

SMALL BUSINESS CONNECTIONS

2023 DIVERSITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AWARDS

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The City of Knoxville hosted the 8th Annual Diversity Business Enterprise Awards Ceremony on September 28, 2023 at Lakeshore Park's Marble Hall. Mayor Indya Kincannon welcomed and addressed guests along with Purchasing Agent Penny Owens and Assistant Purchasing Agent Pamela Cotham.

The City of Knoxville procures from diverse business enterprises, DBEs, with intentionality to promote economic equity and inclusion. By doing so, the City of Knoxville empowers businesses to leave their legacy behind, by taking ownership of the place they call home. As highlighted in her opening remarks, Mayor Indya Kincannon stated that the City spends over \$100 million per year overall on goods or services, thanks in part to Knoxville's rich DBE community.

This year's award recipients are:

- **Southern Safety Supply, LLC**, recipient of the Impact Award, which recognizes a business that provides a superior product or service to our internal departments, allowing the department to better support the City. Southern Safety Supply always keeps inventory levels readily available to fill the safety and clothing gear needs of the Knoxville Fire Department, Knoxville Area Transit, and the City's signal shop. They provide excellent customer service while keeping costs low

<https://knoxvilletn.gov/purchasing>

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- **SCU Bus Lines**, recipient of the Above & Beyond Award, which recognizes a business that has exceeded expectations to help the City meet one of its five core values. SCU Bus Lines provided safe, punctual and friendly transportation services to participants of the *Knoxville Outdoor Recreation Experience* program, KORE. The Parks and Recreation Department manage KORE to offer summer camp activities to children and teens
- **Trusted Field Services**, recipient of the Rising Star Award, which recognizes a business that is in its early years of contracting with the City and has provided outstanding performance in supporting one of the City's five core values. Trusted Field Services is a concrete contractor and assisted Knoxville Area Transit pour several bus stops that provide quality and safety to its ADA passengers. Trusted Field Services is a Black woman-owned small business
- **Expoquip, Inc.**, recipient of the Minority-Owned Business of the Year Award, which recognizes a minority-owned business working with the City that assists in supporting our values. Expoquip, Inc. is a worldwide supplier of heavy equipment parts, from PPE to power tools and generators. Expoquip, Inc. was recognized by the Fleet Services and Knoxville Area Transit departments for their efficiency and agility in fulfilling orders. Expoquip, Inc. is a Latino-owned business
- **Tennessee Fire Equipment & Safety Supplies, LLC**, recipient of the Woman-Owned Business of the Year Award, which recognizes a woman-owned business that has markedly supported one of the City's core values. In their case, it is in support of public safety. This vendor supplies safety equipment and gear as needed by the Knoxville Fire Department, and upholds to high customer service standards
- **Progression Electric, LLC**, recipient of the Small Business of the Year Award, which recognizes a small business who represents the backbone of our business community, replaced 11 signal support poles, 40 traffic signals and 12,000 feet of outdated control wire, making this infrastructure more aesthetically pleasing, modern and safe
- **Edison Electric**, recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes a business that steps up when the City's need for a product or service (due to a variety of circumstances) requires immediate attention. This vendor contributes to public safety by keeping the City illuminated. Edison goes beyond by putting people first, mission second. When streetlights get knocked down or experience issues, Edison resolves the issue within a few hours

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The City of Knoxville works to uphold the Mayor's five core values: public safety, healthy and connected neighborhoods, a clean and resilient future, thriving businesses and good jobs, and good governance. It is vital that our requisitioners, p-card holders, warehouse clerks and account techs be intentional in procuring from DBEs. The City recognizes those employees who support these priorities through their purchases with DBEs by presenting the DBE Advocate Awards. The department recipients were:

- **Police** – highest percentage of discretionary expenditures in the large spend category, having conducted 51.47% of their discretionary spend with minority- and woman-owned businesses
- **Engineering** – highest percentage of discretionary expenditures in the medium spend category, having conducted 41.15% of their discretionary spend with minority- and woman-owned businesses
- **Special Events** – highest percentage of discretionary expenditures in the small spend category, having conducted 14.96% of their discretionary spend with minority- and woman-owned businesses
- **311** – highest percentage of discretionary expenditures in the micro spend category, having conducted 36.74% of their discretionary spend with minority- and woman-owned businesses

The City's prestigious Employee DBE Advocate of the Year Award was presented to Knoxville Fire Department Assistant Chief Carla Jones for her ongoing efforts to engage and utilize DBEs. As Purchasing Agent Penny Owens stated in her remarks, the true definition of a leader is to be a great example and set expectations - and Assistant Chief Jones does exactly that.

RECENTLY AWARDED SOLICITATIONS

The City solicits sealed submissions for purchases of \$50,000 or more and requests for quotes for purchases between \$12,500 and \$49,999.99.

Purchases below \$12,500 are managed at the discretion by the City's departments. Awards issued within the past 90 days include the following:

Title	Supplier-Diversity Type	Amount
Third Creek Greenway Resurfacing Phase I	APAC-Atlantic, Inc.	\$331,923.75
Bottled Water Services	English Mountain Spring Water Co.- Small Business	\$1.30/gal
Downtown Parking Review Consultant Services	Walker Consultants	\$87,225
E.V. Davidson Community Center Reroof & HVAC Upgrades	Henley Roofing Co.-Small Business	\$733,300
Tree Installation	Patriot Lawn Maintenance LLC- Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business	\$42,500
Uniforms for Knoxville Fire Department	Summit Uniforms-Small Business	unit price
Utility Vehicles with Cargo Deck	Ben Nelson Golf & Utility Vehicles LLC-Small Business	\$32,848.60

UPCOMING PROCUREMENTS

Description	Projected Bid Date
Horticulture Mowing at Oddfellows and Potter’s Field	October 2023
Golf Course Management	
Mobile File Cabinet System	
Banking Services	
HVAC Chiller for Knoxville Convention Center	
Mailing Services for Tax Notices	November 2023
Liberty Street Multimodal Project	Fall 2023
Middlebrook Pike Advanced Traffic Management System Project	
Automotive Filters	
KPD Electronic Target Station Replacement	
Merchant Card Services	
Outdoor Knoxville Roof Replacement Project	
Replacement 4.5” Aluminum Pedestrian Pole, Bases, and Hardware	
Replacement Street Lighting Fixtures	
Letter of Intent for Engineering Firms to Design Overhead Infrastructure for KAT	
Information Systems Audit	
Fuel Bid	
Sidewalk Replacement Phase II Project	
Pleasant Ridge Road Phase II Project	
2023 Facilities Paving Project	December 2023

OUTREACH AND NETWORKING EVENTS



Small Business NetwORking by the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce. Second Thursday of the month, 8-9:00 a.m. at Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce, Joyce Conference Room, 1400 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Networking with roundtable introductions and 1-minute pitches. Breakfast is included. For information, please contact Norm Nelson at membership@orcc.org.

Expanding Business Opportunities for Small and Diverse Businesses by Tennessee Higher Education Public Universities. Wednesday, October 18, 10:00 am-2:00pm CDT at UT Center for Industrial Service Training Facility, 193 Polk Avenue, Nashville, TN 37210. Small and diverse businesses are welcome to network with Tennessee public universities, share resources, and explore potential opportunities. The Tennessee Governor's Office of Diversity Business Enterprise (GoDBE) will offer a hands-on information about benefits and ways to obtain certification. Register [HERE](#).

2023 Construction Opportunities Conference by Music City Center, in partnership with Nashville Business Incubation Center and Tennessee APEX Accelerator (formerly PTAC). Thursday, October 26, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. CDT at the Music City Center, 201 Rep. John Lewis Way S., Nashville, TN 37203. A one-day conference where small businesses and construction firms come face-to-face with large prime contractors and government agencies. Register at <https://nbic.involve.me/generaladmission-registration>. Mingle, network, and discover businesses in the region. To register, email julie@farragutchamber.com for details.



OUTREACH AND NETWORKING EVENTS



Networking - Ancient Lore Village by the Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce. Thursday, November 16, 4:30-6:00 p.m. EDT at Ancient Lore Village, 7107 Sevierville Pike, Knoxville, TN 37920. Free networking event, no registration is required. More information is available at suzanne@farragutchamber.com or (865) 675-7057.

The City of Knoxville/Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. The City of Knoxville/KAT has received Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, the City of Knoxville has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

To view the policy, visit: <https://katbus.com/about-kat/transparency-accountability/>.



CITY OF KNOXVILLE

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