

## DIGGS CELEBRATES 10 YEARS WITH A NEW WEBSITE

Diggs Construction, LLC is celebrating its 10-year anniversary. To commemorate their decade of excellence in the construction industry, the company is launching a new website. Please visit at:

[www.diggsconstruction.com](http://www.diggsconstruction.com)



### GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY AT MARY M. HOOKER ENVIRONMENTAL MAGNET SCHOOL

The City of Hartford and Diggs Construction, LLC broke ground at the Mary M. Hooker Environmental Magnet School on April 20, 2009. This \$41 million, 102,000 sf addition and renovation school facility will be the first LEED certified school in the city. "What better day than Earth Day to break ground on an environmental magnet school" says Eddie Perez, Mayor for the City of Hartford, "and we are setting the bar high with this LEED Gold project."

This project will feature an advanced science curriculum with an interactive science lab, butterfly vivarium, aquatics lab, and ecosystem display. At the Mary M. Hooker Environmental Studies Magnet School, students master the core curriculum of reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, art, music, physical education and information technology. Moreover, students learn to apply their knowledge via in depth investigation and experimentation using the Globe Learning Program developed by NASA.



BL Companies and PDS Construction are the designer and the construction manager, respectively, for Hooker, a project that will have several sustainable design features such as: energy efficient MEP systems with innovations for full building automation, load shedding, a wind turbine and photovoltaic panels.

### TWO-YEAR EXTENSION OF THE HARTFORD CONTRACT

Diggs Construction, LLC is proud to announce the two-year extension of the Hartford contract. Since 2001, Diggs Construction has served as the Program Manager for Hartford's School Construction Program. To date, Diggs has managed 13 projects, 1.5 million square feet of new construction totaling over \$500 million in project costs. In addition, Diggs has maintained an excellent record with meeting the City's mandates on MWBE participation. Of more than \$360 million in direct work, \$76 million, or 21% has been awarded to MWBEs.

#### *Our Mission:*

*Diggs Construction partners with its clients by providing professional construction services that form a relationship built on trust and teamwork, which results in successful projects.*

## NEW LEED APs ON OUR STAFF



Derrick Diggs  
Manager of BD  
and LEED AP



Kyma Harrison  
MWBE & EEO Manager  
and LEED AP

Diggs Construction, LLC celebrates a new designation for two of its staff members. Derrick Diggs and Kyma Harrison became LEED Accredited Professionals in early 2009. The LEED green building rating system is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system administered by the U.S. Green Building Council is a nationally recognized benchmark for design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings. A building becomes LEED Certified by having points designated for award during the design, and after construction phases of a project in areas such as: Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Material and Resources, Indoor Environmental Quality and Innovation in Design. LEED APs assist owners, designs, contractors and engineers meet the necessary requirements.

Ms. Harrison, who passed the exam in February, was recently promoted to MWBE & EEO Manager for the Hartford School Construction Program. As a LEED AP, Ms. Harrison's responsibilities include introducing sustainable design practices to MWBEs. "We want to make sure these smaller companies are on board with green construction practices so that they can continue to be viable subcontractors in the future," says Ms. Harrison.

Mr. Diggs, who will add LEED AP to his previously earned designations as both a JD and an MBA, plans to roll out a strategy for providing LEED oversight services to owners as a program manager/owner's representative. "There is new legislation that will require all new construction to be LEED Silver certified or equivalent by 2010, however, the statute doesn't lend any guidance on who is responsible for making sure it gets done," says Mr. Diggs. "Owners need to have reassurance that there are professionals out there who will take the leadership in making sure their projects meet code."

## NEW PROJECTS

### LONE STAR PARKING GARAGE Houston, TX

Diggs Construction, LLC with the joint venture partner, PCJ Consultants, Inc. has been selected as the Design/Builder for the construction of a parking garage at Lone Star College System - Montgomery campus. The Lone Star College System (LSCS or the System) is among the largest and fastest growing community college districts in Texas. The System is comprised of LSC-North Harris, LSC-Kingwood, LSC-Tomball, LSC-Montgomery, LSC-Cy Fair, Systems Office, seven satellite centers, and the LSC-University Center in a service area covering over 1,400 square miles in North Harris and Montgomery counties. System-wide, almost 51,000 credit students enroll in credit classes each semester, with more than 15,000 additional students enrolled in community education and corporate training programs.

The parking garage will be a concrete structure (pre-cast or hybrid) with a parking capacity of 900-1200 cars. The construction cost is estimated to be approximately \$11 million. The parking garage will replace surface parking spaces lost to new construction, meet the parking needs of an adjacent new residence facility, and provide additional spaces for projected future commuter demand in this area. Diggs Construction, LLC will not only be responsible for building the facility but also managing its sub-consultants during the design services phase. Currently contract negotiations are on-going and an early June 2009 start date is anticipated for planning and design.

### BUFFALO SOLDIERS MUSEUM Houston, TX



The Houston Light Guard Armory will undergo a historic renovation and an adaptive re-use to serve as the new home to the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum. The facility will archive and display the achievements and struggles of the "Buffalo Soldiers" and other African American military history. The building was originally designed by Alfred C. Finn Architects in 1925. Located in

the Museum District and nearby Midtown, the building is of great historic significance to the City of Houston and is listed on the Texas Historic Landmark Registry. The building will exhibit Green and Sustainable Design Features such as: water efficient landscape, low water use fixtures, recycled site and building materials, building reuse 100% shell/structure, construction waste management/divert 50%, regional/local resources/materials, energy efficiency/minimize consumption, maximize indoor environmental quality.

The existing three story building is approximately 22,265 square feet. The facility will house the Museum with support functions (i.e., offices, toilets, gift shop, delicatessen/lounge, mech/elec rooms, theatre, research library and conference rooms). A portion of the building will be leased to the Houston Community College System for their new Global Studies program that will start next year. The approximate cost of renovation will be \$4 million. There will also be a memorial plaza on the north side of the building that will have customized brick and granite pavers to commemorate members of all branches of the military services. Diggs will serve as the General Contractor for this project.