



**MICHIGAN  
ISRAEL** BUSINESS  
ACCELERATOR

**YOUR PARTNER IN INNOVATION**

**INNOVATION UPDATE**

# A LETTER FROM OUR CEO AND CHAIR OF THE BOARD

To our Innovation partners and stakeholders,

The Michigan Israel Business Accelerator (MIBA) continues our efforts to accelerate Michigan's innovation ecosystem. 2019 was marked with great progress on many fronts. Last year we adopted a refreshed Mission & Vision Statement, rebranded our website, redefined professional staff roles to further our objectives, developed our five-year strategic

plan, and most of all: repositioned ourselves to advance Michigan's innovative ecosystem through Israeli connections.

As a nonprofit organization focusing on economic development between Michigan and Israel, we target creating mutually beneficial business connections within select industry segments, including Mobility, Defense, Cybersecurity, Food/AgTech, and Health/Life Science industries.

During 2019, the MIBA engaged over 2,000 individuals and companies through our services and delegations. While that is great progress, in 2020, even given COVID, we continue to pursue outcomes-based results that will develop joint prosperity between Israel and Michigan. We look forward to sharing the outcomes from this year in the months to come!

Working with our board of directors, professional staff, and partners we continue to identify opportunities to improve sharing the story of Michigan and Israel, and why Michigan is a great place to do business. Even during COVID, MIBA is pushing forward with establishing partnerships that will eventually lead to increased job creation and economic prosperity for both Michigan and Israel.

In partnership,



Scott Hiipakka  
Chief Executive Officer



Mark Davidoff  
Chair of the Board

# THINKING BIG. THINKING STRATEGICALLY.

## VISION:

Positioning Michigan as the premier partner for Israeli innovation in the U.S.

## MISSION:

Advancing Michigan's innovation ecosystem, one Israeli connection at a time.

## VALUES:

Collaboration, Leadership, Innovation, Connectivity, Entrepreneurship

## 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN:

With the development and launch of the MIBA 5-Year Strategic Plan, 2019 was a big year.



During Governor Gretchen Whitmer's trade mission to Israel in November 2019, she signed an agreement connecting Israeli businesses to Michigan.

To learn more about the MIBA, please visit [www.michiganisrael.com](http://www.michiganisrael.com)

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



A volunteer board of directors, supported by professional staff, governs the Michigan Israel Business Accelerator. We are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with such an experienced team of leaders whose innovation, philanthropy, and advocacy assists with advancing our strategic objectives.

## Executive Committee

**Mark Davidoff**  
MIBA Board Chairman,  
Chief Executive Officer - The Fisher Group

**Mike Dergis**  
MIBA Treasurer, Founder and Partner - Sigred Solutions

**Beth Chappell**  
MIBA Secretary, Special Projects Director -  
North American International Auto Show

## Board of Directors

**Gahl Berkooz**  
Vice President of Data, Analytics and Monetization - ZF Group

**Matt Elliott**  
Midwest Region Executive,  
Detroit Market President - Bank of America

**Beth Gotthelf**  
Director of Innovation & External Relations - Butzel Long

**Ofer Hofman**  
Founder & Chief Technology Officer - Sital Technology

**Birgit Klohs**  
President & Chief Executive Officer - The Right Place, Inc.

**Jeff Mason**  
President & Chief Executive Officer -  
Michigan Economic Development Corp.

**Justin Robinson**  
Vice President of Business Attraction -  
Detroit Regional Partnership

**Darin McKeever**  
President & Chief Executive Officer,  
William Davidson Foundation

**James Meeks**  
Co-Founder, Managing Partner - Rapids Venture

**Faye Nelson**  
Director of Michigan Program - W.K Kellogg Foundation

**Trevor Pawl**  
Senior Vice President, Business Innovation -  
Michigan Economic Development Corporation

**Brian F. Rich**  
Senior Vice President of CMS Energy Corporation and  
Consumers Energy Company - CMS Energy

**Justin Robinson**  
Vice President of Business Attraction -  
Detroit Regional Partnership

**Steve Ambrose**  
Vice President and Chief Information Officer, DTE Energy

**Howard Ungerleider**  
President and Chief Financial Officer - Dow

**John Walsh**  
President & CEO - Michigan Manufacturers Association

**Evan Weiner**  
President & CEO - Edward C. Levy Co.

**Lawrence Wolfe**  
Managing Director - ALW Strategies

# OUR FUNDERS

In 2019, through the support of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), the Ralph C. Wilson Foundation, the New Economy Initiative (NEI), William Davidson Foundation, and the Paul E. Singer Foundation, the MIBA reached over 2,000 individuals and companies in both Michigan and Israel in efforts to further advance Michigan's innovative ecosystem through Israeli connections.



RALPH C. WILSON, JR.  
FOUNDATION



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MICHIGAN ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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# RECENT SUCCESSSES

Adopted  
the MIBA  
Vision/Mission  
Statement

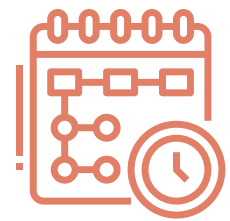
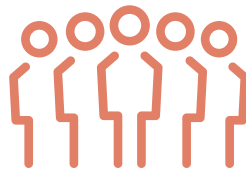


Launched the  
MIBA Summer  
Internship Program

**3** delegations completed to Israel  
(Huntington Fintech Mission,  
Southeast Michigan/Western New York  
Social Entrepreneurship Mission,  
Michigan Mobility Mission)



**41** participants  
in attendance



**5-Year**  
MIBA Strategic  
Plan Finalized



**51**

In partnership with PlanetM -  
B2B Meetings Scheduled during  
MIBA at EcoMotion Tel-Aviv event



**200+**

business professionals  
in attendance at  
startupMICHIGAN.com  
launch event at  
the Shinola Hotel

**5**



industry focus areas solidified:  
Mobility, Defense, Cybersecurity,  
Health/Life Sciences, Food/AgTech





**5 YEAR CONTRACT**  
Secured with MEDC through **2023**

**2018**

fiscal year audit completed

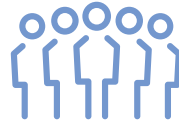
**2**

**delegations completed to Michigan**  
(Michigan- Drive Tel Aviv Mission, Israel Mobility Mission to Michigan)

- Hosted Accelerating Michigan-Israeli Business Innovations in partnership with Michigan State University, and The MSU Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Studies



**21 participants in attendance**



**60 participants in attendance**

**9**

**working relationships established with economic development organizations in Michigan**

including MEDC, PlanetM, Automation Alley, Ann Arbor Spark, Detroit Regional Chamber, Detroit Regional Partnership, The Right Place, Lansing Area Economic Partnership, and Battle Creek Unlimited



**2000+**

Impacted individuals and companies through business connections and programs



**startup MICHIGAN .com**

**591** profiles created  
**82** profiles claimed

# DELEGATIONS: MAKING CONNECTIONS



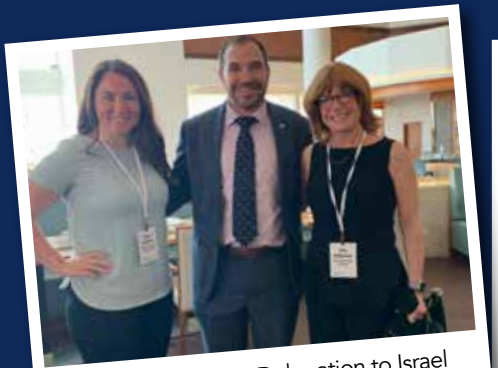
MIBA and Blue White Robotics attending the Great Lakes Expo



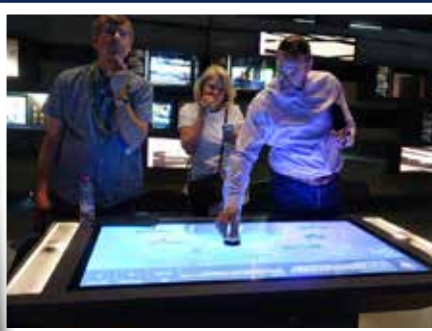
SEMI/WNY Social Entrepreneurship Delegation attendees visiting Unistream in Tel Aviv, Israel



Michigan Mobility Delegation to Israel participants at EcoMotion with Bill Ford, Executive Chairman - Ford Motor Company



Michigan Mobility Delegation to Israel participants Ligia Forgaciu and Cyndy Doherty with Speaker Aryeh Lightstone, advisor to U.S. Ambassador to Israel



SEMI/WNY Social Entrepreneurship Delegation attendees visiting the Perez Innovation Institute in Israel



Assorted Israeli dinner during SEMI/WNY Social Entrepreneurship Delegation



SEMI/WNY Social Entrepreneurship Delegation participants walking through Israel



MIBA staff and attendees at the Accelerating Michigan-Israeli Business Innovations event at Michigan State University



SEMI/WNY Social Entrepreneurship Delegation attendees at dinner in Israel