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Small Business is Good Business



Advocating, Informing and Promoting Small & Minority Owned Businesses

Learn How to Unleash Your Billion Dollar Idea at OMBC

Global Entrepreneur Chinedu Echeruo Talks \$1 Billion Apple Deal at the Ohio Municipalities Business Conference

Chinedu Echeruo will speak on Wednesday, August 2 at the OMBC.

The two-day statewide conference will provide tangible tips, resources and business opportunities to start-ups, entrepreneurs and small business owners across the state. Hosted by Mayor Andrew Ginther and the City of Columbus, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the conference will provide an interactive platform for municipality leads, procurement officers, supplier diversity professionals, business owners and

See OMBC on page 4



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ECDI unveils Capital For Construction program for MBEs

Economic & Community Development Institute (ECDI) unveiled a new program focused on providing financing to minority-owned construction subcontractors. The program, called "Capital For Construction," is a partnership with JPMorgan Chase & Co. The launch event took place July 27 at the Wolfe Shelter house.

More than half of minority contractors surveyed by an ECDI-led working group reported the need for advance payments to bridge the time gap between the start of construction work and payment for the work. Two-thirds of contractors surveyed said they are concerned about starting a construction job without the availability of an advance payment.

Through the MBE Financing Program, supported by a \$290,000 from JPMorgan Chase, ECDI

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OhioMBE welcomes letters to the editor from readers. Typed letters of 200 words or less are preferred; all might be edited. Each letter must include name, home address and daytime phone number. Some letter may appear on our website.

The 912 Group is an Ohio certified Minority Owned and EDGE business. The 912 Group is a certified FBE with the City of Columbus.

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Register

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VOTE

government briefs

State MLK Commission seeks nominations for awards



Nominations are being accepted for awards honoring Ohioans who carry on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 2018 marks the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's death.

Awards honoring such individuals and organizations will be given at the 2018 Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration, scheduled for Jan. 11, 2018, at Trinity Episcopal Church in downtown Columbus. The theme of the commemorative celebration is MLK50: Legacy of Love in Pursuit of Justice.

The award ceremony is sponsored by the Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission, which is housed within the Equal Opportunity Division of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS).

Nominations are due to the commission by Sept. 30. For more information and a nomination form, visit das.ohio.gov/mlk or contact Bobbi Bell-Bartholomew of the DAS Equal Opportunity Division at [614-466-8380](tel:614-466-8380) or mlk@das.ohio.gov.

Columbus Regional Airport Authority's Office of Business Diversity: Vendor Open House

The Columbus Regional Airport Authority's Office of Business Diversity is excited to announce a collaborative effort to engage small, minority and diverse business owners with information on partnership opportunities with our food, retail and rental car vendors.

We will be hosting an Open House on August 18, 2017 that will include informational sessions with our master concessionaires HMSHost and Paradies, as well as our car rental agencies. We will be discussing current and future opportunities to partner with these vendors and the Columbus Regional Airport Authority.

Business owners will also learn how they can become a registered small, minority or diverse business partner with the Columbus Regional Airport Authority, which operates John Glenn International Airport, Rickenbacker International Airport and Bolton Field. A representative from the Ohio Unified Certification Program will be on hand to help answer any questions on becoming a certified Airport Concessions Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE).

- 9-11:30 a.m. or 1-3:30 p.m.
- John Glenn International Airport, 4600 International Gateway, Columbus, OH 43219
- Parking: Garage parking will be validated.

Register by clicking:

Morning Session 9-11:30 a.m. <http://conta.cc/2uFM4Sx>

Afternoon Session 1-3:30 p.m. <http://conta.cc/2vQRxV8>



A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work. -- Secretary of State Colin Powell

publisher's note

Ohio MBE Awards 2017

Advocate! Resist!

By Ronda Watson Barber - publisher

Resist and Advocate has been the rallying cry and theme for my columns during 2017. As Americans, we have the responsibility to make a more perfect union. We have to create an environment of equal economic opportunities and freedoms for future generations. As Black Americans we have a legacy of working to create equality. We still have major work to do. Columbus has the unfortunate designation of being one of the most economically segregated cities in the nation.

The Columbus Branch of the NAACP has been busy making a positive difference for Black business owners. Under the leadership of President Nana Watson, the civil rights organization has been active in promoting equal and fair access to contracting opportunities for Black-owned businesses.

The Columbus NAACP is following the purpose and goals of the NAACP's Economic Sustainability Plan, as directed by the National NAACP. The NAACP Economic Department's work enhances the capacity of African Americans and other underserved groups through financial economic education; individual and community asset building initiatives; diversity and inclusion in business hiring, career advancement and procurement; and monitoring financial banking practices.

The local group convened a forum of Black business owners to discuss purchasing issues with Columbus City Schools. Through those discussions with the state's largest public school district, the barrier of requiring insurance upon registering as a vendor has been eliminated.

The local NAACP and its members have publicly questioned Franklin County's recently enacted inclusion and diversity plan. The plan includes LGBTQ community members and didn't have purchasing goals. Traditionally, sexual orientation has not been included in procurement inclusion. According to the NAACP, "The plan identifies other groups, yet there is no data showing they have been victims of discrimination. The Federal guidelines for purchasing and procurement protects and assists minorities, women, veterans and the economically disadvantaged." As a result of the NAACP's advocacy, a committee has been formed to establish purchasing goals for Franklin County.

Kudos to the NAACP and its membership. Your economic initiatives to empower Black businesses in the nation's 14th largest city are making a difference.

It can't continue to be business as usual. Now is the time to Advocate and Resist!

Just my thoughts...rwb

Save the Date: October 25, 2017. We will recognize small & minority businesses and their advocates. The Frank W. Watson Scholarships will also be presented. Ticket and sponsorship information is available online at www.OhioMBEAwards.com.

The OhioMBE Awards are sponsored by Wesbanco Bank, The Ohio Business Development Center, The Columbus Zoo & Aquarium and the Columbus Airport Authority.

Ohio Certification Center

The Ohio Certification Center is here to help you get your business certified as a:

Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)

State of Ohio
City of Columbus

Female Business Enterprise (FBE)

City of Columbus

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)

Columbus City Schools (LEDE)
Ohio Department of Transportation

EDGE (Encouraging Diversity Equity and Growth)

www.OhioCertificationCenter.com



Visit OhioMBE.eventbee.com for upcoming class dates.



Got some business news to share? Send it to news@OhioMBE.com.

It may appear in an upcoming issue of OhioFBE or OhioMBE.

will provide qualified minority contractors with low-interest advance payments of \$5,000 to \$150,000. The planning group believes this program will create or retain more than 100 construction jobs per year in Franklin County.



Jesse Mark

"We are thrilled to partner with JPMorgan Chase to provide essential resources to minority-owned businesses in Central Ohio," said Inna Kinney, Founder & CEO of Economic and Community Development Institute. "This partnership strengthens ECDI's commitment to address financing gaps for new and existing MBE businesses, creating new jobs while establishing stronger business sustainability for an often neglected entrepreneur population."

Kinney was joined at the launch event by Pete Mattingly of JPMorgan Chase, Lonnie Miles of McClellan Construction, Dan Moncreif III of McDaniels Construction, and Nancy Tidwell, owner of NRT & Associates.

"Access to capital and bonding has been major barriers to inclusion for contractors, especially minority contractors," Moncreif said. "With this program we're taking a tremendous step as a community toward eliminating capital barriers. I believe this will be transformational for many small, minority-owned construction companies."

In addition to accessing financing, subcontractors will also be able to take advantage of industry-specific training, incubation services, and mentorship opportunities.

Jesse Mark, ECDI relationship manager will oversee this program during its pilot phase. He can be reached for additional information at www.jmark@ecdi.org

leaders, and industry influencers to discuss best practices in supplier diversity to build and grow their businesses.


Recognized in Fortune, Forbes and others, Chinedu Echeruo is a serial entrepreneur who has dared to invent the future. In 2005, he founded Hopstop, the pioneering travel app that helped millions of users navigate public transportation in major metropolitan areas around the world. In 2013 he sold the company to Apple for a reported \$1 billion.

Chinedu Echeruo, a former hedge fund manager and frustrated New York City resident lost in a vast bus and subway system. His desire to fix the dilemma of figuring out how to get from point A to point B using public transit led to the invention of HopStop.com, a pedestrian navigation service that helps people get door-to-door directions or find nearby subway stations, bus stops, taxi service providers, and car rental places.

Launched in 2005, New York-based HopStop distinguished itself as a perennial innovator in the burgeoning location-based service market with not only its popular online and mobile Websites, but also its industry-leading mobile applications for both iOS and Android. The apps cover more than 300 cities throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe, and the United Kingdom. HopStop grew 250% in three years, from \$574,268 in revenue for 2007 to \$2 million in 2010 and an estimated \$5 million in 2012.

In a historic move, HopStop was sold to Apple Inc., for what some analysts estimate to be \$1 billion. HopStops's acquisition by Apple helps to bolster the hardware company's software mapping tools. There is not doubt that Apple paid a large sum for HopStop, says Jim Thatcher, a researcher who specializes in mobile mapping technology at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. "There is a gold rush for mapping apps like it."

As a child growing up in eastern Nigeria, Echeruo always wanted to be an entrepreneur. He attended Kings College in Lagos and Syracuse University and Harvard Business School in the U.S. After working several years in the Mergers & Acquisitions and Leveraged Finance groups of JPMorgan Chase, and later at the hedge fund AM Investment Partners, he founded two Internet-based companies, HopStop.com and Tripology.com (a lead-generation and travel referral business for the travel industry), for which he raised nearly \$8 million from private investors. In 2010, he sold Tripology.com to the travel and navigation information company Rand McNally for an undisclosed amount. Tripology is now owned by USA Today.

 "The real test is not whether you avoid this failure, because you won't. It's whether you let it harden or shame you into inaction, or whether you learn from it; whether you choose to persevere." -- President Barack Obama

More information on the conference can be found at www.columbus.gov/OMBC2017

Echeruo bio source: Black Enterprise



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Frank W. Watson Scholarship

Please consider making a donation to the Frank W. Watson Scholarship. The scholarship provides financial assistance to local students seeking post-secondary education.

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bid opportunities

To post a bid notice, call 614-522-9122 or email news@ohiombe.com



LEGAL NOTICE

OPERATION: FIX IT – ROOF UPGRADES FOR BRIGGS HIGH SCHOOL & LINDBERGH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sealed proposals will be received by the **BOARD OF EDUCATION**, City School District of Columbus, Ohio, for the above referenced projects. More information can be found on the District's web site at <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/rfp>



LEGAL NOTICE

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES

The Columbus City School District announces a Request for Qualifications for the following project:

Renovation of HVAC Systems in "Design-Build Delivery Model" at four schools (under one contract). The scope of work includes but is not limited to HVAC renovation with related electrical, plumbing and architectural work required to complete the project. The estimated project construction budget is \$6,704,019.54. Criteria services for the project will be provided by Star Consultants, Inc.

An Informational meeting covering the project will be held on Tuesday August 1, 2017 at 10:00 AM at the Capital Improvements office located at 889 E. 17th Avenue, Columbus OH 43211.

Submittals will be evaluated pursuant to ORC 153.66, including relevant past work of prospective firms, professional and other applicable consultants, quality control, response to CCS Community Inclusion Policy (Local Economically Disadvantaged Enterprise goal is 20% participation) and location of primary firm relative to project locations. More information can be found at <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/rfp>

Responding firms are to submit three (3) hard copies and one electronic copy (in pdf format) of their qualifications on SAO F-110-330 Statement of Qualifications Form (most recent version) to Capital Improvements, Columbus City schools, 889 E.17th Ave., Columbus OH 43211. Part 1 is limited to 30 pages. EDGE requirements do not apply to this RFQ.

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all proposals. Prevailing wage Rates do not apply to this project. Direct questions to Raj Kapoor at kapoor@starconsultants.org.



INVITATION FOR BIDS

Sealed bid proposals will be received by the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority at 100 West Cedar Street, Akron, Ohio 44307 until **2:00 p.m.** local time on **THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2017** at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

PHASE 2 EXTERIOR RENOVATIONS AND RELATED WORK at VARIOUS AMHA LIPH SINGLE FAMILY HOMES LOCATED IN AKRON, OHIO

Specifications can be purchased at SE Blueprint, Inc. located at 540 South Main Street, Suite 211, Akron, Ohio 44311 (330) 376-1689. seblue@seblueprint.com

The above mentioned are on file for viewing at the Subcontractors Association NEO, 637 Vernon Odom Blvd., Akron, Ohio; Akron Urban League, Minority Business Assistance Center, 440 Vernon Odom Blvd., Akron, Ohio; the Builders Exchange of Canton, 5080 Aultman Rd., North Canton, Ohio; Builders Exchange of Cleveland, 9555 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Cleveland, Ohio; and the Ohio Construction News, 7261 Engle Road, Suite 304, Cleveland, Ohio. A list of plan holders can be obtained from SE Blueprint's website @ www.seblueprint.com

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held by the Housing Authority at the AMHA Administration Building, 100 West Cedar Street, Akron, Ohio 44307, on **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2017 at 2:00 P.M.**

See full bid notice at www.OhioMBE.com

Need to meet your EDGE/MBE or Good Faith Contracting Efforts?

When you need EDGE or MBE participants, The 912 Group and OhioMBE can help.

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bid opportunities

To post a bid notice, call 614-522-9122 or email news@ohiombe.com



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority is requesting proposals from Security System firms for consideration in the competitive selection to provide full Security Systems Services and related work for AMHA.

Those interested in submitting a response to this Request for Proposals (RFP) may obtain the instructions/information package by contacting SE Blueprint, 540 South Main Street, Suite 211, Akron, Ohio 44311. (330) 376-1689 seblue@seblueprint.com

All responses to this RFP, to be considered, must be submitted in accordance with the requirements of the RFP and received by AMHA no later than 4:00 p.m. (local time) on Friday, August 25, 2017.

Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority
Anthony W. O'Leary
Executive Director



Meet and Network with the General Contractors Bidding on

Phase 3 of the Poindexter Redevelopment Project

Tuesday, August 8, 2017 5:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.
Model Neighborhood Facility
1393 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43205

In addition to having the opportunity to discuss the project with each of the GC's bidding, you will learn about:

- The Outreach Plan
- Davis Bacon Prevailing Wage
- Qualifying as a HUD Section 3 Contractor
- The Myths About Reporting Requirements
- MBE/WBE Opportunities
- Resources to Support Contractors
- Employment & Training Opportunities
- Matchmaking for Contractors

To REGISTER, email info@nrtandassociates.com or call (614) 237-6021.

For more information, contact Nancy R. Tidwell,
Poindexter Redevelopment Project Diversity & Inclusion Consultant
Email: ntidwell@nrtandassociates.com

This event is sponsored by McCormack Baron Salazar, Project Developer.

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"Try not to become a man of success. Rather become a man of value." -- Albert Einstein

Ohio Diversity Network

Get a weekly email from OhioDiversityNetwork.com notifying you of upcoming events. Sign up online!

Saturday, August 5, 2017 at 12:00pm
[South High Bulldog Bash](#) - Columbus

Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 2:00pm
[African American & African Studies Extension Center – Tuesday Matinee "Moonlight"](#) - Columbus

Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 5:30pm
[Poindexter Phase 3 Redevelopment GC Meet & Greet](#) - Columbus

Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 6:30pm
[Neighborhood Nights](#) - Columbus

Wednesday, August 9, 2017 at 11:30am
[COMTO Columbus: Scholarship Luncheon](#) - Columbus

Wednesday, August 16, 2017 at 1:00pm
[OhioMBE Procurement Fair hosted by the Columbus Zoo](#) - Columbus

Friday, August 18, 2017 at 9:00am
[Columbus Regional Airport Authority's Office of Business Diversity: Vendor Open House](#) - Columbus

Friday, August 18, 2017 at 1:00pm
[Columbus Regional Airport Authority's Office of Business Diversity: Vendor Open House](#) - Columbus



Hosting a business event?

Did you know you can post it on www.OhioDiversityNetwork.com

Email: news@ohiombe.com for login information

MBE Ohio Procurement Fairs



Make new contracting connections at the August 16 OhioMBE Procurement Fair, hosted by The Columbus Zoo.

Want to do business with the Columbus Zoo? Representatives will be available to discuss the purchasing process & how to get on their bidder's list.

Small business will get 15 minutes to meet one-on-one to promote their product/service.

Register at www.OhioMBE.eventbee.com

Registration is required.