

Spirit of Innovation Award

The Macon-Bibb County Office of Small Business Affairs promotes equity in local city-county government business opportunity. The mission of the department is to develop and coordinate inclusive programs to promote the growth of small businesses, minority business enterprises, women business enterprises and disadvantaged business enterprises.

Through strategic partnerships, the office supports the enhancement of the economic well being of the county through providing resources that will improve competitiveness. To highlight the work of these strategic partners, the Office of Small Business Affairs bestows its first *“Spirit of Innovation”* Award to recognize and celebrate innovation in our community that increases small business development, access, and revenue. **The Honorees embody the “Spirit of Innovation”** that makes Macon-Bibb a great place to live, work, and prosper. The first recipient of the *“Spirit of Innovation”* Award is the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority (MBCIA) for their visionary leadership and tireless work which makes Macon-Bibb a more equitable space for small, minority-owned, women-owned, veteran-owned and disadvantaged businesses to thrive.

They have achieved this prestigious honor by:

- Increasing the participation of local vendors, contractors, small businesses and minority businesses on mid-sized to large-scale economic development projects.
- Utilizing new media and social media to promote, inform and engage small, minority-owned, women-owned, veteran-owned, and/or disadvantaged businesses.
- Advocating for an increase from past practices of zero percent to 30% usage in the number of small, minority-owned, women-owned, veteran-owned, and/or disadvantaged businesses.
- Designing policies to strengthen the relationship between the MBCIA and small, minority-owned, women-owned, veteran-owned, and/or disadvantaged businesses.
- Creating new opportunities for women-owned businesses to participate in and/or bid for mid-sized to large-scale economic development projects.
- Crafting case studies to share the success stories of local vendors, contractors, small businesses, minority, women, veteran, and disadvantaged businesses.
- Updating their RFP/RFQ/bidding processes to reduce the challenges faced by small and minority businesses in their quest to engage with mid-sized to large economic development projects.
- **Developing an online application and mobile app called the “LVP: Local Vendor Program”** design to streamline and open new avenues of access and opportunity for local vendors, contractors, small businesses, and minority businesses to participate on mid-sized to large scale economic development projects.
- Hosting an annual event to celebrate and showcase the local vendors, contractors, small, minority, women, veteran and disadvantaged businesses performing work for the MBCIA.
- Engaging millennial entrepreneurs, startups and small business owners through their innovative reimagine Macon-Bibb initiative designed to engage millennials (aged 21-35) in the economic future of Macon-Bibb.
- Influencing innovative approaches to job creation, business expansion, workforce advancement, infrastructure, and tax base improvement.
- Investing in the development of Downtown Macon and removing corporate blight.

Now therefore, I, Dr. James L. Bumpus, Director of the Macon-Bibb County Office of Small Business Affairs do hereby bestow upon the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority the 2017 **“Spirit of Innovation”** Award this 19th day of July 2017.