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Advocating, Informing and Promoting Small & Minority Owned Businesses since 2009

OhioMBE Awards to Honor Tia Roseboro and Annie Womack



Tia Harris – Roseboro has served the small, minority and women-owned business community in Columbus for the past 20 years.

Tia served as an Equal Opportunity Representative with the former Equal Business Opportunity Commission Office (EBOCO) conducting compliance audits and certification re-

views. Presently, Tia serves at the Certification Programs Manager for the City of Columbus Mayor's Office of Diversity and Inclusion with broad responsibilities for certification management, contract compliance, and business outreach.

Tia's career in public service has been marked with a high degree of professionalism and commitment to excellence. Her dedication to helping small minority and women-owned businesses has been recognized by city leaders, business professionals and the Columbus community alike. Perhaps, her commitment to small businesses has been best demonstrated during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The pandemic, as we know, has posed and continues to create significant challenges to minority businesses. Amidst the social and economic upheaval of

See Roseboro on page 10

Annie J. Ross-Womack is the Executive Director for SCDA / Ohio Sickle Cell and Health Association, Incorporated, a statewide non-profit providing education, advocacy, and support to individuals and families affected by sickle cell disease for over 60 years. She advocates for families, neighborhoods, small businesses, and civil rights while serving the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America Leadership Council, Columbus NAACP Executive Committee, Near East Area Commission, and other community-driven initiatives.



Annie is a successful entrepreneur managing a 25-year company, Small Business Solutions, specializing in grant writing, small business management, and financial literacy. She is also currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Long Street Business Association. This community-based non-profit assists in developing distressed communities in and around central Ohio, emphasizing entrepreneurship and small business development, retention, and expansion.

Annie is the proud parent of three children and three adorable grandchildren, which is why her passion

See Womack on page 10

Stop the Violence!



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OhioMBE welcomes letters to the editor from readers. Typed letters of 350 words or less are preferred. Each letter must include name, home address and daytime phone number. Some letters may appear on our website.

Nominations are still open the 2021 OhioMBE Awards

Nominations are open for the 2021 OhioMBE Awards. The OhioMBE Awards recognizes Ohio's Top MBEs, FBEs, Family and Veteran Businesses.

Ohio's premier networking luncheon will recognize the following for their community contributions. **Publisher's Award:** Annie Womack and Roott; **Frank W. Watson Advocate Award:** Jerome Jones (SBA) and Tia Roseboro (City of Columbus); **Media Legend:** Angela Pace; **Top Elected Official:** US Rep Joyce Beatty; **Civil Rights Award:** Bexley H.S. Anti Racism Project, Heath H.S. Students Against Racism, New Albany H.S. NAACP Youth Chapter.

The seventh annual awards ceremony will be Thursday, October 28 at the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium. Nominations can be made online at OhioMBEAwards.com. The deadline is Oct. 10.

The OhioMBE Awards Platinum Sponsor is the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium.



The City of Columbus Increase Diversity Program reflects our commitment to equity in the procurement process, the recognition of the value of a diverse supplier base, and the positive impact supplier diversity has on both City government operations and the greater Columbus community. View our board listing of Increase Diversity training, workshops and professional development and register for a session. Reserve your spot at increasediversity.eventbrite.com

Certification Tuesdays—The City of Columbus Office of Diversity and Inclusion series of Certification Tuesdays. Small business owners can stop by the CoC Planroom, 1393 E. Broad Street, and get information from various agencies.

- Oct. 12 - ODOT & City of Columbus

Certification 101 - Learn about the certification process, local certifying programs and what documents to submit with your application

- Oct. 7

10.5 Things to Know About LLC's in Ohio - This informative webinar will discuss Ohio's LLC laws. Presented by Small Business Legal Aid.

- Oct. 16

Professional Services Networking with the Department of Public Utilities -

- Oct. 26

Do-It-Yourself LLC Formation with Coaching by Attorney Moses

- Oct. 30

Capability Statement Training- Learn how to write a great capability statement to get the attention of purchasing agents

- Oct. 19

publisher's note

Who supports the LEDE Program?

By Ronda Watson Barber
OhioMBE Publisher

I want to publicly thank Columbus City Schools Board Member Ragland for his support of Black businesses and encouraging integrity in the district's purchasing process. To date, he is the ONLY OhioMBE endorsed candidate for the Columbus City school board.

After viewing the Sept. 21 school board meeting, Ragland was the sole board member interested in the LEDE program and voted to deny a possible fraudulent contract. All, except Ragland, approved of legislation that allowed a company to receive a \$2 million contract to supply water that has questionable business practices. The other Black and Hispanic board members said NOTHING! FriendsOffice or Friends out of Findlay was accused of using LEDE companies as "pass-through" to receive contracts from the district in the past.

In a Columbus Dispatch article, Ken Schroeder, chief executive officer of Friends, confirmed that his firm planned to set up Daniel Hobbs, a LEDE vendor based in Cincinnati, to buy copier paper from a Friends supplier at the same rate as Friends pays. Then Friends would buy it from Hobbs for slightly more. Such arrangements are common among companies trying to land contracts with entities that have programs designed to help minorities or disadvantaged people, Schroeder said. "We helped him get his business set up," including doing all of Hobbs' back-office work, such as invoicing and maintaining customer contacts."

According to the Dispatch, "in 2016, the state government threatened to kick his company, Reliable, out of its Encouraging Diversity, Growth and Equity program and its Minority Business Enterprise program. The state accused Reliable of being "not ultimately controlled by a socially disadvantaged individual" and said the company instead was "acting as an agent or intermediary in making contracts on behalf of Friends Service Company."

"On information and belief," the two companies were "virtually indistinguishable" in day-to-day operations, the Ohio Department of Administrative Services Equal Opportunity Division wrote to Hobbs in May 2016. Reliable contracted with Friends for supplier arrangements, office rental, and vehicle leases.

Its financial documentation (including tax paperwork), invoices and remittances, product website, marketing materials, business locations and contact information (including telephone numbers and email addresses) "appear all to be managed by Friends," DAS wrote."

<https://www.dispatch.com/news/20190421/vendors-dispute-raises-questions-about-columbus-schools-program-for-disadvantaged-contractors>

Why is Friends allowed the privilege of contracting with Columbus City Schools when they proudly admitted to abusing the LEDE program? The demoted former chief operating officer who still receives his \$150,000 salary in a position that was created to help him as COO, Maurice Oldham, give a sad and pitiful response as usual.

Is this practice okay with board members? Is the LEDE program essential to the elected school board? Why are issues that impact disadvantaged businesses overlooked? Why isn't the district meeting the mandated 20 percent purchasing goal? Why do board members vote on legislation that doesn't have LEDE participation? Why is legislation forward to the board without LEDE participation?

I have been asking these questions for years, advocating for Black-owned businesses to get more contracting opportunities with Columbus City Schools. You get the elected officials that you vote for. The following incumbents are running for Columbus City School Board: Michael D. Cole, James Ragland, and Ramona R. Reyes. When the three ask for your vote, ask them about their votes on contracts without LEDE vendors. Ask about the \$2 million water contract awarded to a company accused of defrauding the district and why they remained silent.

Mohamed Ali, Kevin Hairston, and Christina Vera are running for a seat on the board. Ask them how they would improve the LEDE program and expand opportunities for Black vendors.

Our votes and dollars are vital to the success of Columbus City Schools. Black Business Matter. Many people employed by the district live high on the hog at the expense of poor kids in the district. We can not continue with business as usual.

Just my thoughts...rwb

bid opportunities

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

INVITATION TO BID

The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority is seeking bids for Furnace Replacement and Related Work at Joy Park Homes, 524 Fuller Avenue, Akron, Ohio 44304.



Those interested in submitting a bid 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

Bids, to be considered, must be received by AMHA, 100 West Cedar St., Akron, Ohio no later than 2:00 p.m. (local time) on Tuesday, October 26, 2021. Questions contact Michele Kindler, Assistant Contracting Officer at 330-376-7792.

Persons with disabilities needing assistance please contact AMHA's ADA Coordinator, 100 West Cedar Street, Akron Ohio 44307, 330-762-9631 or Ohio Relay at 800-750-0750 at least seven (7) days in advance.

Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority
Debbie Barry
Interim Executive Director



COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY

COMMUNITY. COMMITMENT. COLLABORATION.

Legal Notice: RFP 2021-011
Professional Property Management
Services (Four Pointe)

The Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority is seeking Request for Proposal (RFP) for the procurement of Professional Property Management (Four Pointe). The response deadline is Friday October 15, 2021 at 11:00AM. A pre-proposal conference is scheduled for Wednesday October 6, 2021 @ 11:00am and will be held on Zoom. The Zoom Meeting ID 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 614-421-4434, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM, Monday – Friday.

#bidnotices



Columbus City Schools issues solicitations on a regular basis for goods & services related to food, construction, technology, curriculum, & transportation. Interested vendors should periodically check our website at <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/rfp>



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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Columbus Regional Airport Authority
Invitation to Bid (ITB) # ITB-AFM-2021-036
SEVEN (7) MULTI-TASKING EQUIPMENT UNITS FOR
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The Columbus Regional Airport Authority values diversity and inclusion and the impact small and minority-owned firms have on the Central Ohio economy. The Columbus Regional Airport Authority invites you to access the following link: www.columbusairports.diversitycompliance.com

to register to do business with us and to view new bid opportunities and results.
Email BusinessDiversity@ColumbusAirports.com for questions about the Diversity Programs at Columbus Regional Airport Authority.

bid opportunities

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



City of Columbus – Department of Development

The Department of Development is looking for diverse vendors and contractors who are licensed with the City of Columbus working in the following areas:

- **Graffiti Removal.** Contact Eric Voorhees (614-645-7934 or eavorhees@columbus.gov).
- **Grass Cutting and Solid Waste Removal.** Contact Mike Schwab (614- 645-7122 or mfschwab@columbus.gov).
- **Demolition and Asbestos Abatement.** Contact Mike Farrenkopf (614- 679-5873 or mlfarrenkopf@columbus.gov) or Seth Brehm (614-645-5659 or swhbrehm@columbus.gov).
- **Mowing, Property Maintenance, and Miscellaneous Services.** Contact Audrea Hickman (614-645-8907 or ahickman@columbus.gov).
- **Construction trades including: General Construction, Home Improvement, Electrical, HVAC, Plumbing, and Lead Abatement.** Contact Tim Tilton (614- 724-3009 or twilton@columbus.gov).

To register for notifications on upcoming bid opportunities, please visit <http://vendors.columbus.gov/sites/public>.

Franklin County Engineer Upcoming 2021 Construction Projects

Highway Projects

- Eureka Ave, Valley View Dr,
Highland Ave, & Harper Ave, **Apr 2021**
- Ormond Ave Drainage Part II, **Apr 2021**

Resurfacing Projects

- 50 E. Mound St Parking Lot, **Apr 2021**
- Franklin County Resurfacing
Program, **May 2021**
- Township Resurfacing Program, **May 2021**
- Franklin County Maintenance &
Safety Program, **May 2021**

Drainage Projects

- Cook Tri-County Ditch **Oct 2021**
- Kropp Road Drainage Outlet Improvements
Dec 2021
- 2022 Drainage Maintenance **Nov 2021**

Bridge Projects

- Agler Rd over Alum Creek **Nov 2021**
- Borror Rd over Tributary of
Strader Ditch, **May 2021**
- Hoover Rd over Tributary of
Grant Run, **May 2021**
- Olentangy River Rd 11.40 &
11.62 Culverts, **Jun 2021**
- Schleppi Rd over Tributary of
Rocky Fork Creek, **May 2021**
- 2022 Bridge Maintenance **Nov 2021**

For more information visit

www.franklincountyengineer.org/future-projects/

<https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/28582/home?agency=true>



Cornell R. Robertson, P.E., P.S.
FRANKLIN COUNTY ENGINEER
FRANKLIN COUNTY DRAINAGE ENGINEER



The dates listed above are projected dates to advertise



Columbus City Schools seeks LEDE vendors

How do I become a Local Economically Disadvantaged Enterprise (LEDE) Vendor with Columbus City Schools?

Your Columbus City Schools Vendor Number allows you to conduct business with the School District.

You must first complete the CCS Vendor Application by visiting: www.columbus.k12.oh.us.

Click VENDORS and complete the On-Line Vendor Registration and provide all pertinent information or by contacting the district's Purchasing Department at: (614) 365-5820.

Once registered as a Vendor with Purchasing, please complete the Local Economically Disadvantaged Enterprise (LEDE) Vendor Affidavit also on the district's website. This form must be Signed and Notarized. You can also contact the Outreach Office at: (614) 365-8732 or outreachservices@columbus.k12.oh.us

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Al Edmondson
Founder

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a Difference."*

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Why you should get your business certified?

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.

Attend a class and learn how to get your business certified.

Visit OHBDC.eventbrite.com for the upcoming class schedule.



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swiy.io/checkmyllc

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ATTORNEY AT LAW

City of Columbus



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- ✓ & more!



Sales & Support Email:
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electronicsystemsconsultants.com

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OhioMBE.com/bid-opportunities



We must cease being participants in our own oppression— Stacey Abrams

6 Tips for Preparing Your Small Business for the Holidays

Prepare for a successful holiday season by reviewing these six tasks and **delegating** with your team.

1. Order supplies

Check last year's orders to anticipate how much of basic supplies you'll need, whether that's shipping supplies and packaging, paper towels and toilet paper for your restrooms, or branded gift cards for holiday shoppers. If this is your first year in business, your network may be able to guide you through your first holiday ordering season. Remember to order early to avoid rush shipping charges later in the season. Being prepared can help you meet your customers' needs with ease.

2. Make holiday schedules

Now's the time to determine your holiday operating hours. Will you be open longer than usual? Do you plan to close your business for a few days? Be sure to tell your staff about holiday hours, and explain your expectations of them during the holiday season. Ask your team to request any holiday time off by a certain date, so you can plan employee schedules accordingly.

3. Stock extra inventory

Anticipate holiday orders by manufacturing additional product or placing orders with your vendors. Your suppliers are under their own pressure, and they may have ordering deadlines to get product to you in time for the holidays. Mark these deadlines on a calendar you can see easily so these ordering deadlines don't pass you by.

4. Check your website

Give your business website a once-over to make sure it's ready for a busy holiday season. Is the design tidy and easy to use? Can customers easily find your most popular products or services? Does your ecommerce checkout work smoothly? If you're the person who works on your website most often, hand this task to a staffer or a trusted friend. They'll be able to spot the issues you might miss.

5. Decorate

Even if you feel like the Grinch when it comes to holidays, add a little extra flair to help stand out from the crowd during this busy season. Your whole team can get involved: plan a late-night or early-morning decorating party. Order takeout for your team, play festive music (or regular music, for the Grinches among us),

and transform your business in a matter of hours. Remember to check corners for cobwebs and dust your fixtures to help your merchandise shine.

6. Plan a new marketing campaign

Why will customers want to spend time at *your* small business this holiday season? What makes you unique? Determine the answer, and build a marketing campaign around it. Maybe you have the best selection in town. Maybe your pumpkin spice desserts are coveted all year long. Maybe your customer service can solve any shopping conundrum. Build your holiday marketing about what makes your business stand out from the crowd.

Don't forget to plan for Small Business Saturday! Kick off the holiday season by adding your business to the Shop Small map now, and take advantage of free promotional materials available to small businesses. More than 112 million customers reported shopping on this day celebrating small businesses last year!

Source: www.score.org

Black Lives Matter

#ohiombe

OhioMBE can announce your next business event, employment notice or news item in an exclusive email blast.



We will also post it on our Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn Pages.

news@ohiombe.com | 912-290-2112

Roseboro from page 1

2020, Tia exuberated a renewed resilience to meet businesses where they were and help them through these difficult times. Leading efforts to engage and certify minority businesses on the new Crew Stadium (Lower.com field) project, as well as several other notable development projects in Columbus. Tia produced record number certifications for the City of Columbus. In 2020, Tia certified over 300 MWBE firms and conducted targeted outreach initiatives reaching greater than 1,000 unique firms.

In addition to her public service career, Tia has enjoyed a legacy music career on a local and some international stages. She continues to perform at many local festivals and events and released a solo album in 2016. She is the proud mother of two, and the adoring grandmother of a vivacious 2 year old grandson.

Tia is the recipient of the 2021 Frank W. Watson Advocate Award.

Womack from page 1

and drive to advocate, educate, and change society's narrative for those who have been marginalized. Her schedule is hectic, but she ensures that God maintains the center of her life and always balances time for family and friends. She is an active member of Lord of Life Fellowship Church and serves in several capacities, including Minister.

Her motto is: "I am who God says I am, and everything I achieve in this life is because of Him."

Annie is the recipient of the 2021 Publisher's Awards for her efforts to educate the community on health issues.

BLACK BUSINESS MATTERS

Questions to ask candidates seeking public office

As small and minority business owners consider asking the following questions to those seeking public office and your vote.



1. What have you done for Black-owned & minority businesses during your career?
2. What do you promise to do for Black-owned & minority businesses if elected?
3. What Black-owned & minority business do you regularly purchase products or services from?
4. Why should Black-owned & minority business owners vote for you?
5. How important is Black-owned & minority business development to the overall Ohio economy?
6. Are minority business set-asides and goals in city/county/state government still important and why?
7. What can the city/county/state do to improve its purchasing with minority businesses?
8. What should minority owned businesses do to get city/county/state contracts?
9. Is there anything else, aside from contracting that the city/county/state can do to assist MBE's?
10. Who are the major contributors to your campaign?

Ohio Diversity Network

Friday, October 8, 2021 at 4:30pm

[Festival for Good](#)

Columbus

Saturday, October 9, 2021 at 12:00pm

[Columbus Taco Fest 2021](#)

Columbus

Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 11:00am!

[Increase Diversity: Certification Tuesday](#)

Columbus

Saturday, October 16, 2021 at 10:00am

[St Mark's Lodge #7 PH F&AM/Esther Chapter #3](#)

[OES,PHA](#)

Columbus

Saturday, October 16, 2021 at 12:00pm

[Donut and Beer Festival](#)

Columbus

Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 11:00am

[Increase Diversity – Capability Statements](#)

Saturday, October 23, 2021 at 12:00pm

[TedX KingLincolnBronzeville](#)

Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 11:00am

[2021 OhioMBE Awards](#)

Columbus

Saturday, October 30, 2021 at 10:00am

[Increase Diversity: Do-It-Yourself LLC Formation with Coaching by Attorney Moses](#)

Columbus



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AWARDS

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October 28

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2021 Honorees

- **Publisher's Award**
 - Annie Womack
 - ROOTT
- **Frank W. Watson Advocate Award**
 - Jerome Jones - SBA
 - Tia Roseboro - City of Columbus
- **Media Legend**
 - Angela Pace
- **Top Elected Official**
 - US Rep. Joyce Beatty
- **Civil Rights Awards**
 - Bexley H.S. Anti Racism Project
 - Heath H.S. Students Against Racism Forum
 - New Albany H.S. NAACP Youth Chapter

2020 Honorees

- **Economic Empowerment**
 - City of Columbus - ODI
 - Park National Bank
 - Ohio Bankers League
- **Publisher's Award**
 - Columbus City School Board Member James Ragland
 - Franklin County Administrator Kenneth Wilson
- **Frank W. Watson Advocate Award**
 - Jill Nagy-Reynolds - SBA
 - Attorney Ambrose Moses
- **Legends Award**
 - Cornelius Green
 - Dennis Hopson
- **Top Legislator**
 - State Rep. Emilia Sykes

Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Email news@ohiombe.com for details.