



Asian Contractor Association
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[Visit ACA Website](http://www.asiancontractor.com)

NEWSLETTER

Asian Contractor Association (ACA) DBA
 Asian Contractors and Engineers Association (ACEA)

March 2025

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of ACEA is to promote Asian-owned enterprises and advocate for their participation in both government and private minority procurement programs through outreach, research, and collaboration with other minority trade organizations in Central Texas.

OBJECTIVES

- To promote and assist Asian-owned enterprises in doing business with the City of Austin and other government agencies located in the Austin Metro Area
- To provide most current comprehensive business resource guide for local or state prime contractors searching for subcontractors or sub-consultants
- To advocate for effectiveness and efficiency of city policy and procedures to better enforce minority business contracting
- To help certified Asian vendors obtain tools and other necessary assistance to increase skills and capacities to grow and to be successful
- To enhance awareness in the Asian business community of government procurement opportunities and minority certification programs

TO JOIN ACA/ACEA FOR FREE:
 ASIANCONTRACTOR@GMAIL.COM

Be Heard!

ACA Certified Contractor Survey 2025

If you are a Certified Asian Contractor registered with the Small and Minority Business Resource Department (SMBR) of the City of Austin, we invite you to participate in a brief 5-minute survey. By completing the survey, you will have the opportunity to be the one winner who will win a \$25 gift card, winner will be announced during our Certified Contractor Networking Event in April 2025.

This survey aims to gather valuable insights into your experiences, challenges, and recommendations for improvement. Your feedback will play a crucial role in helping us identify areas for enhancement and prioritize initiatives that best support you and your business.

[Certified Contractor Survey of ACA 2025](#)

Who is **SMBR**?

The Small and Minority Business Resources Department (SMBR) administers the Minority-Owned, Women-Owned, and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Procurement Programs for the City of Austin. Our mission is to promote access and equity on City of Austin contracts, providing economic opportunity to small, minority-owned, women-owned, and disadvantaged businesses.

The purpose of the Small & Minority Business Resources Department is to administer the Minority-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE) / Women-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE), Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE) & Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Procurement Program and provide developmental opportunities and resources for small businesses so that they can have affirmative access to city procurement opportunities and show productive growth.

For comprehensive information about SMBR's mission, services, and programs, please visit their official [Small and Minority Business Resources](#) website.

Additionally, SMBR maintains an active presence on social media platforms, where they share updates, events, and resources:

- [Facebook](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)

These resources provide valuable insights and assistance for small and minority business owners seeking support and opportunities within the City of Austin.

NEWS and EVENTS

Austin Convention Center Redevelopment Project Procurement Info Session



Source: Eventbrite, JE Dunn Construction. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/austin-convention-center-redevelopment-project-procurement-info-session-tickets-1274739122029>

Dear ACA Members,

The Asian Contractor Association (ACA) is excited to introduce **JEDT** (JE Dunn + Turner Joint Venture) as the Construction Manager At-Risk for the **Austin Convention Center Redevelopment Project**. This multi-phase, multi-million-dollar project presents a prime opportunity for Asian-owned businesses to showcase their expertise and secure major contracts.

On March 24th of this year, JEDT hosted the **GMP3 Outreach & Procurement Info Session** to connect with local contractors and highlight upcoming bid opportunities for the following scopes:

- ◆ Plumbing (91468) ◆ HVAC (91450) ◆ Electrical (91438) ◆ Conveying Systems (Elevators, Lifts) (90934)
- ◆ Glass & Glazing (91447) ◆ Thermal & Moisture Protection (90984) ◆ Structural Wood Products (54091)

Project Timeline & Phase 1 Details

JEDT is conducting a two-phase solicitation process for preconstruction and construction services. Phase 1 focuses on pre-construction design collaboration & consulting services, where selected contractors will provide input to refine project designs before the full construction phase begins.

◆ Phase 1 Timeline:

- ✓ Request for Proposals (RFP) Issued: April 2025
- ✓ Pre-Construction Phase Start: June 2025
- ✓ Pre-Construction Phase Completion: December 2025

Once the design is finalized, Phase 2 will commence in late 2025/early 2026 for full construction services, including subcontractor bidding and contract awards.

SMBR's Role & MBE/WBE Participation

The Small & Minority Business Resources (SMBR) Department is actively involved in ensuring MBE/WBE participation throughout the procurement process. SMBR will issue construction goals, provide an availability list of certified firms, and oversee compliance efforts. First-tier prime contractors selected in Phase 1 will be required to solicit bids from MBE/WBE firms and document their Good Faith Efforts to meet inclusion goals.

This is an excellent opportunity for Asian-owned businesses to connect with JEDT, navigate the certification

process, and position themselves for long-term success in Austin’s construction market.

What’s Next?

📌 Register for the [Unconventional Outreach Event!](#)

Join JEDT on April 4th at Baker St. Pub & Grill for an inclusive networking event designed for contractors, suppliers, and industry leaders. Don’t miss this chance to connect and collaborate!

🔗 Register on both [JE Dunn's](#) and [Turner’s portals](#).

🚀 Bidding Open Through August 2025!

JEDT's bidding process runs until August 2025, with new bid packages releasing in July 2025. Now is the time to inquire, prequalify, and prepare your proposals.

📧 Questions? Contact:

- Hien Tran, Turner Construction – hientran@tcco.com
- Trevon Heath, Turner Construction – theath@tcco.com

Let’s make sure Asian-owned businesses have a strong presence in Austin’s future! 📁



JEDT Team



SMBR Team: Director Edward Campos (Middle. back) and Dr. Tamela Saldana of (Second from Right)



Hien Tran of JEDT Team (Left) and Lisa Kang Owner of Lisa Kang Interiors & ACA Certified Vendor (Middle)

Photos provided by QiQi Wang of ACA Team

Spotlight on Success: Mrs. Lisa Kang on Business Growth and Certification



Mrs. Lisa Kang shares her journey in the construction industry:

“5 years ago, I discovered the opportunities that exist for HUB's & minority/women-owned businesses by attending sessions led by TFC & SMBR. I realized the potential for utilizing the trade resources that I had developed & wanted to capitalize on the construction industry that sought participation from minority & women-owned businesses.

I met all the requirements to gain HUB/MBE/WBE certifications. I took OSHA 10 & 30 classes, acquired necessary insurance to work with primes & bid aggressively on city & state projects. Getting certified as an MBE/WBE has provided numerous opportunities. It's been a learning experience bidding on projects & I understand the importance of building relationships with primes. The certifications have resulted in a tremendous boost in revenue & profits & the viability to scale my business.”

A graduate of the **JE Dunn MCD (Minority & Contractor Development) Program** in 2020 and the **Turner Construction School of Management** in 2024, Mrs. Lisa Kang has made incredible strides in the construction industry. She successfully completed her largest contract in 2024 as a trade partner with JE Dunn and has worked with major organizations such as **Austin Energy, City of Austin Fire Departments, UT, UT student housing, Baylor University, and more.**

Ms. Lisa Kang’s impact has been widely recognized:

- **City of Austin Asian Certified Business of the Year (2023)**
- **Luna Awards A/E/C Firm of the Year Nominee (2023 & 2024)**

Her advice? *“I encourage you to investigate the certification program that the City of Austin offers and consider if it's a good fit for you and your business.”*

Mrs. Lisa Kang’s journey serves as an inspiring example of how certification and persistence can open doors in the commercial construction industry.

Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce
Jul 5 · 🌐

Lisa Kang Interiors knows all about it: getting certified through the **City of Austin Small & Minority Business Resources Department SMBR** as a **Minority-Owned, Woman-Owned, and/or Historically Underutilized Business Enterprise** can make your company eligible for priority bidding on lucrative government contracts.

Join us online for next week's **Biz Essentials Workshop** and take the first step toward certification. Learn more and RSVP: <https://www.austinasianchamber.org/events/details/biz-essentials-workshop-minority-owned-business-certification-6995>

Get certified. Get noticed. Get business.

As a new member of GAACC a couple years ago, I attended an informative session on **Minority-Owned and Woman-Owned Business Enterprise** certifications through the **City of Austin**. I followed through with the process & have since been awarded a dozen projects with various general contractors & city entities.”

Lisa Kang, Owner
Lisa Kang Interiors

JULY 13 | 12-1 PM | GAACC BIZ ESSENTIALS WORKSHOP

AUSTIN ASIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
SMALL AND MINORITY BUSINESS RESOURCES
Economic Development

2025 Meet the Prime Series



Source: Eventbrite, SMBR CoA. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/meet-the-prime-horizontal-construction-tickets-1087184922369?aff=ebdshpsearchautocomplete>

Meet the Prime: Horizontal Construction and Vertical Construction

Part of the [2025 Meet the Prime Series](#) collection hosting by Small and Minority Business Resources (SMBR), are designed to connect certified firms with prime firms with active City of Austin contracts.

Meet the Prime: Horizontal Construction, held on March 26th, leading prime contractors across various industries, including construction and professional services were present: CP&Y, Encotech Engineering, Pape Dawson...

The next Meet the Prime event **Meet the Prime: Vertical Construction** is scheduled for April 23, and I hope you will be able to join us – details below.

Event: Meet the Prime – Vertical Construction and Related Goods & Services

Date: Wednesday, April 23, 2025

Time: 9:30-11:30 AM

Location: University Hills Branch, 4721 Loyola Lane

[Eventbrite Registration](#)

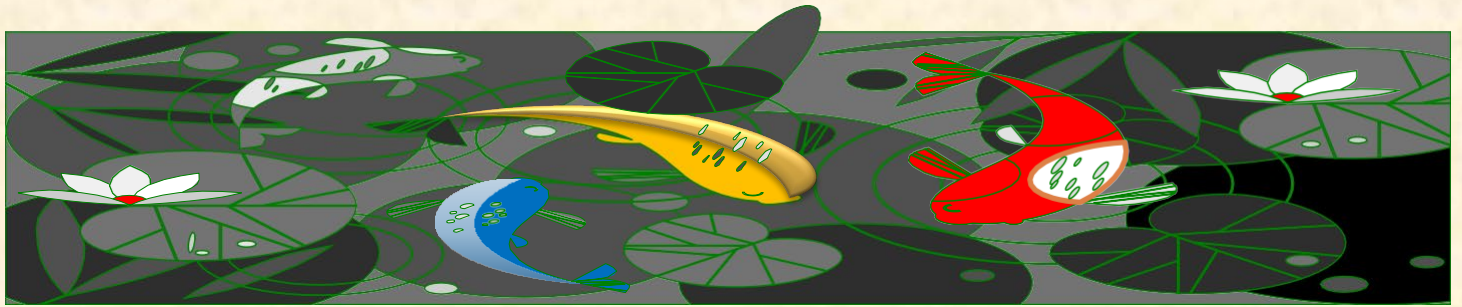
This is your chance to make connections and forge partnerships with the industry experts and professionals transforming Austin's skyline.



Capital Delivery Services of CoA (Left), Senior Technical Advisor of CP&Y (Middle), SMBR of CoA (Right, back row) and Producer of Tishna Films (Right, front row)

Photos provided by QiQi Wang of ACA Team

UPCOMING ASIAN EVENTS



ACA Certified Contractor Networking Event

Hosting by Asian Contractor Association (ACA)

Dear Asian Contractors,

We're excited to announce the upcoming Asian Contractor Association Networking Event, taking place at the **second quarter of 2025**. This event is specially organized for certified contractors of the City of Austin, but we welcome all contractors, certified and non-certified alike, to engage and learn.

This is a fantastic opportunity to:

- **Connect** with peers in the industry.
- **Share insights** and explore potential collaborations.
- **Learn in detail** about the bidding process for government projects.

Additionally, you'll hear firsthand from **fellow City of Austin SMBR-certified contractors**, including awardees of **Certified Business/Contractor/Consulting of the Year**, as they share their inspiring stories and valuable insights.

Whether you're looking to grow your network, gain deeper knowledge about government contracting, or simply learn from the successes of others, this event is designed with your success in mind. Confirmed details will be announced soon—look out for ACA email invitation in the next two weeks!



Photo provided by QiQi Wang of ACA Team

Check out our photo portfolio for most recent ACA Networking Event, [Networking September2024.](#)

UPCOMING ASIAN EVENTS

Taipei Li-yuan Peking Opera Theatre – Maestro Bao-chun Li



Source: Taipei Li-yuan Peking Opera Theater. <http://liyuan.koo.org.tw/>


Presented by the Foundation for Chinese Cultural Heritage
Produced by the C.F. Koo Foundation

Prepare to be captivated by the breathtaking artistry of Peking Opera Neo-Classics from Taiwan, performed by the internationally renowned Taipei Li-Yuan Peking Opera Theatre. Featuring the legendary Maestro Bao-Chun Li, this stunning performance merges singing, dance, Chinese Kung Fu, and acrobatics, offering an electrifying experience unlike any other in the world of opera.

A Cultural Experience for All Ages

Peking Opera is a mesmerizing art form that transcends language and generations, engaging audiences from ages 7 to 70. For years, the Taipei Li-Yuan Peking Opera Theatre has been dedicated to sharing this exquisite tradition with the world. Now, Austin audiences have the rare opportunity to witness its magic live!

Performance Details


 Dates & Times:


- July 26 (Saturday) at 7:30 PM
- July 27 (Sunday) at 2:30 PM

 Venue: [Michael & Susan Dell Hall, Long Center, Austin](#)


Program Highlights

July 26 | 7:30 PM | 120 Minutes


 *Farewell My Concubine* (35 min) – A legendary tale of love and sacrifice

 *The Little Cowherd and The Wench* (20 min) – A charming folk story

Intermission (15 min)

 *The Golden Falcon* (50 min) – An epic saga of heroism and adventure

July 27 | 2:30 PM | 120 Minutes

 *Monkey King Fights the Skeleton Demon* (15 min) – A thrilling battle from *Journey to the West*

Intermission

Save the Date & Stay Tuned!

Mark your calendar for this extraordinary East-meets-West theatrical experience! Ticket sales will be announced soon—check back soon for finalized updates on [Michael & Susan Dell Hall, Long Center, Austin](#) or contact qiqiwang9324@gmail.com for the latest ticket purchasing details.

🔪 Don't miss your chance to experience the magic of Peking Opera live on stage!



Source: Taipei Li-yuan Peking Opera Theater. <http://liyuan.koo.org.tw/>

CelebrASIA - AARC

CelebrASIA 2025

Saturday, May 3 | 11 AM–3 PM

The City of Austin's Asian American Resource Center (AARC) is hosting its annual CelebrASIA Austin event, featuring performances, art, culture, food, and more! This free, family-friendly festival will take place during Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

The main stage will be indoors in the AARC ballroom, with special performances from a wide range of groups, while the AARC's classrooms will be transformed into cultural experience rooms, where you can immerse in hands-on cultural experiences. There will also be tables with activities provided by local community organizations, along with food and drinks available from local vendors.

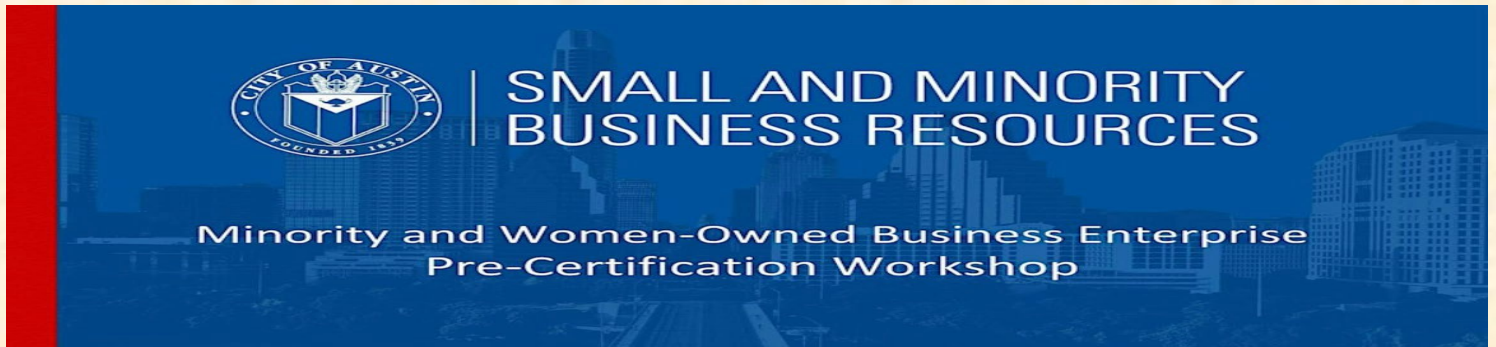
More details and a full performance schedule will be announced closer to the event. RSVP on [Eventbrite](#) to stay up to date!



Source: Eventbrite, AARC, https://www.eventbrite.com/e/celebrasia-austin-2025-tickets-1269282420889?aff=ebdsoporgprofile&mc_cid=797f9b5793&mc_eid=38711b71ee

BUSINESS RESOURCES

City of Austin, SMBR



Source: Eventbrite, City of Austin, SMBR.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-minority-and-women-owned-business-pre-certification-workshop-virtual-tickets-1028563730807?aff=odcleoeventsincollection>

Virtual - 2025 Minority and Women-Owned Business Pre-Certification Workshop

Learn how to get certified as a Minority, Women-Owned, or Small Business and access contracting opportunities with the City of Austin!

Ready to Grow Your Client Base and Scale Your Business?

Discover how certifications like MBE, WBE, and DBE can open doors to new opportunities! Whether you're expanding your reach or looking to take your business to the next level, certification is your gateway to exclusive government contracts, prime networking, and much more.

Our Pre-Certification Workshop will guide you through:

- The City of Austin's certification process
- Types of certifications available: MBE, WBE, DBE, and ACDBE
- Benefits and eligibility requirements
- Step-by-step instructions to get started

Benefits of Certification:

- **Access to City Contracts:** Certified firms gain access to exclusive opportunities for City of Austin projects and contracts.
- **Increased Visibility:** Your business will be listed in the City of Austin's Certified Vendor Directory, making it easier for prime contractors and other agencies to find you.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Participate in networking events to connect with prime contractors, city departments, and other businesses.
- **Support Services:** Receive business coaching, training, and hands-on assistance to help you succeed in the contracting process.
- **Recognition:** Being certified helps distinguish your business and showcase your commitment to excellence.

Date and Time

Wednesday, April 16, 2025 · 5:30pm CST

[Reserve a Spot](#)

City of Austin, SMBR



Source: Eventbrite, City of Austin, SMBR. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/small-business-office-hours-tickets-1087307890169?aff=erelexpmt>

In Person - Small Business Office Hours Part of the [2025 Small Business Office Hours](#) collection

Get your small business questions answered

Are you the owner of a certified firm, a small business owner, or a resident interested in starting a small business? Join us at City of Austin Small Business Office Hours to connect with resources, programs, and services. Participating departments include Economic Development, Financial Services, Austin Public Library, Austin Energy, and Small and Minority Business Resources. Staff will be on hand to answer questions and make referrals to available programs and services offered by City departments and local business support organizations. No appointments necessary - just show up! Please complete our short survey so we can have the right staff on hand.

Date and Time

Wednesday, April 9, 2025 · 12 - 1pm CDT (See below for details)

Wednesday, May 14, 2025 · 12 - 1pm CDT (Menchaca Road Branch, Austin Public Library)

Wednesday, June 11, 2025 · 12 - 1pm CDT (African American Cultural and Heritage Facility)

Location

**Twin Oaks Branch, Austin Public Library
1800 South 5th Street Austin, TX 78704**

[Reserve a Spot](#)



City of Austin, Economic Development



Virtual - BizAid Business Orientation

Arm yourself with knowledge, insights, and resources that enable informed decision-making for long-term business

Date and Time

Tuesday, April 15 · 10 - 11:30am CDT

Location

Online

Source: Eventbrite, City of Austin Economic Development. <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/city-of-austin-economic-development-17077434061>

This is a **Live 10am ZOOM class**. Before starting your business or establishing a brick-and-mortar presence, learn what resources are available to you in Austin. **BizAid Business Orientation** is an introductory class designed to equip aspiring business owners with the knowledge and resources to kickstart their entrepreneurial journey seamlessly. Navigate the intricate landscape of city, state, and federal regulations and gain invaluable insights into the City of Austin's development process for commercial properties. Empower yourself with the tools, guidance, and support to transform your business dream into a tangible reality.

[Reserve a Spot](#)

City of Austin, Vendor Academy

Virtual - Learn about the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) & Women Business Enterprise (WBE) program requirements.

Learn about the City's Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) Program and the requirements for doing business with the City. This session is intended for all businesses interested in contracting opportunities with the City of Austin.

About the City of Austin Vendor Academy:

The Vendor Academy equips vendors with the tools and knowledge needed to navigate the City's procurement process. Whether you provide goods, services, or construction-related services, these sessions will help you understand how to do business with the City as a vendor and stay updated on upcoming opportunities.

Date and Time

Wednesday, April 16 · 10 - 11am CDT

[Reserve a Spot](#)



Source: Eventbrite, City of Austin Economic Development. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/minority-and-women-owned-business-program-overview-tickets-1223828687549?aff=erelexpmlt>

MORE RESOURCES



Office of the Texas Governor | Greg Abbott

Source: Texas Governor. <https://gov.texas.gov/business/page/small-business>

The Governor's Office of [Small Business Assistance and the Business Permit Office](#) assists small and medium Texas businesses through entrepreneurial support, education and technical assistance.

In this section you can explore Governor's:

Small Business Resource Portal, Small Business Webinar & Events, Start a Business, Moving Your Small Business to Texas, Business Permit Office, Financing and Capital for Small Businesses, Public Procurement and HUB, Veteran, Minority, Women-Owned.

Stay up to date! Sign up to receive [small business updates](#) and other Texas Economic Development & Tourism Office topics directly to your inbox on our [website](#).



For more training sessions, please visit:

[Eventbrite: City of Austin, SMBR](#)

[Eventbrite: City of Austin Economic Development](#) [Eventbrite: City of Austin, Financial Services Department](#)

With Warm Regards,

**Asian Contractor Association
Asian Contractors and Engineers Association**

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