

# 2014

## Forest Preserve District of Cook County Annual Business Diversity Report FY 2014



**Toni Preckwinkle**  
**President**

Forest Preserve District of Cook County  
Board of Commissioners

*Message from Toni Preckwinkle  
Board President of  
Forest Preserve District of Cook County*

To the residents of Cook County:

At the start of my first term as President of the Forest Preserves of Cook County I made it a top priority of my administration to foster a greater inclusion of Minority- and Women-owned Business (MBE/WBE). During my first term in office we established a MBE/WBE Program which was supported and approved by the Forest Preserves Cook County Board of Commissioners in September 2012. For the first time in the history of the preserves, we are reporting contractual commitments and actual payments to minority- and women-owned businesses. This report is a testament to our goal to be more transparent and our commitment to the long term success of minority and women-owned businesses. This report allows residents and businesses to see the goals we have set for ourselves by reporting on contract dollars awarded and paid to MBE/WBE businesses.

From inception of the ordinance, we've made significant improvements to our MBE/WBE Program. To implement this important initiative we revised our procurement code which gave us the ability to create the MBE/WBE Program. By adding reinforcement measures to the code, we have more tools to support MBE/WBE firms and promote greater inclusion of MBE/WBE firms in a pro-active and transparent manner.

In 2014, we enhanced our website by providing direct links to the Chicago Botanic Garden and the Chicago Zoological Society solicitations. We also increased the awareness of the MBE/WBE program by hosting three workshops and participating in a number of other outreach events.

By ensuring inclusion of minority- and women-owned businesses we are staying true to our goal of welcoming businesses to partner with the forest preserves and adhere to our fundamental mission "to acquire, restore and manage lands for the purpose of protecting and preserving public open space." Under my leadership, and with the support of the FPCC Board of

Commissioners, we have made tremendous strides in becoming a more transparent and effective government agency, but there is more to do. We will continue to work each day to make the FPCC the most transparent and attractive business partner for our minority and women-owned businesses.

Thanks to our top-down approach, workshops and outreach events, and collaboration with implementing a MBE/WBE program as well as other initiatives FPCC was able to exceed our 35% MBE/WBE aspirational goal for FY 2014. We look forward to continuing our work with both residents and businesses of the Cook County.

## OUR COMMITMENT TO MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS

**Background** The District is pleased to present its first Annual Business Diversity Report covering the period of Fiscal Year 2014 under President Preckwinkle. The President is committed to the inclusion and expansion of opportunities for small, local, minority and women-owned businesses. In the absence of authority to establish the type of provisions referenced via the Program to Government Contracts, the District had experienced a significantly low level of participation by MBE/WBEs in its Government Contracts. It procured goods and services in a non-inclusive marketplace and without the authority to establish MBE/WBE goals. Historically, minority- and women-owned businesses have been awarded government contracts in dollar amounts disproportionately lower than the availability of such business that are willing and able to undertake these contracts. Under new leadership, the District sought to provide a level playing field and equal access for all prime contractors and subcontractors to participate in government contracts.

In July 2012, Governor Quinn signed legislation allowing the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (District) to establish provisions to address the underuse of minority and women-owned businesses with respect to procurement contracts with the District.

An ordinance establishing the program's parameters and guidelines was passed by the Forest Preserve District's Board of Commissioners in September 2012. This new initiative is significantly benefitting the residents of our County by increasing the pool of qualified minority and women-owned businesses that have the opportunity to be selected for contracts awarded by the District each year.

In an effort to remedy historic inequity and to facilitate greater inclusion, the District established goals for the participation of minority and women-owned businesses in District contracts as set forth under the ordinances that comprise the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Municipal Code. The goals are as follows:

Contract Type	Goals	
	MBE	WBE
Goods and Services	25%	10%
Construction	24%	10%
Professional Services	35% Overall	

**About this Report** under the leadership of President Preckwinkle the District will publish an annual diversity report for the first time, making this information available to the public. This report details the District's efforts to ensure minority and women-owned business have greater access to public contracting opportunities. The reporting period covers the program accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2014 (January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014).

The report summarizes program activity, prime contract and subcontract utilization data for certified Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises (MBE/WBE), as well as MBE/WBE participation achieved from the Districts 2012 Bond Funds allocated to the Chicago Botanic Garden and Chicago Zoological Society. This report includes contracts dollars awarded by the District, Chicago Botanic Garden and Chicago Zoological Society as reported by vendors.

This report will serve as a benchmarking tool in assessing the MBE/WBE participation and identifying areas for greater inclusion. The District tracks MBE/WBE participation in the following three categories (1) Goods and Services, (2) Construction, and (3) Professional Services. Data reported is based on actual payments reported by vendors. The report demonstrates that in FY 2014 the District, Chicago Botanic Garden and Chicago Zoological Society made substantial progress towards achieving our goals

**MBE/WBE Initiatives** Since the passage of the MBE/WBE program, President Preckwinkle has made achieving full MBE/WBE participation in District's procurement a key goal of her administration. The District has undertaken a number of efforts to reduce barriers for minority- and women-owned businesses that are competing for contracts and currently doing business with the District. The efforts are described below:

- Organizing and hosting 3 outreach events
  - Forest Preserve District Cook County Landscaping Forum
  - Vendor Fair jointly with Cook County and Cook County Health and Hospital System
  - Surety Bonding Education Forum
- Participated in 9 outreach and workshops with Government entities and Assist Agencies throughout Cook County
- Strategically enhanced the transparency of the Chicago Botanic Garden and Chicago Zoological Society contract opportunities via the District's purchasing website
- Achieved the 35% MBE/WBE aspirational committed goal
- Collaborated with the Cook County and Cook County Health and Hospital System and Colette Holt and Associates (consultant) to conduct a Disparity Study of the County's MBE/WBE Program.

**Disparity Study** In June of 2013, the Cook County Board of Commissioners approved an agreement with Colette Holt & Associates to conduct a Disparity Study of the County's MBE/WBE Program. The purpose of the study is to identify measures to be implemented to ensure full MBE/WBE participation.

A Disparity Study is a periodic evaluation of a municipality's MBE/WBE efforts. The term "disparity" refers to the difference between the number of MBE/WBE's who are able to provide the services a local government is procuring and the number of firms who are actually working with in the local government. The study looks at whether the organization is meeting its goals with regards to access to procurement opportunities and provides recommendations to improve its efforts. Disparity studies also provide a legal defense of an MBE/WBE program if that program is challenged in the courts.

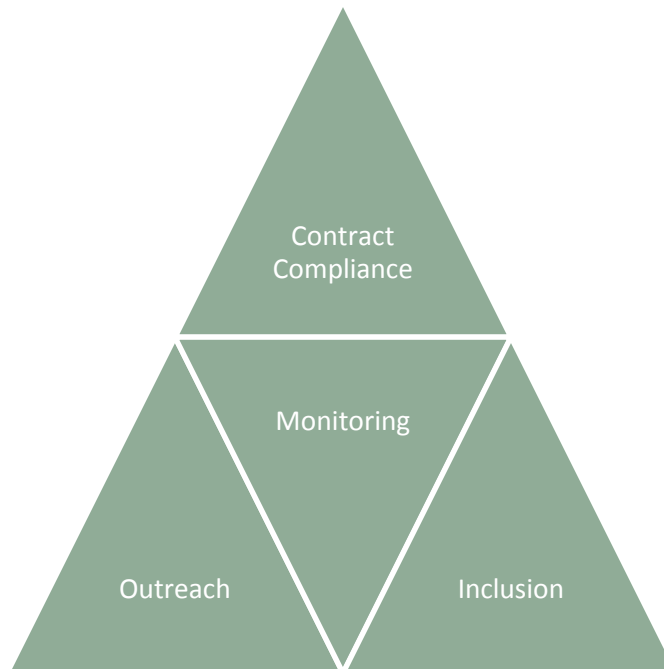


Nationally, it's considered best practice to conduct regular disparity studies. Other local agencies that have done this include the City of Chicago and the Illinois Department of Transportation. As a new initiative under this administration, we are implementing a best practice by conducting the District's first Disparity Study.

The Study will include a comprehensive statistical analysis based on the District's procurement history. The consultant will collect, sort, research, and analyze data and will use Custom Census methodology recommended in the National Disparity Study Guidelines to accurately estimate MBE/WBE availability estimates. The consultant will also calculate a Disparity index using regression analysis. The Disparity Study is expected to be completed by the end of 2015.

## ROLE OF CONTRACT COMPLIANCE ADMINISTRATOR

The Contract Compliance Administrator (CCA) advocates for minority and women-owned business by ensuring the application and enforcement of the District's MBE/WBE Ordinance. The CCA is responsible and accountable for administration of the District's Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises Program. Some duties include ensuring MBE/WBE inclusion in the District's contracting processes, participates in outreach events, and reports on supplier diversity participation to the President and Board of Commissioners.



### Program Administration

The District's MBE/WBE Program as set forth in the Forest Preserve District Code of Cook County, Title 1 Administration under Chapter 8 – District Finances 1-8-5: Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprises. The Code can be found online at [www.fpdcc.com/code](http://www.fpdcc.com/code). The responsibilities of the District include:

- (1) Formulating, proposing and implementing rules and regulations for the development, implementation and monitoring of the MBE/WBE Program.
- (2) Providing information and assistance to MBE/WBE relating to the Program, and serving as a liaison to community, contractor, professional and supplier groups, as well as associations and organizations.

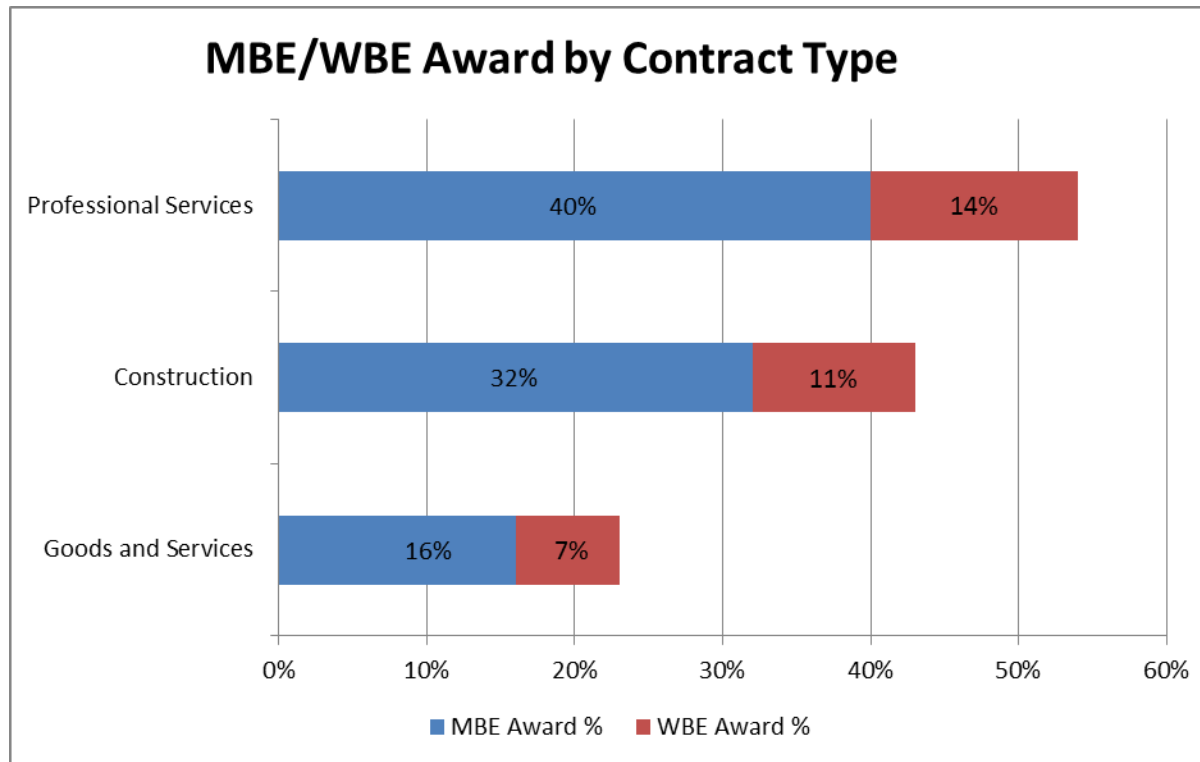


- (3) Establishing contract specific goals based upon the availability of MBE/WBEs to provide the supplies, materials and equipment or services required by the Contract.
- (4) Cooperates with and provides assistance to internal departments to facilitate participation by MBE/WBEs in procurements.
- (5) Monitoring contracts to evaluate compliance with Contract Specific Goals and commitments.
- (6) Cooperating with and providing assistance to Assist Agencies to facilitate participation by MBE/WBEs in Procurements.
- (7) Reviewing, approving or rejecting utilization plans for achievement of contract specific goals, and evaluating the extent to which goals were achieved.
- (8) Monitoring contracts to ensure compliance with Section N:2b.iii(O), Prompt Payment of MBE/WBEs.
- (9) Receiving, reviewing, and acting upon complaints and suggestions concerning the program.
- (10) Evaluating the effectiveness and utility of the program.
- (11) Monitoring the program and the District's progress towards program goals.
- (12) Reporting to the District's Contract Compliance Committee, at its request, information regarding the administration of the program and its progress toward achieving program goals.

## Forest Preserve District of Cook County Government MBE/WBE FY 2014 Award Summary (Commitments)\*

	<i>MBE Award</i>	<i>WBE Award</i>	<i>Non-MBE/WBE Award Amount</i>	<i>Total Contract Awarded in FY 2014</i>
Goods and Services	\$2,164,776	\$1,004,468	\$10,379,446	\$13,548,689
Construction	\$17,637,812	\$5,828,858	\$30,570,753	\$54,037,423
Professional Services	\$7,238,819	\$2,542,477	\$8,217,501	\$17,998,798
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$27,041,407</b>	<b>\$9,375,803</b>	<b>\$49,167,700</b>	<b>\$85,584,910</b>

*\*Participation is based on all active contracts awarded in previous years that received payments in FY 2014 as well as those awarded during FY2014*



Overall, in FY 2014 the District awarded:

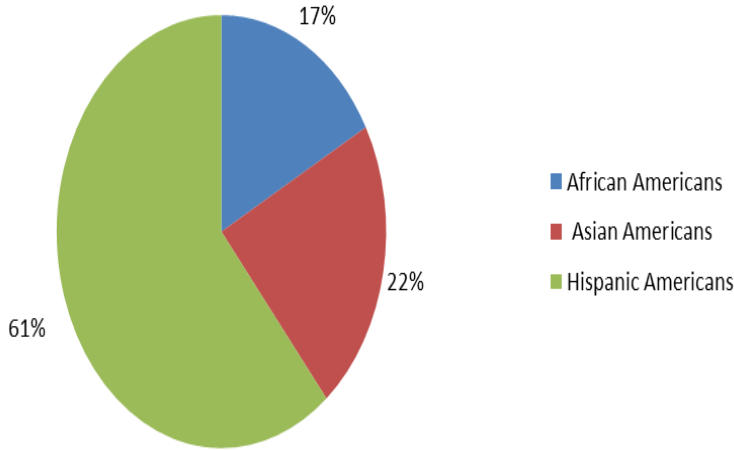
- 54%** MBE/WBE participation on Professional Contracts
- 43%** MBE/WBE participation on Construction Projects
- 23%** MBE/WBE participation on Goods and Services

## Forest Preserve District of Cook County Government MBE/WBE FY 2014 Awards by Ethnicity (Commitments)\*

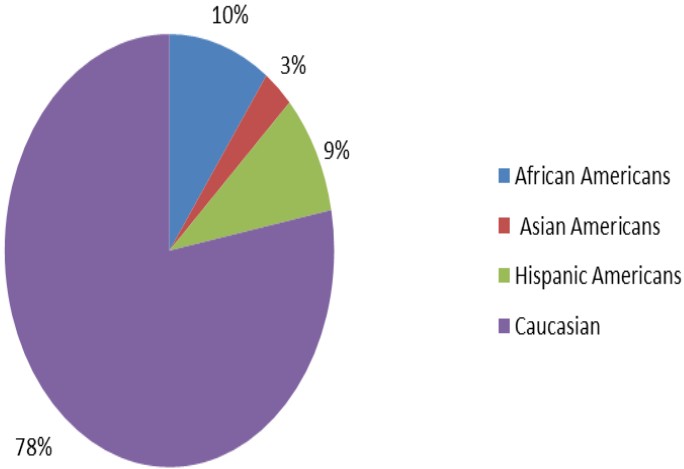
All Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Dollars				All Women Business Enterprise (WBE) Dollars			
Contract Type	African Americans	Asian Americans	Hispanic Americans	African Americans	Asian Americans	Hispanic Americans	Caucasian
Goods and Services	\$372,287	\$254,994	\$1,537,495	\$68,925	\$0	\$185,431	\$750,112
Construction	\$2,045,622	\$1,864,334	\$13,727,856	\$313,346	\$63,815	\$520,696	\$4,931,001
Professional Services	\$2,142,815	\$3,794,905	\$1,301,099	\$572,059	\$241,659	\$106,908	\$1,621,850
Total	\$4,560,724	\$5,914,233	\$16,566,450	\$954,330	\$305,474	\$813,035	\$7,302,963

*\*Participation is based on all active contracts awarded in previous years that received payments in FY 2014 as well as those awarded during FY2014*

**MBE Participation Committed by Ethnicity**



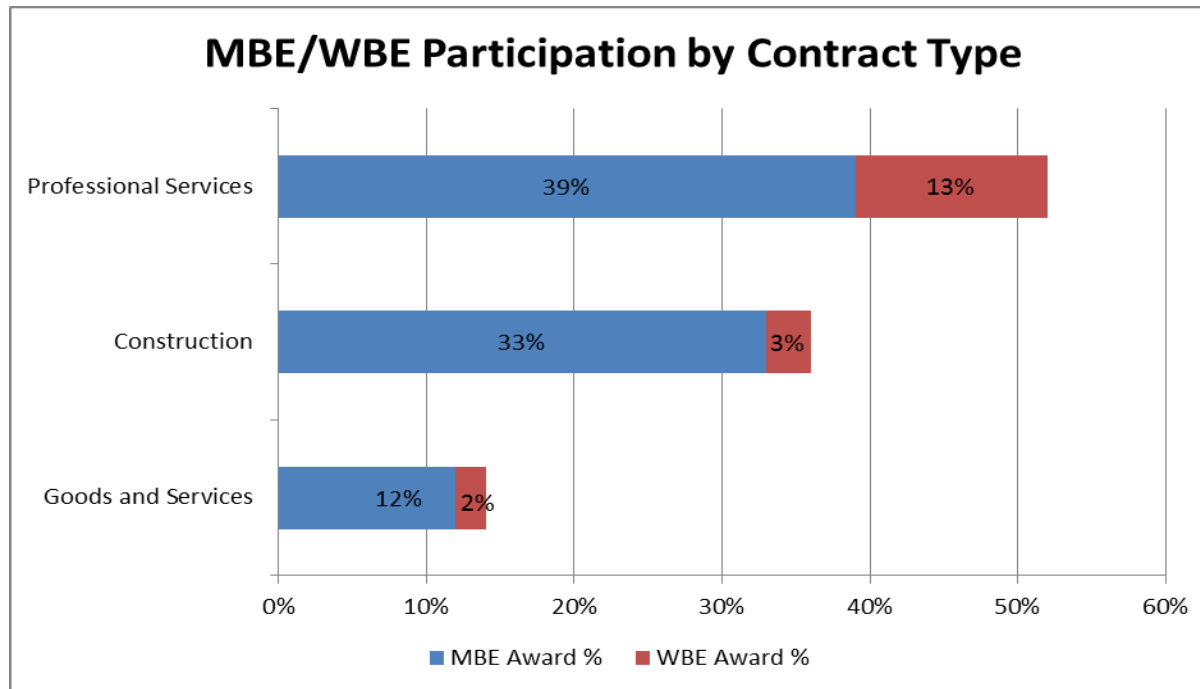
**WBE Participation Committed by Ethnicity**



## Forest Preserve District of Cook County Government MBE/WBE FY 2014 Payment Summary (Actuals)\*

	<i>MBE Payment</i>	<i>WBE Payment</i>	<i>Non-MBE/WBE Payment</i>	<i>Total Payments</i>
<b>Goods and Services</b>	<b>\$734,438</b>	<b>\$136,421</b>	<b>\$5,407,053</b>	<b>\$6,277,912</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>\$4,845,143</b>	<b>\$369,771</b>	<b>\$9,442,731</b>	<b>\$14,657,645</b>
<b>Professional Services</b>	<b>\$3,757,598</b>	<b>\$1,241,708</b>	<b>\$4,536,668</b>	<b>\$9,535,974</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,337,179</b>	<b>\$1,747,900</b>	<b>\$19,386,452</b>	<b>\$30,471,531</b>

*\*Participation is based on payments reported by vendors (Primes and Sub-contractors); the contracts for which payments are made in FY2014 include contracts awarded in previous years as well as a portion of those awarded during FY2014*



In FY 2014 Payments made on the District contracts represented\*:

**52%** MBE/WBE participation on Professional Contracts

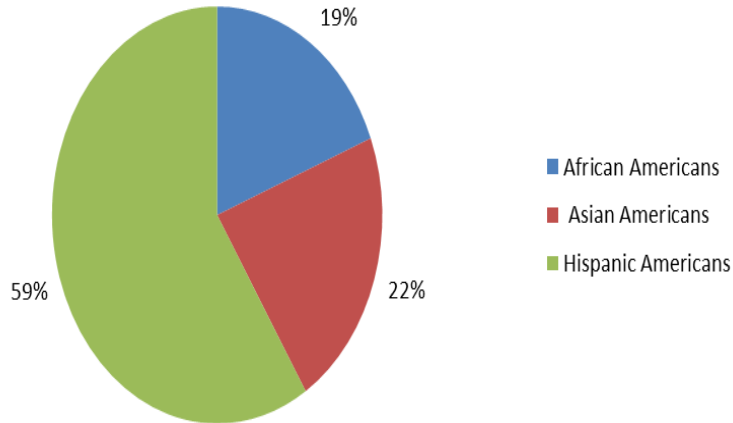
**36%** MBE/WBE participation on Construction Projects

**14%** MBE/WBE participation on Goods and Services

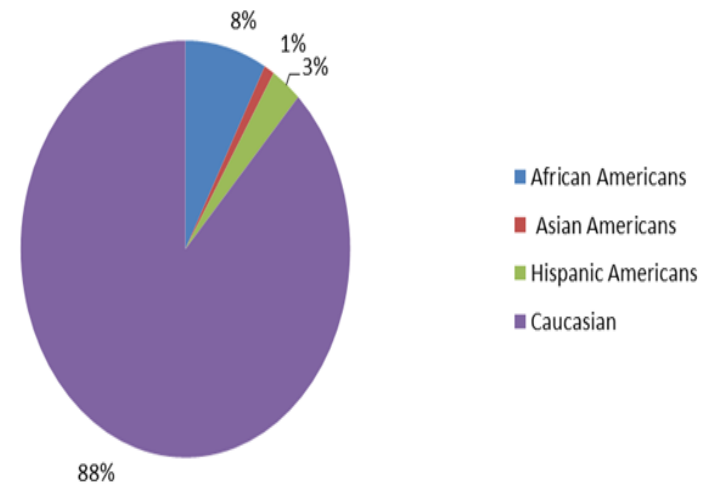
## Forest Preserve District of Cook County Government MBE/WBE Payments by Ethnicity (Actuals)\*

Contract Type	Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Dollars			Women Business Enterprise (WBE) Dollars			
	African Americans	Asian Americans	Hispanic Americans	African Americans	Asian Americans	Hispanic Americans	Caucasian
Goods and Services	\$126,563	\$0	\$607,875	\$28,858	\$0	\$0	\$107,564
Construction	\$476,631	\$553,962	\$3,814,550	\$24,238	\$0	\$14,509	\$331,024
Professional Services	\$1,188,575	\$1,525,333	\$1,043,690	\$85,664	\$25,420	\$33,771	\$1,096,853
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,791,769</b>	<b>\$2,079,295</b>	<b>\$5,466,115</b>	<b>\$138,760</b>	<b>\$25,420</b>	<b>\$48,280</b>	<b>\$1,535,441</b>

**MBE Participation \* by Ethnicity**



**WBE Participation \* by Ethnicity**



\*Participation is based on payments reported by vendors (Primes and Subcontractors)

## **Chicago Botanic Garden (Garden)**

The Chicago Horticultural Society (Society) maintains and operates the Chicago Botanic Garden (CBG) on land owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (the District). The District provided capital funding to the Garden through the issuance of Series 2012C Bonds. This report summarizes the Garden's MBE/WBE compliance for the commitment and expenditure of those capital funds.

On June 6, 2012, the Board of Commissioners for the District passed an ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of General Obligation Unlimited Tax Bond Series 2012C (the "2012C Bonds"). At the time it was contemplated that a portion of the 2012C Bonds would be shared with the Garden and used by the Garden to make various capital improvements.

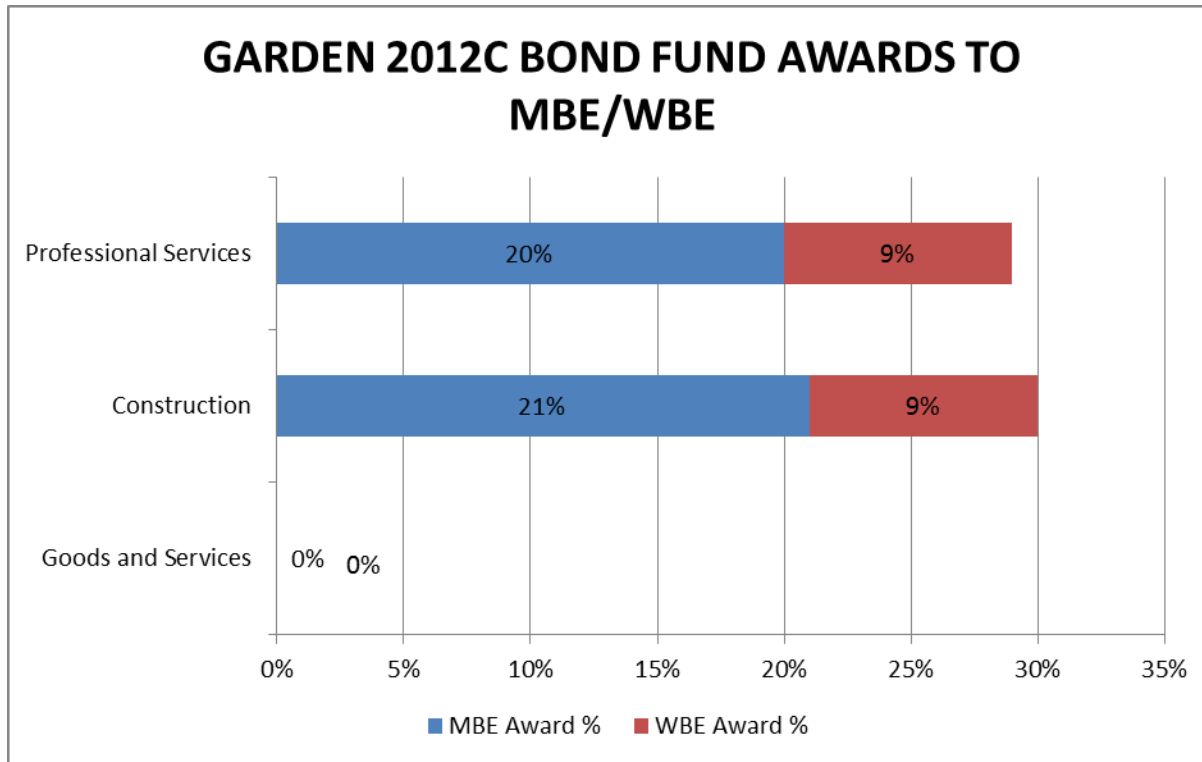
The proposed Bond Proceeds Sharing Agreement, which includes a commitment by the Garden to utilize share of the proceeds from the 2012C Bonds in a manner consistent with the plan adopted by the District to address the underutilization of minority- and women-owned business enterprises with respect to purchasing and contracting opportunities, is intended to memorialize the terms of the arrangement by and between the Garden and the District with respect to the aforementioned bond proceeds. The Board of Commissioners for the District approved the Bond Proceeds Sharing Agreement with the Garden on October 3, 2012.

This section includes contract awarded from the 2012C Bonds by the Garden during FY2014 and actual payments made to minority and women owned businesses. Actual payment amounts are based on data reported by vendors (Primes and Subcontractors).

## Chicago Botanic Garden (GARDEN) MBE/WBE FY 2014 Award\* Summary (Commitments)

	<i>MBE Award</i>	<i>WBE Award</i>	<i>Non-MBE/WBE Award Amount</i>	<i>Total Contract Awarded</i>
<b>Goods and Services</b>	\$0	\$0	\$7,554	\$7,554
<b>Construction</b>	\$828,553	\$335,050	\$2,721,183	\$3,884,786
<b>Professional Services</b>	\$268,942	\$115,041	\$965,456	\$1,349,439
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,097,495</b>	<b>\$450,091</b>	<b>\$3,694,193</b>	<b>\$5,241,779</b>

*\*Awarded contracts that received payments from 2012C Bond Fund Expenditures*



Overall, in FY 2014 Garden awarded\*:

**29%** MBE/WBE participation on Professional Contracts

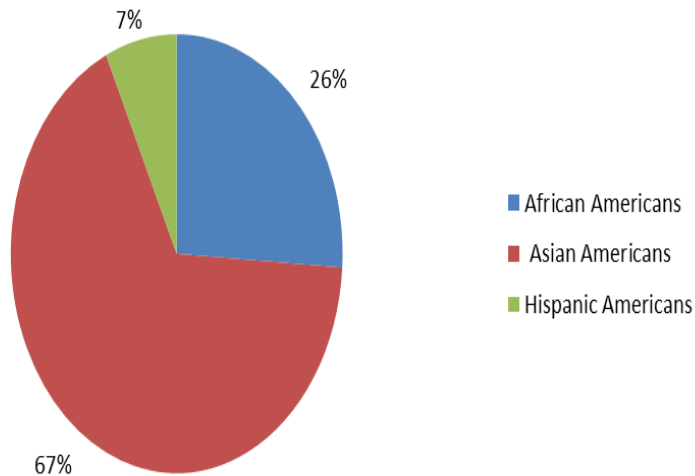
**30%** MBE/WBE participation on Construction

**0%** MBE/WBE participation on Goods and Services

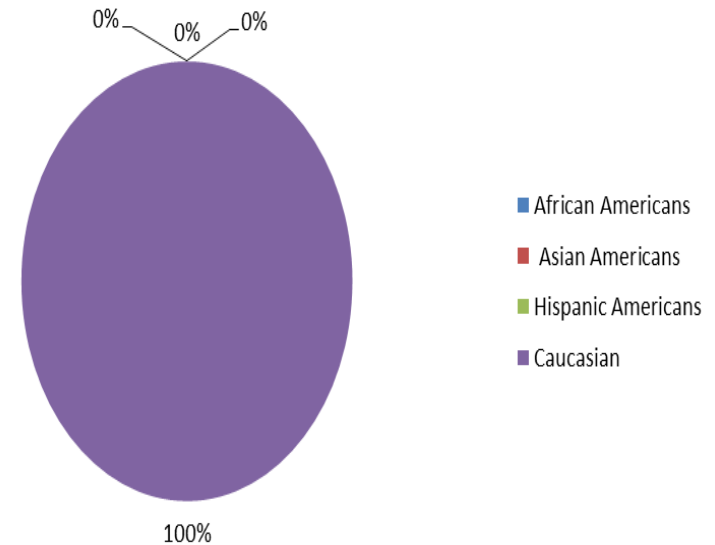
## Chicago Botanic Garden (GARDEN) MBE/WBE FY 2014 Awards by Ethnicity (Commitments)

Contract Type	Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Dollars			Women Business Enterprise (WBE) Dollars			
	African Americans	Asian Americans	Hispanic Americans	African Americans	Asian Americans	Hispanic Americans	Caucasian
Goods and Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Construction	\$55,882	\$699,434	\$73,237	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$335,050
Professional Services	\$234,371	\$34,571	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$115,041
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$290,253</b>	<b>\$734,005</b>	<b>\$73,237</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$450,091</b>

**MBE Committed by Ethnicity**



**WBE Committed by Ethnicity**

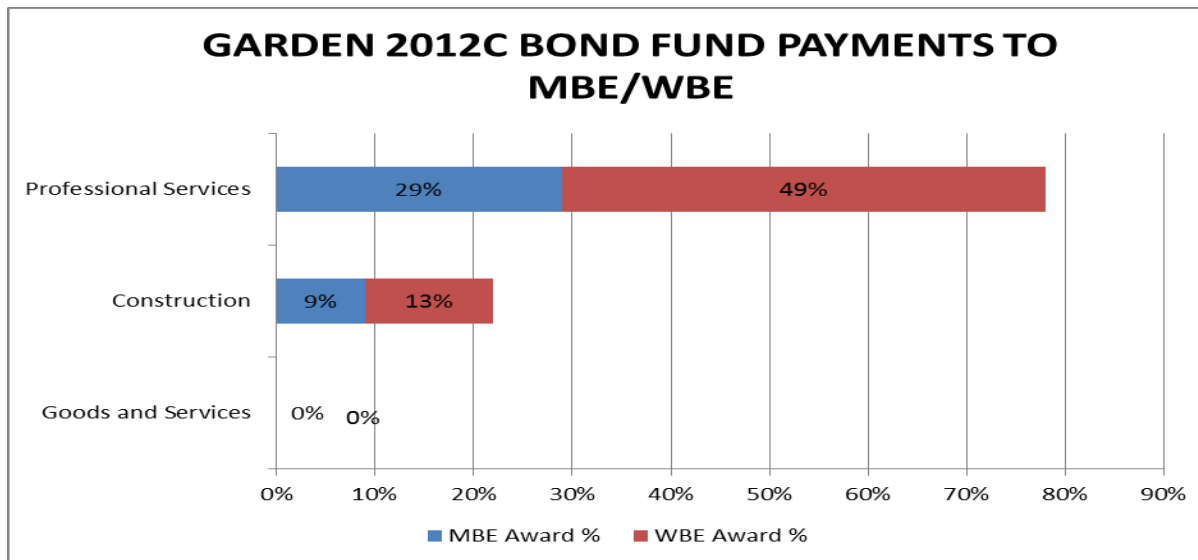




## Chicago Botanic Garden (GARDEN) FY 2014 Contract Payment Summary (Actuals)\*

	<i>MBE Payment</i>	<i>WBE Payment</i>	<i>Non-MBE/WBE Payment</i>	<i>Total Payments</i>
<b>Goods and Services</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$7,554</b>	<b>\$7,554</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>\$345,113</b>	<b>\$502,870</b>	<b>\$3,036,803</b>	<b>\$3,884,786</b>
<b>Professional Services</b>	<b>\$387,059</b>	<b>\$661,526</b>	<b>\$300,854</b>	<b>\$1,349,439</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$732,172</b>	<b>\$1,164,396</b>	<b>\$3,345,211</b>	<b>\$5,241,779</b>

*\*Participation is based on payments reported by vendors (Primes and Subcontractors;) the contracts for which payments are made in FY2014 include contracts awarded in previous years as well as a portion of those awarded during FY2014*



FY 2014 payments made on Garden contracts represented\*:

**78%** MBE/WBE participation on Professional Services Contracts

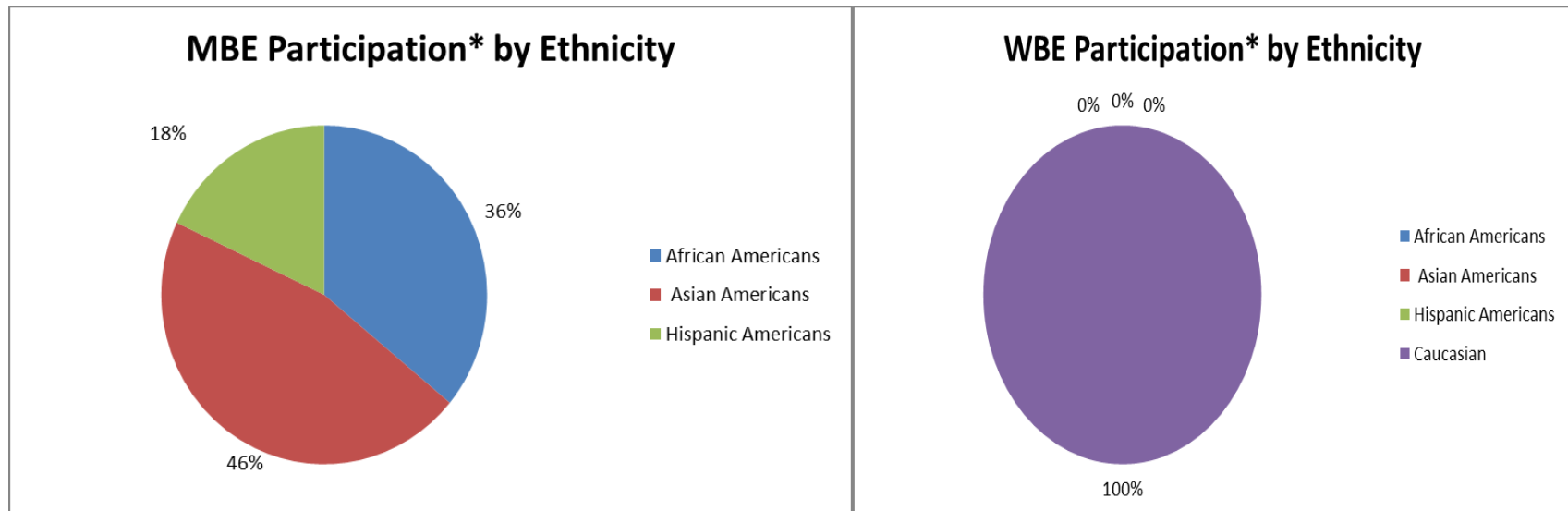
**22%** MBE/WBE participation on Construction

**0%** MBE/WBE participation on Goods and Services

## Chicago Botanic Garden (GARDEN) MBE/WBE FY 2014 Payments by Ethnicity (Actuals)\*

Contract Type	Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Dollars			Women Business Enterprise (WBE) Dollars			
	African Americans	Asian Americans	Hispanic Americans	African Americans	Asian Americans	Hispanic Americans	Caucasian
Goods and Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Construction	\$215,127	\$0	\$129,986	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$502,870
Professional Services	\$50,590	\$336,469	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$661,526
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$265,717</b>	<b>\$336,469</b>	<b>\$129,986</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,164,396</b>

\*Participation is based on payments reported by vendors (Primes and Subcontractors)



## **Chicago Zoological Society**

The Chicago Zoological Society (the “Society”) maintains and operates the Brookfield Zoo (the “Zoo”) on land owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (the District). The District provided capital funding to the Zoo through the issuance of Series 2012C Bond. This report summarizes the Zoo’s MBE/WBE compliance for the commitment and expenditure of those capital funds.

On June 6, 2012, the Board of Commissioners for the District passed an ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of General Obligation Unlimited Tax Bond Series 2012C (the “2012C Bonds”). At the time it was contemplated that a portion of the 2012C Bonds would be shared with the Zoo and used by the Zoo to make various capital improvements.

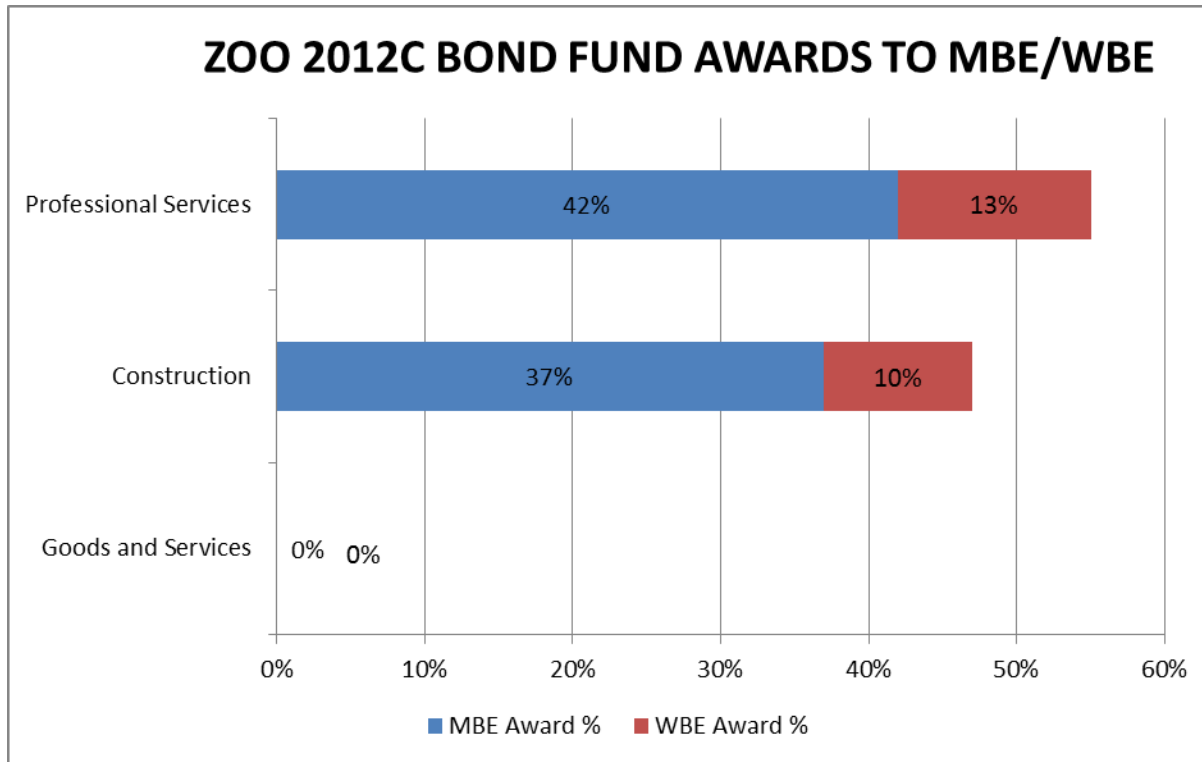
The proposed Bond Proceeds Sharing Agreement, which includes a commitment by the Zoo to utilize share of the proceeds from the 2012C Bonds in a manner consistent with the plan adopted by the District to address the underutilization of minority- and women-owned business enterprises with respect to purchasing and contracting opportunities, is intended to memorialize the terms of the arrangement by and between the Zoo and the District with respect to the aforementioned bond proceeds. The Board of Commissioners for the District approved the Bond Proceeds Sharing Agreement with the Zoo on October 3, 2012.

This section includes contract awarded from the 2012C Bonds by the Zoo during FY2014 and actual payments made to minority and women owned businesses. Actual payment amounts are based on data reported by vendors (Primes and Subcontractors).

## Chicago Zoological Society (ZOO) MBE/WBE FY 2014 Award\* Summary (Commitments)

	<i>MBE Award</i>	<i>WBE Award</i>	<i>Non-MBE/WBE Award Amount</i>	<i>Total Contract Awarded</i>
<b>Goods and Services</b>	\$0	\$0	\$11,792	\$11,792
<b>Construction</b>	\$1,629,388	\$420,773	\$2,346,326	\$4,396,487
<b>Professional Services</b>	\$311,666	\$100,518	\$336,759	\$748,943
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,941,054</b>	<b>\$521,291</b>	<b>\$2,694,877</b>	<b>\$5,157,222</b>

*\*Awarded contracts that received payments from 2012C Bond Fund Expenditures*



Overall, in FY 2014 Zoo awarded\*:

**55%** MBE/WBE participation on Professional Contracts

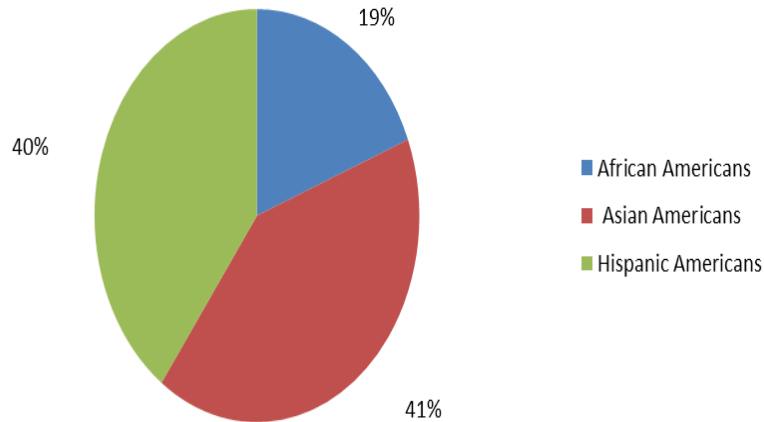
**47%** MBE/WBE participation on Construction

**0%** MBE/WBE participation on Goods and Services

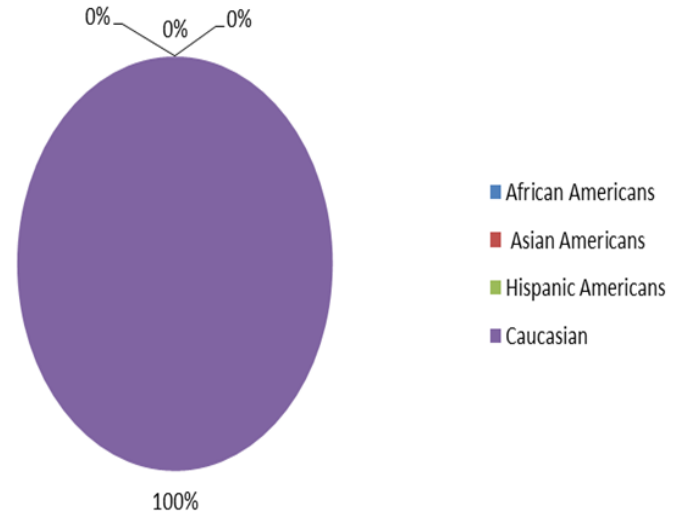
## Chicago Zoological Society (ZOO) MBE/WBE FY 2014 Awards by Ethnicity (Commitments)

Contract Type	Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Dollars			Women Business Enterprise (WBE) Dollars			
	African Americans	Asian Americans	Hispanic Americans	African Americans	Asian Americans	Hispanic Americans	Caucasian
Goods and Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Construction	\$371,761	\$737,280	\$520,347	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$420,773
Professional Services	\$0	\$63,990	\$247,676	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,518
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$371,761</b>	<b>\$801,270</b>	<b>\$768,023</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$521,291</b>

**MBE Committed by Ethnicity**



**WBE Committed by Ethnicity**

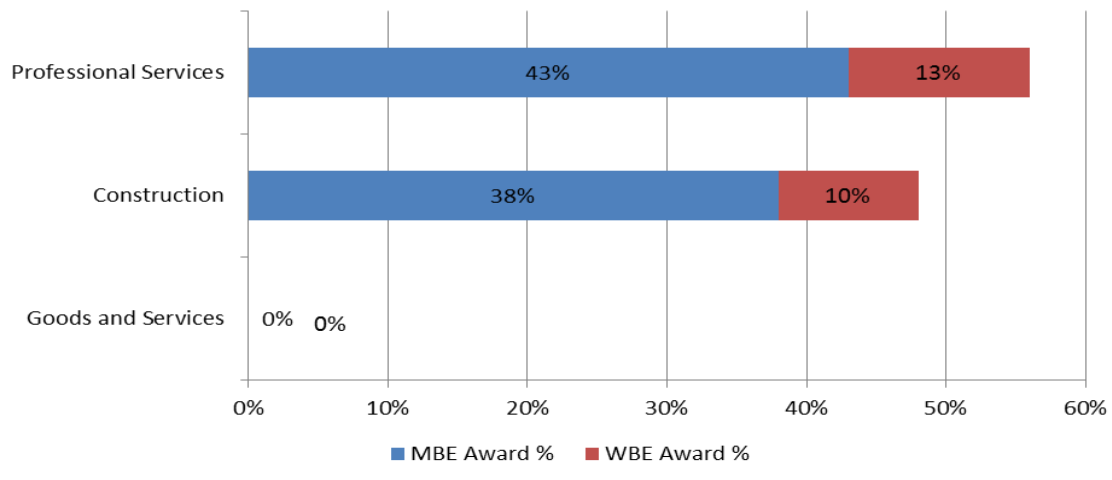


## Chicago Zoological Society (ZOO) FY 2014 Contract Payment Summary (Actuals)\*

	<i>MBE Payment</i>	<i>WBE Payment</i>	<i>Non-MBE/WBE Payment</i>	<i>Total Payments</i>
<b>Goods and Services</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$11,792</b>	<b>\$11,792</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>\$1,197,306</b>	<b>\$303,947</b>	<b>\$1,609,853</b>	<b>\$3,111,106</b>
<b>Professional Services</b>	<b>\$267,518</b>	<b>\$79,693</b>	<b>\$272,803</b>	<b>\$620,014</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,464,824</b>	<b>\$383,640</b>	<b>\$1,894,448</b>	<b>\$3,742,912</b>

*\*Participation is based on payments reported by vendors (Primes and Subcontractors;) the contracts for which payments are made in FY2014 include contracts awarded in previous years as well as a portion of those awarded during FY2014*

### ZOO 2012C BOND FUND PAYMENTS TO MBE/WBE



FY 2014 payments made on Zoo contracts represented\*:

**56%** MBE/WBE participation on Professional Services Contracts

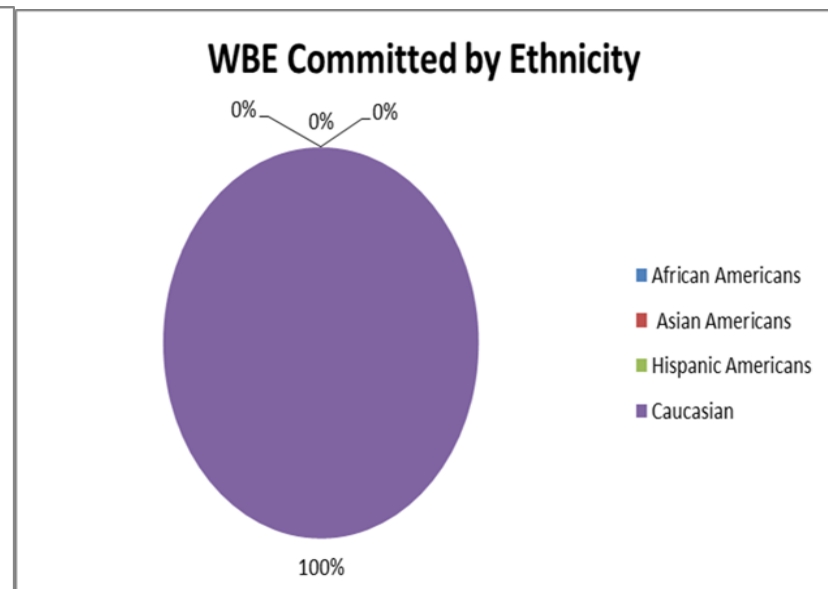
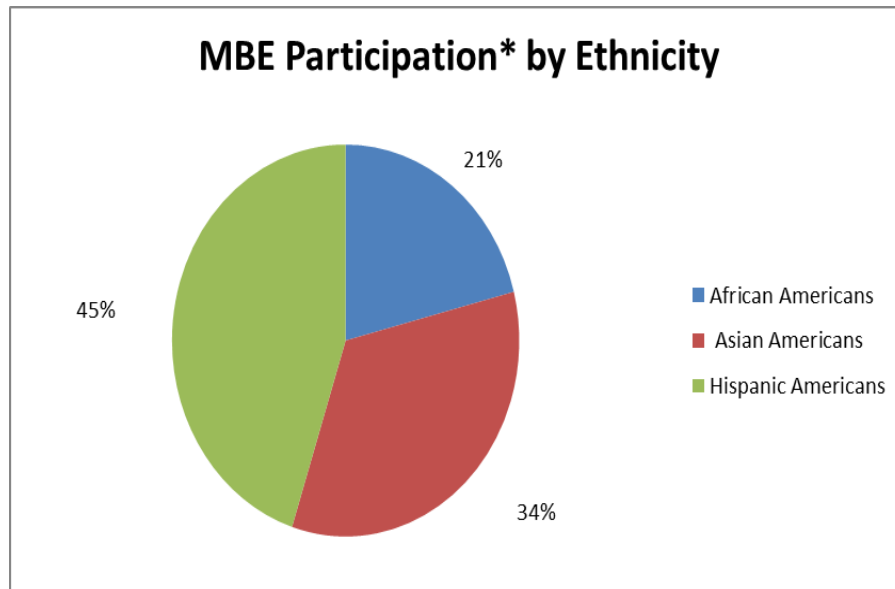
**48%** MBE/WBE participation on Construction

**0%** MBE/WBE participation on Goods and Services

## Chicago Zoological Society (ZOO) MBE/WBE FY 2014 Payments by Ethnicity (Actuals)\*

Contract Type	Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Dollars			Women Business Enterprise (WBE) Dollars			
	African Americans	Asian Americans	Hispanic Americans	African Americans	Asian Americans	Hispanic Americans	Caucasian
Goods and Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Construction	\$303,153	\$421,926	\$472,227	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$303,947
Professional Services	\$0	\$77,160	\$190,358	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$79,693
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$303,153</b>	<b>\$499,086</b>	<b>\$662,585</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$383,640</b>

\*Participation is based on payments reported by vendors (Primes and Subcontractors)



## 2014 Outreach Activities

The District both sponsors and participates in a number of outreach events throughout the year to market the upcoming contracting opportunities and encourage potential vendors to learn more about doing business with the District. The District participated in the following events during FY2014:

***The District sponsored the following events:***

- Forest Preserve District of Cook County Landscaping Forum
- Vendor Fair jointly with Cook County and Cook County Health and Hospital System
- Surety Bonding Education Forum

***The District attended the following outreach events:***

- Fore28<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Business Development Council (WBDC) Entrepreneurial Women's Conference
- 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council - Chicago Business Opportunity Fair
- Cook County, Forest Preserve District of Cook County, and Cook County Health and Hospital Services Disparity Study Public Forum
- Chatman Business Association Monthly Membership Meeting
- City of Chicago Construction Summit
- Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Expo
- Chicago Park District Vendor Fair
- Cook County and City of Chicago Vendor Fair
- University of Illinois Construction Summit
- American Contract Compliance Association (ACCA) Training Institute



## A Glance Ahead...

- Last year the District's enhanced its website by including Chicago Botanic Garden and Chicago Zoological Society contract opportunities to current and potentially new contractors. The District will continue to improve the website by posting awarded procurement agreements. Adding the Garden and Zoo solicitations will provide more avenues for minority- and women-owned business to procure contract opportunities. This is one example of our effort to execute President Preckwinkle's commitment for greater transparency in the procurement process and greater participation of MBE/WBE firms.
- The District goal in 2015 is to procure software to streamline the MBE/WBE participation and certified payrolls monitoring process. This web-based system will capture payment data on contracts and allows for a more efficient process to capture, track and monitor actual subcontractor payments. Contract data management is a critical component of our services, which will ease the process of reporting actual spends in all categories beginning in FY 2015 and beyond.
- During the second quarter of FY2014, Cook County, the District and the Hospital System (collectively the "agencies") conducted a public meeting as part of the Disparity Study for their Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise ("MBE/WBE") Programs. The purpose of the meeting was to gather input from businesses, community organizations and individuals regarding their experiences in doing business or attempting to do business with the agencies and with their MBE/WBE programs, as well as discuss any barriers to the full and fair inclusion of all firms in agency contracting opportunities. The meeting also included a presentation on the Study's elements and provided an open forum for comments and questions regarding the Study process. Once the study is complete in FY 2015, the District will implement its recommendations pertaining to goal setting methodologies and factor in both the availability and use of firms by an entity.
- The District continues to attend outreach events and provide potential vendors with the District contract opportunities. In addition to attending outreach events the District will collaborate with Cook County, Chicago Botanic Garden and Chicago Zoological Society to hosts informational workshops.
- We will continue to foster greater participation and meet MBE/WBE goals as much as possible. Ultimately greater participation will allow MBE/WBEs to create jobs and stimulate growth in the regional economy.



**TONI PRECKWINKLE  
PRESIDENT**

**Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of  
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**Patrice Doyle  
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