

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE: REFUGE & RESTORATION MARKETPLACE

A Blueprint for Intentional MWBE
Participation

“WE ARE CULTIVATING INNOVATION AND BRILLIANCE TO PRODUCE SOCIOECONOMIC CHANGE AGENTS FOR THE FUTURE”

BACKGROUND

Pastors Ken and Beverly Jenkins, Black indigenous leaders, envisioned a project: the R&R Marketplace in Dellwood, Missouri. They chose a long-abandoned shopping center to begin their journey with a mission of addressing the pervasive economic and social distress which leads to a feeling of hopelessness and a seemingly endless cycle of poverty. This cycle is perpetuated by lack of resources, poor education, unemployment, and unhealthy living conditions. Adding to the cycle are wage and income disparities, disinvestment, and lack of equity in business opportunity and home ownership.

As a community-focused project, the Jenkins felt it was vitally important that the community be well-represented in its construction, leading to a project goal of 100% participation by Minority and Women-Owned businesses. Success would be measured by both MWBE ownership and labor. With the commitment of the owners, and participation by the general contractor, Brinkmann Constructors, project MWBE ownership reached 80% and laborers on the job reached 70%, far exceeding typical projects which achieve participation rates in the high teens to low 20's. What this demonstrated was that resolve on the part of the owner/developer, with the cooperation of the GC, can provide much greater opportunity for WMBE participation.

REFUGE & RESTORATION MARKETPLACE

AT A GLANCE

-  Dellwood, MO
-  Retail Redevelopment
-  Owner:
Pastors Ken & Beverly Jenkins
-  General Contractor:
Brinkmann Constructors
-  Goal: 100% MWBE Participation



TAKEAWAYS

- Owner commitment to MWBE utilization is foundational
- GC Partnership: Brinkmann actively collaborated with MWBEs
- Capacity building is more than possible
- MWBE participation strengthens local businesses and reinvests economic activity back into the community

MWBE Participation %

