

A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE

December is a time of reflection, and year-end celebrations.

The Office of Business Diversity wants to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of the vendors and partners who contributed to our mission and vision. Your dedication and commitment to participating with Chicago Public Schools' aspirational goals to make a meaningful impact for the children, families, colleagues, and communities we serve is second to none. For this reason we want to celebrate with you.

From all of us at Chicago Public Schools, we wish you a joyous holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year. Together, we shape and brighten the futures for the students of Chicago Public Schools, and we want to thank you for being part of this journey.



OUR VISION & MISSION

As one of the largest employers in the City of Chicago, Chicago Public Schools is committed to the expansion and inclusion of a diverse supply chain. The Office of Business Diversity (OBD) is committed to the mission and vision of the District's aspirational goals of 30% Minority-Owned Business Enterprises (MBE) and 7% for Women-Owned Business Enterprises (WBE). Through negotiations, strategic planning with prime vendors, partnerships, data analysis, research, and development of the marketplace; **the OBD is the steward to ensure the District's budget has participation of 30% MBE and 7% WBE.**

At Chicago Public Schools, the aspirational goal of the Office of Business Diversity is to ensure that MBEs and WBEs have clear, accessible pathways to working with us. **This newsletter is here to keep our diverse vendor community up-to-date on key opportunities and initiatives at CPS.** Through it, we aim to share **valuable insights, upcoming events, and resources that support businesses** in navigating CPS contracting and procurement processes.

Our goal is to create a consistent space where vendors can stay connected, informed, and inspired as we work together to foster economic growth in our schools and beyond.

CURRENT BIDS

Here are the most current opportunities we have open to the public!

Click each listing to view more information on scope and submission instructions:

- CPOR | Sign Language Interpreting Services 5050

Close Date: Dec 4, 5PM*

*All deadlines are in Central Standard Time (CST)

For more information and to apply, visit our Bonfire page at:

<https://cps.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities>

REFLECTING ON A YEAR OF IMPACT

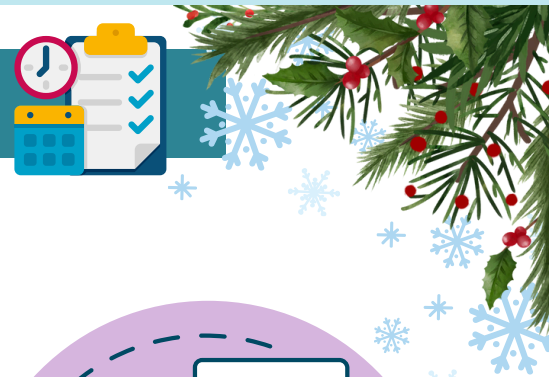


This year, Chicago Public Schools achieved and exceeded its aspirational goals with **34% MBE** and **11% WBE participation** in key contracts for Fiscal Year 2023, increased access for small businesses through tailored outreach and support reaching over **120,000 contacts** and enhanced community impact across Chicago!

We're proud of these milestones and look forward to building on this success in the coming year. See our year-in-review photo collage to celebrate our achievements together!



VENDOR TIPS: PREPARING FOR 2025



WAYS TO START THE YEAR STRONG



Being MBE or WBE Certified

Being a certified as a Minority-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE) or a Women-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE) provides you a head start in building a valuable network to grow and improve your business.



Review Upcoming Opportunities

Bookmark the [CPS Sourcing Plan](#) and [the City of Chicago Buying plan](#) for a preview of next year's bids.



Stay Connected

Get real-time updates on CPS bids and future outreach events by signing up for notifications through our [Constant Contact system](#) and [B2GNow portal](#).



WINTER WONDERS IN CHICAGO: MUST-SEE HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS



Visit the Christkindl Market

Immerse yourself in the charm of this German-inspired holiday market, filled with unique gifts, delicious treats, and festive cheer.

Check out Lightscape at Botanic Gardens

Enjoy dazzling light displays and serene seasonal beauty at the Chicago Botanic Garden's holiday light show.

Check out the Zoolights at Lincoln Park Zoo

Marvel at millions of twinkling lights and festive displays in this free annual tradition in Lincoln Park.

Catch a CTA Holiday Train

Hop aboard for a magical ride on this decked-out train, complete with festive decor and Santa himself!

Go Ice Skating at Millennium Park

Lace up your skates and glide under the iconic Chicago skyline at this beloved winter spot.

END THE YEAR WITH OPPORTUNITY!



CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION SUMMIT SNEAK PEEK 2024

DECEMBER 17, 2024, 9:30AM-3:30PM
IBEW LOCAL 134 MEMORIAL HALL

We are officially weeks out from this year's CPS Capital Construction Summit where you can connect with government agencies, assist agencies, architects, general contractors, and various trades learn about upcoming construction projects, and meet fellow contractors.

End the year on a high note and set the stage for success in 2025!

REGISTER

Questions?
Click to access our glossary that fully explains our key words and definitions

GLOSSARY

CONNECT | LEARN | NETWORK

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/1ADWUEFGXNGEKJXU9](https://forms.gle/1ADWUEFGXNGEKJXU9)

FUTURE BID SOLICITATIONS



Here is a preview of upcoming solicitations to look out for from January to March in 2025! Click "and more" at the bottom of each category to view the full list of the CPS Sourcing Plan.

RFPS

- Unit Pricing Construction Management Services
- Data Center Services
- Data Network Upgrade Services
- Student Transportation Services (School Bus Services)

AND MORE

CPORS

- Facilities Absence Management Software
- Policy & Board Rules Translation Services
- Policy & Board Rules Translation Services

AND MORE

RFQS

- Construction Material Testing and Inspection
- Various Trade Work
- Fleet Purchasing For C-Suite/Drivers Education Vehicles
- EV Bus Charging Station Infrastructure

AND MORE