



NEWS

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Men of Steel: How Mohawks Built New York

The tradition of "Mohawks in High Steel"

By Lucie Levine

The Empire State Building. The George Washington Bridge. The United Nations. The Woolworth Building. Thirty Rock. The Seagram Building. Lincoln Center. The Waldorf Astoria. Virtually all of New York's most iconic structures were raised in part by Mohawk Native American ironworkers. Since 1916, when Mohawk men made their way to New York to work on the Hell Gate Bridge, ironworkers from two native communities. Akwesasne (which straddles Ontario, Quebec, and New York State) and Kahnawake (near Montreal), have been "walking iron" across the city.

In 2012, Kaniehtakeron "Geggs" Martin, a fourth-generation Mohawk ironworker, stood twenty-seven stories above 55th Street, striding across a two-inch-wide steel beam and swaying a support column into place. What was open sky, soon became a steel-and-glass skyscraper. "I'm a connector," Martin told WNYC. "In the raising gang, it's my job to climb the steel, and erect the iron. It's my job to put the building up."

began in 1886, when Mohawk people were hired to build the Victoria Bridge for the Canadian Pacific Railroad, across the Saint Lawrence River, onto Mohawk land. The Dominion Bridge Company, the construction firm responsible for the bridge, intended to hire Mohawks as day-laborers unloading materials, but Mohawk bridgemen were more interested in riveting work, which was the most dangerous, and the highest paid. Of riveting, a DBC official once explained, "men who want to do it are rare, and men who can do it are even rarer." Mohawk ironworkers have preserved that

rare skill for generations. Kyle Karonhiaktatie Beauvais, a sixth-generation Mohawk ironworker, told the Smithsonian in 2002, "A lot of people think Mohawks aren't afraid of heights; that's not true. We have as much fear as the next guy. The difference is that we deal with it better. We also have the experience of the old timers to follow and the responsibility to lead the younger guys. There's pride in walking iron." In the 1920s, New York City became the

place for walking iron, as the lean skeletons of New



York's Art Deco skyscrapers first began to rise over Manhattan. But, then as now, the US Immigration Service followed ill-advised policies that were detrimental to the nation. In this case, immigration officials tried to deport a number of Mohawk

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BUSIN

SKANSKA USA CIVIL IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM NEW YORK STATE DBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND VENDORS

SKANSKA

Design-Build Services for Second Avenue Subway, Phase 2-Tunneling and Structural Shell Project

MTA Construction and Development Contract No. C-26202 Bid Date: July 16, 2025 **Description of project:** This contract is the second contract of Phase 2 of the Second Avenue Subway Program. Phase 1

of the program extended the Q Line subway service from 63rd Street and Lexington Avenue to 96th Street and 2nd Avenue and has been open to the public since 2017. Phase 2 of the program will extend the Q Line subway service from the 96th Street Station to 125th Street and Lexington Avenue. This contract will be for the rehabilitation of an existing MTA tunnel constructed in the 1970s, the construction of two bored running tunnels and associated

sites, and for the construction of the shaft and adits at the end of tail-track tunnels.

Many bidding opportunities are available: geotechnical instrumentation, haul and dispose soil, rodent control, photography, rebar fabrication, electrical sub, soil and water sampling, office trailers, fencing, curbs and sidewalks, site work, security guard service, utility work, QA/QC inspections, CPM, MPT, road paving, striping, survey, landscaping, building demo, SOE/ground improvements, lead and asbestos abatement. If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Outreach Coordinator:

cross passages, and for the construction of the structural shells for the 116th Street and 125th Stations and associated construction of shafts and adits at the future ancillary and entrance

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KANSKA

AirTrain Newark Replacement Program-Maintenance and Control Facility (MCF) Project PANYNJ Contract No. EWR-154.946 Bid Date: July 17, 2025

Description of project: Construction of the maintenance, control and operations building and the elevated maintenance yard, as part of the program to replace the AirTrain Newark system. Project will be required

to coordinate and interface with Guideway and Stations Contractor and System Technology Contractor, including phased construction. Many bidding opportunities are available: geotechnical instrumentation and monitoring, material inspection and testing, sitework, curb, sidewalk, asphalt, pavement, pavers, landscaping, fence, signs, guardrail, utilities, watermain, drainage, sewer, storm, precast, electrical,

communications, fire alarm, site electric, sanitary, striping, pavement marking, concrete, rebar, reinforcing, formwork, structural steel, plumbing, fire protection, HVAC, elevator, miscellaneous metals, railings, stairs, MPT, lockers, acoustical ceiling, exterior walls, doors, windows, metal decking, painting, drywall, tile, carpet, vinyl base, acoustic panel, metal panel cladding, metal panels, roofing, insulation, waterproofing, trailers, cleaning, overhead doors, flooring, earthwork, dewatering, haul and dispose, contaminated soil, trucking, fills, stone, sewer cleaning, site clearing, trailers, cleaners, fireproofing, glass and glazing, concrete masonry unit, concrete block, disposal, containers, flagging, piles, groundwater treatment. If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Outreach Coordinator: Aislinn.Speranza@skanska.com • EOE/Vet/Disabled

SKANSKA

SUBCONTRACTORS AND VENDORS **Design-Build Services for LIRR West Side Yard Flood Mitigation Measures**

IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM NEW YORK STATE DBE

MTA Construction and Development Contract No. 6401 Bid Date: August 22, 2025

Description of project: Design, furnish, construct, and install concrete perimeter flood walls, seepage cut-off barriers below the concrete flood walls, flood gates, deployable flood barriers, sump pumps, a tide gate

chamber, drainage system improvements, workable aisles and a diesel generator, an automatic

Many bidding opportunities are available: deep foundations, minipiles, jetgrout, sheeting, rebar

transfer switch, ancillary electrical equipment, and required communications. This project will develop flood protection solutions for the West Side Yard in order to prevent and mitigate flooding of the LIRR Tunnels. The flood protection along the WSY perimeter will be accomplished via a combination of permanent flood walls and deployable flood barriers.

installation, concrete supply, site work, electrical work, painting, paving, curb and sidewalk, If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Diversity and Outreach Coordinator: Aislinn.Speranza@skanska.com • EOE/M/F/Vet/Disabled

Small Business



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BUSINESS





Valerie Voorhies at THEAST EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS and program benefits. Also learn how to increase your potential for federal contract opportunities through System for Award Management (SAM) Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small registration, including information that you Business (WOSB) Certification Program Webinar need for the registration process. SBA presenters Tuesday, July 15, 2025, 2:00 pm-4:00 pm will offer addional tips, address FAQs, give directions on where to get further assistance,

Exchange Northeast Advertise ITB to Targeted (NAICS/SIC/UNSPSC) **Certified Businesses** Telephone Follow-Up (Live) Agency/Organization Letters Computer Generated Dated and Timed Documentation

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- Illinois District Office for a virtual workshop providing an overview of the 8(a) Business Development program, eligibility requirements,

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration Contact: Patrice Dozier, patrice.dozier@sba.gov Fee: Free; registration required SBA is creating a space for Woman-Owned Small Businesses, via WOSB certification! Are you a woman owner of a small business? The federal government's goal is to award

at least five percent of all federal contracting

dollars to woman-owned small businesses each

year. Join us for training on how to register for

SBA's Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program, which helps eligible small businesses to qualify for federal contracting opportunities. The monthly sessions include an overview of the self-certification process, and a discussion of the NAICS codes that qualify as WOSB or EDWOSB. Register at https://www.eventbrite. com/e/woman-owned-small-business-wosb-

certification-program-tickets-1123665025339 8(a) Orientation and SAM Registration Webinar Wednesday, July 16, 2025, 10:30 am-12:30 pm

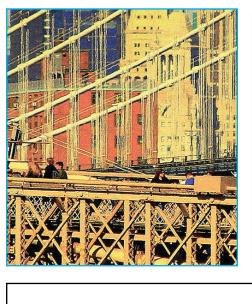
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration Contact: SBA Illinois District Office, 312-353-4528, illinois.do@sba.gov Fee: Free; registration required

Join the Small Business Administration (SBA)

other events, one goal is to better address the needs of attending current and soon-to-be business owners. To register for this free webinar, visit https://www.sba.gov/event/65169 Selling to the Federal Government Webinar Thursday, July 24, 2025, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, george.tapia@sba.gov Fee: Free; registration required Did you know that the federal government is the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world? Interested in learning how your business can market your services or goods to the federal government? Register online at https://www. eventbrite.com/e/how-to-sell-to-the-federal-

and answer your other questions. For this and

government-tickets-21790713611 SBA helps to ensure small businesses get fair opportunities to share federal government prime contracts. Topics will include: How to Register, Small Business Certifications, Finding Opportunities, Marketing Your Firm, Federal Supply Schedules, Getting Paid, Tips to Prepare Your Offer, How to Seek Additional Assistance. All training sessions are held via Microsoft Teams Meeting.





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