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Kismet Construction granted certification as a WBE

NEW YORK, NY Kismet Construction Inc., a New York City-based general contracting organization, has been



**Karen
Shunick**

granted Certification as a Woman-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE) by both Empire State Development Corporation and New York City Small Business Services, according to Karen Shunick, Kismet Construction Inc.'s president. Shunick said, "Though our focus remains the private sector, we can now utilize the credibility offered by these WBE certifications to readily pursue public projects and best utilize our union affiliations." The Empire State WBE program requires lengthy applica-

tions with stringent guidelines and site visits.

Shunick spoke with Richard Gottfried chair, NY State Assembly Committee on Health who gave praise to the MWBE program. "The Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise state certification program provides a valuable service by fostering the growth and development of businesses and advocating for increased participation of women and minorities in New York State procurement opportunities" said Gottfried.

Brad Usher, chief of staff to New York State Senator Liz Krueger, said, "The MWBE program is improving under the new administration. Educating the business community that there are capable MWBE certified businesses in New York is a win for the Manhattan economy." Usher added, "MWBE Certification is an important step in increasing opportu-

nities for the economic development of Woman-Owned Businesses."

"Even in the 21st Century, it's unfortunate that apprehension from the business community still exists despite the many powerful and successful women-owned businesses here. I believe that WBE certification is an excellent vehicle for setting standards and offering guidance to woman entrepreneurs," Shunick added.

Kismet Construction Inc., with average annual sales of \$2.6 million, specializes in commercial interior renovations and restorations. Shunick founded the company after extensive careers in real estate, development and finance. In addition to Kismet Construction Inc.'s WBE certifications, Shunick has a certificate in Construction Project Management from NYU and affiliations including the General Building Contractors of New York State and the Institute of Real Estate Managers.

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