



BUILDING TOMORROW *Together*

**LIFTING COMMUNITIES,
RAISING FUTURES**



NOVEMBER 21ST, 2025

RECEPTION: 6:00-6:45P.M. | DINNER: 6:45-7:30P.M.
PROGRAM: 7:30-9:00P.M.

📍 **RENAISSANCE ST. LOUIS AIRPORT HOTEL**
9801 NATURAL BRIDGE RD, ST. LOUIS, MO 63134

SPONSORSHIP & ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

WWW.MOKANCCAC.ORG



THOMAS NELLUMS
Chair
MOKAN Board of Directors



YAPHETTE EL-AMIN
Executive Director
MOKAN

THE NEED FOR SUPPORT

PROMINENCE OF DIVERSITY - THE FOUNDATION OF STRONG COMMUNITIES

We warmly invite you to be part of MOKAN's **49th Annual Awards Celebration**, where we'll honor the remarkable achievements of our 2025 Awardees in the construction industry. This special evening is more than just a celebration-it's an opportunity to make a lasting impact on the lives of aspiring construction professionals and minority-owned businesses.

Your support helps fund MOKAN's **Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program**, preparing non-traditional workers to succeed in union and non-union apprenticeship programs, and our **Business Institute**, which equips minority contractors with the tools to thrive in the industry.

As MOKAN's only major fundraising event, the proceeds from this dinner will directly support our mission to expand opportunities for **Minority and Women contractors** and ensure that more public and private dollars are invested in their growth. Together, we can create a stronger, more inclusive construction industry in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area, which is the foundation of a stronger community.

Please consider completing the enclosed Response Card, and thank you for being part of this effort to uplift our community. Your generosity is building a brighter future.

MOKAN AWARDS DINNER PLANNING COMMITTEE

Dorrie Harris
D & K Welding Services Inc

Shonnah Paredes
St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District

Charles Henson
BJC, Sr. Diversity Mgr. Planning

Trinne Russell
St. Louis County Government

Debbie Kurst
St. Louis Development Corporation

Malcolm Thomas
T & T Contracting Company

Burnea Lester
SIE Improvement Association

KaJuana Thomas
St. Louis Development Corporation

Francois L. Lyles-Wiggins
St. Louis Lambert International Airport

Orlando Williams
Lou Brock Mechanical Inc

Thomas Nellums, Jr.
Tee & E Trucking Inc

Marie Yancy
St. Louis Lambert International Airport

2025 MOKAN AWARDEES

THOMAS NELLUMS, SR. LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

COLETTE HOLT, JD

Attorney at Law, Colette Holt & Associates

PRIVATE/NON PROFIT EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR AWARD (NOMINEES)

MARVIN L. JOHNSON

President, Construction Management Partners

MIKE BROWN

Contract Compliance Project Manager, Construction Management Partners

BURNEA LESTER

Director, Communications and Community Relations, SIE Improvement Association

ALETA GRIMES MITCHELL

Director, Center For Entrepreneurship, Urban League STL

PUBLIC SECTOR EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR AWARD

MAKAL ALI

President & Co-Founder, AABCA

LYNETTE WATSON

Regional Director, SBDC Small Business Development Center

WBE CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

TRAMAR CONTRACTING, INC.

Margaret McGrath, President

MBE CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR (NOMINEES)

DYNAMIC LOGISTICS

Malcolm Nyatanga, Owner

GIRDNER CONTRACTING

Bridgett and James Girdner, Owners

WORKFORCE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD

MISSOURI WORKS INITIATIVE

Jenn Clark-Bader, Program Coordinator/ Instructor



RELEVANCY OF MOKAN 49 YEARS IN THE MAKING “WE WORK SO YOU CAN WORK”

- MOKAN is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent of the law.
- Since 1974, MOKAN Construction and Contractors Assistance Center has been at the forefront of efforts to provide opportunities for MBE and WBE contractors.
- The mission of MOKAN is to serve as an advocate and negotiator for the inclusion of minority and women-owned businesses in construction projects.
- While MOKAN is a strong advocate for its members, the organization also works diligently with owners and majority contractors to develop strategies for increased diversity on public and private projects.
- Daily, MOKAN opens its doors to local workers and minority and female businesses for educational and training services.
- MOKAN’S motto, “We Work So You Can Work,” guides its planning and operations on behalf of minority contractors and workers.

MOKAN’S BUSINESS INSTITUTE PROGRAM

is an education and training academy delivering workshops, seminars and industry-specific training to minority contractors. Sessions are facilitated by professionals with the training, certification and experience in each specific subject area.

MOKAN’S PRE-APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

is specifically designed with industry-based training coupled with classroom instruction to prepare non-traditional construction workers to enter and succeed within a Registered Apprenticeship Union or Non-Union Program.

VISIT WWW.MOKANCCAC.ORG TO REGISTER



For additional information about MOKAN’s programs, contact Pat Muhammad,
MOKAN Site Director, 314-454-9675 or admin@mokanccac.org.
For information about Sponsorship and Advertising opportunities, contact Marla Dunbar,
Event Manager, 314-803-5353 or marla.dunbar@att.net.