

**SUBJECT: Supplier Diversity Policy Statement**

The Smithsonian, known world-wide for its high-quality work in research, education, exhibitions, public programming, and many other areas, recently celebrated its 178th anniversary. Throughout the years, the Institution has championed the use of diverse businesses, adding value to our projects and programs and helping us meet our strategic goals. Our commitment to the small business community remains strong, and the Smithsonian staff will continue to set goals and identify projects that utilize small and historically underutilized small businesses.

The Smithsonian spends \$550,000 million to \$750,000 million annually to procure a variety of goods and services. We value small businesses: by having diverse suppliers in our sourcing process, we realize a valuable opportunity to develop innovative and cost-effective business solutions.

The policy of the Smithsonian is to promote, increase, and improve the participation of small and historically underutilized small businesses (disadvantaged small businesses, 8(a), women-owned, HUB-Zoned, and service-disabled veteran owned small businesses) in our procurements and business relationships. As the Smithsonian moves forward with our strategic priorities – including the building of our two new museums – we will continue to engage, encourage, and employ small and historically underutilized small businesses throughout the process.

Everyone at the Smithsonian involved in procuring goods or services has a responsibility to achieve supplier diversity spending targets and ensure that Smithsonian-wide small business participation goals are met or exceeded. The Supplier Diversity Program helps small and historically underutilized small businesses understand how to do business with the Smithsonian, advocates for small business use internally, and assists Smithsonian organizations in identifying diverse suppliers.

We are proud of the Smithsonian's achievement in developing a more inclusive and sustainable supplier base. Supplier diversity continues to be a priority consideration for all those involved in procuring goods and services, and our mutual commitment to advancing supplier diversity is something in which we can take great pride.

Additional information on the Smithsonian's Supplier Diversity program is found on the website for the Office of Equal Employment and Supplier Diversity (OEESD). Related questions or requests for information concerning the Supplier Diversity Program should be referred to OEESD:

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Working together, we can continue the Smithsonian's strong supplier diversity practices.



Lonnie G. Bunch III

Secretary

DISTRIBUTION: All Employees