



PRESS RELEASE

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The U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency Awards 5-year Grant Totaling \$2.1 Million to OLIM Lifestyle Management Consulting to Operate the Brooklyn MBDA Business Center

Brooklyn, New York: OLIM Lifestyle Management Consulting LLC is a recipient of an Award granted by the Minority Business Development Agency (“MBDA”), U.S. Department of Commerce, to operate a Minority Business Development Center in the Borough of Brooklyn, City of New York (“Brooklyn MBDA Business Center”).

MBDA is the only federal agency charged exclusively with the mission of fostering business development and entrepreneurship for minority-owned firms. The Brooklyn MBDA Business Center, operated by OLIM Lifestyle Management Consulting LLC, joins the network of other Centers throughout the United States to help minority-owned businesses access capital, and markets (including expanding into new markets at home and abroad).

The Brooklyn MBDA Business Center, program is designed to fulfill the MBDA’s overarching mission by providing critical high-level, subject-matter expertise in, among other things: business development, access to financing, and other technical services, to eligible minority-owned firms, with a focus on securing large public and/or private contracts (procurements), and export and import opportunities.

Brooklyn MBDA Business Center is committed to providing minority business owners with the knowledge, skills, and access to the resources they need to grow and prosper. The Center’s approach in scaling minority-owned enterprises (MBEs) is through the advocacy and promotion of innovation, industry, and investment in the MBEs’ space. As a result, the team will continue to assist MBEs in facilitating entry into global markets, identifying export markets, and overseas market promotion.

Housed at Medgar Evers College, City University of New York, the Center has a national footprint, with a focus on the Northeast region of the United States. Along the Northeast Corridors (“NEC”) there is a strong presence of minority-owned enterprises that are made up of the following ethnic groups: African Americans, Hispanic-Americans, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, Native Americans, Hasidic Jews, and Tribal entities, who are the main employers in their communities.

Elected Officials and Community Leaders across New York City have congratulated the Brooklyn MBDA Business Center on opening its doors --- extending their well wishes for its success and offering support where necessary.



Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, representing New York's 9th Congressional District where the Brooklyn MBDA Business Center is located stated, "the act of opening a business has always served as a means for any individual to elevate their economic position and secure a financially comfortable future for their family. While the opportunity to open a thriving business should be universal, too often, promising minority business owners have been denied the fruits of their labor and the realization of their dreams by unjust systems and disparate treatment--"

"I am proud to say the tide is turning. We've witnessed change through legislative efforts, where minority business development has been placed as a focal point of President Biden's Build Back Better Agenda, as well as through the dedication of folks like those at Brooklyn MBDA, who work tirelessly towards narrowing the disparity between what equity minority business owners should experience and the reality they so often do. I thank this transformative organization for the work it champions to advance equity and support our Brooklyn community..."

Congressman Jamaal Bowman of New York's 16th District voiced that "Minority business owners face additional challenges and deserve as many resources and hands on support they can get so their businesses can thrive." He further added that, "Minority business owners oftentimes need extra mentorship, assistance with completing their MWBE applications and guidance to achieve their goals and scale their business. I am proud to see that OLIM Lifestyle Management Consulting has received a \$2 million grant to operate the Brooklyn Minority Business Development Agency. I look forward to seeing the businesses thrive from this agency's work and look forward to supporting their efforts however I may."

Congressman Gregory W. Meeks, representative for New York's 5th District said, "I congratulate OLIM Lifestyle Management Consulting, operator of the Brooklyn MBDA Business Center, on receiving a generous grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency. I look forward to seeing Brooklyn MBDA Business Center's continued success in providing minority business owners with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel. Our economy can only thrive if opportunity and resources are equitably shared."

The Center kicked off its Grand Opening on December 1 and 2, 2021, with an Economic Development Forum ("A Grassroots Approach to the Come Back Better: Back Better Forum"). The Forum gathered dignitaries from the U.S. Department of Commerce, educators, and local stakeholders to discuss topics such as, Infrastructure, Workforce Development, Access to Capital, and the Impact of COVID-19 on MBEs, and how we move beyond this pandemic.

The Brooklyn MBDA Business Center aims to play a critical role in expanding and reviving minority businesses in New York City and throughout the northeast corridor, as Sharon Higgins, Operator of the Center, expressed at the Forum: "The health and wealth of the economy rest in every segment of our society. Like the human body, each cell is a microcosm of the entire body, so too, each segment of our economy contributes to overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP). As such, the Brooklyn MBDA Business Center looks forward to supporting minority-owned businesses in scaling and reviving this region."

For more information, contact information Jacqueline Kennedy - Project Director at jkennedy@olimlifestylemanagement.org and/or <https://www.brooklynmbdacenter.com>.

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