

Juneteenth and General Order Number 3

By Galveston Historical Foundation

Editor's note: This article was originally posted on www.galvestonhistory.org.

Juneteenth and General Order Number 3, read on June 19, 1865, announcing that all slaves were free, is one of Galveston's most important historical moments.

US President Abraham Lincoln announced the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862. Issued under powers granted to the president "as a fit and necessary war measure," the proclamation declared, "That on the 1st day of January, AD 1863, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States shall be then, thenceforward and forever free . . ."

However, Lincoln's proclamation would have little impact on Texans at that time due to the small number of Union troops available to enforce it.

Two and a half years later, in June of 1865, more than two thousand federal soldiers of the 13th Army Corps arrived in Galveston and with them

Major General Gordon Granger, Commanding Officer, District of Texas. Granger's men marched through Galveston reading General Order Number 3 at numerous locations, including their headquarters at the Osterman Building, 1861 Custom House, courthouse, and then the Negro Church on Broadway, as Reedy Chapel-AME Church was referred to then. The order informed all Texans that, in accordance with a proclamation from the executive of the United States, all slaves were free.

It was from that moment that Juneteenth would be born. Since then, the annual commemoration has grown from local roots to a national celebration featuring parades, readings, processions, and more. In the late 1970s, the Texas legislature declared Juneteenth a "holiday of significance [. . .] particularly to the blacks of Texas." Texas was the first state to establish Juneteenth as a state holiday under legislation introduced by freshman Democratic state representative Al Edwards (Houston). The law passed through the Texas legislature in 1979 and was officially made a state holiday on January 1, 1980. After Texas recognized the date, many states followed suit. Currently, forty-seven of the



fifty US states and the District of Columbia have recognized Juneteenth as either a state holiday or ceremonial holiday, a day of observance.

In 1979, the Galveston Juneteenth Committee under the leadership of former city manager Doug

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IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM NEW YORK STATE DBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND VENDORS
Design-Build Services for Second Avenue Subway, Phase 2—Tunneling and Structural Shell Project
MTA Construction and Development Contract No. C-26202
Bid Date: July 16, 2025

Description of project:
This contract is the second contract of Phase 2 of the Second Avenue Subway Program. Phase 1 of the program extended the Q Line subway service from 63rd Street and Lexington Avenue to 96th Street and 2nd Avenue and has been open to the public since 2017.

Phase 2 of the program will extend the Q Line subway service from the 96th Street Station to 125th Street and Lexington Avenue. This contract will be for the rehabilitation of an existing MTA tunnel constructed in the 1970s, the construction of two bored running tunnels and associated cross passages, and for the construction of the structural shells for the 116th Street and 125th Stations and associated construction of shafts and adits at the future ancillary and entrance sites, and for the construction of the shaft and adits at the end of tail-track tunnels.

Many bidding opportunities are available: geotechnical instrumentation, haul and dispose soil, rodent control, photography, rebar fabrication, electrical sub, soil and water sampling, office trailers, fencing, curbs and sidewalks, site work, security guard service, utility work, QA/QC inspections, CPM, MPT, road paving, striping, survey, landscaping, building demo, SOE/ground improvements, lead and asbestos abatement.

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

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IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM PANYNJ CERTIFIED MBE/WBE/SDVOB AS WELL AS LBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND VENDORS
AirTrain Newark Replacement Program—Maintenance and Control Facility (MCF) Project
PANYNJ Contract No. EWR-154.946
Bid Date: July 17, 2025

Description of project:
Construction of the maintenance, control and operations building and the elevated maintenance yard, as part of the program to replace the AirTrain Newark system. Project will be required to coordinate and interface with Guideway and Stations Contractor and System Technology Contractor, including phased construction.

Many bidding opportunities are available: geotechnical instrumentation and monitoring, material inspection and testing, sitework, curb, sidewalk, asphalt, pavement, pavers, landscaping, fence, signs, guardrail, utilities, watermain, drainage, sewer, storm, precast, electrical, communications, fire alarm, site electric, sanitary, striping, pavement marking, concrete, rebar, reinforcing, formwork, structural steel, plumbing, fire protection, HVAC, elevator, miscellaneous metals, railings, stairs, MPT, lockers, acoustical ceiling, exterior walls, doors, windows, metal decking, painting, drywall, tile, carpet, vinyl base, acoustic panel, metal panel cladding, metal panels, roofing, insulation, waterproofing, trailers, cleaning, overhead doors, flooring, earthwork, dewatering, haul and dispose, contaminated soil, trucking, fills, stone, sewer cleaning, site clearing, trailers, cleaners, fireproofing, glass and glazing, concrete masonry unit, concrete block, disposal, containers, flagging, piles, groundwater treatment.

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

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IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM NEW YORK STATE DBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND VENDORS
Design-Build Services for LIRR West Side Yard Flood Mitigation Measures
MTA Construction and Development Contract No. 6401
Bid Date: August 22, 2025

Description of project:
Design, furnish, construct, and install concrete perimeter flood walls, seepage cut-off barriers below the concrete flood walls, flood gates, deployable flood barriers, sump pumps, a tide gate chamber, drainage system improvements, workable aisles and a diesel generator, an automatic transfer switch, ancillary electrical equipment, and required communications.

This project will develop flood protection solutions for the West Side Yard in order to prevent and mitigate flooding of the LIRR Tunnels. The flood protection along the WSY perimeter will be accomplished via a combination of permanent flood walls and deployable flood barriers.

Many bidding opportunities are available: deep foundations, minipiles, jetgrout, sheeting, rebar installation, concrete supply, site work, electrical work, painting, paving, curb and sidewalk, site utilities.

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

NORTHEAST EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS 2025

Are you a woman owner of a small business? The federal government's goal is to award at least five percent of all federal contracting dollars to woman-owned small businesses each year. Join us for training on how to register for SBA's Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program, which helps eligible small businesses to qualify for federal contracting opportunities. The monthly sessions include an overview of the self-certification process, and a discussion of the NAICS codes that qualify as WOSB or EDWOSB. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/woman-owned-small-business-wosb-certification-program-tickets-1123665025339>

8(a) Orientation and SAM Registration Webinar
Wednesday, July 16, 2025, 10:30 am–12:30 pm
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. For this and other events, one goal is to better address the needs of attending current and soon-to-be business owners. To register for this free webinar, visit <https://www.sba.gov/event/651169>

Selling to the Federal Government Webinar
Thursday, June 26, 2025, 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 online 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, Tips to Prepare Your Offer, How to Seek Additional Assistance. All training sessions are held via Microsoft Teams Meeting.

Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Certification Program Webinar
Tuesday, July 15, 2025, 2:00 pm–4:00 pm
Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: Patrice.Dozier, patrice.dozier@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required

SBA is creating a space for Woman-Owned Small Businesses, via WOSB Annual!