

EXPO FEATURES BLACK BUSINESSES - Columbus Dispatch, The (OH) - August 2, 1989 - page 10

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CENTRAL COLUMBUS - Being a co-owner of a minority-owned small business, John Lambert secured his spot at this year's **Ohio Black Expo** months ago.

"This is a great way for my business to get a lot of exposure and just to let people know that I exist," said Lambert, president and founder of Alpha Systems International, 1000 E. Main St., which installs electric security systems in cars and buildings.

"The traffic of people was tremendous last year. We signed up thousands of interested people, and we're hoping to double the amount of signatures this year."

The benefit of establishing contacts with other businesses in Columbus, as well as with businesses from other states, also has drawn Lambert to the exposition.

"I always come back with a wealth of information that can help my business, just by talking to other business owners," he said.

The purpose of the **expo** is simple, said Rhonda D. Robinson, executive director and founder.

"We want to unite the masses of people together for the common good, to discuss the common concerns and issues that are germane to us," she said. "Having an opportunity to network and coalesce with one another is vitally needed."

The theme of this year's **expo**, the ninth, is "Building Economic Independence." It will open with a Business Awards Reception at 6 p.m. Thursday at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for the Performing & Cultural Arts, featuring guest speaker Randall Robinson. He is executive director of TransAfrica, a lobbying group for African and Caribbean nations.

Hours for the three-day exposition, to be held at Veterans Memorial, are 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday; and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday. Admission to seminars is free with general admission, which is \$2 Friday and \$4 Saturday and Sunday.

An additional highlight is the Minority Business and Consumer exhibition, which showcases minority-owned businesses. Robinson attributes the increasing success of that phase of the **Expo** to some of the 40 exhibitors from the Mount Vernon Plaza, Near East Side and the Driving Park areas that have been with the **Expo** since its inception.

"They have stayed with us because it is important for us as a people to take care of business and support each other," she said.

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Julie R. Bailey, Of The NeighborNews Staff, 'EXPO FEATURES BLACK BUSINESSES', *Columbus Dispatch, The* (online), 2 Aug 1989 10 <<https://infoweb-newsbank-com.webproxy3.columbuslibrary.org/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11B86C3DE2D90540>>

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