

Minority Contracting Goals Achieved

Portland Development Commission success noted

The Portland Development Commission has announced that minority, women and emerging small businesses received almost 37 percent of all PDC contract expenditures for fiscal year 2007-2008.

The MWESB firms represent \$42 million out of the \$114 million expended by PDC. These contracts include construction projects and personal services contracts.

"The new policies we've implemented, which actively encourage MWESB firms to work on PDC projects, have resulted in a 300 percent increase in the dollars directed to these firms over the past two years," said PDC Executive Director Bruce Warner. "I am extremely proud of that number."

In addition to the dollars spent on projects, the workforce diversity policies PDC implemented have produced numbers not previously seen on large-scale construction projects in Portland.

Minority and female workers represented 28 percent of all hours worked on projects which received some level of PDC



Bruce Warner

funding. In the South Waterfront, over 20 percent of workers earning their journey card (meaning they completed apprenticeship programs) were minorities.

"We've also been able to achieve these successes in partnership with organized labor," John Jackley, PDC director of communications and business equity. "More than 90 percent of our projects pay prevailing wage rates. These are family wage jobs that include health insurance benefits which are important for everyone."

The development agency's community-based model to increase diversity in contracting and workforce hiring includes

a construction wage policy, business and workforce equity policy, and community-based workforce diversity advisory committee.

These efforts have resulted in the organization's first-ever workforce diversity goals and upcoming new contractor requirements. PDC's Board also adopted in 2009 a strategic plan goal of social equity.

By closely working with the National Association of Minority Contractors-Oregon, the Minority Chambers of Commerce and the Metropolitan Contracting Improvement Partnership, the development commission focuses on building contractor capacity, a renewed

partnership with organized labor and support for pre-apprenticeship programs such as Oregon Tradeswomen Inc., the Evening Trades Apprenticeship Program, WorkSystems Inc., Irvington Covenant, Portland Youthbuilders and CAWS (Construction Apprenticeship and Workforce Solutions)

"Due to the economic climate we are now experiencing, we anticipate that total construction spending will slow down for the current fiscal year," Jackley said. "Nevertheless, we will work to ensure that there is diverse and inclusive participation in whatever construction dollars are available."

Newsmaker for Community Contributions

PDC's John Jackley works for diversity

The Royal Rosarians held its annual Newsmakers of the Year Awards banquet last month celebrating newsworthy contributions to the community.

John Jackley of the Portland Development Commission was the Portland Observer's honoree for 2009. The newspaper was one of eight media representatives invited to help bestow public recognition for special contributions to the community.

Jackley is the Director of Communications and Business Equity at the PDC, a government organization that has been able in the last several years to achieve construction workforce diversity performance exceeding 21 percent people of color and 36 percent use of minority, women and emerging small business subcontracting firms.



John Jackley of the Portland Development Commission receives a Royal Rosarians Newsmaker of the Year award for his contributions to achieve workforce diversity at PDC. He was nominated for the award by the Portland Observer. Also pictured (from left) are Royal Rosarian Lord High Chancellor Sue Klobertanz, Kathy Linder of the Portland Observer, Charles Washington, publisher of the newspaper, and Royal Rosarian Denny Baker.

a \$471 million per biennium local government construction program, and led the agency's minority contracting and workforce initiatives. He previously served as senior legislative assistant in the Oregon Senate Democratic Caucus office and as an elected member of the West Linn-Oregon City Council.

Before moving to Oregon, he worked as press secretary and political advisor to members of the Democratic leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, DC. His first book, Hill Rat: Blowing the Lid Off Congress, was a Washington Post and national bestseller; and was followed by Below The Beltway, a top-selling account of Washington, DC's political culture in the Clinton years.

Jackley has provided political commentary on the Today Show, ABC News Nightline, C-NBC, CSPAN, Fox Morning News, and Inside Edition, where he also worked as a consulting producer. His commentary and reviews have appeared in the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Newsweek, Associated Press, the Economist, and many others. He previously worked for the Council of the Americas and in the Political Section of the U.S. Embassy in the Republic of Panama.

John graduated cum laude from Washington and Lee University in Virginia and received the Certificate of Public Management from the Atkinson School of Business at Willamette University in Oregon.

He is responsible for maximizing financial resources in the city's urban renewal areas and for achieving social equity in its investments; directing communications and public outreach; diversity in contracting and workforce; administration of the Board of Commissioners, and other political and policy issues.

Jackley previously served as executive officer at the Oregon Department of Transportation, where he helped create a \$100 million Connect Oregon transportation program, supervised

Black Coalition Builds Reserve

The Black Citizen's Coalition of Neighborhoods is looking to stay solvent in difficult times. The coalition advocates policy makers on behalf of issues facing the black community like jobs, housing, and gentrification.

Director Willie Brown says the group is trying to cut costs on an already shoe-string budget made up of small grants. The group has no paid staff.

The organization is taking these steps so that it can better fund its programs; efforts like the support it gives to residents who were displaced by Hurricane Katrina and local kids who need help finding summer jobs, among other issues.

"Any dollars we can save are a plus," Brown said.

In order to pinch pennies, the coalition is moving out of its rented space next to the offices of the Portland Observer at 4747 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Brown also noted that his group is trying to get funding from the city's Office of Neighborhood Involvement. Currently, neighborhood



Willie Brown

organizations can get funding from the city, but since the coalition doesn't represent a specific geographic area of Portland, it's considered different, and needs to apply for the Civic Leadership Program.

According to Brian Hoop, manager for the city's neighborhood resource center, the coalition applied last year for a \$67,000 grant, but was unsuccessful. It did get a \$2,500 grant that could be used for a broad range of activities.



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