



## Debut of the New "K"

The April 10 debut of the new Kauffman Stadium gave officials a chance to tout the success of the MBE/WBE program for the stadium renovations. At a reception prior to the game, attendees were told that 170 minority and women-owned businesses have been involved in the renovations at both Arrowhead and Kauffman stadium. The workforce has been diverse as well with over 87,000 hours worked by minorities and 12,000 hours worked by women at Kauffman Stadium. The Kansas City Chiefs also have a diverse workforce with more than 100,000 hours worked by minorities and 36,000 hours worked by women to date on the new Chiefs Training Facility and Arrowhead Stadium.

"The workforce participation goals (minority and women) were thought by many that they would be hard to meet," said Blake Ellis, principal and project manager for Burns & McDonnell. "But the project is currently meeting and exceeding the goals."

Kansas City council members Cindy Circo and Terry Riley, whose 5th District includes the Truman Sports Complex, said the stadium renovations' MBE/WBE program will serve as a model that city leaders hope to duplicate with city-financed capital projects.

State Rep. Jonas Hughes also praised the MBE/WBE program. "Kansas City is a wonderful city and this showcases it," he said.

Mike Smith, board chairman of the Jackson County Sports Complex Authority (JCSCA), thanked the JCSCA's Representative, Burns & McDonnell; JCSCA Executive Director Jim Rowland; MBE/WBE coordinator Gayle Holliday and the other JCSCA commissioners for their teamwork.

At a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Kauffman Stadium Smith said the MBE/WBE participation goals were met. After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Royals owner David Glass and president Dan Glass praised the MBE/WBE program and said it exceeded their expectations. "It's a testament to all the contractors and vendors," said Dan Glass.

## Camán Construction Company

If there was ever to be a contest for the most well traveled construction official in Kansas City, Juan Camán could be the one to beat.

The 47-year-old Lima, Peru native has traveled to five continents, attended business school in Genoa, Italy and married an anthropology teacher from Venezuela. And for



the last 19 years, he has called the United States, and Kansas City, his home. "Nowhere was my desire stronger for me to live than in the United States or Israel," said Caman, whose construction business recently worked on a variety of projects for the Arrowhead Stadium renovations.

Caman worked during the 1980s for a catering company, based in Genoa, which served airlines, cruise ships and hotels. The job allowed him to see the world. After marrying his first wife, he decided to settle down and found himself in Kansas City. Caman and his first wife, who died six years ago, bought the Manzo & Son Construction Co. Running the business during the recession of the early 1990s was not easy. For a few years, Caman did not draw a regular salary and earned less than some of his carpenters and laborers. "The work was so slow," Caman said. "The economy was as bad or even as worse than it is now. But I think we managed to do things right."

Today, Caman Construction Co. located off of Blue Parkway in east Kansas City employs about eight people. The company's work includes tenant finish, remodeling, renovations and design-builds for commercial and industrial projects. Clients have included Crown Center, the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Work that Caman Construction did on the Arrowhead renovations included installation of kitchen equipment in the concession areas, seating, canopies, lockers and roller shades.

Caman, who has since remarried, said minority-participation goals like the ones established for the stadium renovations provide minority and women-owned businesses an opportunity to grow and help the community. But the main key to success, Caman said, is something he learned while growing up in Peru.

"You have to work hard and not think that someone owes you something," he said. "In my country, we are used to working hard and making things happen the hard way. Sometimes you feel like you won't make it, but you have to continue at it and have a positive attitude."

**Resource Links**

[State of Missouri](#)

[City of Kansas City, Missouri](#)

[NWBOC](#)

[MidAmerica Minority Business Development Council](#)

[Kansas Women's Business Center](#)

[Nat'l Assoc. of Women in Construction](#)

[KC Council of Women Business Owners](#)

[Greater KC Chamber-Commerce](#)

[Black Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Hispanic Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Asian Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Women's Chamber of Commerce](#)

## Alexander Mechanical Contractors



Winter has been over for several weeks, but it might take the entire summer for workers at Alexander Mechanical Contractors to shake off the icy memory of what they had to do for two frigid weeks in late December.

The Kansas City based HVAC contractor was hired to remove more than 2,000 pounds of refrigerant fluids and oil from dozens of compressors, air conditioning units, walk-in coolers and beer-line chillers at Arrowhead Stadium to make it environmentally safe for the demolition that was required for the renovations. The demolition was scheduled to begin at the start of the New Year and no work could be done until after the Chiefs last home game on Dec. 21 against the Miami Dolphins which was played in 13-degree weather.

During that time - with a break on Christmas Day - three Alexander Mechanical crews worked from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. "reclaiming" the materials and putting them in nearly two dozen 125-

[KC Hispanic Assoc. Contractors Enterprises](#)  
 -  
[Missouri Women's Business Center](#)  
  
[KC Society of Black Architects & Engineers](#)  
  
[Urban League of Kansas City](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

If you have a story idea or know of a business that should be profiled, please contact:  
 Joli Wimer at  
[Vista Communications](#)

Our Sponsor



Visit JCSCA

pound cylinder drums, said John Zubeck, the company's service manager. "I think we were the only ones out there late on Christmas Eve," Zubeck said. The temperature was often in the single digits while the work was being done. But it was the only time the work could be done, Zubeck said. "Any one-day delay would have messed up the (demolition) schedule," he said.

Company president Bill Alexander has worked in the mechanical contracting business since 1976. He started his own business in 1998. "I decided one day that I can do it myself," he said. The company provides and installs boilers, chillers, piping, plumbing and tenant finish. It works on both design/build and plan/spec types of projects. Major projects that it has worked on recently include the Liberty Memorial expansion, the new H & R Block and Federal Reserve buildings and the consolidated rental car facility at Kansas City International Airport.

The company averages 50 to 60 employees depending on the work load, Alexander said. And it is a signatory to the Pipefitters Local 533, Plumbers Local 8 and Sheet Metal Workers Local 2. Alexander said MBE, WBE and DBE programs are intended to help bring equality in the contracting field. "When it does this, it works very well," he said. And his advice to minority and women-owned contractors that are trying to get started: "Have good credit, have things in order, know who your customer is, know the business that you are entering and, most of all, provide a viable service."



[Forward email](#)

 **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to [jrowland@jcsca.org](mailto:jrowland@jcsca.org) by [jrowland@jcsca.org](mailto:jrowland@jcsca.org).  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Jackson County Sports Complex Authority | Arrowhead Stadium | 8501 Stadium Drive | Kansas City | MO | 64129