



# Writing Professor Is Also Professional Welder

By Jo Mackiewicz

Although I have a good gig as a full professor at Iowa State University, I've daydreamed about learning a trade—something that required both my mind and my hands.

So in 2018, I started night courses in welding at Des Moines Area Community College. For three years, I studied different types of welding and during the day worked on a book about the communication between welding teachers and students. I wasn't the only woman who became interested in trades work during this time. Recognizing the good pay and job security, United States women have moved in greater numbers into skilled trades such as welding and fabrication within the past ten years.

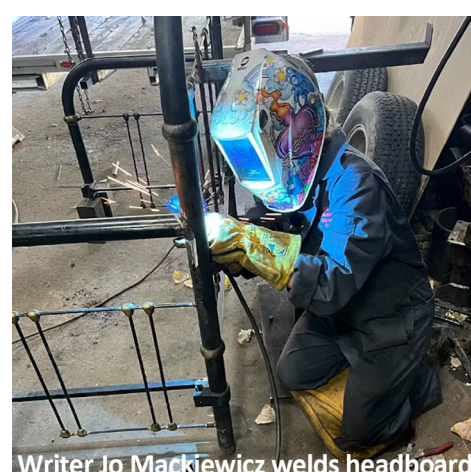
From 2017 to 2022, the number of women in trades rose from about 241,000 to nearly 354,000. That's an increase of about 47 percent. Even so, women still constitute just 5.3 percent of welders in the United States.

When I received my diploma in welding in May 2022, I'd already found the place I wanted

to work: Howe's Welding and Metal Fabrication. I'd met the owner, Jim Howe, when I visited his three-man shop in Ames, Iowa, in January 2022 for research on a second book about communication in skilled trades.

Howe's shop focuses on repairs and one-off fabrication, not large-scale production of single items. Under Howe's tutelage, I've fabricated skis for the machines that make the rumble strips in the road, shepherd's hooks for bird feeders, fence poles, and stainless-steel lampshade frames. I've repaired trailers, wheelchair ramps, office chairs, and lawn mowers.

Both my experience at Howe's and my research at nine other fabrication facilities in Iowa have shown me that—at least for the time being—tradeswomen must find workarounds for commonly encountered challenges. Some of these challenges are physical. These could include being unable to easily reach or move necessary material and tools. Or they could be emotional, such as encountering sexism. As I explore in my forthcoming book, *Learning Skilled Trades in the Workplace*, this is true even in a welcoming environment like Howe's shop,



Writer Jo Mackiewicz welds headboard

where I work with a supportive and helpful boss and coworkers.

Being a tradeswoman means being scrutinized for competence. One of the tradeswomen that I interviewed for the book told me this story about

Small Business Exchange • Voice of Small, Emerging, Diversity-Owned Businesses Since 1984 Click to read more

## Sub-Bid Requests



**Small Business Exchange Northeast DEI**

- Advertise
- ITB to Targeted (NAICS/SIC/UNSPSC) Certified Businesses
- Telephone Follow-Up (Live)
- Agency/Organization Letters
- Computer Generated Dated and Timed Documentation
- Customized Reports Available

For more info contact  
 Valerie Voorhies at  
 vvv@sbeinc.com



**SKANSKA**  
 SKANSKA USA CIVIL  
**IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY, AND CONNECTICUT DBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND VENDORS**

**Rehabilitation of Primary Settling Tanks and Ancillary Facilities at North River WRRF**  
 NYC DEP Contract No. NR-111  
 Bid Date: November 27, 2024

**Description of project:**  
 The scope of work at the North River WRRF includes the replacement of the eight PST sludge collection system mechanisms, rehabilitation of the PST interior concrete structures, and improvements to related PST systems, such as the influent channel motorized slide gates, the primary sludge pumps, scum collection and concentration system, and the grit suspension pumps. The scope also includes replacement of the two SCT collection mechanisms and rehabilitation of the SCT interior concrete structures.

**Many bidding opportunities are available:** CPM scheduling, progress photos, pest control, demolition, spall repair and crack repair, sawcutting, structural concrete, rebar supply and installation, survey, masonry, miscellaneous metals, roofing, doors, mechanical pumps and equipment, HVAC, hazardous material removals, piping, electrical, I&C, office cleaning, trailer rental.

If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Outreach Coordinator: Aislinn.Speranza@skanska.com • EOE/M/F/Vet/Disabled

**Tutor Perini**  
 FRONTIER KEMPER/TUTOR PERINI/HYUNDAI  
**ARE SOLICITING DBE AND NON-DBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS**

**Manhattan Tunnel Project through a Design-Build Agreement in Manhattan, New York**  
**Manhattan Tunnel is a Package of the Larger Hudson Tunnel Gateway Project**  
 Gateway Development Commission RFP No. GDC23-005  
 Bid Date: November 22, 2024

**Brief description of work:**  
 Work consists of two separate mined tunnels to be constructed utilizing Sequential Excavation Methods ("SEM") tunneling techniques in combination with in-situ ground improvements (e.g., ground freezing and jet grouting) from about 50 feet west of the Manhattan Bulkhead ("Bulkhead") to an interface with the Hudson Yards Concrete Casing. Also included are design and engineering disciplines, demolition, hauling, concrete, utility work, road construction, paving, line striping, traffic signal, traffic control, park construction, fencing, community outreach, inspection and testing, security, and instrumentation.

**The DBE Participation goal for the project is 12%**

**ALL QUOTATIONS ARE DUE BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS Thursday, October 31, 2024.**  
 Proposal bid date November 22, 2024, time 2:00 pm. For further information concerning subcontracting and/or purchasing opportunities, and to register as a subcontractor or vendor, please respond to solicitations@tutorperini.com or contact Arlene McBayne at (914) 739-1908.

For questions or inquiries regarding the job, contact Scott Wilson, Senior Estimator, at (661) 305-8335 or swilson@frontierkemper.com.

**SKANSKA**  
 SKANSKA USA CIVIL  
**IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY DBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND VENDORS**

**Manhattan Tunnel Project**  
 Gateway Development Commission RFP No. GDC23-005  
 Bid Date: November 22, 2024

**Description of project:**  
 The Manhattan Tunnel consists of two separate mined tunnels to be constructed utilizing Sequential Excavation Methods ("SEM") tunneling techniques in combination with in-situ ground improvements (e.g., ground freezing and jet grouting) from about 50 feet west of the Manhattan Bulkhead ("Bulkhead") to an interface with the HYCC-3, within the Hudson Yards. The construction of two sets of shafts for support of tunnel excavation: the Temporary Shafts (located by the Manhattan bulkhead) and the 12th Avenue Shaft.

**Many bidding opportunities are available:** geotechnical instrumentation, haul and dispose soil, rodent control, photography, rebar fabrication, electrical sub, soil and water sampling, park restoration, office trailers, fencing, curbs and sidewalks, site work, security guard service, utility work, QA/QC inspections.

If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Outreach Coordinator: Aislinn.Speranza@skanska.com • EOE/M/F/Vet/Disabled

**Tutor Perini**  
 TUTOR PERINI CORPORATION, AN EEO EMPLOYER  
**IS CURRENTLY SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM QUALIFIED AND CERTIFIED DBE AND SDVOB SUBCONTRACTORS, VENDORS, SERVICE PROVIDERS**

**Midtown Bus Terminal Replacement Program Construction Services for the Staging and Storage Facility and Ramp Structure Project**  
 PANYNJ RFP No. 62272  
 Bid Date: December 4, 2024

**Brief description of work:**  
 The project's scope of work includes, but is not limited to, the preparation for construction and the construction of the SSF and associated ramp structure that serves the SSF, underground utility work and relocations, demolition of existing car and bus ramps, and construction of a new temporary ramping system to facilitate and maintain an uninterrupted operation at the existing main terminal. Once the project is completed, the SSF and ramp structure will serve as a temporary terminal for the duration of the existing PABT demolition and construction of the new main terminal. The Port Authority expects zero impacts to all existing operations, inclusive of all city street and tunnel traffic.

**Invitation to Bid for DBE and SDVOB firms**

For further information concerning subcontracting and/or purchasing opportunities, and to register as a subcontractor or vendor, please respond to solicitations@tutorperini.com or contact Arlene McBayne at (914) 739-1908. Come and join our team!

**SKANSKA**  
 SKANSKA USA CIVIL  
**IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM NEW YORK STATE DBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND VENDORS**

**Design-Build Services for LIRR West Side Yard Flood Mitigation Measures**  
 MTA Construction and Development Contract No. 6401  
 Bid Date: February 3, 2025

**Description of project:**  
 Design, furnish, construct, and install concrete perimeter flood walls, seepage cut-off barriers below the concrete flood walls, flood gates, deployable flood barriers, sump pumps, a tide gate chamber, drainage system improvements, workable aisles and a diesel generator, an automatic transfer switch, ancillary electrical equipment, and required communications.

This project will develop flood protection solutions for the West Side Yard in order to prevent and mitigate flooding of the LIRR Tunnels. The flood protection along the WSY perimeter will be accomplished via a combination of permanent flood walls and deployable flood barriers.

**Many bidding opportunities are available:** deep foundations, minipiles, jetgrout, sheeting, rebar installation, concrete supply, site work, electrical work, painting, paving, curb and sidewalk, site utilities.

If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Diversity and Outreach Coordinator: Aislinn.Speranza@skanska.com • EOE/M/F/Vet/Disabled

**SMALL BUSINESS EXCHANGE NORTHEAST**  
**SBE OUTREACH SERVICES**

With over 1.6 million businesses in our active database—the country's largest non-public diversity database—SBE sets the professional standard for diversity outreach across the nation. For more than three decades, we have served small businesses, prime contractors, and agencies—with proven results.

**Advertisements**  
 Placed in various Small Business Exchange Northeast digital publications each month, and at www.sbenortheast.com

**Fax, Email, and Postal Solicitations**  
 Targeted mailings sent to businesses chosen according to your criteria

**Live Call Center Follow-Up**  
 Telephone follow-up calls using a script of five questions that you define

**Computer Generated Reports**  
 Complete documentation that will fit right into your proposal, along with a list of interested firms to contact

**Special Services**  
 Custom design and development of services that you need for particular situations such as small business marketing, diversity goal completion, and agency capacity building

**Call for more information: 800-800-8534**

1984 **40** Years 2024

**SMALL BUSINESS EXCHANGE NORTHEAST**  
**PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES**

With a database of over 1.6 million businesses, SBE assists agencies with public legal notices

**Advertisements**  
 Placed in various Small Business Exchange Northeast digital publications each month, and at www.sbenortheast.com

**Special Follow-Up Services**  
 Custom design and development of services that you need for particular situations such as small business marketing, diversity goal completion, and agency capacity building

**Call for more information: 800-800-8534**

1984 **40** Years 2024

**SMALL BUSINESS EXCHANGE NORTHEAST**

Serving CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, RI, VT, or any other states that you need to reach

**Advertise in our digital EXTRA**

weekly or whenever wherever to whom ever you need to reach among agencies contractors diversity firms



**NORTHEAST EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS**

**2024**

**Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Certification Program Webinar**  
 Tuesday, November 19, 2024, 2:00 pm–3:30 pm  
 Online  
 Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration  
 Contact: Patrice Dozier, patrice.dozier@sba.gov  
 Fee: Free; registration required  
 Welcome to the WOSB webinar series! Are you a woman owner of a small business? The federal government's goal is to award at least five percent of all federal contracting dollars to woman-owned small businesses each year. Join us for training on how to register for SBA's Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program, which helps eligible small businesses to qualify for federal contracting opportunities. The monthly sessions will include an overview of the self-certification process, as well as a discussion of the NAICS codes that qualify as WOSB or EDWOSB. Register for this free webinar at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/woman-owned-small-business-wosb-certification-program-tickets-853224426227

**8(a) Orientation and SAM Registration Webinar**  
 Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 10:30 am–11:30 am  
 Online  
 Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration  
 Contact: SBA Illinois District Office, 312-353-4528, illinois.do@sba.gov  
 Fee: Free; registration required  
 Join the Small Business Administration (SBA)

Illinois District Office for a virtual workshop providing an overview of the 8(a) Business Development program, eligibility requirements, and program benefits. Also learn how to increase your potential for federal contract opportunities through System for Award Management (SAM) registration, including information that you need for the registration process. SBA presenters will offer additional tips, address FAQs, give directions on where to get further assistance, and answer your other questions. To register for this free webinar, visit https://www.eventbrite.com/e/8a-orientation-sam-registration-tickets-518989961947

**Selling to the Federal Government Webinar**  
 Thursday, December 12, 2024, 1:00 pm–4:00 pm  
 Online  
 Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration  
 Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, george.tapia@sba.gov  
 Fee: Free; registration required  
 Did you know that the federal government is the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world? Interested in learning how your business can market your services or goods to the federal government? Register online at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-to-sell-to-the-federal-government-tickets-21790713611 SBA helps to ensure small businesses get fair opportunities to share federal government prime contracts. Topics will include: How to Register, Small Business Certifications, Finding Opportunities, Marketing Your Firm, Federal Supply Schedules, Getting Paid, Tips to Prepare Your Offer, How to Seek Additional Assistance. All training sessions are held via Microsoft Teams Meeting. Participants must ensure Microsoft Teams is functioning.

