



Enjoy Holidays: Reflect, Recharge, Celebrate

By Jeff Thomas

Editor's note: With much appreciation for the author of this article, we also remember another holiday—New Year's Day, celebrated throughout the world—that reflects the birth of Jesus 2025 years ago. For short film versions, see The Shepherd (https://watch.thechosen.tv/video/184683594365) and The Messengers (https://watch.thechosen.tv/video/184683594463).

The holiday season is a time of joy, reflection, and unity, marked by diverse celebrations that hold profound significance for millions of people worldwide. Across cultures and religions, the holidays remind us of the values that unite humanity: love, gratitude, and hope. Beyond their religious or cultural roots, they offer an opportunity to connect with loved ones, recharge, and prepare for the coming year.

Religious Celebrations and Their Significance
 The holidays are steeped in religious traditions that offer spiritual guidance and meaning.

Christmas, celebrated by Christians, commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ, emphasizing themes of goodwill, generosity, and divine love. For many, the nativity story and traditions like midnight Mass and Advent are reminders of faith and hope.

Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, celebrates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem and the miracle of the menorah's oil lasting eight days. This holiday symbolizes resilience and divine intervention, with traditions like lighting the menorah, playing dreidel, and enjoying foods fried in oil.

Kwanzaa, a weeklong celebration honoring African heritage and culture, is rooted in the principles of unity, self-determination, and collective responsibility. Founded by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966, Kwanzaa encourages reflection on shared values and the importance of community.

Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha are significant Islamic holidays. Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan, a month of fasting, prayer, and reflection, while Eid al-Adha commemorates the willingness of Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) to sacrifice his son in obedience to God.



These holidays emphasize charity, gratitude, and devotion. Diwali, celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists, is the Festival of Lights that signifies the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil.

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Rehabilitation of Primary Settling Tanks and Ancillary Facilities at North River WRRF NYC DEP Contract No. NR-111 Bid Date: January 14, 2025

Description of project:
 The scope of work at the North River WRRF includes the replacement of the eight PST sludge collection system mechanisms, rehabilitation of the PST interior concrete structures, and improvements to related PST systems, such as the influent channel motorized slide gates, the primary sludge pumps, scum collection and concentration system, and the grit suspension pumps. The scope also includes replacement of the two SCT collection mechanisms and rehabilitation of the SCT interior concrete structures.

Many bidding opportunities are available: CPM scheduling, progress photos, pest control, demolition, spall repair and crack repair, sawcutting, structural concrete, rebar supply and installation, survey, masonry, miscellaneous metals, roofing, doors, mechanical pumps and equipment, HVAC, hazardous material removals, piping, electrical, I&C, office cleaning, trailer rental.

If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Outreach Coordinator: Aislinn.Speranza@skanska.com • EOE/M/F/Vet/Disabled

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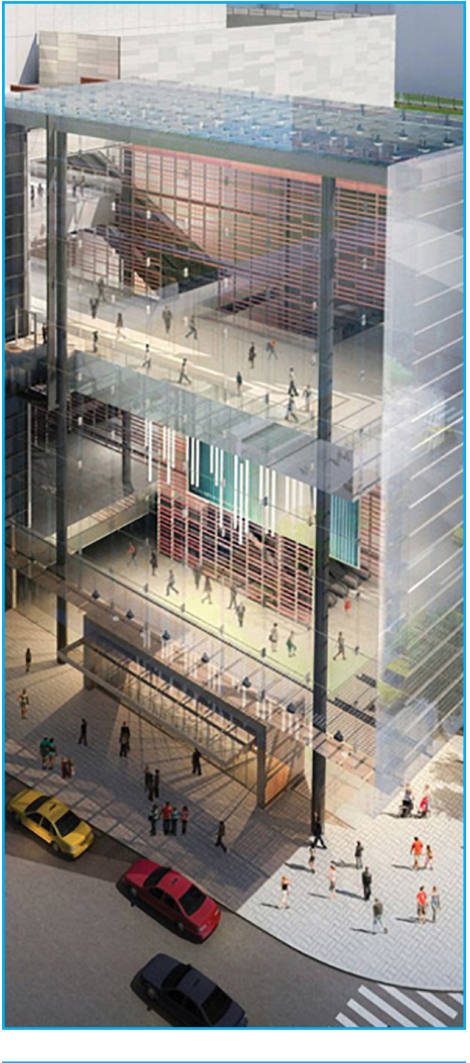
Design-Build Services for LIRR West Side Yard Flood Mitigation Measures MTA Construction and Development Contract No. 6401 Bid Date: February 3, 2025

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 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.

Many bidding opportunities are available: deep foundations, minipiles, jetgrout, sheeting, rebar installation, concrete supply, site work, electrical work, painting, paving, curb and sidewalk, site utilities.

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



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IS CURRENTLY SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM QUALIFIED AND CERTIFIED DBE AND SDVOB SUBCONTRACTORS, VENDORS, SERVICE PROVIDERS

Midtown Bus Terminal Replacement Program Construction Services for the Staging and Storage Facility and Ramp Structure Project PANYNJ RFP No. 62272 Bid Date: February 13, 2025

Brief description of work:
 The project's scope of work includes, but is not limited to, the preparation for construction and the construction of the SSF and associated ramp structure that serves the SSF, underground utility work and relocations, demolition of existing car and bus ramps, and construction of a new temporary ramping system to facilitate and maintain an uninterrupted operation at the existing main terminal. Once the project is completed, the SSF and ramp structure will serve as a temporary terminal for the duration of the existing PABT demolition and construction of the new main terminal. The Port Authority expects zero impacts to all existing operations, inclusive of all city street and tunnel traffic.

Invitation to Bid for DBE and SDVOB firms
 For further information concerning subcontracting and/or purchasing opportunities, and to register as a subcontractor or vendor, please respond to solicitations@tutorperini.com or contact Arlene McBayne at (914) 739-1908. Come and join our team!

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Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Certification Program Webinar Tuesday, January 7, 2025, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm Online
 Main Sponsor(s): Urban League of Louisiana Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation
 Contact: SBA Illinois District Office, 504-620-9647, kfunca@urbanleaguela.org
 Fee: Free; registration required
 The Woman-Owned Small Business Federal Contract Program (WOSB Program) is designed to offer a level playing field for women business owners. In this session, learn the benefits of WOSB certification, eligibility requirements, and the certification process. Gain insights on how to best leverage your WOSB certification to access government contracting opportunities. This session will be facilitated by Courtney Elzey, Owner, MCDS, LLC. There is no cost to attend. However, registration is required at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/get-certified-as-a-woman-owned-small-business-wosb-tickets-1102486580039>

8(a) Orientation and SAM Registration Webinar Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 10:30 am–12:00 pm Online
 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)

Illinois District Office for a virtual workshop providing an overview of the 8(a) Business Development program, eligibility requirements, and program benefits. Also learn how to increase your potential for federal contract opportunities through System for Award Management (SAM) registration, including information that you need for the registration process. SBA presenters will offer additional tips, address FAQs, give directions on where to get further assistance, and answer your other questions. To register for this free webinar, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/basics-of-sbas-8a-business-development-orientation-and-sam-registration-tickets-103009944167>

Selling to the Federal Government Webinar Thursday, January 23, 2025, 1:00 pm–4:00 pm Online
 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-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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