



THE COMPETITIVE EDGE CONFERENCE

30 YEARS

CUNY GRADUATE CENTER

JULY 17, 2024

WHO WILL BE THERE & WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?

DISCOVER WHO'S JOINING US AND EXPLORE THESE EXCITING SESSIONS:

9 AM

EXECUTIVE PLENARY SESSION: PRIME OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

PANELISTS

ERIC ALEMANY
SENIOR DIRECTOR SUPPLIER RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT
NYPA

MELISSA JONES
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT CONSTRUCTION DIVERSITY PROGRAMS & CONTRACT COMPLIANCE
MTA

MICHAEL J. GARNER
CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER OF MAYOR'S OFFICE OF MWBE
OFFICE OF MAYOR OF CITY OF NEW YORK

JASON CLARK
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, MWBD
EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT

TRACEY MITCHELL
SENIOR DIRECTION CIVIL RIGHTS AND DIVERSITY
GATEWAY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



MODERATOR

LOURDES ZAPATA
CHIEF DIVERSITY & INCLUSION OFFICER
MTA

10 AM

ACCESS TO CAPITAL & FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES ARE YOU READY, WILLING, AND ABLE?

PANELISTS

RAFAEL ROGER
PRESIDENT
BUSINESS INITIATIVE CORPORATION OF NEW YORK

MARK BRAZIER
VICE PRESIDENT
MANAGER OF CONTRACT FUNDING TRUFUND SERVICES

KRISTJAN PRIMA
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
DIRECTOR, SBA LENDING
PONCE BANK

NANCY VARGAS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DH2 CHAUFFEURED TRANSPORTATION



MODERATOR

MADELINE MARQUEZ
EXECUTIVE VP
CHIEF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER
PONCE BANK

11 AM

EXPANDING PARTICIPATION OF EMERGING INVESTMENT MANAGERS

PANELISTS

LEI ZHANG
HEAD OF EXTERNAL PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT
NYS INSURANCE FUND

SYLVESTER MCCLEARN
DIRECTOR EMERGING MANAGER PROGRAM
OFFICE OF NYS STATE COMPTROLLER

CHARLETTE HAMAMIGIAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER CONTRACTS & PROCUREMENT
OFFICE OF NYC COMPTROLLER

DAVID PEREZ
CO-FOUNDER AND MANAGING PARTNER
AVANCE INVESTMENT



MODERATOR

ANYORI "AJ" HERNANDEZ
PRESIDENT & CEO
NEW AMERICAN ALLIANCE

12 PM

LUNCH & NETWORKING



1 PM

1-ON-1 REAL PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
NEW YORK POWER AUTHORITY
NEW YORK CITY SMALL BUSINESS SERVICES
NEW YORK CITY MAYOR'S OFFICE OF CONTRACT SERVICES
NEW YORK EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT
TDX CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION



1 PM

THE POWER OF THE PIPELINE: MARKET INSIGHTS AND BUSINESS PIPELINE OF INFRASTRUCTURE IN NEW YORK

PANELISTS

JOHN GASPARINE
NORTHEAST DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
WSP USA

STAMATIA (TAMMY) PETSIOS
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
STV INC.

HOUSSAM AKRA
DIRECTOR, PROGRAM MANAGEMENT
HAYDAN CONSULTANTS

STEVEN MCKESSEY
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
CUMMING GROUP



MODERATOR

MICHAEL PATERNO
VP CONSTRUCTION SERVICES
GANNETT FLEMING

2 PM

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: M/WBES TAKING FLIGHT A CASE STUDY ABOUT DIVERSITY IN CONTRACTING AT THE JFK REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

PRESENTED BY PANYNJ & TERMINAL AIRPORT PROJECTS

PANELISTS

HERSH PAREKH
DEPUTY CHIEF OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
PORT AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ

UZO OKOYE
CHIEF OF STAFF
THE NEW TERMINAL ONE

CARLTON BYRD
MANAGING DIRECTOR
AMERICAN TRIPLE I PARTNERS (JFK MILLENNIUM PARTNERS)

DAN SAWH
FOUNDER & PRESIDENT
HAYDAN CONSULTANTS



MODERATOR

RACHELLE ANTOINE
MANAGER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS & COMMUNITY OUTREACH
JFK REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

WHERE IS THE CONFERENCE?

CUNY GRADUATE CENTER
365 5TH AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10016

WHEN IS THE 30TH COMPETITIVE EDGE CONFERENCE?

WEDNESDAY - JULY 17TH, 2024

BE THERE EARLY!

7AM: EXHIBITORS SET UP

8AM: REGISTRATION, NETWORKING, & BREAKFAST

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?

COME DRESSED IN YOUR BUSINESS BEST & BRING PLENTY OF BUSINESS CARDS!

LEARN MORE AT

WWW.COMPETITIVEEDGECONFERENCE.COM



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