

School Construction Industry Connection

Rebuilding Orleans Parish Schools

Schools Rebuilding DBE Newsletter · Volume 1 · Issue 1 · July 2013

Alfred Lawless site (home to the Dr. King Charter High School)



In the two charts displayed below, the OPSB and RSD offer information, as of May 31, 2013, pertaining to the percentage of DBE participation in projects under construction.

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 4 projects as of May 31, 2013. The DBE subcontracts value is \$7,991,609 of the \$22,792,344 total of awarded contracts.

Stabilization/Demolition/Mothballing:

DBE Contractors secured subcontracts on 2 projects as of May 31, 2013. The DBE subcontracts value is \$296,520 of the \$902,999 total of awarded contracts.

RSD DBE Monthly Summary

New & Renovations:

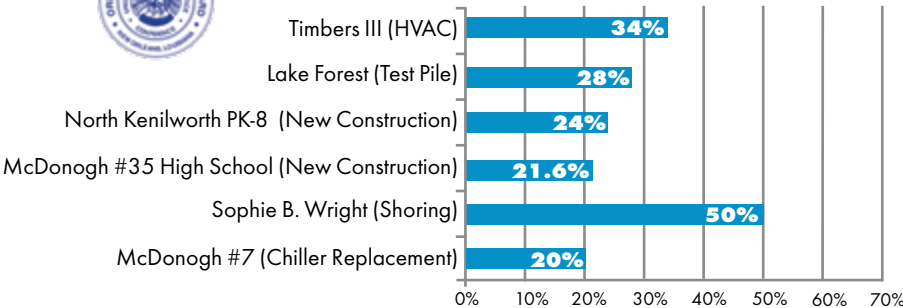
DBE Contractors secured subcontracts on 4 projects as of May 31, 2013. The DBE subcontracts value is \$3,631,111 of the \$25,509,000 total of awarded contracts.

Stabilization/Demolition/Mothballing:

DBE Contractors secured subcontracts on 6 projects as of May 31, 2013. The DBE subcontracts value is \$473,530 of the \$2,095,047 total of awarded contracts.

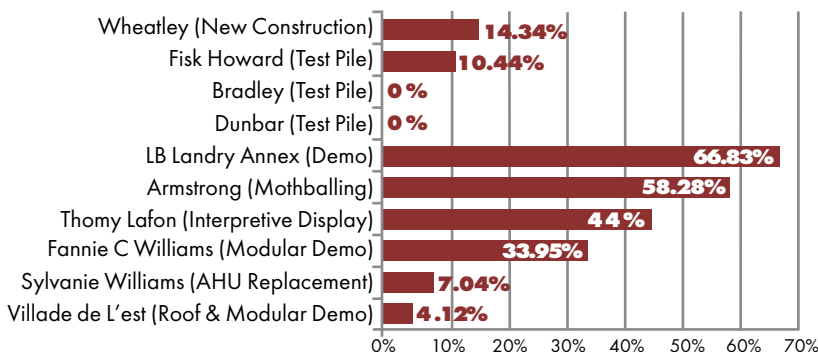


OPSB Percentages of DBE Participation



RSD Percentage of DBE Participation

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[RecoverySchoolDistrict](#)



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



Christopher Walker, CDW President

DBE Company Spotlight

Working as a teen with his father, Christopher D. Walker learned the 'ins and outs' of the construction business. From field operations to office management, he spent many hours between homework and school activities working all phases of construction. It is a profession and career first chosen by his great grandfather, four generations ago. Currently, Mr.

Walker is the proud owner of CDW Services and has successfully steered the company to a position of strength by investing in new talent, acquiring new technology and using an aggressive strategy he describes as 'persistent bidding.'

These investments and strategies are paying dividends, as CDW Services has landed several contracts with the OPSB and RSD Schools Projects. These contracts include facility cleaning and gutting, environmental remediation and structural shoring of multiple school buildings. As a DBE contractor, Mr. Walker recently took time to share his experience and perspective regarding the opportunities available to disadvantaged contractors.

"Some of the biggest challenges for small businesses in construction is financing and bonding," say Walker.

"These challenges, combined with the demand for tedious paperwork and administrative oversight often are the main causes for low participation among other DBE's. This is one of the reasons why we place so much emphasis on hiring great people. Companies must focus on building capacity."

Some of Walker's recommendations for capacity building include specialized management training and mentorship opportunities with established firms. Through the SBA Emerging Leader Initiative, he was able to receive both and credits the training for helping him to "stop working in his business and begin working on his business."

When asked about his projects with the OPSB and RSD, he acknowledges that they have gone well and would be willing to offer his experience and personal efforts to get other DBE's involved in the upcoming projects. "In my opinion, the OPSB and RSD Schools Project is the most noticeable job information out there. They have worked very hard at making sure the public knows what's up for bid."

As for CDW Services, Walker knows that his company has overcome many hurdles and is now positioned for continued growth.

He remains committed to a strategy that has served him well; investing in new talent, acquiring new technology and persistent bidding.

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"In my opinion, the OPSB and RSD Schools Project is the most noticeable job information out there. They have worked very hard at making sure the public knows what's up for bid."

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Advertisement & Bid Information

New Lake Forest School at the Greater St. Stephens Site – OPSB Project (Revised)

- 1 ST Advertisement (The Times-Picayune): Completed
- Bid Date: July 24, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

Albert Wicker Elementary School Refurbishment – RSD Project

- 1 ST Advertisement (The Times-Picayune): Completed
- Bid Date: July 17, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

A. D. Crossman Elementary School Refurbishment – RSD Project

- 1 ST Advertisement (The Times-Picayune): July 3, 2013
- Pre-Bid Conference: July 18, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.
- Bid Date: August 7, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

New Orleans East High School at the Abramson Site – RSD Project (2ND Revision)

- 1 ST Advertisement (The Times-Picayune): July 31, 2013
- Pre-Bid Conference: August 15, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.
- Bid Date: September 11, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. (Revised)

Andrew Jackson School Refurbishment – RSD Project

- 1 ST Advertisement (The Times-Picayune): Completed
- Bid Date: July 17, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

John McDonogh Bleacher Installation – RSD Project

- 1 ST Advertisement (The Times-Picayune): July 10, 2013
- Pre-Bid Conference: July 25, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.
- Bid Date: August 14, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

John McDonogh Sprinkler System Installation – RSD Project

- 1 ST Advertisement (The Times-Picayune): July 10, 2013
- Pre-Bid Conference: July 25, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.
- Bid Date: August 14, 2013 at 2:00 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

Resource Providers for Contractors

Resource Provider	Contact Information	Description of Services
Business Resource & Entrepreneurship Center	Lynnette Colin (504) 620-9647 lcolin@urbanleagueneuorleans.org	The BR&EC provides services to existing and new business ventures and contractor organizations. Technical assistance services include business growth and start-up training; one-on-one business consulting; assistance with development of business, marketing and strategic plans; business loan packaging; MBE/WBE/DBE certification assistance and more.
Louisiana Associated General Contractors, Inc.	Pearlina Thomas (504) 460-6811 pearlinat@lagc.org	Louisiana Associated General Contractors, Inc., is a membership organization dedicated to furthering the agenda of Commercial Contractors, improving job site safety, expanding the use of cutting edge technologies and techniques through strengthening the dialog between contractors and municipal owners. LAGC's over 700 statewide members enjoy the benefits of Legislative involvement, timely fiscal and tax information, Political Action Committee, legal involvement in industry wide concerns, safety training, supervisory training programs, construction education and the LAGC 401 (k) Multiple Employer Plan.
Goodwork Network	Phyllis Cassidy Adele London (504) 309-2090 adele@goodworknetwork.org	Technical Assistance, One-On-One Counseling, Financial Education, Entrepreneurship Training, Quickbooks Training, Capital Access Assistance, Market Access Assistance, A Business Resource Center, Back Office Support, Incubator Space
DevCorp Contract Financing	Carlton Lewis (253) 722-5848 or (253) 279-7740 clewis@devcorp.net Wendell Armant (504) 231-5080 Wen.armant@devcorp.net	Contract Financing for small and middle market construction contractors.
Alliance for Minority Contractors	Louis Livers (504) 723-5916 Louis@liversconstruction.com	Support and advocacy for minority construction contractors. The Alliance provides networking and mentorship opportunities as well as contracting and business education workshops and seminars.
Carter Business Development	Eileen Carter (504) 460-9248 ecarter@carterbusinessdevelopment.net	Customized business development and access to markets; KNOX Procurement Weekly; Assist businesses with MBE/WBE/DBE certifications
Greater New Orleans Coalition of United Contractors	Charles Riley (504) 556-0668 gnocmc1@gmail.com	Support and advocate for minority construction contractors. Seek advancement of Tier 1 DBE Subprimes to grow capacity.
Louisiana Minority Supplier Development Council	Phala Mire Alvin Williams (504) 293-0400 awilliams@lamsdc.com	LAMSDC serves to promote procurement opportunities among the council's minority suppliers and nurture relationships between buyers and sellers that increase the number of minority firms actively engaged in corporate supply chains.
OutreachSpeed™	Bud Wyckoff National Coordinator Office: 404.885.6674 Mobile: 201.988.6767 budw@outreachspeed.com	OutreachSpeed™ is an innovative, online, collaborative system for contracting and supply-chain activity. Licensed as a fully-packaged CRM system. It is a user-friendly menu-driven program, that contains features and tools for administering internal operations, tracking departmental activity, community-building, and uniquely delivers open-compete, critical program services; i.e. real-time access to capital, bonding, RFPs and community, for closing deals and supporting clients.
Accion Louisiana	Jarrett Woods 888-215-2373 ext. 1572	To provide credit and services to small businesses and entrepreneurs who do not have access to loans from commercial sources and to provide leadership and innovation to the micro lending industry.

Design-Build Procurement Delivery Method Adopted by OPSB - RSD

The current delivery method used by both the Orleans Parish School Board and the Recovery School District for school construction projects is known as Design-Bid-Build. Under this procurement method, a contract is legally required to be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder as outlined in La. R.S. 38:2211 et. seq. To be awarded a contract a bidder must do two things: 1) meet the minimal qualifications required by the bid and 2) be the lowest bidder. With this traditional procurement method, work associated with the design and construction of a project are separate work. The low-bid procurement method as it is termed; turns a blind eye to local and minority inclusion.

On June 4, 2013, the Louisiana legislature approved a one year extension for the use of the design-build method (Design-Build) in the construction of five (5) new schools. This approval offers an alternative to Design-Bid-Build and is a critical step in advancing how contracts for school rebuilding construction projects may be awarded.

Since La. R.S. 38:2225.2.1 was created via Act 373 in 2007, Design-Build has become more widely utilized in the state of Louisiana because of its ability to better serve the public interest in ways that the traditional Design-Bid-Build method of construction does not.

The Design-Build delivery method seeks to streamline the process and ensure that there is one entity - the design-build team - that works under a single contract in association with the project owner to provide design and construction services. This difference saves money and time by changing the relationship between designers and contractors into an alliance that fosters collaboration and teamwork.

Given the potential for positive economic impact and capacity building within the local and disadvantaged community, the Design-Build process versus a low bid allows the user to select the "best value". The best value determination is made by a formula that calculates a technical score and then combines it to the proposer's price to create a final score.

Schools that can be procured through Design Build:

Behrman Elementary
Carver High School
Habans Elementary
Karr High School
Sherwood Forest Elementary

Firms that have responded to the Notice of Interest for Carver High School:

Broadmoor, LLC
Citadel Builders
Clark Construction, Company
Concordia + Mathes, LLC
Core Construction
F H Paschen
Gibbs Construction
Landis Construction Co., LLC
Mapp Construction, LLC
MS Space
The McDonnell Group
Wharton-Smith, Inc.
Construction Group
Woodward Design + Build, LLC

Bridging Document Architect
Verges Rome

The Benefits Realized Are

Faster Delivery: collaborative project management means work is completed faster and with fewer problems;

Cost Savings: an integrated team is geared toward efficiency and innovation;

Better Quality: design-builders meet performance needs, not minimum design requirements, often developing innovations to deliver a better project;

Singular Responsibility: one entity is held accountable for cost, schedule and performance;

Decreased Administrative Burden: owners can focus on the project instead of managing separate, distinct contracts;

DBE Inclusion: allows for more control and opportunity to increase DBE participation by including it as an element of the scoring criteria;

Reduced Risk: the design-build team assumes additional risk; and

Reduced Litigation Claims: by closing warranty gaps, owners minimize exposure to litigation claims.



George Washington Carver High School rendering

Publisher's Corner

This bi-monthly 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.

We encourage you to circulate the newsletter to people in the industry who benefit from this information.

We welcome your critique, feedback and any helpful information that can enhance our efforts.

**For more information, please contact,
Bright Moments, LLC at (504) 592-1800
Please e-mail all comments to Billr@Brightmomentsnola.com**



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RecoverySchoolDistrict

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