

# School Construction Industry Connection

## Rebuilding Orleans Parish Schools

Schools Rebuilding DBE Newsletter • December 2016

George Washington Carver High School



## New Doors Open for Students

**T**he Recovery School District and Orleans Parish School Board continue to build schools according to the Master Plan for Schools Rebuilding – the massive \$1.8 Billion FEMA settlement that was awarded to New Orleans public schools post-Katrina.

“The rebuilding program has made such an incredible and important difference in the lives of our children,” said Superintendent Henderson Lewis, Jr. “As a former educator, I want people to understand that learning is a team effort that requires school leadership, family, friends, and students to all be active and willing participants. What the rebuilding program has done is provide students with a learning environment and the structural resources where students can get hands

on experience from working in computer and science labs and teachers don’t have to resort to using every available space in the school – closets, hallways, cafeterias, etc. – to educate our students,” he said.

In the past 11 months, school officials, financial partners, city leadership, and families have gathered for the Ribbon Cutting and

**In the past 11 months, school officials, financial partners, city leadership, and families have gathered for the Ribbon Cutting and Building Dedication of seven schools.**

Building Dedications of seven schools: Marion Abramson High School – December 15, 2015; Lake Forest Elementary School – May 4, 2016; George Washington Carver High School – August 31, 2016; Sherwood Forest Elementary School – September 30, 2016; Sophie B. Wright High School – October 4, 2016; Habans Paul B. Elementary School – October 18, 2016; and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. High School –

*Continued on page 2*

## Making the Connection

The OPSB and RSD are taking additional measures to connect with Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE’s) to increase their participation in the various school projects. Both organizations understand the critical role these companies play in building sustainable communities and want to support their continued growth.

### OPSB DBE Monthly Summary

#### New & Renovations:

DBE Contractors secured subcontracts on 14 projects as of September 30, 2016. The DBE subcontracts value is \$54,086,557 of the \$199,371,360 total of awarded contracts.

#### Stabilization/Demolition/Mothballing:

DBE Contractors secured subcontracts on 2 projects as of September 30, 2016. The DBE subcontracts value is \$296,520 of the \$902,999 total of awarded contracts.

#### Total Amount of DBE Contracts

**Awarded to Date: \$54,383,077**

### RSD DBE Monthly Summary

#### New & Renovations:

DBE Contractors secured subcontracts on 23 projects as of September 30, 2016. The DBE subcontracts value is \$80,301,570 of the \$362,548,187 total of awarded contracts.

#### Stabilization/Demolition/Mothballing:

DBE Contractors secured subcontracts on 48 projects as of September 30, 2016. The DBE subcontracts value is \$19,244,420 of the \$65,106,535 total of awarded contracts.

#### Design-Build New:

DBE Contractors secured subcontracts on 3 projects as of September 30, 2016. The DBE subcontracts value is \$33,454,327 of the \$109,137,557 total of awarded contracts.

#### Total Amount of DBE Contracts

**Awarded to Date: \$133,000,317**

*DBE provisions were included in projects bid after June 30, 2012*

**Contained within this newsletter is information, along with important tips and resources to get you connected.**



*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. High School*



*Sophie B. Wright High School*



*Sherwood Forest Elementary School*



*Paul B. Habans Elementary School*

November 2, 2016 – totaling \$243.7 Million in construction projects.

While the construction program has generated economic development for the city, both RSD and OPSB have made a concerted effort to ensure that Disadvantaged Business Enterprises were active and engaged participants in the construction program.

As of August 2016, RSD & OPSB DBE Vendors have been awarded \$133,082,684 on construction contracts, which speak to both the RSD and OPSB working toward their DBE goals of 25% and 35% respectively. 160 DBE's have participated in construction projects with 534 individual construction contracts awarded to DBE's.

With another \$258.9 Million allocated for the next phase of New or Renovated construction projects, DBE's will have even greater opportunities for participation in the rebuilding program. The following new or renovated schools are slated for the next phase of construction, with Notice To Proceed issued

**"Our goal is to move projects forward while being effective and efficient in the construction process," said Sombra Williams, DBE Director.**

for some of the projects: Booker T. Washington High School; John McDonogh High School; Edna Karr High School; Cohen High School; Behrman Elementary School; and New Orleans Math & Science High School at the Wicker site.

In addition, another \$19.4 Million from the FEMA settlement will go towards the next phase of construction associated with refurbishments of the following schools: Thurgood Marshall Elementary School (\$7.4M); McDonogh 32 Elementary School (\$4.3M); McDonogh 7 Elementary School (\$2.5M); Johnson Elementary School (\$3.2M); as well as miscellaneous HVAC projects at various locations (\$2M).

"Our goal is to move projects forward while being effective and efficient in the construction process. But as we work to ensure that our construction process will be what is best for students, we also have an internal goal of ensuring that the process is transparent and equitable to our DBE's who have historically had the least access to construction dollars," said Sombra Williams, DBE Director for the Recovery School District.





Larry Dillon, Managing Owner of  
Dillon Bros. Ready Mix Concrete

"The DBE projects helped to grow our business. They were some large projects and this is a volume business."



## Dillon Bros. Ready Mix Concrete A Family Business Built On Solid Foundation

Larry Dillon, the Managing Owner of Dillon Bros. Ready Mix Concrete, is a New Orleans native who grew up in the Upper Ninth Ward. His three brothers (Louis, Lawrence and Lionel) work in the business and are his trusted advisors.

Larry credits his father for the brothers' success in the concrete business. "My dad poured concrete for a living. He used to have us out there in the summer and the holidays and whenever we were out of school we worked. We didn't do like the normal kids, you know, playing in the streets and going to these summer programs. Our summer program was going to work for him, which I didn't mind because I loved it and I loved my dad. I really admired him," said Larry Dillon.

Larry points out, "My dad started this. He was a concrete contractor. When we came back home after Katrina, there

were jobs ready to pour but we could not get any concrete. So, we located a facility where we could make the concrete, bought a couple of trucks and a front-end loader. And by us knowing folks in the industry, word of mouth, then it grew from there."

Today, Dillon Bros. is one of the most active concrete suppliers in the city. The company has grown to 18 full-time employees and 15 concrete trucks. Larry Dillon credits much of their growth to the work they executed on the new and remodeled schools that are part of the Schools Rebuilding effort. "We have supplied concrete for several schools here in the New Orleans East area. We supplied concrete for Sherwood Forest, Ray Abrams, and Morial Elementary Schools. The largest school we supplied was Lake Forest Elementary School."

Dillon said, "The DBE projects helped to grow the business. They

*Continued on page 4*

were some large projects and this is a volume business. Volume is critical to success in the ready-mix business. When you start investing in infrastructure and equipment, you must put it to work. The DBE program with the school projects helped us to grow. We are looking forward to getting more DBE work; but not just DBE work. We are going after work on commercial and industrial projects in the public and private sectors as well."

Dillon explained, "We have grown our business by keeping our debt to income ratio low. When we started out we did not do a whole lot of large projects. We did smaller projects that we knew we could manage. Once we built up our resources, we were in position to get an SBA loan with a local bank. We invested in new equipment and built a new plant. We were able to grow at a manageable rate."

Dillon said, "Before I started this business, I had majored in business administration and I had significant management experience while I served in the military. I kind of knew what I was doing when I got into it.

I developed a business plan and executed on that plan."

Dillon said, "I am a working owner and a working manager. By having so much invested, I'm not going to let it go down. We have kept a level of consistency and excellence because we take pride in our work. I take

pride in everything that I do and I want to make sure that whatever we do is done right. Our number one goal is service to our customers. We under-promise and over-deliver!"

Larry concluded, "One of the things that I would like to share is that I think there are a lot of competent businesses in the area capable of doing the jobs that we have here in New Orleans. They just need a chance. But, when given a chance, those DBE businesses must take

it seriously. They must make sure that they go over and beyond to do an outstanding job. There are a lot of stereotypes out there that DBE's can't perform. But that is far from the truth. We can and do perform with the best at Dillon Bros.!"

**"I take pride in everything that I do and I want to make sure that whatever we do is done right. We under-promise and over-deliver!"**

## Advertisement & Bid Information

### **Village de l'Est Elementary School Environmental**

- 3RD Advertisement (The Times-Picayune): November 30, 2016
- Bid Date: December 21, 2016 at 2 p.m.

### **McDonogh 32 Elementary School Refurbishment**

- 1ST Advertisement (The Times-Picayune): December 14, 2016
- Bid Date: January 25, 2017 at 2 p.m.

### **HVAC Equipment Repairs at Village de l'Est HVAC Equipment Repairs/Fencing at Sarah T. Reed HVAC Equipment Repairs at Rosenwald**

- 1ST Advertisement (The Times-Picayune): December 21, 2016
- Bid Date: January 25, 2017 at 2 p.m.

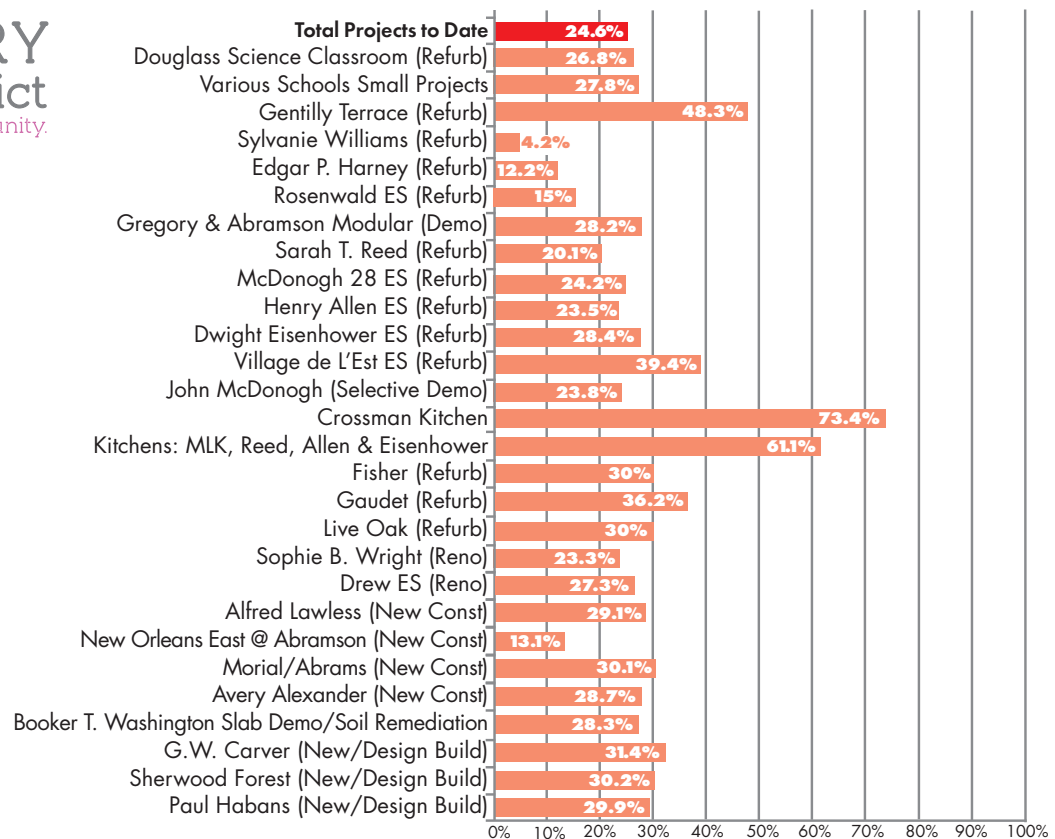
### **Kitchen Improvements at Benjamin Banneker Elementary School Grease Trap at Wheatley School**

- 1ST Advertisement (The Times-Picayune): December 14, 2016
- Bid Date: January 25, 2017 at 2 p.m.

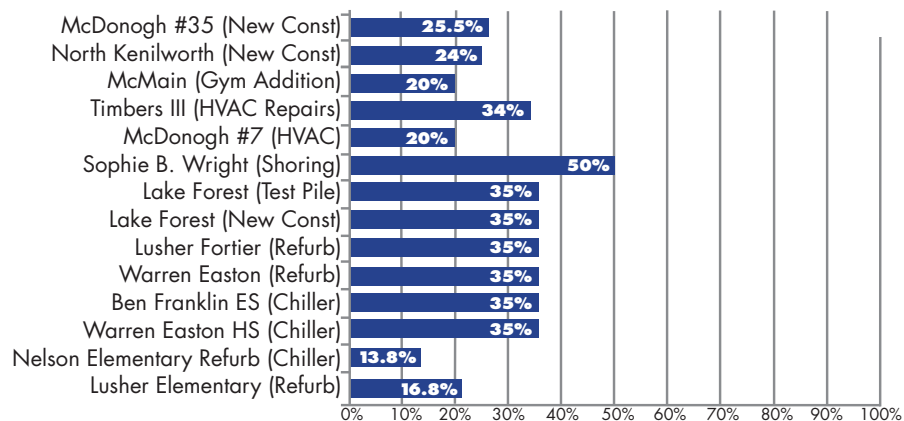
NOTE: Complete bid advertisement for RSD projects will be available on the Louisiana Procurement and Contract Network (LaPAC - <http://www.prd1.doa.louisiana.gov/OSP/LaPAC/dspBid.cfm?search=department&term=14>) on the first advertisement date listed. Complete bid advertisement for OPSB projects will be available on the Orleans Parish School Board's website (OPSB.US/SOLICITATION)

Unless otherwise noted, all Pre-Bid Conferences are held at:  
Jacobs/CSRS Program Management, 909 Poydras St., Suite 1200, New Orleans LA 70112

# RSD Percentage of DBE Participation



# OPSB Percentage of DBE Participation



In the two charts displayed above, the OPSB and RSD offer information, as of September 30, 2016, pertaining to the percentage of DBE participation in projects completed or under construction.





Sherwood Forest School

## Publisher's Corner

**T**his newsletter, "School Construction Industry Connection", is a publication created by the School Rebuilding Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Team. The DBE Team meets weekly to review, plan and advocate for DBE and local involvement in rebuilding the public schools of New Orleans.

The newsletter is intended to provide a transparent look at the level of local and DBE involvement in school rebuilding. We will provide updates on DBE involvement in each construction project, information on upcoming construction bids, contact information on resource providers, a feature story on a successful DBE contractor, and commentary on policy initiatives to enhance DBE participation.



**RECOVERY**  
School District  
Excellence.Equity.Community.

For more information, please contact Bright Moments, LLC at (504) 592-1800  
or e-mail [Billr@Brightmomentsnola.com](mailto:Billr@Brightmomentsnola.com)

## DBE Team

**Sombra Williams**  
DBE Director  
Recovery School District  
[Sombra.Williams@rsdla.net](mailto:Sombra.Williams@rsdla.net)

**Leslie J. Rey**  
Director  
Purchasing/Ancillary Services  
Orleans Parish School Board  
[leslie\\_rey@opsb.us](mailto:leslie_rey@opsb.us)

**Jonathan Temple**  
DBE Outreach Manager  
Recovery School District  
[Jonathan.Temple@rsdla.net](mailto:Jonathan.Temple@rsdla.net)

**Andre Kelly**  
District Manager  
AGC New Orleans  
[andrek@lagc.org](mailto:andrek@lagc.org)

**Larry Jordan**  
Community Development Director  
Jacobs/CSRS  
[larry.jordan@jacobscsrs.com](mailto:larry.jordan@jacobscsrs.com)

**Klassi R. Duncan**  
Director  
Women's Business Resource Center  
Jacobs/CSRS  
[kduncan@urbanleaguella.org](mailto:kduncan@urbanleaguella.org)

**Frank Johnson, III**  
Business Advisor/Contractor Specialist  
Urban League of Greater New Orleans  
[fjohnson@urbanleaguella.org](mailto:fjohnson@urbanleaguella.org)

**Bill Rouselle**  
Community Outreach  
Bright Moments, LLC  
[billr@brightmomentsnola.com](mailto:billr@brightmomentsnola.com)