

# School Construction Industry Connection

## Rebuilding Orleans Parish Schools

Schools Rebuilding DBE Newsletter • Volume 3 • Issue 1 • May 2016

Booker T. Washington High School



## School Rebuilding 10 Years+ Post Katrina

**P**ublic School rebuilding in New Orleans has progressed at an unprecedented rate since the Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) adopted a master rebuilding plan in 2008. At the end of 2015, thirty-eight (38) schools have been newly built or substantially renovated. Twenty (20) new and renovation projects are under construction, and twenty-two (22) projects are in procurement, design or planning. Additionally, eight (8) refurbishment projects have been completed as a result of the amended plan adopted in 2011.

Thousands of students have walked through new school buildings with eyes sparkling and wide smiles at what they would call their new school home.

Through the collective efforts of elected officials, spearheaded by then U. S. Senator Mary Landrieu, FEMA approved \$1.8 billion to rebuild public schools. In the ten years since Katrina, thousands of students have walked through new school buildings with eyes sparkling and wide smiles at what they would call their new school home.

At capacity, the rebuilding program has provided more than 20,000 seats for students in top notch facilities to date.

"In recent years, we have been privileged to attend a number of school ribbon cutting ceremonies," said FEMA Louisiana Recovery Office Director, Mike Womack. "As we view these new, state-of-the-art

*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 March 31, 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 March 31, 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 21 projects as of March 31, 2016. The DBE subcontracts value is \$73,887,431 of the \$348,099,077 total of awarded contracts.

#### Stabilization/Demolition/Mothballing:

DBE Contractors secured subcontracts on 44 projects as of March 31, 2016. The DBE subcontracts value is \$17,313,447 of the \$53,851,020 total of awarded contracts.

#### Design-Build New:

DBE Contractors secured subcontracts on 3 projects as of March 31, 2016. The DBE subcontracts value is \$34,701,554 of the \$109,137,557 total of awarded contracts.

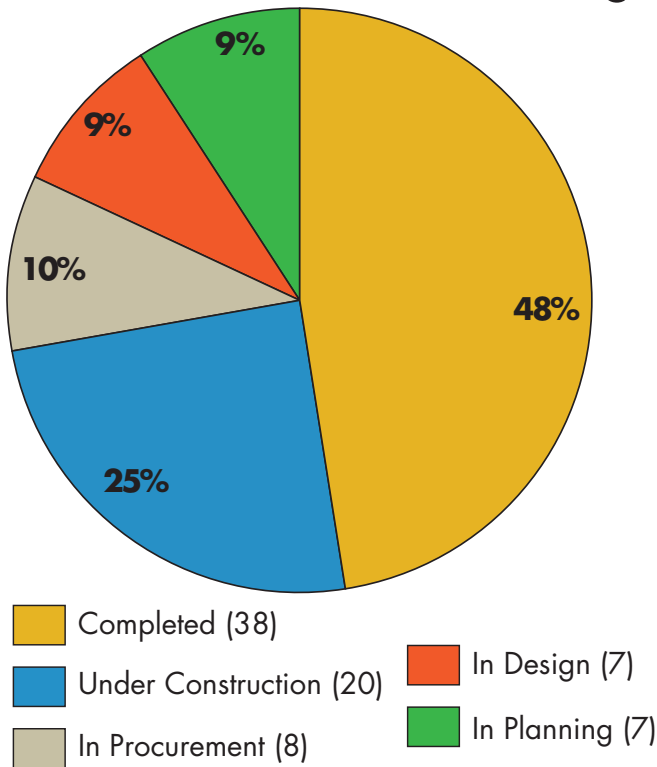
#### Total Amount of DBE Contracts

**Awarded to Date: \$ 125,902,432**

*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.

## Number of School Buildings



Number of Student Seats		
Status	Program Capacity	Percentage
Completed	24,984	46%
Construction	15,265	28%
Procurement	4,024	7%
Design	5,785	11%
Planning	4,202	8%
	54,260	100%

As of December 2015.

educational facilities, what becomes clearly evident is the significant progress that can be achieved through the forging of federal, state and local partnerships."

RSD Executive Director of Major Capital Projects, Lona Hankins points out significant accomplishments that have resulted during the rebuilding process. "We have been good stewards of tax payer dollars with less than 3% change orders on construction projects. We have been creative and innovative in securing additional grants and utilizing insurance proceeds and Tax Credits to increase our funding of rebuilding projects. Through the use of more flexible procurement processes, we have increased the involvement of DBE and small local businesses in the building of schools. Nearly 25% of the RSD and 30+% of the OPSB construction projects have been awarded to certified DBE contractors. And, we have

**DBE Directors for the OPSB and RSD urge the contractor community to stay involved in the procurement of new work.**

been sensitive and responsive to the people who live in neighborhoods where construction has dominated their landscape."

During 2016, plans call for seven (7) new and renovation projects to be completed and dozens of

refurbishments, which will add at least 5,000 quality seats for public school students. With rebuilding efforts moving forward, there is still more than \$200 million dollars of construction work to be completed. DBE Directors for the OPSB and RSD urge the contractor community to stay involved in the procurement of new work. The school rebuilding program has demonstrated that local and DBE involvement works and can aid our City's overall economic development effort (Upcoming procurement events are listed in this newsletter).

When the construction program is complete, a total of 54,260 seats or 5,053,000 square feet of educational space will have been brought back after Hurricane Katrina. The Master Plan for Schools Rebuilding will bring a total of 80 school buildings back into use.

During the two weeks leading up to and just after the Tenth Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, the Recovery School District and Orleans Parish School Board held seven Ribbon Cuttings and Building Dedications across the city.



1. Audubon Charter School Ribbon Cutting  
August 17, 2015

Photo Credit: OPSB Media Dept.

2. Charles R. Drew Elementary School Ribbon Cutting (Home to Arise Academy)  
August 18, 2015

3. McDonogh 42 Charter School Ribbon Cutting  
August 19, 2015

4. Stuart R. Bradley Ribbon Cutting (Home to Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School of Literature and Technology)  
August 25, 2015

5. Paul L. Dunbar Elementary School Ribbon Cutting (Home to Lafayette Charter School/ temporary home to KIPP Believe)  
August 26, 2015

6. Edward R. Livingston High School Ribbon Cutting (Home to Collegiate Academies)  
August 27, 2015

7. McDonogh 35 School Ribbon Cutting  
September 23, 2015

Photo Credit: OPSB Media Dept.

# Advertisement & Bid Information

## **Banneker and Wheatley Kitchen Refurbishments**

- 1ST Advertisement (The Times-Picayune): April 21, 2016

## **McDonogh 32 Elementary Refurbishment**

- 1ST Advertisement (The Times-Picayune): April 2016

## **Laurel Elementary Refurbishment**

- 1ST Advertisement (The Times-Picayune): April 13, 2016

## **Ben Franklin Renovation (OBSB)**

- 1ST Advertisement (The Times-Picayune): May 4, 2016

## **Thurgood Marshall Refurbishment**

- 1ST Advertisement (The Times-Picayune): July 2016

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

## Capacity Building Tools For DBE Contractors

**T**he Urban League of Greater New Orleans manages a Contractors Resource Center (CRC) designed to provide resources and support for DBE, women-owned and small firm contracting companies.

This support system facilitates contractors' ability to increase capacity in their firms.

The Resource Center gives small contractors access to state-of-the-art estimating and project management tools designed to increase their accuracy and efficiency in bidding projects. A major focus of the CRC is on school rebuilding projects in New Orleans. The Center is partially funded by Jacobs/CSRS, program managers for RSD and OPSB school construction projects.

The Contractors Resource Center is located at the Urban League's headquarters at 4640 S. Carrollton Avenue in Suite 230. The CRC houses a computer lab outfitted with the widely used construction estimating software, Planswift, and UDA, an all-encompassing electronic project management system. These computerized training tools are complemented by other business sustainability education programs, promoting comprehensive growth for small business contractors.

A major focus  
of the CRC is on  
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New Orleans.

Members of the Contractors Resource Center can access monthly training classes on the software programs. They also have unlimited access to the computer lab, as well as the large-scale printing equipment to produce hard copies

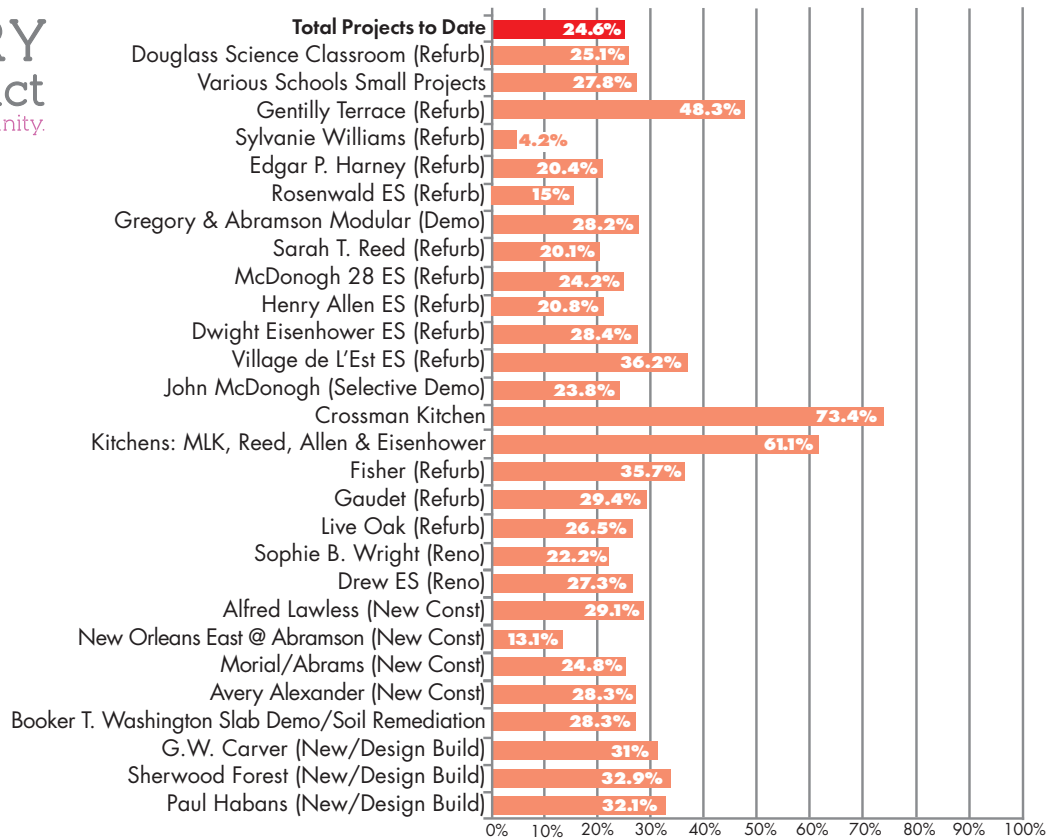
of project plans and specifications. Since its inception in 2014, the Contractor's Resource Center has conducted 64 events for local contractors—Fifty-five (55) training sessions and eleven (11) Industry wide events to introduce DBE sub-contractors to General Contractors working on school projects. The Urban League's program has provided substantive training and networking opportunities to a cumulative total of 1,284 contractors over the two (2) years of the program's operation. Contractors served by the CRC have amassed over \$15M in construction contracts and nearly \$30M in bonding capacity. Additionally, all other services including personalized business consulting offered by the advisors at the Women's Business Resource Center are available to the CRC members.



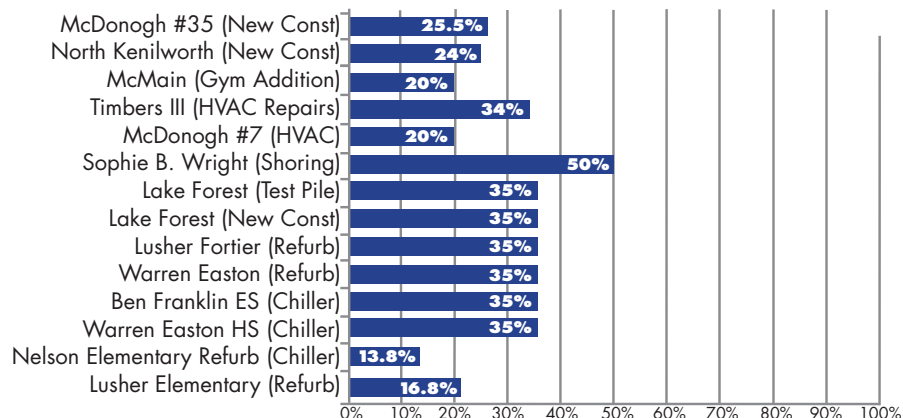
Urban League  
of Greater New Orleans

**Call 504.620.9647 or  
[urbanleagueneuorleans.org](http://urbanleagueneuorleans.org)  
for more information.**

# RSD Percentage of DBE Participation



# OPSB Percentage of DBE Participation



In the two charts displayed above, the OPSB and RSD offer information, as of March 31, 2016, pertaining to the percentage of DBE participation in projects completed or under construction.



Avery Alexander 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.



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

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