

**Partnering with Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and Underrepresented Workforces**

The Oregon Arena Project (OAP) is a \$262 million private and public funded construction project. Partnering with Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and Underrepresented Workforces was an approach that achieved a high level participation of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE)s and Underrepresented Workforces. This partnering program on the OAP was initiated as a method to meet non-mandated and "good faith" target goals. The Drake/Turner, Joint Venture, general contractors for the project, utilized the services of the Boston Training & Marketing Group (BTMG). Located in Gresham, Oregon, BTMG is a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), human resources training and marketing management consulting organization specializing in affirmative action contracting and equal employment opportunity programs for the construction industry. In conjunction with the Drake/Turner team, BTMG designed, implemented and managed the affirmative action program for the OAP project. This partnering approach provided a comprehensive and successful process that may serve as a model for non-mandated affirmative action goals on future construction projects.

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