



**T**he 18-month renovation of State Farm Arena generated 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. AFRCA 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," says Stewart. "This project ensures that EBO firms can grow, 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. The renovation created a 360-degree viewing access to the arena centered around improving the fans' gameday experience. "Nearly every phase of the project included EBO firms," says Stewart.

According to Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, Atlanta's EBO program "has set the tone throughout the nation."

"What we have established in Atlanta should not be taken for granted," says Bottoms. "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."