

# The pulse

**The Hippest Source for diversity + Business in the Gulf South**

*Created and Distributed by the Southern Region Minority Development Council, Inc.*

**VOLUME 311**

# EVENTS



## MONTHLY MBE OUTREACH

April 11, 2024 - 11:00AM CST Virtual

**Half Past Six**  
Mini Concerts & Networking Mixers

**STAY TUNED FOR OUR UPCOMING HALF PAST SIX:  
A NETWORKING HAPPY HOUR EVENT FEATURING  
ARTISTS FROM ACROSS THE REGION!**

**MARCH 28, 2024**





SOUTHEASTERN DIVERSITY  
& LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

| APRIL 4-5, 2024

strong  
leaders  
*creating*  
stronger solutions  
*Biloxi, MS*

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



CHRIS WOMACK



STEDMAN GRAHAM

PANELISTS AND SPEAKERS



DR. LINDA  
WILEY BING



DR. ALEXANDRIA  
WHITE



TINA SHAH  
PAIKEDAY



AUGUSTUS L.  
COLLINS



DR. SAMUEL  
JONES



DR. THERESA  
R. HORNE



DOTTIE  
LI



DR. SERELDA  
L. HERBIN



MARIA  
MARUKIAN



ALVIN-O  
WILLIAMS



JAMES D.  
ROLLINS



JEANNETTE  
MILLS



KASSI  
RUSHING



DR. CANDACE  
WARNER



FELICIA  
LAMAR



DOROTHY  
WILSON



MITCH  
WAYCASTER



CAMILLE  
S. YOUNG



KIM  
WASHINGTON



WILLIE  
JONES



CANDIE L.  
SIMMONS



TAMARA  
J. WYRE



LOUISE  
DUNCAN

SOUTHEASTERNDIVERSITYCONFERENCE.COM

[click here to learn more and to register](#)

# RESOURCES

## CURRENT BID OPPORTUNITIES

**NEW ORLEANS SEWERAGE AND WATER BOARD - HEALTHCARE PLAN  
CONSULTANT  
DEADLINE: MARCH 22, 2024**

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION - HVAC WATER  
TREATMENT SERVICES  
DEADLINE: MARCH 25, 2024**



**CLICK HERE TO [REGISTER](#) AND  
RECEIVE THE PULSE BIDS IN YOUR  
INBOX ON THE 1ST AND 15TH OF  
EVERY MONTH!**

We welcome all of your important news and events! To have your info included in The Pulse, email [mhairston@SRMSDC.org](mailto:mhairston@SRMSDC.org).

Lead time for our Corporate/MBE members to have their event/RFP listed in The Pulse is 2 weeks prior to the publishing date.

(psst ... we print on Fridays)





*Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center Authority  
2100 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd North, Birmingham, AL 35203  
www.bjcc.org - phone 205.458.8400*

**BJCC**  
**Contractor's Pre-Qualification Statement**  
**Project Title: BJCC Amphitheater General Construction Package**  
**Due: March 26, 2024, at 2:00 pm local time**

Dear Contractors,

The Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center Authority invites qualified construction contractors to participate in the prequalification process for bidding on the BJCC Amphitheater General Construction Package project. Our organization is committed to selecting competent and experienced contractors to ensure the successful completion of this project. The prequalification process will help us evaluate your company's capabilities and determine your eligibility to submit a bid. Please provide the information in the order listed.

**Project Overview:**

The General Construction Package aims to provide the general construction of the Performance Platform. Production/Back of House, VIP building and entry, Kitchen/Concessions, Main Entry, Vending, Bowl, Bowl Restrooms/Concessions and Artist building. The work will include concrete foundations/walls, concrete slabs on grade, masonry, structural steel, metal wall panels, handrails, roofing, aluminum storefronts, bleachers/seating, finishes, kitchen equipment, fire protection, plumbing, HVAC, electrical, audio visual, telecommunications, curb and gutter, asphalt paving, concrete paving, hardscapes, landscaping, ornamental fencing, installation of domestic/fire water, power service to the site. Completion of the work will be under and aggressive schedule.

This construction endeavor demands high-level expertise in the described scope of work, adherence to safety standards, and efficient project management. We seek contractors with a proven track record of delivering quality workmanship, adhering to schedules, and maintaining strict budgetary controls.

**Important Dates:**

- Pre-qualification Submission Deadline: March 26, 2024, 2:00 pm
- Notification of Qualified Contractors: March 28, 2024, 2:00 pm
- **Mandatory** Pre-bid meeting: April 4, 2024, 10:00 am
- Bid opening: April 26, 2024, 10:00 am
- Anticipated award date: May 3, 2024

[\(click for Contrator's Pre:Qulaification Statement\)](#)



# BLOG & MORE

As we progress, we aim to empower our stakeholders with valuable information to enhance market share and growth. In the upcoming months, we will introduce a new “Did You Know?” section and a Blog.

The “Did You Know?” segment will deliver research findings, market insights, and regulatory updates to keep our stakeholders well-informed for effective growth strategies. This information will be sourced from policymakers and regulatory bodies, ensuring everyone stays updated on the evolving market landscape.

The Blog will feature discussions on climate change, sustainability, DEI, and economic development policies that could impact your organizations.

Whether you are an MBE, Resource Partner, or Corporate Member, these new additions will offer valuable insights and support.

[Check out “The Role of Circularity in Fortune 5000” \(Part 1/3\)  
by our President/CEO Alvino Williams!](#)



## MATCHMAKER365

MatchMaker365 is a tool leveraging technology for a streamlined process for you and your buyers. MatchMaker365 connects buyers, with actual sourcing opportunities, to suppliers that provide the goods or services needed..

As a Minority Business Enterprise registered with the Southern Region Minority Supplier Development Council, we have already imported your Company’s Profile into **Matchmaker 365**. This allows you to start using the site and positioning yourself to be found by corporate buyers. Connect today!

Click below for Matchmaker 365 resources:

[Video](#)   [Webpage](#)   [Training](#)

# SUGGESTED WEEKLY READING

## *PBS News Hour: Why diversity initiatives at colleges and companies are facing political backlash* by John Yang, Karina Cuevas

Utah's Spencer Cox is the latest governor to sign a new law banning any state funding for programs dedicated to promoting diversity, including at state colleges and universities. Utah joins five other states, Florida, Texas, North Carolina, North Dakota, and Tennessee. They all have laws on the books restricting or banning DEI.

Lawmakers in 25 states have introduced more than 70 bills targeting DEI efforts at public institutions. The issue has flared up in the wake of the October 7 attacks in Israel and the war against Hamas. It sparked debates over tolerance, inclusion and academic freedom.

### **What is lost when these offices are closed?**

An institution loses its fidelity to its mission. There are nearly 5,000 colleges and universities across the United States. Most of them include some language in their missions about preparing students for citizenship in a diverse democracy and other commitments to offering and assuring an inclusive learning environment for all students.

That is lost as institutions walk back their commitments to DEI. What's also lost is our ultimate contribution to the defense of our democracy. It is dangerous to send millions of college-educated people into the world and into our professions underprepared to deal with the inequities that have long disadvantaged our democracy.

(read the entire transcript)





# **POSITIVE PINCH**

**TO BE NOBODY BUT YOURSELF  
IN A WORLD WHICH IS  
DOING ITS BEST, NIGHT AND  
DAY, TO MAKE YOU  
EVERYBODY ELSE -  
MEANS TO FIGHT THE  
HARDEST BATTLE WHICH ANY  
HUMAN BEING CAN  
FIGHT; AND NEVER  
STOP FIGHTING.**

**- e.e. cummings**

# WORTH MENTIONING

## Small Business Sustainability Plan and Ideas

By Eric Czerwonka (for BuddyPunch.com)

### What's the importance of having a small business sustainability plan?

Small businesses need to focus on sustainability because they can do things that help the environment and ensure their long-term survival, no matter how small they are.

When small businesses use sustainable practices, they help reduce pollution, conserve natural resources, and produce less waste.

### *Top 5 Steps to Attain Sustainability for a Small Business*

*Step 1: Educating Yourself and Your Team About Sustainability*

*Step 2: Identify Areas Where Sustainability Improvements Are Needed*

*Step 3: Potential Opportunities To Enhance Sustainability In Business*

*Step 4: Clear Vision and Set Specific Sustainability Goals*

*Step 5: Implement The Changes Outlined In Your Sustainability Vision*

### *Sustainability Ideas For Businesses | Top 5*

- 1. Go Paperless*
- 2. Choose Recycled Products*
- 3. Control Electronics*
- 4. Manage Utilities*
- 5. Involve Your Team*

*(read the complete article)*





## NEWLY CERTIFIED MBES

HANDYMAN SERVICES, LLC	Pressure Washing and Exterior Cleaning	AL
KENYA MAMA, LLC	All Purpose Stew Seasonings	AL
TSC ASSOCIATES, LLC	Training and Consulting in Food and Hospitality Industry	AL
TATE SUPPLY, LLC	Business and Office Supplies	AL
PLAN NORTH PARTNERS, LLC	Project Management Firm	AL
PAAID, LLC	Environmental Services Consulting	AL
DLOCK, LLC	IT and Engineering Consulting	AL
NSPIRE UI	Events, Entertainment and Marketing firm	AL
SAWMILL USA 1 PALLET MFG CO.	Pallett manufacturers and brokers	AL
C BURNS, LLC	Pecan Candy and Tomato-based BBQ Sauce manufacturer	LA
SKILLTYPE, INC.	Producers of Web-based Software	LA
JDM ASSOCIATES	Contracting Services	LA
BURMA HUT, LLC	Ready to eat grab & go sushi	LA
765 CONSULTANT SERVICES, LLC	IT management and consulting services	LA
D FIELDS CONSTRUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES INC.	Full-service construction	LA
MHE CONSULTING AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT	Construction material retailers	LA
MONICA SYLVAIN CONSULTING, LLC	Management consulting services	LA
PICC, LLC	Industrial hydro-blasting and vacuuming services	MS
LEGEND OF MASTER INTERNATIONAL	Importer and wholesaler of frozen seafood and Japanese food products	MS





## The Weekly Typo Drawing!

Occasionally, you may find a typo or technical error (sometimes it is on purpose and sometimes it's not). If you find one email us

**here**, and in the subject line just write the word **“TYPO.”** Once we receive your email your name will be automatically entered into our monthly **GOLDEN TICKET** drawing. We

encourage you to read through our weekly communications, to support our weekly Pulse getting better, and if you find a mistake you **W!!!!N BIG!**





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