



Why Do People Celebrate Cinco de Mayo?

By History Channel

Cinco de Mayo—or the fifth of May—is a holiday that celebrates the date of the Mexican army's 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War (1861-1867). A relatively minor holiday in Mexico, in the United States Cinco de Mayo has evolved into a commemoration of Mexican culture and heritage, particularly in areas with large Mexican-American populations.

Benito Juárez
 In 1861, Benito Juárez—a lawyer and member of the indigenous Zapotec tribe—was elected president of Mexico. At the time, the country was in financial ruin after years of internal strife, and the new president was forced to default on debt payments to European governments.
 In response, France, Britain, and Spain sent naval forces to Veracruz, Mexico, demanding repayment. Britain and Spain negotiated with Mexico and withdrew their forces.

France, however, ruled by Napoleon III, decided to use the opportunity to carve an empire out of Mexican territory. Late in 1861, a well-armed French fleet stormed Veracruz, landing a large force of troops and driving President Juárez and his government into retreat.

The Battle of Puebla
 Certain that success would come swiftly, six thousand French troops under General Charles Latrille de Lorencez set out to attack Puebla de Los Angeles, a small town in east central Mexico. From his new headquarters in the North, Juárez rounded up a ragtag force of two thousand loyal men—many of them either indigenous Mexicans or of mixed ancestry—and sent them to Puebla.

The vastly outnumbered and poorly supplied Mexicans, led by Texas-born General Ignacio Zaragoza, fortified the town and prepared for the French assault. On May 5, 1862, Lorencez gathered his army—supported by heavy artillery—before the city of Puebla and led an assault.

The battle lasted from daybreak to early evening, and when the French finally retreated,



they had lost nearly five hundred soldiers. Fewer than one hundred Mexicans had been killed in the clash.

Although not a major strategic win in the overall war against the French, Zaragoza's success

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IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM NEW YORK STATE CERTIFIED DBE SUBCONTRACTORS/VENDORS FOR THE
Replacement of Kosciuszko Bridge over Newtown Creek Phase II Project
 NYSDOT Contract No: D263452
 Bid Date: May 24, 2017

Description of project:
 Construction of a new westbound bridge structure over Newtown Creek between Vandervoort Avenue in Brooklyn and the Long Island Expressway Interchange in Queens. The project includes a new cable-stayed main span structure over Newtown Creek and pre-cast concrete girder approach spans in Brooklyn and Queens. The project also includes realigned ramps in Queens, new retaining walls, and new green spaces.

Many bidding opportunities are available.
 If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Outreach Coordinator: Matthew.DeGudicibus@skanska.com

SKANSKA USA CIVIL
IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM NEW YORK STATE CERTIFIED MWBE SUBCONTRACTORS/VENDORS
Morris Locomotive Shop and Employee Facility
 MTA LIRR Contract No. 6241
 Bid Date: June 8, 2017

Description of project:
 The LIRR intends to construct a new locomotive repair shop to replace the existing 125-year-old Morris Park Round House, which has outlived its useful life and is presenting an additional maintenance burden on operating resources. The new facility will be better equipped to maintain the LIRR's current fleet of diesel locomotives used in revenue service, as well as the fleet of diesel work locomotives. In addition, the project will provide new electrical service to the facility for lighting and shop equipment. The work shall include, but is not limited to: Shop Facilities—Front Shop Which Includes the Following: Four Service Tracks, One Release Track, Drop Table Tracks, and Inspection Pits.

Many bidding opportunities available.
 If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Outreach Coordinator: Matthew.DeGudicibus@skanska.com

SKANSKA Kiewit Posillico
SKANSKA KIEWIT POSILLICO JOINT VENTURE
IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM NEW YORK STATE CERTIFIED M/WBE AND SDVOB SUBCONTRACTORS/VENDORS FOR THE
Long Island Railroad Expansion Project from Floral Park to Hicksville
 MTA LIRR Contract
 Bid Date: July 6, 2017

Description of project:
 The LIRR Expansion Project from Floral Park to Hicksville is a strategic component in Governor Andrew Cuomo's comprehensive plan to transform New York's vital transportation infrastructure while improving the economy, environment, and future of Long Island. The Expansion is decades in the making. Residents and commuters along the Main Line corridor have long sought a mass transit solution to reduce congestion, improve safety and the environment, and provide an appealing alternative to driving, with minimal disruption to existing services and without residential property takings. The new plan includes construction of a 9.8 mile third track between the Floral Park and Hicksville stations, the elimination of 7 grade crossings to improve safety and reduce road traffic, and upgrades to infrastructure, stations, and parking along the route.

Subcontracting opportunities include, but are not limited to:
 Civil Work, Professional Services, Mechanical Work, Architectural Work, Metals, Electrical Work, and Design Services.

If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact: info@skanskakiewitposillico.com

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Shea McNally JV
BIDDING OPPORTUNITY
 MBE/WBE/DBE Certified with the following certifying authority:

A DBE is a Disadvantaged, Minority, or Woman Business Enterprise that has been certified by an entity from which EPA accepts certifications as described in 40 CFR 33.204-33.205 or certified by EPA. EPA accepts certifications from entities that meet or exceed EPA certification standards as described in 40 CFR 33.202.

Inviting qualified contractors, specifically MBE/WBE/DBE firms certified/eligible as listed above, to contact Shea McNally JV (Prime Contractor listed below) regarding subcontracting services and material supply opportunities in connection with the upcoming tunnel and shafts project.

The Work under this contract is located in Long Island (Babylon), New York. The Work consists of:

Southwest Outfall Replacement, Capital Project No. 8108
 Owner: County of Suffolk – Dept. of Public Works-Yaphank, NY
 Capital Project No. 8108
 BID DATE: June 8, 2017 at 11:00 AM

Opportunities to participate exist in the following specific areas of soil and rock excavation, hauling, excavation support systems, underground blasting, structural steel, engineering, survey, instrumentation and monitoring services, materials testing, demolition and site preparation, environmental investigation, utility relocation, paving, fencing and gates, geotechnical and structural instrumentation, slurry wall, cased auger shaft construction, secant piles, cast-in-place concrete structures, reinforcing steel, ground stabilization, rock-bolts, steel dowels, shotcrete, concrete finishing, waterproofing, service utilities, grouting, mechanical equipment – hydraulic, sluice & weir gates, electrical services, pest control, IT services, security, waste disposal, cleaning services, and security services.

Any business seeking to participate as a MBE/WBE/DBE in the Contract that is not currently certified DBE by the EPA and the requirements set forth above should review 40 CFR 33.204-33.205 or certified by EPA shown above to obtain current certification.

Shea McNally JV set up an FTP site where you can view all plans, specifications and addendums for your convenience. Please contact Steve Fiore at (909) 595-4397, Steven.Fiore@jfshea.com, to receive instructions on accessing the FTP Site.

Shea McNally JV
 An EEO Employer
 (J.F. Shea Construction, Inc. – McNally Tunneling Corporation)
 667 Brea Canyon Road, Suite 22 • Walnut, CA 91789
 909-594-0990 • 909-869-0827 (fax)
 Attn: Dennis Poulton, Chief Engineer

NORTHEAST EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

2017

Contracting 101
 Wednesday, May 10, 2017, 5:30 pm–7:30 pm
 Parsons Government Center, 70 West River Street, Milford, CT
 Main Sponsor(s): Small Business Administration, City of Milford
 Contact: Lisa Powell, 860-240-4892, lisa.powell@sba.gov
 Fee: Free; registration required
 Are you thinking about preparing your business to pursue government contracts? Are you ready to take some definite steps? This seminar will cover where you need to be registered in order to do business with the State of Connecticut, municipalities, the private sector, as well as the federal government. You will be shown how to find the bids and identify available state and federal set-aside programs.

Boots to Business Reboot
 Tuesday, May 16, 2017, 9:00 am–5:00 pm
 SUNY Polytechnic Institute, 100 Seymour Road, Kunsela Hall, Room A129, Utica, NY
 Main Sponsor(s): Small Business Administration Syracuse District Office, Mohawk Valley Small Business Development Center, Utica SCORE
 Contact: Michael Stout, 315-471-9393 X 226, michael.stout@sba.gov
 Fee: Free; registration required
 Boots to Business Reboot is a two-step training program that provides participants an overview of business ownership as a career vocation, an outline and knowledge on the components of a business plan, a practical exercise in opportunity recognition, and an introduction to available public and private sector resources. Step one is the Introduction to Entrepreneurship course eligible to veterans of all eras, service members (including members of the National Guard and Reserve) and their spouses. Step two is the follow-on Foundations of Entrepreneurship course instructed by a consortium of professors and skilled business advisors from the SBA Network. Register for the May 16 or the SBA Reboot classes at <https://sbavets.force.com>

The Right Foot Business Start-Up Workshop
 Thursday, May 25, 2017, 9:00 am–11:30 am
 Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce, 1 Chamber Way, Westerly, RI
 Main Sponsor(s): Rhode Island Small Business Development Center
 Contact: Susan Snyder, 401-874-7232, ssnyder@uri.edu
 Fee: Free; registration required
 Test your dreams in this intensive workshop designed to assess the feasibility of your business idea and provide you with the tools and tips you need to plan for entrepreneurship. Both traditional and progressive tools like The Big Idea and the Business Model Canvas will be utilized to help you target your customers, define your value proposition, and estimate the resources and cash needed to be successful. You can extend this one-time workshop by working with an RISBDC business counselor. The focus of the workshop includes market opportunity recognition nuts and bolts, government requirements and legal considerations, and elements of a business model. If you're starting a business or need feedback on the essential steps, this workshop is for you!