

Georgia Black Constructors Association
Building Bridges | Breaking Barriers
Advocating For Economic Inclusion



Re-Ignited 16th Annual
Southeast Regional
Construction Expo &
Business Symposium

Thursday, January 30, 2025

Loudermilk Conference Center

40 Courtland Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Message To Our Guest

The Georgia Black Constructors Association (GBCA) remains steadfast in its dedication to empowering its members and advancing our shared Mission. Through joint ventures, strategic teaming, and meaningful partnerships, GBCA strives to foster the growth and success of Black-owned businesses in the construction industry.

This Annual Construction Expo & Business Symposium offers an invaluable opportunity for our members to connect with corporate and financial firms that might otherwise be out of reach. These connections are vital to enabling collaborations that strengthen our community and fuel economic progress. To achieve this, we rely first and foremost on **you—our Members**—along with the resources, support, and partnerships provided by our corporate associates. Together, we can maximize the impact of these collaborations and ensure lasting success.

At GBCA, we are equally committed to fostering education, training, and mentorship opportunities. By connecting young adults with positive role models and equipping individuals and small businesses with the tools, knowledge, and skills they need, we aim to uplift lives and open doors to fulfillment and prosperity—regardless of past challenges.

Thank you for being a part of this journey and supporting our mission to build stronger businesses and stronger communities. **Unity Is The Key** - *Fatimah Elaine*, Programs Director

Stay In Touch

Wednesday, February 13th – Town Hall Meeting – Project 2025: Part 1

Thursday, March 28th – Annual Women’s Luncheon, College Park

Thursday, April 24th – Town Hall Meeting – Project 2025: Part 2

Friday, June 27th & Saturday, June 28th –

“Building Bridges Over BBQ: GBCA Contractor Networking Cookout”

Location: Savannah, Georgia

Thursday, September 25th –

“Fall Forward: Business Growth and Contracting Summit”



**GEORGIA BLACK
CONSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION**

Dear Participants and Guests,

On behalf of the Georgia Black Constructors Association (GBCA), it is my absolute honor and privilege to welcome you to the **Re-Ignited 16th Southeast Regional Annual Construction Expo and Business Symposium**. Today, we gather under one roof at the Loudermilk Conference Center to celebrate innovation, collaboration, and empowerment in the construction industry.

This year's theme, ***"Building Bridges for Sustainable Growth through Innovations In Construction,"*** reflects our shared commitment to fostering opportunities, breaking barriers, and creating pathways for equitable participation in the construction and business sectors. As we continue to expand and thrive, events like this allow us to unite, share knowledge, and shape the future of our industry together.

The Construction Expo and Business Symposium have been thoughtfully designed to provide participants with unparalleled networking opportunities, insightful panel discussions, and interactive workshops. Whether you are a general contractor, tradesmen (subcontractor), civic leader, or industry executive, you will find valuable resources and connections to help you grow and succeed.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our sponsors, exhibitors, and participants for their unwavering support and belief in our mission. To our distinguished speakers and panelists, thank you for sharing your expertise and inspiring all of us to push beyond limits and redefine what is possible.

Finally, to our guests, your presence today reinforces the importance of our collective effort to strengthen and diversify the construction industry. Together, we are not just building structures but also building stronger communities and brighter futures.

Enjoy the Expo and Symposium, and take full advantage of the opportunities to connect, learn, and grow. Thank you for being a vital part of this transformative journey.

Warm regards,

Margaret Muhammad

Margaret Muhammad
President and CEO
Georgia Black Constructors Association

Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you all for being here today. I want to speak directly to you - our young people, our community, and those who care about the future we are building together. We are at a pivotal moment in history, one where technology is reshaping what it means to work, where mental health is no longer a silent struggle but a shared priority, and where our collective destiny depends on how well we come together, support each other, and invest in the success of every single member of our community.



We stand on the shoulders of our ancestors who overcame nearly insurmountable odds. They survived bondage, fought to secure civil rights, and laid the groundwork so we could have greater opportunities. Today, we have the chance to build upon their legacy—only now, our landscape is different. It's a world where artificial intelligence is becoming a leading force in everything from healthcare to manufacturing, and construction jobs are constantly evolving with green technologies and sustainable designs. These fields, among others, can open doors to stronger economic stability in our neighborhoods. But to open these doors, we must first prepare ourselves—intellectually, emotionally, and collectively.

To my young people, you hold the keys to these futures. I see so much potential in you—your creativity, your resilience, your desire to shape the world for the better. But, I also see the weight you carry: the pressure to succeed, the realities of living in communities that still face too many obstacles, and the internal battles many of you wage daily with anxiety, depression, or trauma. Your mental health is not a secondary concern—it's the starting point. Before we talk about careers in AI, construction, or any other field, we must talk about your well-being. Self-awareness, seeking help when needed, finding mentors, and supporting one another emotionally—these are not signs of weakness, but building blocks of strength. Only with a sound mind and a confident spirit can you navigate complex career pathways and claim the futures you deserve.

Now, let's talk about those careers. It's time to reimagine what *“success”* looks like. AI is not just about programming robots; it's about using smart tools to solve the problems facing our communities. Whether that's improving healthcare diagnostics, creating more efficient public transportation, or enhancing educational opportunities, these innovations can start right here. Construction, too, is more than putting up walls and roofs. It's a field that shapes the environment where we live, learn, and grow. Sustainable building projects, affordable housing, green energy installations—these are ways to revitalize our neighborhoods, create jobs that pay well, and ensure that when our children step outside, they see possibility and security in their surroundings.

Corky Reams

Corky Reams, **GBCA** B2B Development and Partnerships
AI Solutions Architect



Brian P. Kemp
GOVERNOR



Marty A. Kemp
FIRST LADY

January 30, 2025

GREETINGS:

On behalf of the state of Georgia, allow us to extend our warmest regards to Georgia Black Constructors Association (GBCA) as you host and participate in your event.

Additionally, please allow us also to welcome your distinguished guests, honorees, their families, and other attendees. Events like these are crucial for the 16th Annual celebration, and we are confident that the Re-Ignited Southeast Regional Construction Expo & Business Symposium will be great success.

We commend you and your team for your effort and dedication in organizing the event, and we send our best wishes for your continued success and a productive event!

Sincerely,


Brian P. Kemp


Marty A. Kemp



ANDRE DICKENS
MAYOR



CITY OF ATLANTA

85 TRINITY AVE. S.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-0300
TEL (404) 330-6100

January 30, 2025

Greetings:

As the 61st Mayor of Atlanta, I am pleased to join the Georgia Black Constructors Association (GBCA) in welcoming attendees to the *16th Annual Re-Ignited Southeast Regional Annual Construction Expo & Business Symposium*.

Our city boasts a booming construction industry with an unwavering commitment to sustainability, innovation, and excellence. We are dedicated to fostering a diverse and inclusive environment, ensuring that everyone has the chance to succeed and thrive in this dynamic sector. The City of Atlanta salutes the GBCA's ongoing efforts to empower and support general contractors, electricians, plumbers, and professionals of all trades within the construction industry, providing them with equal access to opportunities to scale their businesses. This work has played an instrumental role in shaping Georgia's and the Southeast Region's infrastructure, driving economic growth, and creating a more equitable society.

We extend a warm welcome to those visiting for this special occasion and encourage attendees to explore some of our city's incredible attractions. Consider spending time at the National Center for Civil & Human Rights, Centennial Olympic Park, the Georgia Aquarium, the World of Coca-Cola, the Atlanta Botanical Garden, and more.

On behalf of the people of Atlanta, I extend my best wishes for a successful and progressive symposium.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andre Dickens".

Mayor Andre Dickens

Re-Ignited 16th Annual Southeast Regional Construction Expo & Business Symposium

Thursday, January 30, 2025

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Innovation In Construction Agenda

8:00 AM	REGISTRATION & VENDOR SET UP
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM	Opening Ceremony Jimmie Ware - Welcome Address Purpose and Mission Overview Bishop Dexter Johnson – Opening Prayer
9:15 AM – 9:30 AM	Welcome - Honorable Andre Dickens, Mayor, City of Atlanta Mrs. Theresa Austin-Gibbons, Deputy Commissioner, Atlanta Department of Labor & Employment Services (ADOLES)
9:30 AM - 9:45 AM	Innovations in Construction Technology – Corky Reams
9:45 AM - 10:00 AM:	Presentation: Ricky Cunningham – LDG Development
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM:	Effective Project Management Joe Harris, Earth1st Construction & Development
10:30 – 11:00	Municipalities Panel – Moderator, Mayor Pro Temp Councilperson Jamelle McKenzie, College Park Atlanta Procurement Fulton County DeKalb County Cobb County
11:00 am -11:15 AM	Break & Network
11:15 AM-11:30 AM	Mayor, Mary Parham-Copelan, Milledgeville, Georgia
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Topics: Importance of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion in Construction? Moderator: Bishop Dexter Johnson Chris Byrd – LDG Development Xpert Construction Rholanda Stanberry – Atlanta Housing Authority Don Jones – Lowes Home Improvement Jessica McMahan -Brasfield & Gorrie Eldridge J. Waller (EJ) - Georgia Power
12:00 PM - 12:15 PM:	Discussion - Funding and Investment Opportunities Deborah Burris & Thomas Wendall Financial Equity & Funding for Small Businesses
12:15 PM-12:45 PM	Exhibition and Networking Lunch Lunch Conversation Poetess Jimmie Ware & Corky Reams

12:45 PM -1:15 PM	Meet The Chambers of Commerce: Melvin Coleman, Moderator Atlanta Black Chamber Melissa Sylvester -Greater Georgia Fayetteville Chamber Verónica Maldonado-Torres, Hispanic Chamber Mark Parham – Urban League Carmenlita Scott -Atlanta Airport Chamber
1:15 PM -1:30 PM	Exhibitors Highlight Jaske “Jay” Goff – Ladders Chandra Jackman – Coffee Distributor
1:30 PM - -2:00 pm	Infrastructure & Municipalities- Moderator, Kwanza Hall Kimberly King - GDOT Walter Vincent - Airport Horace McDonald -MARTA –
2:00 PM:- 2:15 PM	GBCA’s Four Year Forecast for Diversified Businesses
2:15 PM-2:45 PM	Peter Gibbs, Surety Financial – Bond vs Insurance Q & A
2:45 PM – 3:00 pm	Marketing and Branding for Small Business Yusuf Muhammad - FCE Entertainment
3:00 PM - 3:15 PM:	Navigating Federal Contracts
3:15 PM - 4:00 PM:	Closing Remarks Margaret Muhammad, President & CEO, GBCA



"The **Sweet Auburn Music Festival** is more than just a celebration — it's a vibrant fusion of music, culture, and community, set against the historic backdrop of Atlanta's iconic Sweet Auburn District! Get ready to groove to electrifying performances, indulge in mouthwatering food, and experience the heartbeat of Atlanta's rich cultural heritage. This is where rhythm meets history, and everyone is invited to be part of the magic!"

STD: September 27 & September 28, 2025



**DELIVERING QUALITY
SERVICES WHILE KEEPING THE
Earth 1st**

Highway 85S Fayetteville, GA 30215

404.905.5244

Info@Earth1stConstruction.com

Connect, Plan, Build

Earth 1st Construction is a comprehensive construction delivery method that provides project owners with a single point of contact for both the design and construction phases. This approach ensures seamless coordination and accountability throughout the project lifecycle.

Under this model, one entity assumes single-source responsibility and contractual risk for every aspect of the build process. This includes:

- Estimation and pre-construction assessments
- Architectural design and schematics
- Engineering services
- Subcontracting and construction execution
- Post-construction services

By integrating these phases, Earth 1st Construction streamlines communication, enhances efficiency, and minimizes risk, resulting in a smoother, more predictable project outcome.



Global
Environmental
Consultants

Exclusive Services

**New Construction | Demolition | Commercial + Residential Interiors
Environmental Services**

Global Environmental delivers precision demolition, construction management, and eco-conscious solutions. Our services blend expertise and sustainability, reshaping the landscape of responsible progress. Join us in building a future where excellence meets environmental consciousness.

E: info@globlenvironmentalconsultants.com | P: (404) 668-8468



LDG
DEVELOPMENT

**EVERYONE DESERVES A
QUALITY PLACE TO LIVE**

LDG DEVELOPMENT
HAS PROVIDED OVER

25,000

units of **high-quality affordable housing** for working families & seniors in dozens of communities across the country

.....
INCLUDING OVER

2,000

UNITS IN GEORGIA

HERITAGE TOWNHOMES
located in Stonecrest, Georgia:

240 2 & 3-bedroom
townhomes for rent

All of which have access to full amenities, including a:

- Swimming pool
- Community building
- Walking path
- Fitness center
- Business center
- Playgrounds

In March, Heritage Townhomes was honored by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs with the **2024 Impressive Metro Development award**.

WWW.LDGDEVELOPMENT.COM

**LDG Development Congratulates the
GEORGIA BLACK CONSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION
ON IT'S 16TH ANNUAL SOUTHEAST REGION ANNIVERSARY**

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
GEOGRGIA BLACK CONSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION
ON YOUR 16TH ANNUAL SOUTHEAST REGION ANNIVERSARY

SERVING GEORGIA IN MANY LOCATIONS



Don Jones | District Manager

Lowe's Companies, Inc

Lowe's of Alpharetta 10580 Duke Dr, Alpharetta, GA

Lowe's of Atlanta-Edgewood 1280 Caroline Street NE,
Atlanta, GA

Lowe's of Albany 1200 North Westover Blvd, Albany, GA

Lowe's of Suwanee 3260 Lawrenceville Suwanee Rd,
Suwanee, GA

Lowe's of Conyers 1901 Georgia Highway 138 SE, Conyers, GA

Lowe's of Thomasville 13911 U.S. Highway 19 South,
Thomasville, GA



Integrity. Innovation. Community.

Joel Reed
Southeast Market President

Thank You To Our Sponsors



Corky Reams

GBCA B2B Development and Partnerships
AI Solutions Architect



Stay In Touch

Thursday, February 13th, Townhall Meeting - Project 2025 - Part 1

Thursday, March 28th, Women's Annual Luncheon - College Park, GA.

Friday, June 27th—Saturday, June 28th - Savannah, GA.

"Building Bridges Over BBQ: GBCA Contractor Networking Cookout"*

September 19th, Fall Business Development Summit" - TBD

Saturday, December 20th - Annual Hard Hats & High Heels Gala

Visit the website for these and all the calendar activities of the
Georgia Black Constructors Association

www.GaBlackConstructors.org

Members & Guest meetings are 4th Thursday of each month.