



February 1, 2018

Published by The 912 Group, Ltd.

Ronda Watson Barber—Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

Volume 9—No. 2

Advocating, Informing and Promoting Small & Minority Owned Businesses

Celebrating 9 Years of Publishing

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



"Freedom is never given; it is won." —
A. Philip Randolph

Business Titans designed a better shaker

While studying product design at the Ohio State university, five product designers banded together after being dissatisfied with current protein shakers on the market and set out to develop a better product; all while balancing school, part-time jobs and senior thesis.

After spending year working on the design and shortly after graduating, they



(From left) Gered Bowman, Adan Ali, Fred Bowman (twin brother), Lonie Smith and Mohamed rage.

launched TITAN Mixer Bottle in May 2015 via Kickstarter and raised \$82,000 which they used to start production. A year later, they received their inventory and

See Titans on page 7

Inside this issue:

Page 2:
Government Briefs
Page 3:
Guest Column
Page 5:
Bid Notices
Page 8:
Register for the Feb. 15 OhioMBE Procurement Fair
Page 10:
Biz Directory
Page 11:
OhioFBE

OhioMBE

OhioMBE is published on the 1st and 15th of each month and is distributed free by The 912 Group, LTD. The publisher reserves the right to edit, reject or cancel any advertisement or editorial copy at any time and will not be responsible for checking the accuracy of items submitted for publication.

The views expressed in OhioMBE are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of The 912 Group or our advertisers.

Copyright © 2018
All Rights Reserved.
Ronda Watson Barber,
Editor-in-Chief & President
www.OhioMBE.com
rbarber@ohiombe.com

P.O. Box 533
Granville, OH 43023
614-522-9122
news@ohiombe.com


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.

Twitter: ohiombe

Facebook: ohiombe

Hashtag: #ohiombe

 Never be
limited by
other people's limited
imagination." —
Dr. Mae Jemison

government briefs

2018 Ohio Transportation Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion Award Nominations Due are due FEBRUARY 7th

The Ohio Department of Transportation is seeking nominations for eight awards that will be presented at the 2018 Civil Rights Symposium. Individual(s) and or Organizations are encouraged to submit nominations in these categories: Director's Award for Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion Advocacy; DBE Contractor of the Year Award; DBE Consultant of the Year Award; Prime Contractor of the Year Award; Prime Consultant of the Year Award; Local Public Agency of the Year Award; Transit System of the Year Award; and Business Development Award.

The nomination form is located at <http://bit.ly/2FvwgUX>

In celebration of the Ohio Department of Transportation's 2nd Annual Civil Rights Transportation Symposium, (3) Three \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to (3) individual students currently enrolled in a post high school education focusing in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics) related fields. The Civil Rights Transportation Symposium Scholarship focuses on broadening the number of individuals in the management and operation ranks of the engineering and transportation industry.

The scholarship application is available at: <http://bit.ly/2DSrF20>

★ **REGISTER TODAY!** ★

transportation.ohio.gov/odotcivilrights

April 10 & 11, 2018



— OHIO'S 2ND ANNUAL —

★ Civil Rights ★ Transportation Symposium

INCLUSION · COMMITMENT · RESULTS

350 N. High St. Columbus, Ohio

hosted by



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION



ohiombe.com

Terry A. Bolden is the Administrator for the Office of Outreach - Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Division of Opportunity Diversity and Inclusion (ODI). Terry is responsible to connect businesses to ODOT construction and engineering opportunities and projects while managing outreach activities statewide.



An upcoming project for his department is hosting the Civil Rights Transportation Symposium in April. "Attendees will learn and experience the value of Diversity and Inclusion in the Transportation industry while having the opportunity to network and build business relationships to help your company grow," he said. Registration information can be found online at transportation.ohio.gov/odotcivilrights

Prior to joining ODOT, as a Business Advisor for the US Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) located in the Greater Cleveland Partnership, Terry provided business development services for clients throughout the state of Ohio assisting companies with procurement sourcing, access to capital, and marketing plans.

Over 20 years in public service, starting in the public utility industry, Terry performed water and sewer line installation and repair at the City of Cleveland Division of Water. Several roles which included water quality inspection, infrastructure repair, and residential and commercial construction inspection. He later joined Ohio's largest Sewer Authority, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) as a Contract Compliance Officer and was responsible for increasing local vendors to the procurement directory, monitoring subcontractor utilization, and promoting NEORS Business Opportunity Program.

A graduate of Cleveland State University concentrating in Urban Studies, Terry is committed to customer service and has a passion for businesses to thrive and grow in Ohio.

Columbus NAACP Membership Drive

Dear Friend,

The Columbus Chapter of the NAACP has overcome some difficult challenges in past years, but we did not see our glass as "half-empty." Instead, we decreed and declared our glass to be full and running over.



We are delighted to report that today our chapter is fiscally sound. We have engaged the City of Columbus, Columbus City Schools, Franklin County Commissioners and the private sector in thoughtful conversations about minority purchasing and hiring and we are encouraged by their responses. In addition, we have continued to hold community forums on local issues. These forums have allowed residents to develop solutions to challenges that affect our families and our neighborhoods.

Now, we are launching our 2018 membership drive and we are asking each of you to join us in continuing the fight for freedom, justice and equality in our city and in our country. The NAACP believes that "MEMBERSHIP IS POWER!"

You can find the membership application at <http://bit.ly/2GEWN8u>. You can fill it and mail or go to our website www.naacpcolumbus.org/ and become a member. Please support our movement to make this nation ONE. We want to remind you that The NAACP is "the Largest, the Oldest, the Bad-est, and the Boldest" Civil Rights organization in America.

For more information, please call us at (614)382-6900 or email us at greatercolumbusnaacp@gmail.com

In Unity,

Nana M. Watson, President

Columbus Branch NAACP – Unit 3177

SUBSCRIBE

Get OhioMBE & bid notices delivered
to your inbox!

Visit www.OhioMBE.com

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

How to Recover from Business Setbacks

February 11 is "Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day." What better time for entrepreneurs to come to terms with the fact that setbacks happen—and that wallowing in them serves no productive purpose?

Consider these 5 ways to get over and beyond the disappointment of a business setback.

1. Acknowledge and accept it.

Going into denial or letting your pride get in the way of owning up to a business mistake or failure will only make matters worse. Take a deep breath, and accept that sometimes things go wrong. Realize that when humans are involved in anything, there's the potential for human error. It's OK to feel frustrated, but avoid pointing blame at yourself or others. Take responsibility, and then hold your head high as you take the steps needed to turn things around.

2. Put it into perspective.

Many people get into the habit of blowing problems out of proportion. Before going into "the sky is falling" mode, take a step back to assess how significant the predicament is in the grand scheme of things. Is it a financial loss that is going to affect your ability to pay your vendors? Is it a product flaw that has created a brand image problem? Is it a contractual issue that could cause legal troubles? Instances like those demand urgent action, but not every setback you face will put you in dire straits. Evaluate the impact before

jumping into crisis mode.

3. Don't dwell; direct your attention toward determining what went wrong and fixing it.

Feeling sorry for yourself won't help the situation. Put your emotions aside, and objectively evaluate the cause of the setback. Was it due to unclear language in your agreement with your customer? Was it because your customer service staff didn't have proper training? Was it because you failed to do enough market research? Immediately start laying out what you will change to ensure it doesn't happen again. This may require enlisting the help of professionals who specialize in certain business disciplines, such as human resources, law, finances, taxes, public relations, etc. Make sure you develop a clear plan for what needs to be done differently, and share it with your team so everyone is on the same page.

4. Embrace it as a learning moment that will make your business stronger.

As Malcolm Forbes once said, "Failure is success if we learn from it." As devastating as business speedbumps might be, they can benefit you in the long run. The key is to look beyond your dismay, and use the newfound wisdom gleaned from the experience to improve your company. For example, losing a key client that results in you implementing a customer loyalty program will help you retain clients—and the revenue they bring to your bottom line. And making a



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 **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2018** at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

FERTILIZATION AND WEED CONTROL SERVICES AND RELATED WORK at VARIOUS AMHA LOCATIONS WITHIN SUMMIT COUNTY, 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

An email link for the above mentioned specifications is available 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 **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2018 at 2:00 P.M.**

See complete bid notice at www.OhioMBE.com

bad hiring choice that prompts you to expand the breadth of questions you ask when considering job applicants can help ensure you choose top-notch talent going forward.

5. Reach out to trusted advisors for insight and support.

You don't have to go it alone when the going gets tough. Connect with a trusted advisor, like a SCORE mentor, a business coach, another entrepreneur who experienced a similar setback, or someone else you respect and can depend on for insight and guidance. Talking through your issues with someone who understands what it takes to overcome business challenges can help you figure out how to get past the

See Setbacks on page 5

bid opportunities

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



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 FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2018 at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

EMERGENCY GENERATOR INSPECTIONS, MAINTENANCE AND RELATED WORK at VARIOUS AMHA LOCATIONS WITHIN SUMMIT COUNTY, 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

An email link for the above-mentioned specifications is available 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, FEBRUARY 14, 2018 at 2:00 P.M.

Bidders may gain access to the interior of the building, in order to assess the work, pursuant to the viewing schedule included in the specifications.

See complete bid notice at www.OhioMBE.com

Setbacks from page 4

difficulties you're facing. It can also provide you with the inspiration and motivation to power through the situation with confidence.

Got [Spilled] Milk?

In the spirit of "Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day," pledge to accept that messes happen. Dry your eyes, grab a mop, and transform trouble into triumph.

Source: www.sba.gov



LEGAL NOTICE

OPERATION: FIX IT – ROOF UPGRADES FOR DEVONSHIRE ALTERNATIVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sealed bids for the above-referenced project will be received by the BOARD OF EDUCATION, City School District of Columbus, Ohio, Office of Capital Improvements, 889 E. 17th Ave, Columbus OH 43211, until Friday, February 9, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. More information can be found on the District's website at <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/rfp>. The plans and specifications are on file with Franklin Imaging.



COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY

COMMUNITY. COMMITMENT. COLLABORATION.

Legal Notice: IFB 2018-001 Moving Services (RAD East)

The Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority is seeking Invitation for Bids (IFB) for the procurement of Moving Services (RAD East) until Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 2:00 PM. A pre-bid conference is scheduled for 2:00 PM on Friday February 2, 2018 at our corporate office. Specifications may be obtained by visiting our website, www.cmhanet.com or by contacting the Purchasing Department of the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority at 880 E. 11th Ave, Columbus, Ohio 43211 or by calling 421-4434, 8:00 AM–4:00 PM, Monday – Friday.

**Looking for bid notices?
Look for OhioMBE online!**



www.facebook.com/ohiombe
www.facebook.com/bidnotices



www.twitter.com/ohiombe
www.twitter.com/bidnotices

bid opportunities

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



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, MARCH 1, 2018 at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

**THERMOPLASTIC ROOF REPLACEMENT AND RELATED WORK
at NIMMER PLACE APARTMENTS**
1600 BRITTAIN ROAD
AKRON, OHIO 44310

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 An email link for the above-mentioned specifications is available 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, FEBRUARY 14, 2018 at 2:00 P.M.

Bidders may gain access to the interior of the building, in order to assess the work, pursuant to the viewing schedule included in the specifications.

See complete bid notice at www.OhioMBE.com



www.OHBDC.org



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. Criteria services for the project will be provided by Star Consultants, Inc.

An Informational meeting covering the project will be held on Thursday, February 1, 2018 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 Chapter 153, 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>

See complete RFP 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.

Place your legal ad or bid notice in
OhioMBE and our other media outlets.

news@ohiombe.com | 614-522-9122

MBE | EDGE | FBE | LEDE certified

bid opportunities

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



Video Production Services

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission is requesting a quote for video production services to include production of four videos for the State of the Region.

Video production in 2018 is needed for the following:

- Annual State of the Re-

gion Luncheon – Three award videos and one video featuring MORPC's outgoing chairman, with each being 1-2 minutes in length. These videos would need to be completed by end of March 2018.

Three copies of quotes from firms and individuals to provide professional services for visual production services must be received by **MORPC by 5 p.m. (EDT) on Friday, February 2, 2018.**

See complete FRFP at OhioMBE.com



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 **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2018** at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

CONCRETE BALCONY RESTORATION AND RELATED WORK at COTTER HOUSE APARTMENTS 50 COTTER AVENUE AKRON, OHIO 44305

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

An email link for the above-mentioned specifications is

available 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 **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2018** at 2:00 P.M.

View complete bid notice at www.OhioMBE.com



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, FEBRUARY 15, 2018** at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

EXTERIOR CONCRETE BALCONY RESTORATION AND RELATED WORK at HILLTOP HOUSE APARTMENTS, 303 EAST TUSCARAWAS AVENUE, BARBERTON, OHIO 44203

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

An email link for the above-mentioned specifications is available 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

See complete bid notice at www.OhioMBE.com

Titans from page 1

shipped 4,000 units to 55 countries worldwide.

The Titans have appeared on MVP . The show puts startups in front of a panel of All-Star athletes for the opportunity of a lifetime—to convince them to become the next face of their business. The panel includes Rob Gronkowski, Kevin Durant, Antonio Brown, Marshall Faulk, Rudy Gay and more.

To purchase a bottle or find out more about their product visit www.titanmixerbottle.com, or stay up to date on social media [[@titanmixerbottle](https://twitter.com/titanmixerbottle)]. "

OhioMBE Certification 101 at the WBC

Make a resolution to get your business certified in 2018!

There are several reasons why you should get your business certified:

1. Some entities have purchasing goals. Only certified businesses can participate.
2. Certification adds legitimacy to your business. You have gone through a process that has determined that your business is owned and controlled by a minority, woman or disadvantaged business.
3. Certification can afford you loan and bonding opportunities. The State of Ohio has loan and bonding programs specifically for certified minority owned businesses.
4. Certification can be a marketing tool for your business. You can add your certifications to your marketing materials, business cards, website , etc. Many consumers like doing business with veteran, minority or woman owned businesses.
5. Certification can be used in the private sector. Many companies don't have a certifying program but in an effort to have supplier diversity, will accept the certifications from some governmental agencies.



Class dates are online at www.OhioMBE.eventbee.com



Make new contracting connections at the February 15 OhioMBE Procurement Fair

Small businesses will get 15-minute appointments to meet one-on-one with the following organizations:

- Columbus City Schools
- Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA)
- Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA)
- Franklin County Purchasing
- Kokosing Industrial Construction
- Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

Organizations confirm their participation daily, check out website and social media for update.



Ohio Diversity Network

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

Saturday, February 3, 2018 at 10:00am

Columbus WBC: Get Found on Google Search and Maps -

Columbus

Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 6:00pm

ECDI: ECDI Information Session - Columbus

Monday, February 12, 2018 at 4:00pm

ECDI: B.A.S.E. – BASIS OF A SUCCESSFUL ENTERPRISE.

SESSION 1 – IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SBDC - Columbus

Monday, February 12, 2018 at 6:30pm

Columbus Library: Grants for Nonprofits - Columbus

Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 5:00pm

Columbus WBC: MARKETING BOOT CAMP - Columbus

Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 6:30pm

Columbus Library – Starting a Small Business - Columbus

Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 6:30pm

Columbus Library – Grants for Individuals - Columbus

Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 6:00pm

Columbus WBC: COMPUTER LITERACY: BASIC CLASS 1 –

COMPUTER USAGE AND WORD PROCESSING - Columbus

Saturday, February 17, 2018 at 10:30am

Certification 101 at the WBC - Columbus

Saturday, February 17, 2018 at 12:00pm

Columbus WBC: IS YOUR CAPABILITY STATEMENT UP TO

SNUFF? - Columbus

Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 6:30pm

Columbus Library: Market Research for Entrepreneurs -

Columbus



Hosting a business event?

**Did you know you can
post it on**

OhioDiversityNetwork.com

Email: news@ohiombe.com
for login information

*OhioDiversityNetwork.com is
sponsored by:*

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

**OFFICE OF DIVERSITY
AND INCLUSION**

OhioBizDirectory.com



Include your business in our online directory -

IT'S TAX TIME!

We'll make sure you get your FULL Refund!



MAKE IT COUNT CALL (614)-598-2224



VASSCO PLUMBING & EXCAVATION

COMMERCIAL * RESIDENTIAL

WATER * SEWER * GAS

REPAIR & INSTALLATION

CONSTRUCTION SITE WORK

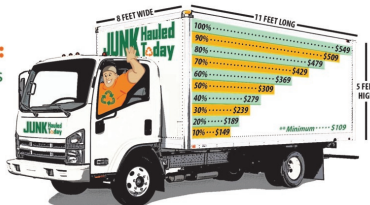
HOT & COLD WATERLINE TAPPING

OFFICE: 614.725.1410 * MOBILE: 614.629.4692

CERTIFIED MBE & LEDE

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL JUNK REMOVAL SERVICES FOR:

- HOME OWNERS • REALTORS • AUCTIONEERS
- PROPERTY MANAGERS • REO PROPERTIES
- GENERAL CONTRACTORS • REMODELERS
- ESTATE CLEAN-OUTS • OFFICE CLEAN-OUTS
- STORAGE UNITS



WHAT WE REMOVE: Furniture • Appliances • Construction Debris • Trash & More

WHY USE US: Same-Day Service • Labor Included in Rates • Insured • Licensed

Speak with a friendly Junk Ologist today.

Accepting



CONTACT US: **614-899-JUNK (5865)**

EMAIL US: contactus@JunkHauledToday.com

www.JunkHauledToday.com



Call 614.522.9122 to
reserve your spot

Get your Business
Noticed

ADVERTISE HERE

SHOO.IN

- DOMAIN SALES
- WEB HOSTING

get started at

www.shoo.in/OhioMBE

Additional
Services

- WEB DESIGN
- GRAPHIC DESIGN
- PRINTING
- PHOTOGRAPHY

24 N High St
Ste 102
Akron OH 44308



#ohiombe

#bidnotices



Business Profile: Kamala Colbert

Kamala Colbert has her eyes on the horizon, always looking for new experiences and new ways to look at the world. Kamala's path to entrepreneurship was long and complex but it was this attitude that helped her succeed. Kamala grew up in Akron, Ohio, but moved to California as teenager. "That experience opened up my eyes. I realized there is larger world than Ohio - with many opportunities." That eventually helped push her to pursue starting her own business.

After her California adventure, Kamala returned to Akron and graduated from Firestone High School. She then attended Hondros Community College where she took courses in real estate. Still not quite sure what she wanted to do, Kamala also studied to be a medical assistant at the American Technical College. Her life went in a sudden challenging direction when she was incarcerated, spending 6 years in prison. But Kamala used this unfortunate turn of events to her advantage, writing, directing and acting in plays while she was incarcerated. Shortly after her release, she enrolled in ONOW, a training program specifically for women hoping to work the construction field. The program sparked her interest in construction and painting and planted the idea that would eventually become her business.

Kamala found that entering the workforce after her incarceration was harder than she had expected, and that "it was almost impossible to find steady work after being incarcerated." After a few years of scraping by with odd jobs, Kamala knew it was time to go out on her own and in 2006 she started Colbert Painting. "At the beginning it was just me, a bucket of paint, and a paint brush". Kamala relied on her community to get her business off the ground, painting houses in her neighborhood on the East side of Columbus. She was able to leverage her community connections to be paid in advance for many of these jobs, allowing her to grow her business without having to invest large amounts of capital up front. Emboldened by her early success, Kamala began going for bigger commercial projects and landed contracts with Columbus City Schools and The Ohio State University.

By 2015 Kamala's company had begun to plateau, and it became clear that she could not grow her business working all on her own. To get bigger projects she would have to grow her

team and secure more capital to pay for supplies. This issue became urgent when she got the opportunity to bid on a \$70,000 project with the Hilliard Library. To complete the project she would have to hire a full time employee and raise the capital to buy the necessary supplies, something she could not do on her own. Through friends and community leaders she heard about ECDI's Capital for Construction Program that addresses the financing gap minority-owned construction subcontractors face when submitting bids for large-scale construction contracts. She secured a loan and with ECDI's support, she was able to win the project. Kamala has since hired a full time employee and is hoping to hire more in the future.

In addition to enrolling in ECDI's Capital for Construction Program, Kamala became a member of ECDI's Women's Business Center and participated in this year's Project Reimagine Program, a female focused training series that has been proven to help existing business grow and reach new heights.

Kamala still writes her own plays and performs as a member of Urban Arts Theater Company.

Colbert Painting is always looking for more projects and big and small. To inquire about their services, email Kamala at colbertspainting1@yahoo.com. If you would like to learn more about the Capital for Construction Program please email Jesse Mark at jmark@ecdi.org.





OhioMBE Awards Top Advocate: Jessica May

Jessica May was born to help. At the age of nine, she coordinated a food and clothing drive for a classmate who had lost his home in a fire. She took that passion with her to college, graduating from Ohio Wesleyan University in 2006 with a BA in English, Sociology, and Anthropology. Not surprisingly, her passion launched her into a career in the nonprofit sector. She began her path of service spending a year as an AmeriCorps VISTA in 2006-2007, working on hunger relief and public benefits enrollment access at Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio in Lorain.



Jessica May (left) is pictured with OhioMBE/OhioFBE Publisher Ronda Barber

She moved to Columbus in 2007 and continued in hunger relief for eight years, then adult education, and now supports women entrepreneurs on their path to small business ownership at the Women's Business Center of Ohio.

A fierce supporter of women and women's issues, Jessica dedicates every day to empower those who think they can't, to push forward those who know they can, and to speak for those who, for whatever reason, fall silent. Whether it is on the clock at the WBC, or off the clock fighting for gender and social justice, Jessica hopes to be a real force to be reckoned with.

Advertise in OhioMBE & OhioFBE

We reach Ohio's Small Businesses