



Black Construction: Its Legacy and Future

By Harry C. Alford

One of the richest legacies of African descendants is construction. From the pyramids of Egypt to the building of America, blacks have been involved in this industry that will survive the times. We will always build. Even when we demolish existing structures, it is because we are about to build something new to replace it. Yes, construction has a certain future. It is a producer of many jobs and can provide not only a living for the laborers in the business, but wealth for entrepreneurs to be handed down generation by generation.

African slaves were brought to this continent in the early 1500s to build New York (New Amsterdam at the time), Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, DC, and the entire Southeastern territories. The craftsmanship that was learned through this action gave freed slaves an advantage as we slowly approached the Industrial Revolution. America relied on the crafts learned by blacks during slavery and passed along to offspring

from generation to generation. Even Chicken George's son in the *Roots* miniseries owned a lumber yard to sell supplies to the local black craftsmen who were the builders of the community.

As I grew up in Ventura County, California, it was marvelous to admire the parents of my friends. The Gastons, from east Texas, were masters at drywall. The Draytons, from Louisiana, could lay masonry like no one else. The Gordons, from Georgia, were expert hod carriers. No one could build a spiral staircase like Frank Williams, from Louisiana. He was so good that the wealthy would fly him to Australia, Japan, etc., to build spiral staircases for custom-designed mansions. He spent most of his local time doing it for homes in Hollywood and Beverly Hills. He raised eighteen children from the profits of his craft. There were many more transplanted craftsmen in my Southern California home, and they were barely literate and uneducated, but they mastered their crafts.

Due to the Jim Crow laws of the South, there were many black southern craftsmen who would travel to perform their skills. Many would go to places like New York, Philadelphia, or Detroit,



and would out-compete local white contractors who could not perform as well as they did and could not settle for their affordable pricing. It was because of this that construction unions in the North were formed to block out black crews from coming into

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Sub-Bid Requests

George Harms Construction is seeking DBE/SBE vendors, suppliers, subcontractors

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SKANSKA Kiewit ECCO III JV 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

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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

Supporting Women in Business
 Tuesday, May 23, 2017, 5:30 pm–7:30 pm
 Peabody and Arnold, 600 Atlantic Avenue,
 Federal Reserve Plaza, Boston, MA
 Main Sponsor(s): Center for Women Enterprise,
 Eastern Bank, and REBA
 Contact: Nicole COHEN, cohen@reba.net
 Fee: Free; registration required
 Feel free to bring along other lawyers and real estate professionals—real estate brokers, property managers, bank officers, loan officers, mortgage brokers, appraisers, architects, engineers, landscape architects, designers, etc.—who may enjoy meeting other women in our professional community and becoming a part of our growing network. To attend, RSVP by May 18, 2017, to Nicole Cohen at cohen@reba.net. Your RSVP and a current photo ID are required to enter this event.

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, snyder@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!

Starting a Small Business in Maine
 Thursday, June 15, 2017, 2:30 pm–4:30 pm
 Southern Midcoast CareerCenter, 275 Bath Road,
 Suite 3, Brunswick, ME
 Main Sponsor(s): Small Business Administration,
 Maine Small Business Development Center,
 Southern Midcoast CareerCenter
 Contact: 207-373-4000, brunswick.careercenter2@mae.gov
 Fee: Free; registration required
 Here in Maine, many people want to be self-employed. So what does it really take to plan, start, and run a successful small business where you can realize the challenges and satisfaction of working for yourself? Join us for a two-hour afternoon session, where a Maine Small Business Development Center Certified Master Business Counselor will present a comprehensive overview of the keys to successful small business start up and management, focusing on the business plan. What is it? Why do you need one? What can it do for you? This session is free of charge and is co-sponsored by the Small Business Administration, Maine Small Business Development Center, and Southern Midcoast CareerCenter. Please call to reserve your spot: 207-373-4000.