

Greater Baltimore Committee hands out 'Bridging the Gap' awards

Baltimore Business Journal Baltimore lawyer Franklin M. Lee, city minority business officer Thomas B. Corey and the development team behind a new east side biotech research park are among minority business award recipients through a **Greater Baltimore Committee** program.

The GBC gave out the awards Wednesday night as part of Bridging the Gap, its program designed to strengthen minority-owned businesses in the region.

Lee and Corey were the first recipients of the program's president's award, which honors individuals who work to advance minority businesses.

Lee helps minority firms navigate the policies guiding government minority inclusion programs as partner at Tydings and Rosenberg LLP.

Corey works with firms certified as minority business enterprises with the city, helping them do business with the city government. He is chief of the city's Minority and Women Business Opportunity Office.

For partnerships between minority businesses and their majority-owned counterparts, the GBC honored East Baltimore Development Inc. and the Forest City-New East Baltimore Partnership LLC.

EBDI is responsible for overseeing the entire redevelopment of the city's east side, surrounding the planned Science + Technology Park at Johns Hopkins. The Forest City partnership is working on 31 acres of the redevelopment and it includes:

- Scott Levitan, senior vice president of Forest City;
- Owen Tonkins, president of Presidential Partners: Art Enterprises LLC;
- Kenneth Banks, president of Banks Construction;
- Dean Harrison, CEO of Harrison Development, LLC,;
- Anthony Ambridge and Ron Lipscomb, principals of Lambda Development;
- Brian Morris, president of E. Smith Legacy; and,
- Dan Wilkinson, CEO of The Wilkinson Group, LLC.

Minority-owned businesses recognized for achievement included:

- Audacious Inquiry LLC;
- Bithgroup Technologies Inc.;
- Caring Through the Spiritual Eye Inc.;
- Project PLASE Inc.; and,
- **Stella May Contracting Inc.**

Johns Hopkins Health System and **M&T Bank** were also awarded for their commitment to doing business with minority firms.