



*"Building Communities through Sports and Recreation"*

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CONTACT:

Jeff Dickerson

[jeff@dickerson-communications.com](mailto:jeff@dickerson-communications.com)

678-640-1972

## State Farm Renovation Exceeds 31% Target For Utilization of Equal Business Opportunity Firms

The 18-month renovation of State Farm Arena generated tens of millions of dollars for Equal Business Opportunity firms, representing more than 36.3 percent of competitive opportunities for those companies, according to Kerry Stewart, Executive Director of the Atlanta Fulton County Recreation Authority. AFCRA oversaw the arena's renovation and established an EBO goal of 31 percent.

"Hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars in revenue have flowed to minority- and women-owned business enterprises as a result of our strong EBO goals," said Stewart. "This project ensures that EBO firms can grow and prosper and demonstrate their abilities to efficiently deliver products and services on major renovation and construction projects."

More than 50 EBO firms participated in the renovation of State Farm Arena, from professional, technical and design firms to trade and construction companies. "Nearly every phase of the project included EBO firms," said Stewart.

The renovation created a 360-degree viewing access to the arena centered around improving the fans' gameday experience. This teamwork resulted in State Farm Arena being nominated as a finalist in Street and Smith's Sports Business Journal "Sports Facility of the Year" award. "This recognition confirms what our Hawks fans and concert-goers have enjoyed since our first opening event – a first-class experience with unparalleled service", said David Lee, Executive Vice President of External Affairs for the Atlanta Hawks.

At an April 4 EBO Appreciation Event at State Farm Arena, Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms said Atlanta's EBO program "has set the tone throughout the nation."

"What we have established in Atlanta should not be taken for granted," Mayor Bottoms said. "It doesn't have anything to do with favoritism, it doesn't have anything to do with asking for a handout, but it has everything to do with getting an opportunity to compete on a level playing field."