



History Channel's 2020: The Year in Events

By History.com Editors

2020 was a tumultuous year that saw the onset of a deadly pandemic, widespread protests over systemic racism—and a deeply contentious election. It was a year like no other. Amid the massive losses inflicted by a global pandemic, bitter political divisions, and racial unrest that exploded into violence, glimmers of light shone through the darkness. Frontline medical workers and those in other essential jobs risked their own safety to help others. Crowds of protesters took to the streets in a widespread outcry over systemic racism and injustice. And, by year's end, tens of millions of Americans cast their votes in a presidential election, mailing in ballots or heading to the polls in larger numbers than ever before in the nation's history.

COVID-19 Changed the World Forever

On January 9, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that a cluster of mysterious pneumonia-like cases in Wuhan, China, in late 2019 might have been caused by a previously unidentified

coronavirus. By the end of that month, cases of the new virus were confirmed in Thailand, Japan, and the United States, among other countries, totaling 9,800 total cases and more than 200 deaths. The respiratory disease caused by the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, got its own official name in mid-February: COVID-19, or CO for corona, VI for virus, and D for disease. While a high percentage of those affected suffer mild cold- or flu-like symptoms (or even no symptoms), the disease causes severe illness in others, particularly elderly patients or those with pre-existing medical conditions. On March 11, with Italy reporting more than 12,000 cases and 800 deaths, and cases rising in the United States and elsewhere, the WHO officially declared COVID-19 a pandemic. President Donald Trump, who initially downplayed the virus threat in the United States, declared a national emergency on March 13, unlocking billions of dollars in federal funding to fight the disease's spread. By the end of that month, the United States had overtaken both China and Italy and led the world in the total number of known COVID-19 cases. Schools began closing, and many restaurants and



other small businesses were forced to shut their doors for the foreseeable future. Cities and states across the country passed stay-at-home orders, even as frontline medical workers faced crippling shortages of the vital personal protective equipment (PPE) needed to

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Harold Structures Eastbound Re-Route Project
MTA Construction and Development Contract No. CH058B
Bid Date: February 19, 2021

Description of project:
The work involves design-build of a new tunnel and approach structures for a grade-separated crossover, including modification of the underpinning pier(s) and construction of new pier(s) for the existing Honeywell Street bridge, demolition of existing track work and installation of new track, including special track work, and demolition of existing and installation of new traction power elements such as the cabling, contact and messenger wires, feeder cables and their supporting structures. The work will be performed in an active railroad interlocking and will require close coordination with the ongoing train operations and force account work performed by Amtrak, LIRR, and other East Side Access contractors.

Many bidding opportunities are available: trucking, soil hauling and disposal, containers, excavation, structural concrete, precast concrete, standpipe, utilities, MPT, electrical, catenary, miscellaneous metals, steel, pile driving, micropiles, line striping, rebar furnish and install, waterproofing, demolition, support of excavation, precast barrier, trackwork, track removals, third rail, concrete ties, rail, fence, erosion control, trailers, cleaning, environmental testing, fill material supply, contaminated soil, geotechnical instrumentation and monitoring, survey, photography, rodent control, castings, monitoring wells, dewatering, material testing, temporary steel.

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

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IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM NEW YORK CITY CERTIFIED M/WBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND VENDORS

Riker's Island Powerhouse Boiler Feed Water Treatment System Upgrade Project
NYC Department of Correction PIN: 072202001CPD
Bid Date: January 14, 2021

Description of project:
Upgrade existing boiler feedwater treatment system for the powerhouse at Riker's Island.

Many bidding opportunities are available: demolition, concrete, reinforcing, structural steel, miscellaneous metals, roll-up doors, doors, painting, plumbing, piping, and equipment, mechanical piping and equipment, electrical, cleaning.

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

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NORTHEAST EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

2021

PPP Forgiveness Webinar
Tuesday, January 5, 2021, 11:30 am–1:00 pm
Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: Susan Mazza, 802-828-4422, susan.mazza@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
The SBA Vermont District Office hosts a free weekly webinar from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm Tuesdays to discuss Paycheck Protection Program forgiveness and other changes. Webinar direct link (copy and paste link into browser address bar): https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_OTQzYzJmYWQTYzRjNS00YzRiLTZlZWQTYTEwY2RjN2Y0NTkw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%223c89fd8a-7f68-4667-aa15-41ebf2208961%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%224ff22bc7-4d9b-44ab-bd09-65ff869dc840%22%7d To access the webinar by phone, call 1-202-765-1264 and enter the code 986 011 495#.

Is Certification Right for You?
Monday, January 11, 2021, 9:00 am–10:30 am
Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, Center for Women and Enterprise Central Massachusetts
Contact: Samantha Pevear, 508-453-9209, info.CentralMA@cweonline.org
Fee: Free; registration required
Join us for this online panel conversation with three women who have certified their business as woman-owned. We'll discuss the type(s) of

certification each entrepreneur has, the pros and cons of certification in their experience, and what they wish they would have known about certification earlier. It is strongly recommended that prior to joining this webinar, you first view the free monthly webinar offered by our certification team. You can register for an upcoming session here: <https://bit.ly/3eM5LNU> Once you've registered, we'll provide information on how to access the webinar. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at info.CentralMA@cweonline.org.

Free Federal Contracting Webinar
Tuesday, January 19, 2021, 10:30 am–12:00 pm
Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: Carmen E. Gonzalez, 904-443-1924, carmen.gonzalez@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
This free webinar helps you to investigate and prepare for the possibility of your business providing goods or services to the federal government. Information includes: How to Do Business with the Federal Government; 8(a) Business Development Program; HUBZone Program; Woman-Owned Small Businesses; Service-Disabled Veteran Businesses; Small Disadvantaged Business 8(a) Business Development Program; Certification Boot Camp. Benefits of this webinar include learning about sole-source contracts of up to \$4 million for goods and services and \$6.5 million for manufacturing; and specialized business training, marketing assistance, counseling, and high-level executive development. Since 1953, the Small Business Administration has worked to ignite change and spark action so small businesses can confidently start, grow, expand, or recover.