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

## Dr. Bridget Williams wins three OhioMBE Awards

Dr. Bridget Williams won three honorees are the 7th annual OhioMBE Awards, hosted by the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium. Dr. Williams was nominated and received the Top FBE honors. She also won the People's Choice Award in both the MBE and FBE category.

Dr. Williams is an established board-certified family physician, author and the CEO of Green Harvest Health, medical cannabis clinics located in Ohio. Green Harvest Health is the only medical cannabis and life coaching office in Ohio.

Dr. Williams brings nearly 20 years of experience in family medicine from The Cleveland Clinic and certifications in life and cannabis coaching to her practice. Dr. Bridget provides valuable "medical motivational talks" on medical cannabis, CBD, life balance and confi-



*See Dr. Bridget on page 8*

## Got your Black Card?



The Ohio Black Card was introduced at the 7th annual OhioMBE Awards, hosted by the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium. Attendees of the networking luncheon received Ohio Black Cards.

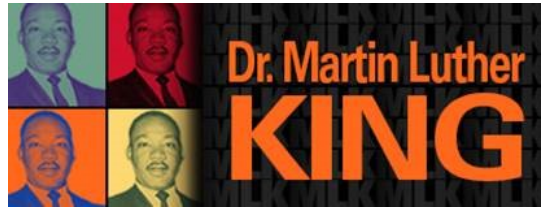
The Ohio Black Card and its mobile app have the mission of fostering business between Black-owned companies.

The mobile app features the electronic copy of OhioMBE, a business directory, a list of contracting opportunities, a collection of upcoming events, business resources and a bevy of vendors who will offer a discount when presented with the Ohio Black Card.

The Ohio Black Card mobile app is available on Google Play. It will be available for Apple users soon.

Don't have THE Ohio Black Card? Visit [OhioBlackCard.com](http://OhioBlackCard.com) and get yours. The card is FREE.

If you are a business who wants to be an Ohio Black Card vendor, please email [news@ohiombe.com](mailto:news@ohiombe.com)



The deadline to submit your nomination for the 2022 Ohio MLK Awards is rapidly approaching! To be included in consideration for the annual awards, to be presented by the Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission, nominations must be received by **Oct. 30, 2021.**

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**Legal Stuff:** The First Amendment protects several basic freedoms in the United States including freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the right to assemble, and the right to petition the government. It was part of the Bill of Rights that was added to the Constitution on December 15, 1791. *The views expressed in OhioMBE and the media outlets of The 912 Group are solely those of the author and do not reflect the views/opinions of The 912 Group, the editor, publisher, our staff or our advertisers.*

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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.

The awards honor Ohio individuals and organizations for their work to keep Dr. King’s dream alive. His commitment to seeking racial, social, and economic justice through non-violent struggle benefited not only the victims of oppression, but society as a whole. The awards lift up both concrete achievements and the continuing spirit of King’s dreams for this nation and Ohio.

There are five award categories available:

- Individual Award
- Organization Award
- Collaborative Effort Award
- Youth Award
- Governor’s Humanitarian Award

“In life, Dr. King stood up for the disadvantaged and oppressed. More than a half-century later, his incredible courage in the face of resistance continues to inspire us,” said McKinley Brown, chair of the Commission. “The Commission is honored to recognize Ohioans who embody **Dr. King’s vision of equality** and remind each of us of our own power to affect change.”

Award winners will be recognized at the 2022 Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration. More details about the event, which receives administrative support from DAS, which is held each January leading up to the MLK holiday, will be available in the coming months.

Review award criteria and submit your nominations at [das.ohio.gov/mlk](https://das.ohio.gov/mlk).

Don’t delay; nominate today!

## Black Christmas Expo is Nov. 27 & 28

Thanksgiving Day Weekend is the LARGEST RETAIL SHOPPING WEEKEND OF THE YEAR! Yet, you’ll not find very many African American merchants as tenants or vendors at our major retail malls or large shopping centers.



Of note, the National Black Chamber of Commerce has estimated that at least 40% of Black-owned businesses have gone out of business due to the COVID pandemic.

This is a family friendly (2) two-day event Saturday, November 27th & Sunday, November 28th from 11:00am to 7:00pm both days, at the legendary Valley Dale Ballroom located on Sunbury Road. **Admission and Parking is Absolutely FREE,**

*See Black Expo on page 5*

## Shayla Favor Named Executive Director of PACT

The board of directors for Partners Achieving Community Transformation (PACT) today announced Shayla Favor as the new executive director of the organization. She will begin her duties on Nov. 22, 2021. Favor succeeds Autumn Glover, who left the organization in August of this year.

Favor, a member of Columbus City Council since January of 2019, will continue her duties as a member of city council. Prior to becoming a council member, Favor served as an assistant city attorney in the Columbus City Attorney's office. Assigned to the Environmental Division, Favor had the opportunity to serve the residents of the Near East side by addressing neighborhood disparity and criminal activity through the abatement of nuisance properties.

"Eliminating blight gets to the heart of protecting our public safety and improving the quality of life of our residents," said Favor. Favor is a graduate of The Ohio State University and Capital University Law School and is a resident of Columbus' Near East Side neighborhood.

Under Favor's leadership as the incoming executive director, PACT will advance solutions that achieve its goals to drive redevelopment, impact education, health and safety in the PACT geography and drive community transformation. Favor looks forward to building upon the foundation and executing the plans outlined in the PACT Blueprint Community Investment Plan, which was developed in collaboration with the community in 2013.

"Now more than ever, it's critical that we work to not only ensure the revitalization of the Near East Side of Columbus through the implementation of PACT's Blueprint Community Investment plan, but to also protect legacy residents from the effects of gentrification and systemic racism that have contributed to the inequities that we see in education, healthcare, housing and employment," said Favor.

As a non-profit, PACT engages the community in shaping the many moving pieces involved in community revitalization in the PACT geography. "Factors such as mixed-income housing, educational pipelines and wellness resources must come together to create a healthy, financially and environmentally sustainable community," Favor continued.

Favor brings her deep understanding and legal exper-



## publisher's note

### Thankful and Blessed

By Ronda Watson Barber  
OhioMBE Publisher

At this time of Thanksgiving, I humbly thank my readers; the distribution spots and the businesses and organizations who advertise in OhioMBE. I appreciate your support as we tested new practices and ways to help Black-owned business make contracting connections.

As a small business owner, the 2020 and 2021 have been tests. Tests of patience and perseverance. We like all small businesses have had to change our business models to survive a global pandemic.

I whole-heartedly believe in Black businesses. The programming's and products from The 912 Group will continue to provide access to contracting, decision-makers and banking opportunities.

As you gather with family and friends during the Thanksgiving season, please reflect and remember those who are less fortunate.

"I started out giving thanks for small things, and the more thankful I became, the more my bounty increased," said Oprah Winfrey

Just my thoughts...rwb

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tise in housing, her commitment to driving change for marginalized communities and her passion around community redevelopment to PACT.

"Shayla has the skills, relationships and commitment to carry our mission and vision forward," said Elizabeth Seely, MHA, FACHE, chief administrative officer, Hospital Division for The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and chair of the PACT Board. "We are excited to have her lead us as we continue to create meaningful change in our community," said Seely.

PACT recently celebrated 10 years of community transformation. Remaining future-focused, Favor and PACT's board aims to continue removing barriers to housing, healthcare, education and employment for those in the Near East Side.

# Congratulations to the 2021 OhioMBE Honorees

## Top MBEs Nominations:

- **Sherita Q. Booker** - WIZE TAX SERVICES LLC - Cleveland
- **Destiny Ward** - The Browtique - Columbus
- **Theresa Harris** - TMH Solutions - Columbus
- **Yaves Ellis** - Canvaas Consulting - Columbus (Winner)
- **James A. Jones III** - Home Commerical Inspections - Columbus (Winner)
- **Dr. Rachel Talton** - Synergy International Limited - Akron
- **Dr. Bridget Williams** - Green Harvest Health - Pickerington
- **Rico Cox** - Cox and Cox Construction - Avon Lake
- **Yemi Ogungbadero** - Phenix Banquet Center - Columbus
- **Bailene Buckner** - Buckner & Sons Masonry - Columbus
- **Devin Joyce** - Passion8 Event Management - Cleveland (Winner)
- **Jessica East** - Noir Marketing and PR - Dayton

## Top FBE Nominations:

- **Ifrah Omar** - Planning With Ifrah LLC - Westerville
- **Theresa Harris** - TMH Solutions - Columbus
- **Dr. Rachel Talton** - Synergy International Limited - Akron (Winner)

- **Dr. Bridget Williams** - Green Harvest Health - Pickerington (Winner)
- **Yemi Ogungbadero** - Phenix Banquet Center - Columbus
- **Devin Joyce** - Passion8 Event Management - Cleveland

## Top Veteran Business Nominations:

- **Ericka Adams** - Adams Dental Assisting Academy - Gahanna

## Top Family Business Nominations:

- **Rico Cox** - Cox and Cox Construction - Avon Lake
- **Yemi Ogungbadero** - Phenix Banquet Center - Columbus--(Winner)
- **Bailene Buckner** - Buckner & Sons Masonry - Columbus--(Winner)
- **Patrice Morris** - International Spotlight of Fashion - Columbus



## 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 HS Anti Racism Project
- Heath HS Students Against Racism
- New Albany HS NAACP Youth/Student Chapter

Support Black Media

OhioMBE.com

# bid opportunities

To post a bid notice, call 614-522-9122 or email [news@ohiombe.com](mailto:news@ohiombe.com)



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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REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

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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](http://www.columbusairports.diversitycompliance.com) to register to do business with us and to view new bid opportunities and results. Email [BusinessDiversity@ColumbusAirports.com](mailto:BusinessDiversity@ColumbusAirports.com) for questions about the Diversity Programs at Columbus Regional Airport Authority.



## 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](http://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](mailto:outreachservices@columbus.k12.oh.us)

*Black Expo page 2*

and shoppers will have the opportunity to purchase artwork, apparel and clothing, beauty products, books, candles, Christmas crafts, and all sorts of unique gifts!

The idea of creating this cultural **Black Christmas Expo** is to support and give African American merchants and vendors an opportunity to CASH-IN on this significant **Holiday Gift Buying Weekend** to sell, display and/or promote their products and services to the greater community at large.

Thus far, there are 45-vendors who've signed up and excited for the opportunity to offer their goods and services to the community. Additionally, there will be entertainment, Christmas Carols sung, and a visit from "Soul Santa" to greet all of the good boys and girls who'll love to have their pictures taken with him!

We still a few vendor spaces and sponsor opportunities available! You may contact C. Sunny Martin, the event organizer at [Sunny@CSunnyMartin.com](mailto:Sunny@CSunnyMartin.com) for more info.

# Stop the Violence!

# bid opportunities

To post a bid notice, call 614-522-9122 or email [news@ohiombe.com](mailto: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](mailto:eavorhees@columbus.gov)).
- **Grass Cutting and Solid Waste Removal.** Contact Mike Schwab (614- 645-7122 or [mfschwab@columbus.gov](mailto:mfschwab@columbus.gov)).
- **Demolition and Asbestos Abatement.** Contact Mike Farrenkopf (614- 679-5873 or [ormlfarrenkopf@columbus.gov](mailto:ormlfarrenkopf@columbus.gov)) or Seth Brehm (614-645-5659 or [swhbrehm@columbus.gov](mailto:swhbrehm@columbus.gov)).
- **Mowing, Property Maintenance, and Miscellaneous Services.** Contact Audrea Hickman (614-645-8907 or [aehickman@columbus.gov](mailto:aehickman@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](mailto: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

- Aglar 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/](http://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\*



**City of Columbus-  
Department of Public Utilities**  
Division of Water—*Engineer III Position*

This full-time position is within the Division of Water's Distribution Engineering Section and will focus mainly on managing the capital improvement program associated with tanks, booster stations, and large diameter transmission mains. This position will supervise engineering staff involved in major construction and/or maintenance projects or consultant studies; organize and assign work of a project nature; develop the procedures to be used; evaluate project progress and the work of subordinate personnel and, at times, outside consulting firms. It will also assist with the preparation of the budget for projects or for the division. It will direct the preparation of plans, specifications, bids, and cost estimates; prepare, review, and/or oversee contracts.

***To be considered, candidates must possess a valid State of Ohio certificate as a registered Professional Engineer and three (3) years of professional engineering experience which includes some supervisory experience over professional engineers or engineering projects. Substitution(s): Possession of a valid State of Ohio certificate as a registered Professional Engineer (P.E.) and nine (9) years of practical engineering experience, which includes two (2) years of experience supervising Professional Engineers or engineering projects. Possession of a valid motor vehicle operator's license. Salary range \$83,346 – \$125,008.***

If you are interested, please apply to the Civil Service Commission by applying online at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/columbusoh>. You may also apply by emailing your resume to [DPURecruitment@columbus.gov](mailto:DPURecruitment@columbus.gov).

Pre-employment drug screening and BCI& I background check are required if selected.

*City of Columbus is an equal opportunity employer.*



To post an employment notice, email [news@ohiombe.com](mailto:news@ohiombe.com)

**City of Columbus-  
Department of Public Utilities**  
Division of Water—*Engineer III Position*

This full-time position within the Division of Water's Technical Support Section (TSS) will serve as a project manager for planning, design, and construction projects under the Division of Water's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Typical duties for this position include: develop request for proposals (RFPs) and complete TSS portions of the RFP process; work with consultants to develop project scope and fee information; maintain project management information system accounts and project files; review and approve invoices; and confer with superiors, plant operations, and maintenance staff, consultants, contractors, and the public as needed to complete projects. It will review consultant work products to ensure completeness and adherence to department standards, policies and facility needs. It will also review construction work to ensure work conforms to contract requirements and department procedures. This position will also supervise staff, including reviewing staff work products, periodically meeting with staff to review work status, providing guidance, approving leave requests, and conducting performance appraisals. Additionally, this position will assist with various section management tasks such as capital improvement plan updates, developing SOPs and template documents, responding to outside requests for information, and updating guide specifications.

***To be considered, candidates must possess a valid State of Ohio certificate as a registered Professional Engineer and three (3) years of professional engineering experience which includes some supervisory experience over professional engineers or engineering projects. Substitution(s): Possession of a valid State of Ohio certificate as a registered Professional Engineer (P.E.) and nine (9) years of practical engineering experience, which includes two (2) years of experience supervising Professional Engineers or engineering projects. Possession of a valid motor vehicle operator's license. Salary range \$83,346 – \$125,008.***

If you are interested, please apply to the Civil Service Commission by applying online at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/columbusoh>. You may also apply by emailing your resume to [DPURecruitment@columbus.gov](mailto:DPURecruitment@columbus.gov). Pre-employment drug screening and BCI& I background check are required if selected.

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Dr. Bridget from page 1

dence. In 2019, Dr Bridget branched out into developing her own line of CBD products as well as white labeling and CBD product development for other businesses.

When not seeing patients, Dr. Bridget hosts a CBD and holistic education series, creates education videos for the Cannabis Hub and is teaching faculty at the Cleveland School of Cannabis. Green Harvest Health has been featured on Day-time Columbus, the Columbus Dispatch, Ellementa, The Lucky Leaf Expo Series, NCI's Minority Cannabis Report, Success Women's Conference and Medicate Ohio and other local and national platforms.

Dr. Williams is the founder and CEO of the nonprofit GHH Community Foundation. The focal program of the nonprofit is "The Cannabis Can Project", a gathering of cannabis businesses united to network in a collaborative environment while providing community service opportunities to support the communities that support us.

Dr. Williams is honored to be a Women in Medicine Top Doctors for 2021.



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**MLK Day 2022 - 17th of January**  
**a Virtual Event**



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
**Kristina M. Johnson, PhD**  
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[OhioMBE.com](http://OhioMBE.com)



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

# Are You Ready For Small Business Saturday?

## Small Business Saturday Preparation

If you haven't already noticed, this will be an unusual holiday season for small business owners. Due to supply chain disruptions and the continuing presence of COVID-19 many consumers have already started their holiday shopping.

But that doesn't mean you should ignore [Small Business Saturday](#) (November 27). Since the pandemic began, many consumers have pledged to up their support of small businesses all year round. Small Business Saturday is a great time to showcase your business within your community.

Retail consultant [Bob Phibbs](#) writes in his [newsletter](#) that too many retailers and restaurants use Small Business Saturday as a day to offer promotions and discounts, but he says, "that is not the way to give value to customers. Especially with supply chains still broken—you [hold] a 20% off sale—you're going to sell out of all of your bestsellers—and then have to go back to your vendor (who has raised prices) to refill."

Phibbs says, "That doesn't scale. It doesn't build profits. It doesn't make sense." Instead, he advises, small retailers should "find ways to connect with your customers in a real way."

And he's right. So how do you do that?

First, get started immediately—it's already November. Phibbs says it's best not to try to go it alone—he advises that you partner with other retailers on your block. (Check with your local Chamber or [Alignable group](#) to see if they've made plans.) Or Phibbs suggests you partner with a charity and "give them a chance to get their name out."

## Put on a happy face

Consumers have been through a lot. This may be the first time in months they're shopping in stores. So it's essential you make them feel safe and welcome. This is not the time, warns Phibbs, to complain to customers, especially new ones, about how you've had a tough year or that you can't find employees to work for you. Instead, he says, "your messaging should be: It's great to be back."

- We're glad you're here.

- We're looking forward to a big holiday season.
- If you see it, you should buy it."

Your job as a retailer, says Phibbs, is to surprise and delight your customers. Remember, he says, "What customers want is *service*, what they want is a happy smile, and they want to be taken away from the apocalypse stories in the news."

And when you create that welcoming feeling, the feeling that your customers matter to you, Phibbs says, they will spend more in your store.

So, how can you make customers feel welcome in your store? Phibbs has some suggestions:

- Post photos or videos on Instagram and Facebook of you and your employees that show off your stores (or restaurants) and make them look like somewhere potential customers would want to go.
- Teach your employees how to engage with strangers. Begin with changing their greeting from, 'Hi, how are you?' to a simple, 'Good morning.'

## Cross-Promotion is key

Phibbs says it's crucial that neighboring small business owners support one another. Store owners, he says, should promote local restaurants. And conversely, restaurant owners should promote local shops. Phibbs says they since most people in the community want to support small businesses, they will be thrilled that you're showing community spirit.

And he adds, "The important thing to remember is nobody loses in this—everyone wins!"

Of course, you should maintain this attitude beyond Small Business Saturday.

**BONUS:** Advertise your Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and CyberMonday deals on the Ohio Black Card app.

Source: [score.org](#)

# Black Lives Matter

# Ohio Diversity Network

**Friday, November 19, 2021 at 11:00am**  
PRiMR: Disaster Preparedness – The Business Continuity Plan  
online

**Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 11:30am**  
Get an SBA Loan – to Start Your Business  
online

**Friday, December 3, 2021 at 11:00am**  
PRiMR: The Three R's of Disaster Preparedness for Businesses

**Thursday, December 9, 2021 at 11:00am**  
Increase Diversity – Certification 101  
online

**Thursday, December 9, 2021 at 11:00am**  
Increase Diversity: Make Your Website Work for You  
online

**Friday, December 17, 2021 at 11:00am**  
PRiMR: Disaster Preparedness – The Business Continuity Plan  
online

Monday, January 17, 2022 at 8:00am  
Martin Luther King Jr Birthday Breakfast  
online



*OhioDiversityNetwork.com is sponsored by:*



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# Thanks for supporting Black-owned Businesses



See highlights from the 2021 OhioMBE Awards, hosted by the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium, on the Ohio Black Card mobile app (available of Google Play)