



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)

June 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 [ACA Certified Vendor Networking Event 2025](#) on June 26th 2025, 5:30-8:30 PM. (Please see page 7 of newsletter for event details).

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

Strategic Connections at SMBR Small Business Hours

As a representative of the **Asian Contractor Association**, working in partnership with the **City of Austin's Small and Minority Business Resources (SMBR)** Department, I had the opportunity to attend a recent **Small Business Hours** session—an event designed to connect small business owners with the City's vast network of support and services.

These sessions are more than informational, they're catalytic. Representatives from departments such as **Economic Development, Austin Energy, Financial Services, Austin Public Library**, and SMBR are on hand to provide direct access to resources, guidance, and referrals, all in a walk-in, no-appointment-needed format.

At this event, I met **Kayo Kawamoto** and **Rigo Lizano**, two accomplished small business owners. What began as a casual conversation turned into a meaningful and productive relationship. We've since discovered ways to collaborate, exchange knowledge, and support each other's missions, creating value not only for our respective organizations but for the broader small business community we serve.

This experience is a testament to what **Small Business Hours** offers: a unique opportunity to foster partnerships, share insights, and engage directly with the individuals and institutions working to strengthen Austin's business landscape.

For both emerging and established business leaders, I highly recommend attending. The connections made here often extend far beyond the event itself—and can play a pivotal role in driving long-term success.



Learn more and view upcoming dates:

[2025 Small Business Office Hours on Eventbrite](#)

Let's continue building a stronger, more connected business community—together.



Chariot360 Story: Rigo and Omar Lozano



SMBR Staff & Kayo Kawamoto, CPA



Financial Services Department Staff

The Birth of the Chariot – A Journey of Innovation and Impact

What began as a personal mission to help a loved one walk again has grown into a powerful story of innovation, resilience, and family-driven purpose. The [Chariot360](#) isn't just a product, it's the result of years of passion, hard work, and a vision to redefine mobility.

Raised in Brownsville, TX, **Omar Lozano** and brothers **Osvaldo**, **Noe** and **Rigo**, grew up surrounded by hard labor and creative spirit. Their childhood, marked by migrant work and endless tinkering, laid the foundation for a lifelong desire to build and solve real-world problems. It was this blend of grit and imagination that would ultimately lead to something groundbreaking.

When the brothers' beloved mother faced serious mobility issues after surgery, Omar—an inventive genius and master technician—decided to build a solution. The result was the first Chariot prototype: a home assistant designed to help her move freely and safely.

The response was immediate and overwhelming. From strangers in malls to industry professionals at disability expos, the device sparked interest and hope. Rigo's business acumen and Omar's engineering mind came together to refine and evolve the Chariot into a functional, efficient personal transporter. With Osvaldo's creative support, the brothers pushed forward, selling units even as they continued development.

Today, the Chariot360 is a sleek, self-operating mobility device serving industries from hospitality to security. With its stylish design, onboard payment features, and practical versatility, it's already making waves in both personal and commercial spaces.

The heart of the Chariot story is simple: freedom. Built by brothers, powered by love, and driven by a mission to empower, the Chariot is changing lives—one ride at a time.

Learn more at www.chariot360.com

Kayo Kawamoto, CPA & Financial Educator

"As a CPA with a strong foundation in numbers and strategy, I've always been driven by the question: How can my skills make a real difference in people's lives?' Over the years, I saw how many individuals and families struggled with making informed financial decisions—not for lack of effort, but for lack of education and access. That realization became the turning point in my journey.

I began exploring the field of financial planning and quickly discovered just how critical financial literacy is to building a secure future. The more I learned, the more passionate I became about helping others understand their finances, protect their families, and plan with confidence. That's when I decided to build my business—one centered on education, empowerment, and trust.

Today, my company partners with individuals and communities to provide guidance and resources that help people make smart, confident choices about their future. Joining the City of Austin's vendor program is a natural extension of that mission. It allows me to reach more people, contribute to the financial well-being of our community, and offer solutions that are built around real-life needs and goals.

This isn't just about finances—it's about helping people live with peace of mind, knowing they have a plan in place. That's what inspires me every day."

Kayo Kawamoto, CPA & Founder

[World Financial Group](#)

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Austin Convention Center Redevelopment Project Procurement Info Session



Austin Convention Center Redevelopment Project: GMP 2.1 Competitive Sealed Proposal (CSP)

UPDATE: Bid Deadline Extensions

Dear Valued Industry Partners, Haynes-Eaglin-Waters, LLC. (HEW) is serving as the MBE/WBE/Small Business Outreach Coordinator for the Austin Convention Center Expansion project. On behalf of JE Dunn-Turner JV (JEDT), the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) for the project, we are notifying you of a bid opportunity for GMP 2.1 (change order to GMP 2). You should have received a notice to register with "BuildingConnected", the online platform used to distribute information related to this project related to this project.

GMP 2.1 Includes the Following Scopes of Work:

Bid Package	Description
General Requirements – Labor Package <i>Commodity Code 91268</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gate Guards (Flaggers)• Building & Site Cleanup• Pump Standing Water• Wheel/Tire Wash Station Maintenance
General Requirements – Carpentry Package <i>Commodity Codes 96877, 45072, 91268</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building Layout (Surveying)• Scaffolding (Temp Stairs and Ladders)• Fall Protection (Perimeter Guardrails, Floor Opening Covers)• Elevator Shaft Protection
General Requirements – Equipment Package <i>Commodity Code 97524</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equipment Rental & Operation
General Requirements – Hoisting Package <i>Commodity Code 97526</i>	Tower Cranes & Mobile Cranes Man & Material Hoists Crane and Hoist Operators

To Access Bid Documents:

The owner of the project requires consent to a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) before viewing any of the messages or project details. Sign in to BuildingConnected and consent to the NDA to view this message and project details.

[Sign in to BuildingConnected](#)

The JEDT JV strongly encourages the engagement of City of Austin certified Minority and Women-Owned Enterprises and Small Business Enterprises on this project.

[Bid Deadline Updates:](#)

[General Requirement Packages – Friday, June 13, 2025 – 2:00 PM CST](#)

Please submit bids to roque.gonzales@austintexas.gov

For questions about all Bid Packages please contact Will Westerheid at Will.Westerheid@jedunn.com.

MBE/WBE & Small Business Enterprise Procurement Program Advisory Committee Meeting

The City of Austin's Small & Minority Business Resources (SMBR) Department invites Asian business leaders and certified vendors to attend the upcoming **MBE/WBE & Small Business Enterprise Procurement Program Advisory Committee** meeting. Held on the first Tuesday of every month, this public forum offers minority- and women-owned businesses an opportunity to stay informed, share insights, and engage with the City's procurement programs and staff.

The Advisory Committee advises on the implementation of the City's MBE/WBE Procurement Program and works to ensure inclusive access to contracting opportunities. Attending this meeting is a great way to:

- Learn about upcoming procurement and contracting opportunities
- Voice feedback on current policies and programs
- Network with City officials and fellow business owners
- Stay up to date on City resources available to diverse and small businesses

Date: Tuesday, July 1, 2025

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Permitting and Development Center

📍 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Drive, Austin, TX 78752

These meetings are **open to the public** and **do not require RSVP or registration**.

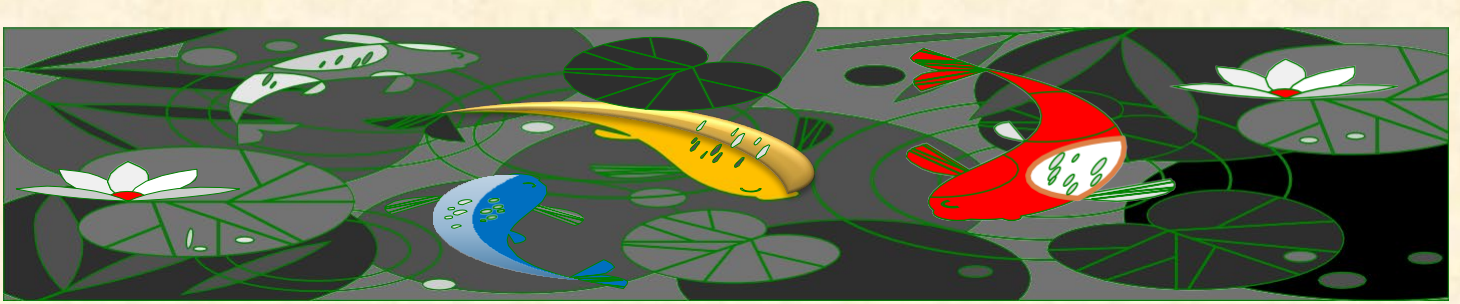
Please confirm the meeting status before attending, as meetings are occasionally rescheduled or canceled:

<https://www.austintexas.gov/content/mbewbesmall-business-enterprise-procurement-program-advisory-committee>

"These monthly meetings are an important channel for small and minority-owned businesses to stay engaged with the City's procurement landscape and help shape a more inclusive economic environment," — City of Austin SMBR

Source: City of Austin – MBE/WBE Procurement Program Advisory Committee

UPCOMING ASIAN EVENTS




ACA Certified Vendor Networking Event


Hosting by Asian Contractor Association (ACA)


Dear Asian Contractor Association Members,

The Asian Contractor Association (ACA), in partnership with the City of Austin's Small & Minority Business Resources (SMBR) Department, is pleased to invite you to our **Certified Vendor Networking Event**—a unique opportunity to engage with fellow certified vendors, City of Austin staff, and both prime and subcontractors.

Event Details

 **Ichiumi Haru – Gateway Shopping Center (Highways 360 & 183)**

 **Thursday, June 26, 2025**

 **5:30 PM – 8:30 PM**

This exclusive event, hosted by the Asian Contractor Association (ACA) in partnership with the City of Austin's Small & Minority Business Resources (SMBR) Department, offers a valuable opportunity to:

- Connect with certified vendors and City staff
- Connect with prime and subcontractors
- Enjoy a complimentary dinner (*meal selection required upon RSVP*)
- Enter for a chance to win a **\$25 gift card** by completing our brief survey

 **[RSVP Here: ACA Certified Vendor Networking Event 2025](#)**

Seats are limited and reserved for certified vendors and their partner only—thank you for being understanding.

We are honored to feature SMBR Director Edward Campos, Ms. Catherine Sak, and representatives from the Austin Finance Department. Additional speakers include Mrs. Lisa Kang (*Lisa Kang Interiors LLC*), Mr./Mrs. Frank and Millie Lam (*Frank Lam & Associates, Inc.*), and Mr. HT, Mr. Trevon Heath (*Turner Construction*).

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

Three Excerpts of Peking Opera

1. *Farewell My Concubine* (35 min) – A legendary tale of love and sacrifice
2. *The Little Cowherd and The Wench* (20 min) – A charming folk story
Intermission (15 min)
3. *The Golden Falcon* (50 min) – An epic saga of heroism and adventure

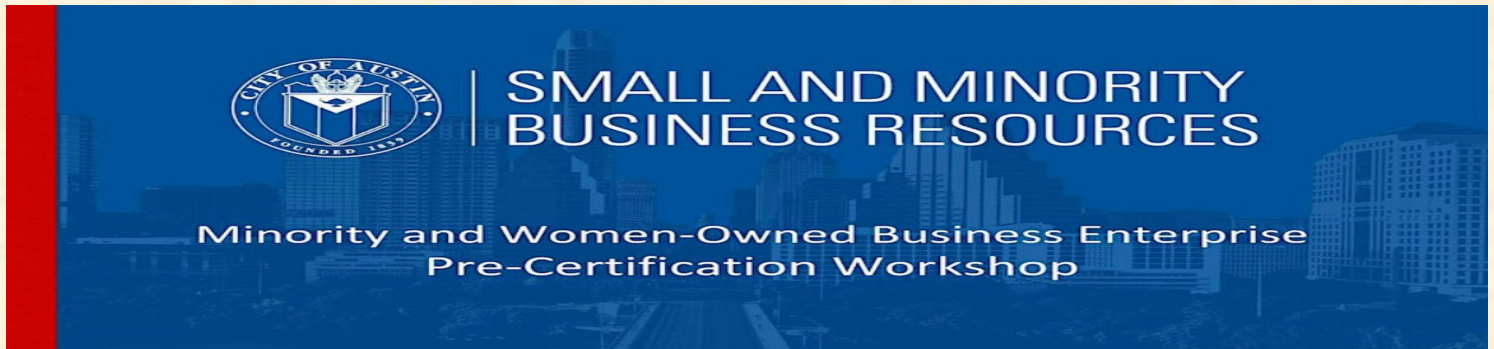
July 27 | 2:30 PM | 120 Minutes

Monkey King Fights the Skeleton Demon – A thrilling battle from *Journey to the West*

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

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 (Monthly)

Wednesday, June 18, 2025 · 5:30pm CST

Wednesday, July 16, 2025 · 5:30pm CST

[Reserve a Spot \(FREE\)](#)

City of Austin, SMBR



Source: Eventbrite, City of Austin, SMBR. <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/2025-small-business-office-hours-3841223>

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, June 11, 2025 · 12 - 1pm CDT (See below for details)

Wednesday, July 9, 2025 · 12 - 1pm CDT (Ruiz Branch, Austin Public Library)

Wednesday, August 13, 2025 · 12 - 1pm CDT (Not Yet on Sale)

Location

**African American Cultural and Heritage Facility
912 East 11th Street Austin, TX 78702**

[Reserve a Spot \(FREE\)](#)



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, June 24 · 10 - 11:30am CDT

Location

Online

Source: Small Business Division Economic Development Department City of Austin. <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/small-business-division>

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 \(FREE\)](#)

City of Austin, Vendor Academy

Source: City of Austin Financial Services Department. <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/city-of-austin-vendor-academy-2933639>

Virtual - Learn all you need to know about construction contracting methods (Invitation for Bid, Competitive Sealed Proposal, and more).

About this Session:

Learn all you need to know about construction contracting methods, including Invitation for Bid, Competitive Sealed Proposal, Job Order Contracting, Construction Manager at Risk, and Design-Build projects.

This session is intended for construction contractors pursuing 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, July 16 · 10 - 11am CDT

[Reserve a Spot \(FREE\)](#)



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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