

OUR HISTORY

In 1995, a group of city, county, state and federal government agency representatives met to discuss the challenges of implementing successful MWDBE programs within their respective organizations.

In 1996, this group formally became known as the MWDBE Governmental Committee.

The purpose of the Committee is to provide a forum for each agency to share contracting information and opportunities, act as a sounding board for ideas to strengthen MWDBE policies, and be a resource for technical assistance and business development for MWDBEs. These companies will benefit from networking opportunities with the members of the Committee.

Over the years, the Committee's membership has expanded to include a broader representation of the government sector of the region. The importance of face-to-face networking among agency representatives and the MWDBE business community remains the primary focus. This interaction has led to the long-term success of the Committee.

CONNECT WITH US

Web: www.mwdbegovtcomm.org

Email: mwdbegovpgh@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MWDBEGovtComm



MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- Allegheny County Airport Authority (412) 472-3779
- Allegheny County Department of Equity and Inclusion (412) 350-4309
- Allegheny County Economic Development (412) 350-1048
- Allegheny County Housing Authority (412) 402-2460
- ALCOSAN (412) 732-8020
- City of Pittsburgh Equal Opportunity Review Commission (412) 255-8804
- Community College of Allegheny County (412) 237-3023
- Diversity Business Resource Center (DBRC) (412) 322-3272
- GACO, APEX Accelerator PennWest University (724) 738-2346
- Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh (412) 643-2768
- Pittsburgh Parking Authority (412) 560-7275
- Pittsburgh Public Schools (412) 529-4660
- Pittsburgh Regional Transit (412) 566-5257
- Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority (412) 255-8800 ext. 6440
- Riverside Center for Innovation (412) 322-3523
- Sports & Exhibition Authority (412) 393-7102
- Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (412) 255-6418
- U. S. Small Business Administration (412) 395-6560

OFFICERS

- Chair:** Juan Garrett
Riverside Center for Innovation
- Vice Chair:** Kim Evans
Allegheny County Housing Authority
- Treasurer:** Emily Pontarelli
Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority
- Secretary:** Renelda Colvin
Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh

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OUR MISSION

To create effective methods that strengthen economic opportunities for Minority, Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (MWDBEs). To provide assistance enabling contractors and businesses to secure contracts in the goods and service, construction and professional services markets leading to profitability and growth for these businesses.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly meetings are a dynamic forum for the Committee to draw on each other's experiences and lessons learned. The cooperative nature of this group of professionals helps to keep the Committee well informed on contracting opportunities and other matters related to MWDBE firms.

Certified MWDBE firms are invited to make a presentation on their experience, products and/or services. In the discussions that follow, the Committee offers suggestions to assist the firms and also hear firsthand, the barriers and challenges that these firms often face.

DIVERSITY BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER (DBRC)

The Diversity Business Resource Center (DBRC) resulted from a successful public-private collaboration initiated by the Committee and Riverside Center for Innovation. Since 2005 DBRC has served as an advocate for MWDBEs in the ten county region of southwestern Pennsylvania. To become a client, go to www.riversidecenterforinnovation.com and click on register now for the DBRC.

THE PLEDGE – LEADERSHIP SETS THE TONE

The Committee was instrumental in bringing together state, county, and local leadership to endorse a commitment to establish and administer fair policies, practices and systems to ensure inclusion of MWDBE firms in publicly funded contracts. To view the fully executed MWDBE Governmental Committee Pledge access www.mwdbegovtcomm.org.

THE MWDBE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Each spring, the Committee hosts an educational and networking conference. Presentations are held to provide information and training on business and contracting related topics. The networking portion, allows attendees to meet one-on-one with purchasing and procurement agents to identify potential contracting opportunities. Business resource providers also participate to discuss services available through their programs.

HALL OF FAME

The Committee recognizes individuals and/or organizations that have demonstrated a strong commitment to improving the economic climate for diverse businesses.

HALL OF FAME HONOREES

2005	Arthur Glover James Moreland
2006	Gwendolyn Allen Attorney Carl H. Brown, Jr.
2007	Ernie Sota Sala Udin
2008	Louis "Hop" Kendrick The New Pittsburgh Courier
2009	Bidwell Training Center Nate Smith, Sr.
2010	John Adams Don Carter
2011	Alexander Nichols, Jr. Charles Powell
2012	Charles and Elisa Sanders A. Fulton Meachem, Jr.
2013	Barbara Fisher Kathy Agostino
2014	Phillipe Petite Monica Jones
2015	Faye O. Ritter Keith B. Key
2016	Elizabeth Bowers Benjamin W. Butler
2017	Diane I. Daniels Chandler D. Wolf
2018	Caster D. Binion
2019	Judith Kirby
2020	Ruth Byrd-Smith
2021	Valerie A. Waters Arletta Scott Williams
2022	Toni Y. Silva-Jeter
2023	Mary K. Conturo Robert A. James