

ST. LOUIS MBDA BUSINESS CENTER

308 North 21st Street, Suite 700
St. Louis, MO 63103



CHARLES HENSON PROJECT DIRECTOR



Charles began his career in the Design & Construction Industry having graduated from Washington University with a degree in Architecture. After thirteen (13) years in the industry Charles decided to pursue other avenues which moved him into an entrepreneurial role.

He later founded a successful professional services company headquartered in St Louis, MO called Design Alternatives, Inc. (DAI) providing Human Resource consulting that included: recruitment, placement and customized training solutions for nearly 20 years; placing several thousand technical & professional individuals.

Charles later became the Director of Community Relations for one of the nation's largest construction conglomerates McCarthy Building Group. He was entrusted in a new role for the company to implement cultural change, development of Mentor-Protégé program for minority contractors and promoted community outreach endeavors.

Currently, he is the Project Director for the Minority Business Agency (MBDA) Business Center in St Louis. The MBDA is a Division of the Department of Commerce and the only Federal Agency advocating for the promotion and growth of minority owned businesses in the country.

Other Accolades

- Developed and facilitated Diversity and Inclusion training
- Recipient of BBB Customer Satisfaction Award for Business
- Community leader and founding member of PROUD (People Reaching out for Unity and Diversity); nationally recognized by the Clinton Administration as promising practice – est. 1995
- Board representative – for non-profit agencies and school boards
- Motivational speaker
- Youth Mentor and Coach
- Charles was the first African American selected "Citizen of the Year" for the City of Ferguson MO in 2006
- Received Special Recognition Award given by North County Inc
- Who's Who in Black St Louis (2007, 2008)
- McCluer High School Wall of Fame inductee
- College Textbook - Chapter feature "Understanding Business" 5th Edition – McHugh & Nickels

Featured in countless news articles:

St. Louis American News Paper feature story
St. Louis Post-Dispatch – Business Plus
St. Louis Business Journal
St. Louis Magazine