



We would like to wish you health and happiness this holiday season, and prosperity in the New Year.

All the best to you,

The Jackson County Sports Complex Authority

## A LOOK BACK

This is the time of year when we take time to look back at the year that has just past. The last twelve months has seen the opening of New Kauffman Stadium and Arrowhead Stadium reaching a 70% completion level prior to this football season. This related to over \$105 million were paid to MBE and WBE firms for the Renovation of the Truman Sports Complex, keeping goals and objectives of the Fair Share Agreement.

\*Source: [www.JCSCA.org](http://www.JCSCA.org), Construction Updates



Arthur Tanner and his staff at Tinmaster Inc., have played a key role in making sure the people who work at or watch games from inside the renovated Arrowhead and Kauffman stadiums are comfortable.

Granted, both stadiums are outdoor venues. But lots of new duct work had to be installed for the new or renovated suites, offices, team stores, restaurants, locker rooms, press boxes and restrooms inside.

And that is where Tinmaster, a Kansas City sheet metal business which Tanner founded in 1991, came in. Tinmasters was responsible for the sheet metal installation of the heating and cooling duct work on both renovated stadiums.

From its location near 85th Street and Prospect Avenue, Tinmaster employees design and fabricates sheet metal duct work. The facility houses some state-of-the-art machinery, a welding station and an office where cost and size estimates are figured.

Tinmaster averages about 25 to 30 employees depending on work volume. Other projects that Tinmaster has worked on include the Sprint Center, Dean Machinery headquarters, the H&R Block headquarters, The Kansas City's Star's production facility, KMBC Channel 9's new headquarters and a new Health Sciences building and dormitories on Oak Street at the University of Missouri - Kansas City.

Tanner, a 1966 graduate of Central High School, started working as an apprentice in the sheet metal industry in 1972. Within four years, he worked his way up to a journeyman in 1976 and eventually became a foreman. As he became more involved in leadership roles, Tanner's desire to become a contractor grew.

"I wanted to be a contractor who could make a difference in this industry as a minority," Tanner said. He credits the sheet metal company that he worked for at the time with mentoring him.

"That was a great opportunity because I was able to better understand how the process of running a business should take place," he said.

Tanner said establishing high MBE/WBE goals provide a great opportunity for businesses to show what they are capable of doing. He credited the Jackson County Sports Complex Authority for its careful oversight of the MBE/WBE program for the stadium renovations.

"I'm glad the Jackson County Sports Authority recognized the importance of MBE/WBE inclusion and worked with the appropriate MBE/WBE organizations to insure every attempt to meet the goals that were set was met."

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## SUPERIOR CONCRETE CUTTING

If one were to liken the Kauffman and Arrowhead stadium renovations to a medical procedure, then James Williams has been one of the chief surgeons. His scalpels have come in the form of huge hydraulic-powered saws and core drills.

Williams is the owner of Superior Concrete Cutting in Grandview, and one of several contractors that have been responsible for cutting out the concrete walls, stairs and slabs that stood in the way of the new or expanded concession stands, restrooms, concourses, tunnels and water lines.

Williams said cutting concrete and working with diamond-bladed saws, some of which have blades that are more than four feet in diameter, requires training, precision and constant attention to safety.

"You can't take it for granted because of the dangers that are involved," he said. "Someone not trained properly could hit a power or gas line. Or they could be cutting a wall and not be paying attention and then the wall falls."

Williams' company, which employs six people, also specializes in wall sawing, slab sawing and core drilling. Superior has worked on the renovation of both stadiums. Its first job involved cutting the concrete base for the new Royals scoreboard at Kauffman Stadium. It cut out much of the concourse walls to expand the concession areas and restrooms. And it recently cut walls to the underground tunnel between the two stadiums.

Williams got his start in concrete cutting as a Kansas City Street Department employee where he learned how to operate a large walk-behind saw on street construction projects and then graduated to more complex machinery like a wall saw. He worked five years at KC Coring and Cutting Construction before starting Superior Concrete Cutting in 1999.

"I liked what I did and wanted to own my own business," he said. Superior Concrete Cutting also has done projects at the new J.E. Dunn headquarters, the new IRS building on Pershing Road and Christo Del Rey High School.

Williams said the MBE/WBE program for the stadium renovations has greatly benefitted minority business owners like him but added that the quality of his work sells itself.

Williams' advice to would-be entrepreneurs is to like what they do, show enthusiasm and do not take anything for granted. "The first two years are kind of hard," he said. "But if you keep being positive and doing great work, you will succeed. Never say 'I can't'."



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