



DEPARTMENT OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES  
CITY OF CHICAGO

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

The Chicago Department of Procurement Services (DPS) held its 3rd 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 over 30 Government Agencies and Assist Agencies regarding upcoming Construction projects.

“Mayor Emanuel has tasked us with hosting events like today’s Construction Summit because we know receiving bid details in advance can help small businesses,” 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.”

Over 300 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, the City will co-host the 2015 Vendor Fair with our partners at Cook County on June 3, 2015 at the UIC Forum. This event will include more than 75 exhibitors from professional services, technology, work services and commodities from federal, state and local government agencies. The event will also include numerous customized workshops for businesses.

From day one in office, Mayor Emanuel has recognized the importance of strengthening small business by providing access to capital and financial assistance. The City, working with the vendor community, will host its 2nd Annual Financial Symposium on July 16, 2015 at the UIC Forum. This symposium will convene financing institutions, lenders, chambers, government entities and assist agencies to provide resources to small, minority and women-owned businesses to support growth and build capacity.

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