



# WM BE CONNECTIONS

Newsletter

Women & Minority Business Enterprises

ISSUE 01 / DECEMBER 2018

## WELCOME

to the first edition of the WMBE Connections Newsletter! As part of the City of Seattle's Race and Social Justice Initiative, the Women and Minority Business Enterprise (WMBE) program was formed to promote equity in procurement best practices, increase in meaningful partnering, equitable inclusion and competition. With quarterly publications, we will provide useful information and tips on contracting with Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and updates on how we're building equity through strong and inclusive partnerships.



## WHAT IS SPU?

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is a dynamic, forward-looking utility and the largest water supplier in Washington. It provides solid waste, drainage and waste water, for over 650,000 residential and 60,000 business customers in Seattle, as well as 1.4 million drinking water customers in the Puget Sound region. To maintain this infrastructure and level of service, SPU spent \$27.8M in consultant contracts and \$48.3M in purchasing contracts in 2017. As a community-centered utility, SPU has deepened its commitment to service equity – a concept for ensuring all customers have equitable access and support to fully benefit from our services.

[SPU Upcoming Projects List](#)



## MEET *Katia Garcia*

### **SPU WMBE Manager**

*katia.garcia@seattle.gov*

My passion for equity work is rooted in my background. I have lived in Seattle since I was three years old and proudly consider myself a Seattleite. After attending local public schools, I graduated from Seattle University with a BA in Accounting and later returned to my alma mater for a Master's in Public Administration. I had worked in private industry for several years, but my passion for public service brought me to the City of Seattle where I have been for the past nine years. Over a year and a half ago, I joined SPU's Environmental Justice and Service Equity Division as the SPU WMBE Manager and became part of a team of equity leaders who strive to be stewards of change. As the SPU WMBE Manager, I look forward to increasing equitable procurement best practices within and outside of the utility by using inclusive strategies to bring about positive change.



## **Katia Answers: WHY WMBE?**

Our Women and Minority Business Enterprise (WMBE) program is centered around providing access and opportunity. My job is to ask: How do we show up so that we're not causing barriers, but allowing historically underrepresented businesses to flourish? Part of the City of Seattle's WMBE program is to identify upcoming opportunities so that firms have a fair and equitable opportunity to partner and compete for City contracts. Additionally, the WMBE Inclusion Plan is a tool that facilitates meaningful teaming and increases a WMBE firm's capacity to work on future projects. Internally, our recently launched WMBE training program equips our employees with the tools to lead procurement equitably by viewing their work through a racial equity lens. Additionally, we strive to build better partnerships that will improve equity in procurement, increase access and inclusion, promote creative problem solving and stimulate product innovation, all while providing ratepayers more value for their money.

Ultimately, when we are more equitable, we are **all** better off.

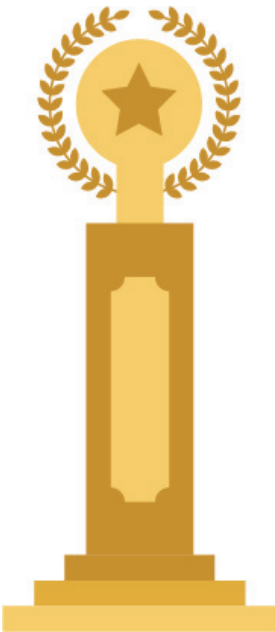




# SPU COFFEE CONNECTIONS

- Are you a WMBE firm interested in partnering with SPU?
- Are you a non-WMBE firm interested in learning how to create a better WMBE Inclusion Plan?
- Are you a firm doing business with SPU and have contracting equity questions?

**Schedule your 1-on-1 with SPU's WMBE Manager**



## 1st Annual SPU WMBE Awards Recipients

### 2018 Women Business Enterprise Champion

Tarelle Osborn, Osborn Consulting, Inc.

### 2018 Minority Business Enterprise Champion

Rizwan Hamid, Aqualyze, Inc.

### 2018 Professional Services Champion

Eric Davido, Davido Consulting Group, Inc.

### 2018 Subconsultant Champion

Cos Roberts, UrbanTech Systems

### 2018 SPU Ticiang Diangson Leadership Award

Ben Marre, Director of SPU Drainage & Wastewater Planning & Program Management Division

Read more about our winners in the next edition of *WMBE Connections*.

## NETWORKING EVENTS & MORE

### Upcoming Opportunities Forum

Hosted by SPU *\*Save the date!\**

**Date:** February 6, 2019

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Location:** Seattle City Hall

### First Friday Drop-in Training

Meet City of Seattle Buyers

FREE, no registration required

**Date:** First Fridays of the month

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

**Location:** Seattle Municipal Tower

## COMING UP

*in the next newsletter*

- *What does SPU routinely contract for?*
- *Transformational vs. Transactional: Inclusion Strategies*
- *Looking to Learn: WMBE 101 Training*
- *The Winner's Circle: 2018 SPU WMBE Awardees*

## RESOURCES

City of Seattle's Online Business Directory

City of Seattle's Purchasing & Contracting

Washington State Office of Minority & Women's Business Enterprises

City of Seattle's Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC)