there beating the drum among my peers to get them involved. None of the economic development in the city can occur unless businesses lend their resources and support on some level. We have to work hand-in-hand to make it happen," he said.

## ADVICE

Boulos advises other members to take time to get involved and reach out to the Chamber. He said that members should become aware of opportunities available.

"The Chamber does its part to communicate, but members need to be more proactive in understanding the benefits, value and what the Chamber really does," he said.

"Members need to figure out what they can do to support and work alongside the Chamber to make it more effective in what it does."

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