



August Inspiration, Black Business Month

By Jonnel Doris

Editor's note: Whether you live, work, or do business in New York City or elsewhere, we encourage you to read this introduction by Jonnel Doris, former commissioner of the New York City Department of Small Business Services, and to study the report that he references: Advancing Black Entrepreneurship in NYC (https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/sbs/downloads/pdf/about/reports/benyc-report-digital.pdf).

August is Black Business Month, a month for uplifting and supporting Black-owned businesses. While the Black community currently makes up 22 percent of New York City's population (1.9 million), just 3.5 percent of NYC businesses are owned by Black entrepreneurs. And during the pandemic, Black-owned businesses in New York City were twice as likely to be closed during the pandemic than their white counterparts, and only received about 12 percent of the PPP funding they asked for.

But we know that Black-owned businesses are essential to the fabric of NYC, and they help

define the character and feel of a community and enhance the identity of our economic makeup. We also know that there is tremendous potential for more Black-owned businesses to start and grow.

That's why we started BE NYC, a first-of-its-kind model in any major American city to actively address this disparity and build generational wealth in the Black community. *Advancing Black Entrepreneurship in NYC* is the blueprint for this initiative, focusing on equitable access to financing, strengthening connections within the city's Black entrepreneurial community, and scaling Black businesses for long-term success.

We know that entrepreneurship is the most viable solution to address the racial wealth gap, and over the last year we've ramped up our BE NYC programming, from mentorship and networking opportunities to our Juneteenth event, the "Five Boro Black Business Forum: The Future Starts Here." Since September 2020, over 1,800 entrepreneurs have attended BE NYC workshops, mentorship events, and networking opportunities.

This August and beyond, we will continue to honor our commitment to equity of opportunity.



This means balancing our economic scales in a way that thoughtfully cultivates the many talents and needs of a historically diverse population so that everyone can participate. New York City does this best when we work together.

Small Business Exchange • Voice of Small, Emerging, Diversity-Owned Businesses Since 1984

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Sub-Bid Requests

George Harms Construction is seeking DBE vendors, suppliers, subcontractors

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SKANSKA
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IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM NEW YORK DBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND VENDORS
ADA Upgrades and Circulation Improvements at Broadway Complex Project
MTA Construction and Development Contract No. A37130
Bid Date: September 20, 2023

Description of project:
 Work includes the design and construction for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements at the Broadway Junction Station in Brooklyn, including elevator installation, escalator replacement, and ADA path-of-travel improvements. The project will consist of upgrading the existing communications, fire alarm, and mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) systems as necessary, while also making the station fully ADA accessible.

Many bidding opportunities are available: elevator/escalator subcontractors, elevator/escalator maintainers, electricians, plumbers, HVAC subcontractors, architectural finish subcontractors, rebar installers, structural steel installation, miscellaneous metals installation, concrete suppliers, site work, utility work.

If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Outreach Coordinator: Aislinn.Speranza@skanska.com • EOE/M/F/Vet/Disabled

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COMPANY PROFILE

Edwards Unlimited is an award-winning media production and leadership development business enterprise. Our company is dedicated to helping corporations, entrepreneurs and non-profit organizations celebrate their successes and share their vision with the world through high quality video production, media/ presentation training and strategic communications. President & CEO Janice Edwards is an award-winning talk show host, Emmy-nominated producer, co-author of the international best-seller *Step Into Your Brilliance*, an in-demand MC, and an acclaimed contributor to community empowerment through her media work.

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- Edwards Unlimited Legacy Interviews are 1080p or 4K video and/or audio recording with transcripts capturing family treasures as living historical documents.
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- These legacy interviews have created joy and happiness among family members and friends. They become a living record for loved ones in the future.

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With a database of over 1.6 million businesses, SBE assists agencies with public legal notices

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Advertise in our digital EXTRA

weekly or whenever wherever to whomever you need to reach among agencies contractors diversity firms

NORTHEAST EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

2023

8(a) Orientation and SAM Registration Webinar
Wednesday, August 16, 2023, 10:30 am-11:30 am
Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: SBA Illinois District Office, 312-353-4528, illinois.do@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
 Join the Small Business Administration (SBA) Illinois District Office for a virtual workshop providing an overview of the 8(a) Business Development program, eligibility requirements, and program benefits. Also learn how to increase your potential for federal contract opportunities through System for Award Management (SAM) registration, including information that you need for the registration process. SBA presenters will offer additional tips, address FAQs, give directions on where to get further assistance, and answer your other questions. To register for this free webinar, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/8a-orientation-sam-registration-tickets-518989961947>

Selling to the Federal Government Webinar
Thursday, August 24, 2023, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm
Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, george.tapia@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
 Did you know that the federal government is the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world? Interested in learning how your business can market your services or goods to the federal government? Register on line at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-to-sell-to-the-federal-government-tickets-21790713611> SBA helps to ensure small businesses get fair opportunities to share federal government prime contracts. Topics will include: How to Register, Small Business Certifications, Finding Opportunities, Marketing Your Firm, Federal Supply Schedules, Getting Paid, Finding Assistance. All training sessions are held via Microsoft Teams Meeting. Participants must ensure Microsoft Teams is functioning.

SBA and SOS Monthly Webinar
Thursday, September 7, 2023, 9:00 am-11:00 am
Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, New Hampshire Secretary of State Corporation Division
Contact: Miguel Moralez, 603-225-1601, miguel.moralez@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
 Starting a new business? Looking for capital and finance options? Looking for general advice on starting or maintaining your business? Hear from representatives from the local SBA office and the New Hampshire Secretary of State Corporation Division. This workshop (currently held online during the pandemic) is offered on the first Thursday of every month. To join this free webinar, copy and paste the link below into your browser, then register for tickets for the date of your choice to receive the access code. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/secretary-of-state-quickstart-and-small-business-administration-programs-tickets-262004180557>

