

## Keeping DBE Contractors Informed of Opportunities

Early outreach efforts for the construction phase of BART's Earthquake Safety Program are aimed at allowing DBEs time to prepare themselves and position for upcoming work.

In keeping with this, BART representatives presented information on upcoming contracts as well as bonding and DBE certification requirements to a large audience at the African-American Contractors meeting on February 10, 2007. This effort has received praise from state and city elected officials.

The Allen Group presented the results of a survey conducted to identify what DBE firms need to do to strengthen their overall capacity to bid. The information has helped BART's efforts to establish useful construction workshops for DBEs. The presentations also explained how to search for upcoming contracts on the BART website as well as the benefits of attending pre-bid meetings.

In an open forum discussion, bonding was identified as the major hurdle hindering DBEs from winning contracts. As a result, bonding will be the primary topic at the next African-American Contractors meeting, April 14, 2007, 9 a.m. at the Acts Full Gospel Church, 1034 66th Avenue, Oakland. For more information, contact Jacklyn Hill of the African-American Chamber of Commerce at (510) 567-1307.

### BART BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lynette Sweet, **President**  
Gail Murray, **Vice President**

#### Directors

Gail Murray, 1st District  
Joel Keller, 2nd District  
Bob Franklin, 3rd District  
Carole Ward Allen, 4th District  
Zoyd Luce, 5th District  
Thomas M. Blalock, 6th District  
Lynette Sweet, 7th District  
James Fang, 8th District  
Tom Radulovich, 9th District

Thomas Margro, **General Manager**

### CONTACTS

#### DBE Outreach Manager

Ruby Smith Tel 510.464.6324

#### BART Senior Civil Rights Officer

Don Demer Tel 510.464.6884

#### Community Relations Manager

Catherine Westphall Tel 510.464.7595

**Website** [www.bart.gov/earthquakesafety](http://www.bart.gov/earthquakesafety)

#### Mailing Address

BART Earthquake Safety Program  
P.O. Box 12688 (LKS-17)  
Oakland, CA 94604-2688



DBE BULLETIN SPRING 2007

# IN MOTION

## New BART Board President Pledges to Increase Diversity

**In December 2006, the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) District Board of Directors unanimously elected two women to BART's most powerful posts – Lynette Sweet, Board President and Gail Murray, Vice President.** Newly elected President Sweet thanked outgoing President Carole Ward Allen for making "BART a much stronger and more dynamic organization for our employees and our customers." She went on to say that while she's proud of the fact that BART's 3,100 employees represent the diversity of the Bay Area, under her presidency one of her goals is to increase minority and female representation in the upper managerial ranks, "Where decisions are made and influence is brought to bear."

*"I am proud to have my presidency followed by such a dynamic African-American woman. Her passion to help DBEs is genuine. She will definitely make her mark during her first term in office."*

Outgoing BART Board President, Carole Ward Allen



New BART Board President  
Lynette Sweet

**President Sweet** represents District 7, which is the only district to bridge the Bay, and includes: Albany, Emeryville, El Cerrito, Richmond, San Pablo and portions of Berkeley, Oakland, El Sobrante and San Francisco. She currently serves as a Board Member and the Executive Director of the African American Interest Free Loan Association. She was formerly a Vice President of Union Bank of California, and Executive Director of Bayview Hunters Point Center for Arts and Technology.

**Vice President Murray** represents District 1, which includes Walnut Creek, Concord, Clayton, Pleasant Hill, Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette, and half of Danville. She is President of Gail Murray Consulting, specializing in public transit policy and planning, and is also a Research Associate with the Mineta Transportation Institute, San Jose State University. She has been Mayor, Council Member, Planning Commissioner, and Transportation Commissioner for the City of Walnut Creek, and Chair of the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority.



## Group Manager Speaks On...

**First CM Contract Award on the Transbay Tube Retrofits – Upcoming CM Contract for the Aerial Guideways**

Tom Horton, Group Manager  
BART Earthquake Safety Program

BART recently awarded its first contract for Construction Management (CM) for the upcoming construction phase of the Earthquake Safety Program's Transbay Tube retrofits – including work at the San Francisco Transition Structure and between San Francisco and Oakland, in the San Francisco Bay. Because of the specialized

(Continued on center spread)

## Watch for upcoming contracts...

Visit the BART website at:  
[www.bart.gov/about/business/contracts.asp](http://www.bart.gov/about/business/contracts.asp)



**IN MOTION**  
BART EARTHQUAKE SAFETY PROGRAM  
P.O. Box 12688 (LKS-17)  
Oakland, CA 94604-2688



Produced by The Allen Group, LLC

## BART-Sponsored Teams Shine in 2007 Future City Events

BART is extremely proud of the eleven talented teams it sponsored from middle schools throughout the Bay Area to participate in the 2007 Future City Competition. Students worked with mentors from BART and its consultants to exercise their skills in math, science, planning, and verbal and written communications. Their efforts resulted in innovative, thought-provoking, and award-winning models of cities designed for the future.

BART hosted a preliminary competition at the Chabot Space and Science Center to help the teams prepare for the 2007 Northern California Future City Regional Competition. With classmates, parents, and elected officials cheering them on, the students unveiled intricate tabletop models of their visions.

On Saturday, January 13, the BART teams went on to compete in the Regional Competition, where other

teams from throughout Northern California shared their innovations in the hopes of earning a trip to Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals. Three of the BART-sponsored teams got highest honors, placing in the top five. However, at the end of the day, everyone was a winner, and BART is already looking forward to another exciting competition next year.



## BART-sponsored teams were big winners at the 2007 Northern California Future City Regional Competition, earning a variety of awards:

**2nd Place:** Amsterdam, Bay Area Technology School, Oakland

**3rd Place:** Herian, A. P. Giannini Middle School, San Francisco

**5th Place:** Cougarsville, W.T. Helms Middle School, San Pablo

**People's Choice:** Marina Vista, Herbert Guice Christian Academy, Oakland

**Best Use of Ceramics:** Marinaville, Acts Christian Academy, Oakland

**Best in Class Award:** Bloom City, All Saints Catholic School, Hayward

**Best Computer Model:** Zelda, All Saints Catholic School

**Best Computer Model:** Coast City, A. P. Giannini Middle School

**Best Ergonomically Designed City:** Marina Vista, Herbert Guice Christian Academy

**Creative Recycling Award:** Rockferd, All Saints Catholic School

**Most Environmentally Friendly City:** Oaktown, All Saints Catholic School

**Most Innovative Power Generation System:** Energyville Metropolis, Patten Academy, Oakland



## Group Manager Speaks On...

Continued from page 1

nature of the retrofit, the Request for Proposal for the \$8 million CM services contract was advertised in national publications. After carrying out its normal process of proposal evaluation and interviews, BART selected Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. as the best-qualified applicant for the job.

Ideally, BART would like to have its CM consultants available as soon as possible after the completion of 35 percent design; and, to this end, is currently advertising its second CM contract, for aerial guideway retrofits. This \$20-million-plus contract will cover the aerial guideways on the Richmond, Concord, Fremont, and Daly City lines.

To allow smaller CM firms a broader opportunity to participate in the Earthquake Safety Program, BART also plans to issue one or more smaller CM services contracts (for about \$900,000), using the Statement of Qualifications process.

## DBE Firms Win Section Design Contracts as Primes

Two of the thirteen Section Designer contracts for the Earthquake Safety Program have recently been awarded to DBE firms as primes: OLMM Consulting Engineers is leading the retrofit design contract for Daly City Station, one of the key stations in BART's core system; and Structus is responsible for retrofit of shops and yards buildings, heading a team composed entirely of DBE firms. Ken Mark, Project Manager for the Bechtel/HNTB program management team and chairperson of the selection committee, pointed out that no special preference was given to DBE firms in the selection criteria for prime consultant. Contracts were awarded based on who was best qualified in the

proposal and interview process. Although DBE firms frequently participate on design teams as subconsultants, their smaller size can make it difficult to compete against larger, more established firms for a prime role. Recognizing this, Ken said that the design contracts were packaged in a variety of sizes, allowing smaller firms to be competitive for the lead role on smaller contracts.

***DBE firms OLMM and Structus put together talented teams that competed successfully against larger firms to win section design contracts for the Earthquake Safety Program.***

When asked to offer advice for other small firms seeking a prime contract, Sunil Gupta, President of OLMM, felt that the right qualifications, thorough preparation, and making sure that the proposal is

responsive to all requirements are key factors to winning the work. He noted that his team took the approach that the work was not just structural, considering the whole picture, such as BART operations. With regard to transitioning to a prime role, Sunil added that the program management team was very supportive, but it also helped that OLMM team members included subconsultants familiar with BART projects and procedures.

Henry Chang, President of Structus, felt that the close involvement by the principals was an advantage that smaller companies such as Structus have, especially for smaller contracts. His 100 percent DBE team comprises qualified subconsultants that all have BART experience. When asked for his advice to small firms seeking a prime role, Henry suggested, "Cut your teeth first on some small prime contracts, managing other subconsultants."

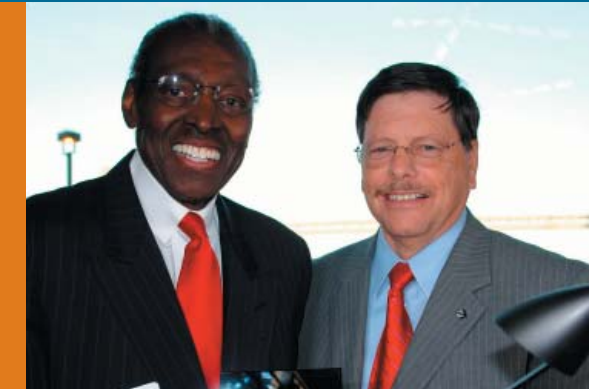
## BART Executive Manager John Mack Retires

BART Executive Manager John Mack retired last December, leaving a legacy of vision and leadership that will continue to help the organization be successful long into the future. For the more than 20 years he spent at BART, John was dedicated to improving equal employment opportunities and enhancing job prospects for small, disadvantaged, and minority businesses. He served in increasingly responsible roles, overseeing the Office of Civil Rights as well as the System Safety and Internal Audit departments.

John was one of the original members of the Regional Transit Coordinating Council Minority Affairs Committee, and a longstanding member of the American Public Transit Association

Minority Affairs Committee, for which he led efforts to develop the original Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Certification Handbook. John also served on the boards of the Northern California Supplier Development Council and the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO).

Says Donna Titus, John's long-time assistant, "John is a team player and a great manager. He is very knowledgeable, yet he always recognizes and solicits the input of others." To capture the outpouring of appreciation for John's contributions over the years, BART created a videotape with testimonials from former and current BART directors, executive managers and employees. Dedicated, caring, and supportive are words many co-workers used in defining a great human being whose many accomplishments provide ongoing inspiration throughout the organization.



Upon presenting John with COMTO's 2006 Employee of the Year Award, BART General Manager Thomas Margro noted,

***"John is dependable, hard working, honest and loyal, and he treats people at all levels of the organization with dignity and respect. These are definitely traits one would want in an employee or co-worker but they also describe the character of a person I am proud to call my friend."***