

Lasenta Lewis-Ellis
LLE Construction Group, LLC

Lasenta Lewis-Ellis, GC, CM, CQM-C, MAHRD, is the President and CEO of LLE Construction Group, LLC, a Woman and Minority-Owned Small Business General Contracting and Real Estate Investment and Development Firm. LLE specializes in Owner Representation and Consulting Services in Facility Maintenance & Sustainability (to include FF&E, OS&E and Space Planning, Renovations, and Logistics), Program & Project Management with an emphasis in Construction and Facilities Support. She is a Co-Developer on Community and Real Estate Investment & Development Projects in South Carolina.



She holds an Associate in Architectural Engineering Technology from Midlands Technical College (Columbia, SC); a Bachelor of Arts from the University of South Carolina (Columbia, SC); and a Master of Arts in Human Resources Development from Webster University (Fort Jackson, SC).

Lasenta's passion and drive to inspire, motivate, and encourage others led to creating LLE Consulting, a Division of LLE Construction Group, LLC. LLE Consulting provides Small Business Strategic Development & Consulting; Small, Women, and Minority Business Enterprises (SWMBEs) and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) Outreach Programs; and Educational Training in Entrepreneurship, Project Management and Federal Government Contracting for Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs.

LLE Consulting is scheduled to open "The PAD," a Business, Entrepreneurship, and Contractor (BEC) Support Center, located in the Opportunity Zone in Columbia, SC. We will create programs that help establish and solidify the foundation of small businesses and entrepreneurs by "Building Them Strong." The mission is to enable and empower them through advocacy, outreach, education, mentoring and support. The PAD will house a workspace designed for women and provide technical assistance and access to mentors.

In February 2021, Lasenta formed Collaborative Partners, LLC, a Community and Commercial Real Estate Development Firm focused on Affordable Housing, Commercial Real Estate and Mixed-Used Development. We are passionate about creating projects that are focused on community-based and where we have an opportunity to leave families and communities better than we found them.

In August 2019, Lasenta was selected as the Richland Library Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EiR). In this role, she provided one-on-one small business coaching to local business owners through the Google Impact Grant. In addition, she coordinated entrepreneurship programming to help small businesses learn and grow. During her tenure as the EiR, she started Richland Library's first Entrepreneur Book Group and small business coaching for Youth Entrepreneurs.

Lasenta's is a lifelong learner who, has for years, participated in programs to expand her knowledge in business and community engagement. She has completed the following entrepreneur and leadership programs:

- Small Business Administration (SBA) Emerging Leaders Program, Charlotte, NC, 2021
- Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) Detroit, Magnify Women Mastermind Powered by EY, 2021
- ULI/REAP Academy (Urban Land Institute and Project REAP – Real Estate Associate Program Fall Academy) (Commercial Real Estate and Development), 2020
- Leadership Columbia through the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce (SC);
- Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses (10KSB) Program at Babson College (National Program in Boston);
- Kauffman Foundation FastTrack Entrepreneur Program at Midlands Technical College in partnership with City of Columbia (SC) Office of Business Opportunities; and
- NxLevel Entrepreneur Training Program at Benedict College Business Development Center (SC) for Incubator Tenants.

As a woman and leader in business, Lasenta is passionate about learning, growing, and sharing in her community. She is a member of several professional and trade organizations including Women's President Organization (WPO) and Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP). She has received many awards for being a woman in business and the most notable ones being the 2019 Milton Kimpson Community Service Award by the Greater Columbia Community Relations Council, 2019 Brookland Baptist Girls Rock hosted by the Brookland Baptist Church Women's Day Committee, and the 2016 Enterprising Woman of the Year from Enterprising Magazine. The latter award is widely considered one of the most prestigious recognition programs for female business owners with fast-growth businesses, mentor or actively support other women and girls involved in entrepreneurship and stand out as leaders in their communities. She serves as a leader in her organization and the community who supports the growth of women entrepreneurship.