BUSINESS DIVERSITY NEWSLETTER











OUR VISION & MISSION



As one of the largest employers in the City of Chicago, Chicago Public Schools is committed to the expansion and inclusion of a diverse supply chain. The Office of Business Diversity (OBD) is committed to the mission and vision of the District's aspirational goals of 30% Minority-Owned Business Enterprises (MBE) and 7% for Women-Owned Business Enterprises (WBE). Through negotiations, strategic planning with prime vendors, partnerships, data analysis, research, and development of the marketplace; the OBD is the steward to ensure the District's budget has participation of 30% MBE and 7% WBE.

At Chicago Public Schools, the aspirational goal of the Office of Business Diversity is to ensure that MBEs and WBEs have clear, accessible pathways to working with us. This inaugural newsletter is here to keep our diverse vendor community up-to-date on key opportunities and initiatives at CPS. Through it, we aim to share valuable insights, upcoming events, and resources that support businesses in navigating CPS contracting and procurement processes. Our goal is to create a consistent space where vendors can stay connected, informed, and inspired as we work together to foster equity and economic growth in our schools and beyond.

We are excited to launch our newsletter to inform, and celebrate the work the Office of Business performs and we look forward to sharing many more articles over the next several months.

CURRENT BIDS

Click each listing to view more information

CPOR | Automated Reference Checks

Close Date: Nov 7. 5PM*

RFP | Beverage and Snack Vending Services Close Date: Nov 12, 2PM*

CPOR | Handheld Radios Close Date: Nov 13, 5PM*

CPOR | Internal Audit Software

Close Date: Nov 15, 5PM*

RFQ | Educational Technology and Digital Resources

Close Date: Nov 25, 2PM*

*All deadlines are in Central Standard Time (CST)

For more information and to apply, visit our Bonfire page at:

https://cps.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities

AWARDED CONTRACTS



Chicago Public Schools (CPS) is pleased to announce a new district-wide custodial services contract, totaling \$331 million over the next three years, beginning in July 2024. This substantial investment ensures our schools remain clean, safe, and welcoming for students, staff, and families.

The vendors have pledged 40% participation by Minority-Owned Business Enterprises (MBE) and 10% by Women-Owned Business Enterprises (WBE).

This exceeds CPS's diversity goals and reflects our commitment to economic inclusion and community empowerment. Through this contract, vendors will provide skilled custodial staff in collaboration with CPS, fostering sustainable, safe, and positive learning environments for our CPS community!







OCTOBER OUTREACH RECAP





IHCC BUSINESS EXPO 2024

OCTOBER 3, 2024

At the Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Business Conference and Expo, the Office of Business Diversity had the pleasure of serving as an exhibitor and engaging with an inspiring network of entrepreneurs and business leaders.

We connected with many current and prospective vendors, discussed upcoming CPS opportunities, and explored ways to strengthen partnerships with diverse businesses.

The event was a great opportunity to support and celebrate the vibrant Hispanic business community, and we're excited to keep building these valuable connections!

NFBPA MARKS OF EXCELLENCE CEREMONY

OCTOBER 4, 2024

The National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA) honored Chicago Public Schools' Chief Operating Officer, Charles Mayfield, as the Public Administrator of the Year at this year's Marks of Excellence Ceremony.

This honorable distinction highlights Chief Mayfield's commitment to the safety and wellness of CPS' students and the operations of more than 640 schools. Chief Mayfield's executive leadership is advancing the effectiveness of the school district's operations, with more than 60 million square feet. The Office of Business Diversity, Executive Director, Teena Lorie Harris was in attendance to celebrate this extraordinary honor with CPS leadership and other public officials.

We are humbled and honored for Chicago Public Schools' leadership to be recognized for such an auspicious award, as we continue to be the steward for one of the largest school districts in the United States.





OCTOBER OUTREACH RECAP

B.I.G. INFO TECHNOLOGY SUMMIT

OCTOBER 11, 2024

The Office of Business Diversity had a fantastic experience as an exhibitor at the BIG Technology Summit 2024, held at Malcolm X College.

Our Executive Director, Teena Lorie Harris, contributed her expertise by participating in a panel discussion focused on procurements and contracts, representing Chicago Public Schools alongside other esteemed government agencies.

This event provided us with a valuable opportunity to connect and engage with attendees, fostering meaningful discussions and relationships within the community.









CHICAGO BUILD EXPO 2024

OCTOBER 22-23, 2024

At this year's Chicago Build Expo, Chicago Public Schools was thrilled to serve as a local sponsor, representing CPS's commitment to diversity in Chicago's construction industry.

Our Executive Director, Teena Lorie Harris moderated an insightful 6-person panel titled "The Trials, Setbacks, and Wins of Being a M/WBE Firm," where panelists shared personal stories, overcoming challenges, and business growth.

We had a fantastic time connecting with both current and future vendors and exchanging ideas to foster a stronger, more inclusive construction community. We're looking forward to more opportunities to connect and collaborate!



UPCOMING OUTREACH EVENTS







CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION SUMMIT SNEAK PEEK 2024

DECEMBER 17, 2024, 9:30AM-3:30PM

Catch a sneak peek at upcoming CPS construction projects and contracting opportunities at the CPS Capital **Construction Summit!**

Meet our Capital **Business** and Diversity teams, connect with fellow contractors and learn about upcoming construction projects and business opportunities with the School District!

Refreshments will be served, and vou'll have the opportunity to network with 20 governmental and community-based agencies at the Exhibitors Row during our Meet-and-Greet. Plus, free parking is available! Register below to attend this can't-miss event!

REGISTER



FUTURE BID SOLICITATIONS



Here is a preview of upcoming solicitations to look out for! Click "and more" at the bottom of each category to view the full list of the CPS Sourcing Plan.

RFPS

Audio Visual

CTE Equipment

Data Center Services

Data Network Upgrade Services

Waste Management Services

AND MORE

CPORS

Occupational Health Services

Real Estate Broker Services

Rental of Yellow School Buses

Vehicle Maintenance Services

W2 and Affordable Care Act **1095-C Processing Service**

AND MORE

RFOS

Design Build Phase 1 -Contractor

Job Order Contracting (JOC) Services

Construction Material Testing and Inspection

EV Bus Charging Station Infrastructure

AND MORE