

COMPANY OVERVIEW

Prior to incorporating Jemison & Partners, Inc., Lydia Jemison (Jemison) was a career local government employee with a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning and certification from the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). Jemison spent 15 years in the Jefferson Parish Planning Department and had worked up to supervising planner. Jemison wrote master plans, local codes, reviewed plans for industrial, commercial and residential construction, worked with developers and other construction-related businesses, coordinated with other local and state agencies, explained development proposals to neighborhood organizations and elected officials and presented recommendations for approval or denial at public hearings based on whether construction plans met parish codes. Jemison also did hurricane evacuation planning.

This kind of work is intense and the political landscape changes frequently. So, it was time to make a change and Jemison accepted a promotion to state government to become the planning manager for the Port of New Orleans.

Around this time, the Jefferson Parish Council appointed Jemison to the Planning Advisory Board (Board). Jemison served eight years on the Board, five years as chairman, continuing her work in guiding the physical development of the parish. Jemison conducted hundreds of public hearings to resolve master planning, land use, zoning, site plan review and construction issues with developers, businesses and civic groups.

At the Port of New Orleans, Jemison was exposed to new disciplines that built on her planning expertise acquired with the parish including intermodal transportation, capital facility planning, strategic planning and marine construction.

After 5 years as planning manager, Jemison was offered a position in the private sector with Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Quade and Douglas, Inc. (PB). At PB, Jemison worked with twenty ports at a time writing a statewide port master plan for neighboring Mississippi. But after 2 years, Jemison was suddenly laid off. Having worked for government all of her life, this was a shock. But huge, international firms do lay people off and Jemison dealt with it by forming her own company, Jemison & Partners, Inc.

Jemison & Partners, Inc. (JP) was founded in 2001 as a woman-owned S-corporation. JP very quickly obtained Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certification with the State of Louisiana. JP also has DBE certification in the State of Mississippi.

JP initially secured work to prepare an economic development study for the Port of Lake Providence, located in northeast Louisiana, followed by work for the Ports of New Orleans, Terrebonne, St. Bernard and Lafourche to secure capital funding for heavy industrial marine construction projects. This work included site assessments, preparing cost estimates, construction schedules, cargo projections and cost-benefit analyses.

At the Port of New Orleans, JP followed projects through construction and managed post-construction reporting. Over the last twenty years, Jemison/JP has worked on over \$200 million in port improvements in a wide variety of marine construction projects including an intermodal rail terminal, dry docks for shipyards, marshalling yard heavy-duty marine paving improvements, wharf and shed rehabilitations including electrical components for specialized wharf doors and terminal gates, roofing and siding, cruise terminal improvements with specialized security requirements for U. S. Customs and Border Protection and articulated weather-protected passenger walkways, cold storage warehouse construction with specialized industrial freezer equipment that had to meet environmental standards, wharf fender systems, and the purchase and fabrication of hydraulic dredge equipment used to maintain navigation access to marine facilities on the Mississippi River. These marine construction projects frequently involved demolition of existing facilities or portions thereof to make way for new construction.

After securing \$16 million in federal funding, JP was involved in project management of the multi-year construction of an intermodal rail terminal and marshalling yard project at the Port of New Orleans. This included demolition of existing rail lines and concrete to make way for the new intermodal terminal and super heavy-duty airport-standard paving improvements for the marshalling yard. The intermodal rail terminal also required installation of electrical conduit for power, communications, and specialized industrial equipment in the form of electrically-powered rubber tire gantry cranes to move containerized cargo.

JP prepared the first Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Port of New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. The plan identified 16 natural and man-made hazards particular to the waterfront facilities at the port. The plan included a vulnerability assessment and mitigation action plan for construction projects aimed at preventing damage from future hazards.

Concurrently as a subcontractor and DBE to other firms, JP was also involved in the preparation of a number of environmental assessments and public outreach efforts for major transportation projects in Louisiana. This included analysis of the proposed project for demographics, environmental justice, land use, zoning and potential adverse impacts to surrounding communities. Additionally, JP prepared facility assessments, master plans, a debris management plan, and neighborhood improvement plans in urban and rural areas.

JP has also been an expert witness in land use and zoning since 2004.

Jemison is a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) for the Association of State Floodplain Managers, adding to her environmental portfolio. CFMs are required to take a nationalized test on the hazards of flooding and best practices on prevention.

By 2017, the volume of available work for JP had declined. Term limits, elections and the associated changes in elected officials/administrations on the local, regional, state and federal levels frequently result in a reduction in available projects. Additionally, general economic conditions and the market place were not conducive to public improvement projects.

Jemison took advantage of the slowdown to pursue SBA 8(a) certification, which was granted in 2017.

JP has secured two federal contracts as an 8(a) firm. These projects have added to JP's repertoire of construction expertise as follows:

Tyndall Airforce Base (AFB), FL (November 2018 – July 2019)

Jemison & Partners, Inc. was the prime consultant in the repair and installation of military security fencing on the perimeter of the Tyndall AFB, required to protect critical portions of this 15 square-mile military facility following the devastation of Hurricane Michael in October of 2018. The work involved demolition and removal of the existing fencing, clearing and grubbing, excavation, repair and replacement of fence material including installation of electrical conduit and specialized military locking systems for communication and access control.

United States Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District (February 2019 – Present)

Jemison & Partners, Inc. is the prime consultant in this final phase of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Control project to restore greenspace in a 21-block urban corridor in New Orleans, LA including excavation, earth work, planting, repair of curbing and sidewalks, and maintenance. The construction portion of the project is concluded in August 2019 and the project is currently in a one-year maintenance phase.

In 2018, the SBA approved a Mentor-Protégé' Agreement through the All Small Mentor Protégé' Program with JP as a protégé' to Birmingham Industrial Construction, LLC. (BIC), the mentor. In 2019, the two firms are presently pursuing SBA approval of a joint venture agreement (JVA) for the LYDERA Group, LLC.