

# C.O.D.E COMMITTEE

## CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIVERSITY & EQUITY

### September 2021 Newsletter

The CODE Committee is dedicated to creating opportunities for minority owned, women owned, and small business enterprises (M/W/DBE/SBE) to promote diversity and equality within CMAA Southern California. Our focus is to: 1) increase firm recruitment and retention, 2) advocate for leadership positions within the chapter, 3) create a beneficial mentoring network inclusive of Certified Construction Manager (CCM) training, 4) host and sponsor events promoting diversity and equity, and 5) recognize diverse leaders in the industry.

As an organization, we are committed to providing our members with resources and educational opportunities. If you have ideas for future events or would like to learn more about a particular topic, reach out to ([sccmaa@cmaasc.org](mailto:sccmaa@cmaasc.org)).

## Featured In This Issue

**Company Spotlights**  
**CODE Event Highlight**  
**Agency Resources**  
**Infrastructure Bill**  
**Event Recap**

<b>Yolanda Baber</b>	<b>Sam Bucher</b>	<b>Ryan Gales</b>	<b>Cathleen Ma</b>
Bureau Veritas	Montez Group	JGM	TY Lin International
<b>Gustavo Ripalda</b>	<b>Schena Rourk</b>	<b>Jay Shah</b>	<b>Gary Yeo</b>
Kitchell	Redwood Resources	AMC	HR Green



Oscar Zavaleta  
President/Principal

# MONTEZ GROUP

*Engineering & Construction Management*

SBE/DBE/MBE

[montezgroup.com](http://montezgroup.com)

[info@montezgroup.com](mailto:info@montezgroup.com)

415-430-5029

Montez Group (MGI) is a professional services consultant providing Quality Management and Construction Management (CM) Support Services throughout California and the state of Washington. Originally focused on Quality Assurance/ Quality Control programs, MGI is developing into a full CM firm.

Born in El Salvador and raised an Angelino in Echo Park, Mr. Zavaleta has a passion for providing transportation solutions to the city.

Mr. Zavaleta was introduced to construction in his youth, as he worked residential construction with his father after school and during breaks. Early on he developed a genuine appreciation for the craft. However, it was during High School when his fascination for heavy civil began. The bus route from Echo Park to Garfield High School in the 1980's provided Mr. Zavaleta a daily glimpse of LA Metro's initial builds in downtown LA. He knew he wanted to be a part of these large-scale capital projects.

Zavaleta went on to earn his BS in Civil Engineering and help build some of the states most critical infrastructure projects, including the LA Metro Expo Line Phase I.

MGI's principal has proven himself as a veteran in California Infrastructure with over 20 years of professional quality management experience working on a variety of projects in Los Angeles and the Bay Area. Well versed with bid-build, CM/GC, and Design-Build delivery methods, he has developed a well-rounded view of the industry and as a result, he has learned what separates a good professional services firm from a great professional services firm.



### Industries

Transportation including Light and Heavy Rail, Highways, Aviation Facilities and Runways/ Taxiways

Water Treatment Systems Controls and Civil Facilities

Sports and Entertainment Venues

Commercial Building Projects



Mr. Zavaleta prides himself on engaging with and supporting his local communities. As a board member of the NorCal Chapter of CMAA, the Oakland Latino Chamber of Commerce (OLCC), and a member of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) and the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO), he stays heavily involved with the industry and local businesses.

One of MGI's most valued qualities is its diverse staff and inclusive workplace. Mr. Zavaleta has been a leader for the underrepresented and disadvantaged throughout his career. Retaining talented individuals with unique perspectives allows MGI to provide clients with out of the box, creative solutions to their project needs.

Through relationships and building a reputation for himself, Mr. Zavaleta has grown Montez Group to what it is now. What started as a one-man-show in San Francisco, CA has now grown to a team of 25 highly-trained professionals supporting clients and assisting the delivery of some of the state's most impactful projects!

# MONTEZ



# GROUP

*Engineering & Construction Management*

## Certifications

California Public Utilities  
Commission – MBE

CA Department of general  
Services – SBE

DBE – CA/OR/WA/ID/NY-  
NJ/TX/HI/NV

Los Angeles Metro – SBE

BART – SBE/MBE

San Francisco – LBE

State of Washington - MBE

## Services

Project/ Program Quality  
Management

Construction Management (CM)

Project Controls (Scheduling/  
Cost Management)

Document Control Management

Expert Witness Factory  
Acceptance Testing (FAT)/ Field  
Installation Testing (FIT)/  
Auditors

Materials Testing/ Inspection

## ***Small Business Spotlight***



SBE/DBE/WBE

[www.DE-CM.com](http://www.DE-CM.com)

[info@DE-CM.com](mailto:info@DE-CM.com)

310-439-2655



**Marcy Szarama**

President



# DESTINATION

*E n t e r p r i s e s*

Destination Enterprises (DE) is a Los Angeles-based professional services construction management (CM) firm. DE was founded in January 2005 by Marcy Szarama. Marcy remains a trailblazer in the Construction Management space, beginning in the "trenches" as one of the first female Resident Engineers on the Metro Red Line subway in Los Angeles. Early on in her career, before founding DE, Marcy recognized that there was an escalating need for highly talented construction management professionals in the Los Angeles market, where women-owned companies were underrepresented on large capital projects. She saw an opportunity to create a company that could elevate people by implementing conscious capitalism principles and a workplace where diversity thrived.

During the early years, DE only had a handful of highly skilled people to support projects needing construction management, claims and inspection. However, DE's local presence in Southern California allowed it to build strong relationships with local stakeholders, contractors, and agency officials. These relationships and DE's local knowledge and can-do professionalism were critical factors in the firm's ability to attract the very best people to ensure highly successful outcomes for its clients. By doing so consistently, DE has built an impressive track record in successfully delivering complex projects with the requisite quality and safety while meeting aggressive budget and schedule goals.



# DESTINATION

*E n t e r p r i s e s*

Most recently, in partnership with KDG Construction Consulting (KDG+DE), Marcy assembled an all-women-led team to secure a milestone contract from LA County's Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro). The Airport Metro Connector is the first and largest contract ever awarded by LA Metro to a female-owned coalition. With that award, Marcy reflects, "It is exciting that this project will realize that goal and even more rewarding that we have a team of mostly women-owned firms who were selected to deliver this project, demonstrating that woman-owned firms have the capacity and capability to provide these services on the most significant projects in our industry."

For over three decades, Marcy has served in various capacities and has provided support to individuals seeking to advance their careers in the construction industry. From the founder to its interns, DE's people are engaged to serve with authenticity and generosity, leaving a positive economic and social impact in the communities where they work.

## Small Business Spotlight



This woman-owned organization has a long history of providing construction management to large public works projects specializing in rail transit, aviation, and educational facilities, as well as private projects including mixed-use and commercial development. Scopes include management of civil, structural, architectural, MEP, facilities and systems electrical and communications, track, rail systems and signaling, testing and startup, construction cost estimating, scheduling, safety, Building Information Modeling (BIM), wayfinding and signage, project closeout, and construction claims resolution and expertise during projects as well as post-construction settlement (including arbitration, mediation and litigation). DE is known for its effective oversight of General Contractors and their Subcontractors, and coordination with multiple stakeholders on behalf of Owners.

Today, the firm has grown due to a combination of talent in the areas of key senior-level personnel, size and types of projects completed, and proven competency as a professional services organization. As it looks ahead, DE is expanding its reach in Northern California and other states. The firm continues to successfully compete and collaborate with industry giants to secure significant roles for public and private sector clients implementing capital projects.

DE is currently on a rapid growth trajectory while staying true to its client-first culture and remaining a positive contributor to its people and connected communities.

# BuildOUT

## CALIFORNIA

[www.buildoutcalifornia.org](http://www.buildoutcalifornia.org)



In keeping with their missions to embrace and promote diversity, both Mr. Zavaleta and Ms. Szarama provide leadership support for BuildOUT (BOC) California. BOC is the world's first LGBT Industry Association dedicated to the sustainable growth of LGBT-owned & certified businesses, and allies, in the fields of Architecture, Engineering, Construction Services, Real Estate Development, and Related Industries.

As a founder of BOC, and an ally of the LGBT community, Mr. Zavaleta collaborates with fellow team members in helping to "push the needle" for this new frontier of greater industry diversity.

Ms. Szarama has recently been appointed as Co-Chair of the "100 in 100 Days" initiative for BuildOUT California (BOC), a historic community outreach & engagement campaign across CA and beyond aimed at identifying, engaging and empowering 100 LGBT industry professionals in 100 days.

# Certification and RFP Information



**Information:** <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/civil-rights/dbe-certification-information>

**Solicitation Information:**

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/procurement-and-contracts/ae-contract-information>

**Apply for DBE:** <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/civil-rights/dbe>

**Apply for SBE/DVBE:**

<https://caleprocure.ca.gov/pages/sbdvbe-index.aspx>



**Information:** <https://www.metro.net/>

**Solicitation Information:**

[https://business.metro.net/VendorPortal/faces/home/solicitations/openSolicitations?\\_adf.ctrl-state=9xwt83iqn\\_104&afrLoop=1550592134015699](https://business.metro.net/VendorPortal/faces/home/solicitations/openSolicitations?_adf.ctrl-state=9xwt83iqn_104&afrLoop=1550592134015699)

**Apply for DBE/SBE:**

<https://business.metro.net/VendorPortal/faces/home1/certifications>



# Certification and RFP Information



**Information:** <https://www.laschools.org/new-site/small-business/>

**Solicitation Information:** <https://www.laschools.org/new-site/vendor-portal/>

**Apply for DBE/SBE:** <https://www.laschools.org/new-site/small-business/>



**Information:** <http://lbschoolbonds.net/vendors.cfm>

**Solicitation Information:** <https://lbschoolbonds.net/vendors.cfm>



**Information:** <http://www.build-laccd.org/ced/business#>

**Solicitation Information:** <http://www.build-laccd.org/contractors-bidders/contractors-bidders-home>

**Apply for DBE/SBE:** <http://www.build-laccd.org/ced/business>



# Certification and RFP Information



**Solicitation Information:**

<https://www.portoflosangeles.org/business/contracting-opportunities/how-to-do-business-with-the-port>

**Apply for SBE:**

[https://kentico.portoflosangeles.org/getmedia/0cce5af0-3710-4ba3-a4a4-d409bd07389a/Proprietary\\_SBE\\_CERT](https://kentico.portoflosangeles.org/getmedia/0cce5af0-3710-4ba3-a4a4-d409bd07389a/Proprietary_SBE_CERT)



**Information:** <https://polb.com/>

**Solicitation Information:** <https://polb.com/business/business-opportunities/#business-opportunities-overview>



**Solicitation Information:** <https://labavn.force.com/LABAVN/s/>

**Apply for SBE:** <https://bca.lacity.org/certification-program-description>

# Senate Passes New Infrastructure Bill: ~\$1 Trillion in Future Spending – *What's Inside?*

- ~\$110 B – Roads, Bridges, etc
- ~\$73 B - Electricity Grid Updates
- ~\$66 B - Amtrack/ Passenger and Freight Rail
- ~\$65 B - High-Speed Internet Infrastructure
- ~\$39 B - Public Transit Modernization
- ~\$25 B - Airports
- ~\$17.5 B - Clean Buses and Ferries
- ~\$15 B - Lead Pipe Removal
- ~\$7.5 B - Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
- ~\$1 B - Reconnecting Communities Divided by Previous Highway/ Infrastructure Builds
- ...and more*

*Next steps: House of Representatives Vote*

# Event Recap: Meet the Owner & Primes Speed Networking Event

## Participation

On August 4<sup>th</sup>, the CODE Committee held our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meet the Primes/Owners Speed Networking Event. After being forced to go virtual last year, the event was once again held in-person at the Long Beach Marriott, with proper precautions, of course. Over 100 participants were in attendance, feeding off the energy of shaking hands or fist bumping co-workers, colleagues, and friends, old and new.

The CODE Committee sends a big thank you to all in attendance and our generous sponsors! As always, we greatly appreciate your support in making our events a *raving success*.



2021 CODE Committee



CODE Committee Chair Ryan Gales



# Seeking Future Sponsors!

## Looking to Advertise Your Firm?

We're looking for future newsletter sponsors! Each edition of the newsletter will feature up to four sponsorships/advertisements. Two of the sponsorships/ advertisements will be allocated for FREE to SBE/DBE/DVBEs on a first come first serve basis. The other two slots are open to any type of business.

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This is great opportunity for firms to promote new hires and services, project wins, community involvement, and SBE/DBE/DVBE outreach events.

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Our next newsletter is scheduled for January '22. For additional information regarding sponsorship, please contact [sccmaa@cmaasc.org](mailto:sccmaa@cmaasc.org)

