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Ronda Watson Barber—Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

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

## OhioMBE is fundraising for a Kiva Business Loan

I'm fundraising on [Kiva](#) for a business loan. This loan will enable me to grow OhioMBE and its media outlets. COVID has greatly impacted how we conducted business. Many of our retail and religious sites, where the hard-copy issues are distributed, are closed because of the pandemic. My hope is to develop our mobile app and a marketing campaign to promote our services so we can continue to serve and assist small businesses, particularly those that are Black-owned.

Kiva is a global microlending platform recognized for its work in publications like [TIME](#) and by philanthropists like [Oprah](#).

I'd really appreciate your support in this campaign. This is not a donation: your money will be returned as I pay back my loan. These loans are 0% interest, and each contribution can be as small as \$25.

You can make a loan by accessing my loan page via this link: <https://www.kiva.org/lend/2315442>

Your support means a lot to me personally. I have assisted so many Ohio business develop and grow. I have advocated for small, women and Black-owned businesses to get a piece of the government contracting pie. I have been sued in federal court advo-



cating for disadvantaged businesses. Every \$25 loan gets me closer to my goal of raising **\$10,000**. Please share this link with your network - every dollar helps! The campaign ends on **March 11**.

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## Andre Bryan of BridgePort Group LLC, appointed to the Board of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce



Andre Bryan

In December of 2021, the Ohio Chamber Of Commerce took steps toward solidifying it's commitment to ensure economic competitiveness for all Ohioans by appointing Andre Bryan to its Board of Directors. Andre is the Managing Partner of the BridgePort Group, LLC based in Cleveland, OH. He was selected to the board as a result of his entrepreneurial success, knowledge of policy, and advocacy for minority small businesses.

Mr. Bryan is a successful business owner that specializes in management consulting, coaching and technical training that transforms business models in technology, supply chain, manufacturing, and the construction industries. Andre has over 25 years of progressively successful professional experience, including several years as a combat decorated Officer in the United States Marine Corps.



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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.

## CoC Office of Diversity & Inclusion announces new Diversity Compliance Management System

The City of Columbus, Mayor’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion is excited to announce a **New Diversity Compliance Management System** went live February 7, 2022. The new system will allow vendors the ability to easily apply and renew their diverse business certifications online. Effective February 7, the system will be accessible to all current and new firms interested in certifying with the City of Columbus as an MBE (Minority Business Enterprise), WBE (Women Business Enterprise), VBE (Veteran Business Enterprise), or our new SLBE (Small Local Business Enterprise) program. Key features of the online system include:



- Electronic diverse business certification applications, and renewal processes;
- Certification application tracking from submission to completion; and
- An Enhanced online diverse business directory with key-word search capabilities. After February 7th, you will be required to log into the new system to update/create a password. Once you are in the system you will be required to review and update your contact information to include an updated e-mail address for your business. This update will ensure that we can communicate with you in a timely manner regarding your certifications.

If your firm is currently certified as an MBE, WBE, VBE or MBR, your firm will already have an account in the system. If your firm is currently certified as an MBR, your firm will be located under the new Emerging Business Enterprise (EBE) designation within the new system. Please utilize the following link to look up your business and see if an account already exists: [ACCOUNT LOOKUP](#).

If you have any additional questions or require assistance in accessing your account, please click on the [CONTACT SUPPORT](#) button at [columbus.diversitycompliance.com](http://columbus.diversitycompliance.com).

## 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 and The App Store.

Don't have THE Ohio Black Card? Visit [BlackCardOhio.com](http://BlackCardOhio.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)

# publisher's note

## Are CCS closures due to administration incompetence?

By Ronda Watson Barber  
Publisher

You really should be watching the Columbus City School Board Meetings. The district has had to close multiple schools on a daily basis because to heating issues. During a recent board meeting the director of buildings and grounds gave a report. It can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/fENhmBqsTI4?t=1234>

Yes, you heard it correctly, Columbus City Schools currently isn't doing any preventative maintenance on the heating systems. Yes, without preventative maintenance, the expectation would be that the heating systems would fail during the cold winter months.

I have so many questions.

1. How does the largest public school district in the state NOT conducting preventative maintenance on the heating systems for the school buildings. Do we ever hear instances where administrative buildings are without heat?
2. Why isn't there a preventative maintenance checklist for each school?
3. Who does the b&g director report to? Are they satisfied with the lack of heat in the school buildings. Are they satisfied with his board performance and responses to questions?
4. What experience did the b&g director have prior to this position?
5. Who hired the b&g director and what outstanding talents does he bring to the position.
6. What accountability is in place for his poor job performance?

Columbus City Schools has again failed our children and the taxpayers. Where is the accountability? Why is incompetence being rewarded? In my opinion, the b&g director needs to be reassigned. He has failed to provide a safe warm environment essential for our children to learn. It is totally unacceptable that on a

Bryan from page 1

Andre Bryan's firms have been recognized as the **Small Business of the Year** by the Ohio Minority Supplier Development Council, and honored as one of the **500 Top Small Businesses** by Diversity-Business.com.

They've earned the **FORTUNE Magazine – ICIC 100 Fastest Growing Inner City Business Award** (Ranked #7), and have been selected among 100 U.S. firms to participate in the **Small Business Majority Legislative Summit** two successive years. In this role, Bryan and his team provides input on critical small business issues to leaders of U.S.-based multinational corporations, the White House, and Congressional policymakers.

Mr. Bryan was selected as a panelist on the **U.S. Congressional Roundtable Briefing Series** before the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, addressing the potential opportunities and challenges for small businesses under the President's Infrastructure bill.

Most recently, the firm was recognized by two United States Congressmen, a Cabinet Member, and several multi-national corporations for the creation of **Supply Chain Logistics Technology & Warehouse Certification**, a workforce development training program that has placed historically under-represented adult learners in high demand careers. As an adjunct professor, Andre has educated thousands of students and executives to lead organizations across multiple industries.

Among other accolades, he has been a subject matter expert on panels for Manufacturing Technology, Smart Cities, Agile Transformation, Construction Project Delivery, and Small Business Diversity & Inclusion.

*For more. Information on Mr. Andre Bryan and the BridgePort Group LLC, please visit <https://www.bridgeportgroup.solutions/home>.*

regular basis children are left without classroom instruction because someone appears to not have a competency and grasp on their job.

I made a public records request. I am shocked. Check out the public records section on OhioMBE soon!

Just my thoughts...rwb

# Stop the Violence!

[www.OhioMBE.com](http://www.OhioMBE.com)

# 2021 OhioMBE Awards Spotlight

## Top MBE Honoree—Canvaas Consulting, LLC

Yaves Ellis, Chief Executive Officer, Managing Partner, Canvaas Consulting LLC.

Yaves Ellis is a veteran in capturing and creating content that tells stories and builds strong relationships for both companies and individuals. Sharpening his skillset running a media company, Yaves has paired creativity with strategy and garnished impressive results. He has worked with the likes of Radio One, The Ohio State University, and Pepsi, and has curated several projects that have gained top Billboard and iTunes Chart placements.

As CEO of Canvaas Consulting LLC, he and his business partner Di-onte' Johnson have fueled an agency that continues to serve the community, while making waves as a creative firm. The agency has recently been named the AOR for marketing for The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, The Wilds, Safari Golf-Club and Zoombeezi Bay, with partner agency Ologie.

Contact:

**Canvaas Consulting, LLC.**

**2215 Citygate Dr. Unit E**

Columbus, OH. 43219

[explore@canvaas.com](mailto:explore@canvaas.com)

**(614) 532-3447**



**MBE Ohio**

**COFFEE & CONSTRUCTION**

**Business Showcase  
Agency Updates  
1 on 1 Networking**

March 16 @ 8:00 am

<https://hopin.com/events/coffee-construction>

The advertisement features the MBE Ohio logo at the top left, a pile of coffee beans on the right side, and the event details in a clean, sans-serif font.

**ADVERTISE**

**YOUR AD HERE**

**MBE Ohio**  
Support Black Media

The advertisement features the word 'ADVERTISE' in large, outlined letters at the top, a central graphic of a newspaper page with arrows pointing to various articles, and the MBE Ohio logo at the bottom.

# bid opportunities

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

## INVITATION TO BID



The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority at 100 West Cedar Street, Akron, Ohio 44307 will receive

sealed bids until **2:00 PM** local time on **Thursday, March 3, 2022** at which time and place bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for: **Parking Lot Expansion at Stephanie A Keys, 4133 Fishcreek Road, Stow Ohio 44224**

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

Bids, to be considered, must be received by AMHA no later than 2:00 p.m. (local time) on Thursday, March 3, 2022. Questions contact Carla Horton, Contracting Officer at 330-376-7128.

Persons with disabilities needing assistance are asked to 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

## LEGAL NOTICE HILLTONIA MIDDLE SCHOOL INTERIOR RENOVATIONS



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 Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. More

information can be found on the District's web site at <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/rfp>. The plans and specifications are on file with Franklin Imaging.



## 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)

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority is requesting proposals for Specification and Drawing Reproduction.

Those interested in submitting a proposal for the aforementioned work may obtain the Information Package by contacting the AMHA Construction Department at 100 West Cedar Street, Akron, Ohio 44307, phone number 330-376-7128.

Proposals, 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 Thursday, March 17, 2022.

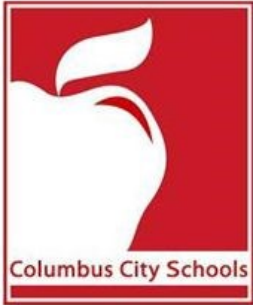
Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority  
Debbie Barry  
Interim Executive Director

# Support Black Media

[www.OhioMBE.com](http://www.OhioMBE.com)

# bid opportunities

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



## LEGAL NOTICE

### 4077 KARL ROAD MISCELLANEOUS FACILITIES RENOVATIONS

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## COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY

COMMUNITY. COMMITMENT. COLLABORATION.

Legal Notice: RFQ 2022-002 CO-DEVELOPER

The Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority is seeking Request for Qualification (RFQ) for the procurement of CO-DEVELOPER. The response deadline is Friday March 18, 2022, @ 5:00PM. Deadline for written questions and clarification requests is on Friday March 4, 2022 @ 5:00PM. A copy of the RFQ can be obtained by visiting our website, [www.cmhanet.com](http://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.



## QCG SERVICES, LLC DRUG & ALCOHOL SCREENINGS

NAKKIA BAKER  
OWNER

4500 LEE ROAD, Suite 127  
CLEVELAND, OH 44128

Office: (216) 662-0077  
Email: [qcgservices@yahoo.com](mailto:qcgservices@yahoo.com)



**Holloway, Henderson & Martin, LLC**

**Cathy R. Holloway**  
President/Owner

**EDGE, FBE, LEDE, DBE, SBE, WBE CERTIFIED**

1612 Old Leonard Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43219

(614) 302-2610  
[Cathy@hbmohio.com](mailto:Cathy@hbmohio.com)



# OhioMBE.com

# IT'S OUR TURN.

HELP ELECT OHIO'S  
FIRST PERSON OF COLOR AND  
FIRST WOMAN U.S. SENATOR.



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DEMOCRAT FOR U.S. SENATE

ELECTION DAY  
**MAY 3**

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Paid for by Morgan Harper for Ohio

## \$5 Journals

Celebrating our Blackness



**5DollarJournals.com**

- 6 x9
- college-ruled
- 120 pages



@FiveDollarJournals

## 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. 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.
4. 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](http://OHBDC.eventbrite.com) for the upcoming class schedule.

# Looking for bid notices?

## WE GOT BIDS!



Find us online:  
Facebook, Twitter,  
Instagram &  
LinkedIn  
[OhioMBE.com/bid-opportunities](http://OhioMBE.com/bid-opportunities)

## Keep up-to-date at [OhioMBE.com](http://OhioMBE.com)



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

# Ohio Diversity Network

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 2:00pm  
[SBA: Coffee with the Colombian Embassy & SBA](#)

Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 11:00am  
[OBDC: Certification 101](#)

Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 6:00pm  
[OBDC: Certification 101](#)

Saturday, March 5, 2022 at 12:00pm  
[Black Wall Street Market](#)

Monday, March 7, 2022 at 12:00pm  
[Start-up Business Basics: Money, Credit and Banking – Establishing Banking Relationships](#)

Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 11:00am  
[OBDC: Certification 101](#)

Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 8:00am  
[Ohio Safety Congress & Expo](#)

Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 11:00am  
[How to Do Business with: U.S. Army](#)

Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 8:00am  
[2022 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo](#)

Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 1:00pm  
[Responding to Request for Proposals / Common Mistakes to Bidding & Estimating – Construction Services](#)

Sunday, March 13, 2022 at 12:00am  
[Welsh Hills School: Our Glimpse of Spring Auction](#)

Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 11:30am  
[Cleveland SBA: Get an SBA-Backed Loan! – Entrepreneurial Series: What is Capital?](#)

Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 8:30am  
[Coffee & Construction](#)

Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 10:00am  
[MBAC of Cincinnati: Employees v Independent Contractors](#)

Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 10:30am  
[Introducing NEW City of Columbus Business Certification Programs](#)



*OhioDiversityNetwork.com is  
sponsored by:*



Hosting a business event?  
Did you know you can  
post it on OhioDiversityNetwork.com?

Email: [news@ohiombe.com](mailto:news@ohiombe.com) for login information

