



DEPARTMENT OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CITY OF CHICAGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 4, 2016

CONTACT:

Cathy Kwiatkowski
Director of Public Affairs
Cathy.Kwiatkowski@cityofchicago.org

**CONSTRUCTION SUMMIT DRAWS HUNDREDS OF BUSINESS OWNERS INTERESTED IN
CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES**

The Chicago Department of Procurement Services (DPS) held its 4th annual City of Chicago Construction Summit at the South Shore Cultural Center. This event gave construction and construction-related companies the opportunity to meet one-on-one with nearly 40 Government Agencies and Assist Agencies regarding upcoming Construction projects.

“Under the leadership of Mayor Emanuel, DPS is committed to providing education, information and access to resources to the small, minority and women-owned business community,” said Chief Procurement Officer Jamie L. Rhee, “We want every business to consider the possibility of becoming a prime contractor or teaming up with other firms to joint venture to bid on, and earn, City contracts.”

Nearly 400 participants representing contractors, manufacturers and suppliers of all sizes and specialties gathered information on the hundreds of opportunities that will be bid in the coming year. They also learned about the numerous programs developed by the City of Chicago to encourage the growth of small, minority and women-owned firms.

One of the key objectives at the City of Chicago is to increase the diversity of the businesses that bid on and earn city contracts. A number of initiatives have been put in place to move these goals forward, including the Diversity Credit Program, the M/WBE Mentorship Program, Graduation Phase-out Program, and the Small Business Initiative.

While the Summit features construction, DPS will host the 2016 Vendor Fair on May 25, 2016 at the UIC Forum. This event will include approximately 90 exhibitors from professional services, technology, work services and commodities from federal, state and local government agencies. The event will also include networking sessions and numerous customized workshops for businesses of all sizes and types.

####