

Meet The CTA Workforce Partners

CTA has committed to connecting people with workforce opportunities, including training and jobs, as part of the Red Line Extension and other CTA projects. The CTA has set workforce participation goals on all major construction contracts over the years and continues to do so today.

The objective is to familiarize individuals with career opportunities in the trades, union apprenticeships and other construction-related jobs. The CTA Diversity team is working closely with the workforce partners listed here to create job opportunities and increase the participation of underrepresented communities in the construction industry. CTA works with the workforce partners to:

- Inform people about job opportunities on CTA projects at quarterly workforce outreach events.
- Provide access to training for skill improvement.
- Provide access to personalized career coaching.

For more information visit,

transitchicago.com/rle/whats-new/#workforce



RLE Advance Construction Begins Summer 2024

Advance construction work on the Red Line Extension begins this year! To build the 5.6-mile Red Line Extension from 95th Street to 130th Street, we need to demolish properties and relocate utility poles and equipment to make way for the new Red Line tracks and four new stations. Demolition is expected to begin late summer or fall from south of 95th Street to roughly 118th Street. Utility work is anticipated to begin this summer throughout the project area. This work will include occasional street, alley and sidewalk closures and construction noise. CTA is committed to its contractors using a variety of measures to mitigate impacts to the community as much as possible. Subscribe to project updates at transitchicago.com/RLE, including when work will begin near you.



Community Spotlight: Old Fashioned Donuts serves up steadfast tradition with optimism for the future.

In the fall of 1962, a young and ambitious Buritt Bulloch moved to Chicago from Mississippi. “I was looking for a job, first of all.” He recalled, “I had a friend [who] was working for a doughnut company. I called him up, and he hooked me up there.” This chance opportunity set Mr. Bulloch, known to his many beloved customers as Mr. B, on the path to owning one of Chicago’s most legendary doughnut shops, Old Fashioned Donuts on South Michigan Ave. In his first doughnut shop job, Mr. B honed his craft. “During that [10] year span, I learned where to get my products, the equipment, the best stuff out here,” he recalled. After mastering the art of doughnut making, Mr. B decided it was time to open his own operation in Roseland. After 51 years, Mr. B still proudly runs the business, now with the help of his daughter, Michele. Throughout that time, Mr. B has not missed a beat. *Turn to Page 2...*



Buritt and Michele Bulloch

Community Spotlight, Continued...

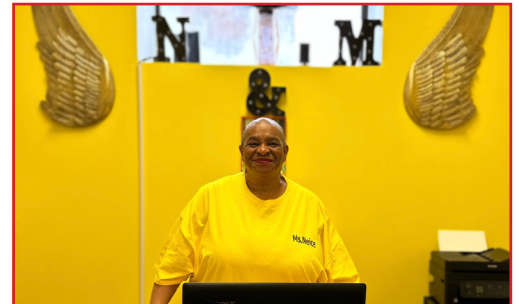
"I've been fortunate. Last October 5th I turned 85, haven't missed a day of work," he said. "When I came up, you worked or else. When I go to work on those days, I'm proud to still be here that day." This hard work has paid off. Michele describes the shop as a destination bringing visitors to the area. The shop attracts new and old customers. However, over the decades, it has not always been an easy journey. "It's changed considerably," Michele recalled of the once-bustling Michigan Ave. corridor. "All the stores were open, so it's like we just blended in." Despite the hardships, Roseland and Old Fashioned have been resilient. Old Fashioned Donuts will see a transformative shop renovation made possible by a City of Chicago Recovery Plan grant. Mr. B described the impact of RLE as a positive for the community and Old Fashioned. "It'll bring more revenue into the area. You'll have people that's gonna miss [their] stop or whatever. [They're] gonna come for donuts," he joked.



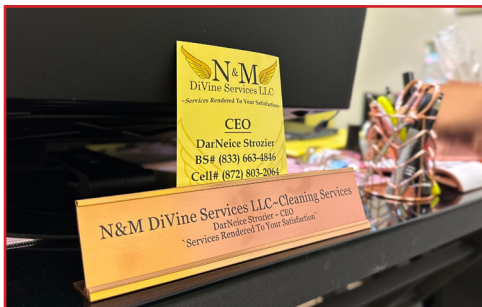
Mr. B preparing his famous apple fritters
(11248 S Michigan Ave.)

Local Vendors Support Delivering RLE's Community Benefits

The mission of the Red Line Extension is, at its core, to uplift the community through investment. This investment does not simply begin when the train line opens. It is going on now through opportunities offered to small businesses in the project footprint but also to other small- and minority-owned businesses throughout the city. One such small business is local cleaning service N&M Divine Services. Owned and founded in June 2020 by Roseland resident DarNeice Strozier, N&M was intended to be Ms. Strozier's retirement plan. "All my life, I've been working for someone else," she began. "So, I started this business to allow me to work for myself." This year, DarNeice received her first big contract when she won the cleaning contract for the RLE Community Office located in the RLE footprint near 111th & Eggleston. Across the project, there are various opportunities for contracting and subcontracting that can provide a small business its big break. "This project brings money and job opportunities to our community," stated Ms. Strozier. As opportunities arise for N&M, they translate to opportunities for other small businesses they work with. Contracts for one local business create more



DarNeice Strozier stands at her computer.




Visit www.nmdivineservices.com/

work opportunities for another business and local employees. Ms. Strozier went on to explain how Roseland-based Midwest Custom Print provides crucial services like the printing of N&M's promotional materials, but also offered business guidance. She hopes to do the same for others. "My vision is... to provide job opportunities for people in the community," she said. "[But] to be a leader and a supporter for other businesses. When [you're] blessed to get into a position like that, it's an even greater blessing to bless someone else."

Questions? Would you like to be added to our list for future Red Line Extension updates?

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