

**AUGUST 27, 2020 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



# TCMG

## SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

### **“Tools of the Trade - Construction 101”:**

**A COVID-era Virtual Summer Jobs Experience for Boston Teens  
in the City of Boston Summer Youth Program**

**The City of Boston’s Summer Youth Program** generally places young people in a variety of summer jobs in offices, child care centers, day camps and other work sites where they gain job skills, experience workplace culture and take home a paycheck. Research shows that young people who hold summer jobs as teens have greater success in school and life.

This year, with the health concerns and restrictions of COVID-19 reducing worksite possibilities, the City’s summer youth directors looked for creative options that offer teens the opportunity to safely experience real jobs and careers.

They turned to The Compliance Mentor Group (TCMG) managed by Nicole Richer to provide up to 100 Boston youngsters with a virtual work experience via ZOOM focused on the Architecture Engineer Construction Industry, in which TCMG specializes. TCMG’s signature program is the Construction Mentor Program (CMP), a youth workforce development initiative held over the academic year that connects construction industry stakeholders with students attending local Career and Technical Education (CTE) schools.

“Because CMP went virtual this year with great success, we were ready and willing to jump in and provide a virtual experience focused on the construction industry that will be useful, meaningful and fun for the Boston teenagers in the City of Boston Summer Youth Program,” said Richer.

### **HOW DOES “TOOLS OF THE TRADE: CONSTRUCTION 101” WORK?**

The “Tools of the Trade: Construction 101” summer jobs program introduces up to 100 youth participants ages 14 to 18 to construction industry career paths, using presentations, panel discussions, question-answer sessions, chat rooms and other online vehicles. In addition to architecture, engineering and construction, AEC career possibilities include real estate, property management, hospitality, business, finance, accounting and more. This virtual experience enables teen participants to develop their interests and knowledge in all of these AEC-related careers while building workforce readiness skills and self-confidence.

The virtual program takes place on Mondays and Fridays with the youth working at outdoor sites with the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The program runs from July 6 to August 29.

In the Monday and Friday TCMG-coordinated virtual sessions, teens participate in panel discussions via a Zoom platform with industry experts, city officials, construction companies, union representatives and other professionals. The 100 youths are divided into five cohorts with expert facilitators who represent a cross-section of educators, workforce experts and social justice

advocates. The teenagers meet via Zoom in small group “chat rooms” with their facilitators and come together for large sessions with the industry experts from a wide range of construction-related disciplines. They learn to navigate the Zoom platform – a useful tool of the trade for everyone in today’s work world.

At a recent program, representatives from the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters provided presentations to the young participants that stimulated an intensive round of questions, with the union representatives providing strong encouragement. “One trade can lead to many careers,” said one official. Another pointed out that a training program can offer pathways for young people to find themselves, to figure out what they really want to do. Still another cited the long-term job security that comes with work in the construction trades and encouraged the young people to learn early in their careers how to manage money and plan for their futures.

When asked what he enjoyed most about his work, one NASRCC official said: “Working with people and helping people out... and participating in programs like this one!”

According to Richer: “The long-term goal of the program is career development and life success!”

### **Zoom presenters to the TCMG SYP participants on Mondays and Fridays include:**

- **Joe Toomey**, Project Manager, Walsh Brothers;
- **Obadiah Rankin**, Project Engineer, Gilbane Company;
- **Craig Ranson**, North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters;
- **Grady Eason**, North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters;
- **Charlie Cofield**, North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters;
- **Joe Drown**, Principal, Perkins Eastman, Boston Arts Academy Project;
- **Emily Ercolano**, Architectural Designer, Perkins Eastman, Boston Arts Academy Project;
- **Rocky Towle**, architect specializing in hotels and motels;
- **Jay A. Lee**, AIA NOMA, Design Construction, Open Space, Department of Neighborhood Development;
- **Nicholas Valls**, AKF, Mechanical Engineer/Commissioning;
- **Michael Clifford**, DGT Survey Group;
- **Justin A. Kordas**, Structural Engineer, Project Manager, McNamara Salvia;
- **Michael Herwig**, Regional Property Manager, Eastern Property Real Estate, Inc.;
- **Mark Giampa**, General Manager, Property Management, Related Beal;
- **William E. Wrang IV**, Property Manager, Jumbo Capital Management;
- **Amanda Strong**, Director of Asset Management, MIT Investment Management Co.;
- **Kate Harrison Leon**, Program Director, Northeast Center for Tradeswoman Equity;
- **Savy Francis**, Union Pipefitter Tradeswoman;
- **Rudy Crichlow**, Real Estate Broker;
- **Ashley & Katrin Thompson**, Developers, Investors, RV Parks Owners;
- **Lance Campbell**, Senior Project Manager, Boston Planning & Development Agency;
- **Mary Vogel**, Executive Director Building Pathways
- **Cate Adams**, Senior Vice President, Eastern Bank
- **Ive P. Gonzalez**, Volunteer Engagement Director, Eastern Bank
- **Ed LeFlore**, Partner, CLS Consulting
- **Chris Ziegler**, Safety Director, Associated General Contractors of Massachusetts
- **Daniel Govoni**, Associate Vice President, North Point
- **Caitlyn Angelini**, AKF, PE – Civil Engineer – Code Consultant

## ABOUT THE CITY “TOOLS OF THE TRADE: CONSTRUCTION 101” SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM:

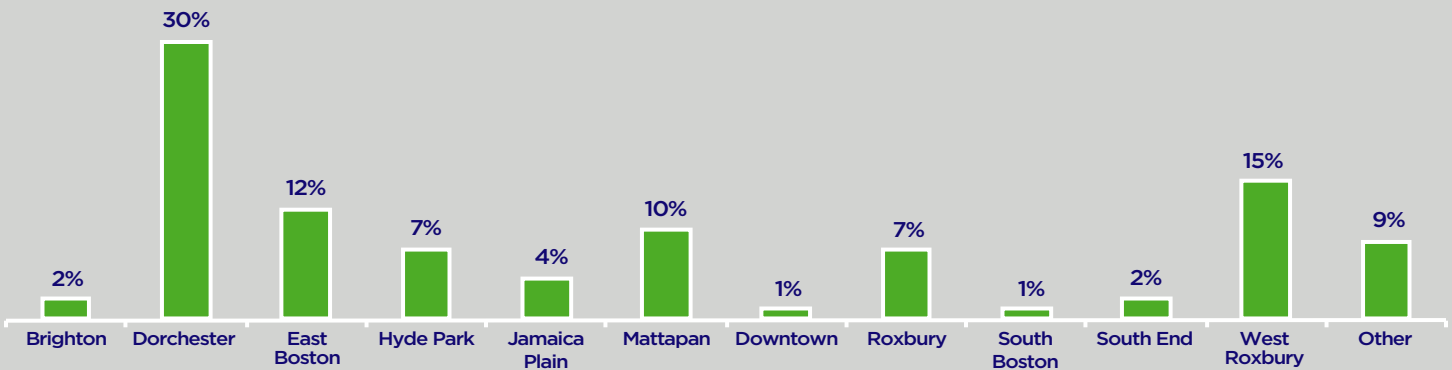
Since the advent of COVID-19, the City has evolved its strategies to continue to engage constituents on all levels and create opportunities. The Mayor’s Office of Economic Development has partnered with the Department of Youth Employment and Engagement (YEE) to create this new online summer jobs program titled “Tools of the Trade: Construction 101” to introduce youth to careers and skills needed to join the construction industry while they gain additional workforce readiness skills in person at their summer job. This innovative new program will give youth new skills and hands-on experience while they are bringing home a pay check.

## ABOUT TCMG AND CMP:

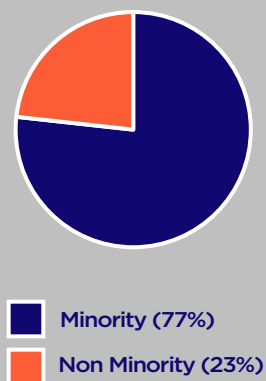
The Compliance Mentor Group offers construction workforce intelligence solutions, from strategic workforce development programs to easy-to-use cloud-based automation technologies. TCMG provides complete workforce visibility tracking and field intelligence solutions that maximize compliance efforts and reporting requirements for Architecture Engineer Construction Industry stakeholders. TCMG’s signature workforce program, the Construction Mentor Program, is a three-phased, 12-month mentorship program for Boston-area career and STEM school students. Through group learning, job-shadowing and mentoring experiences, students become acclimated to a project site and work with project-based team members whose careers align with the students’ academic studies and career goals.

# SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM *DEMOGRAPHICS AT A GLANCE:*

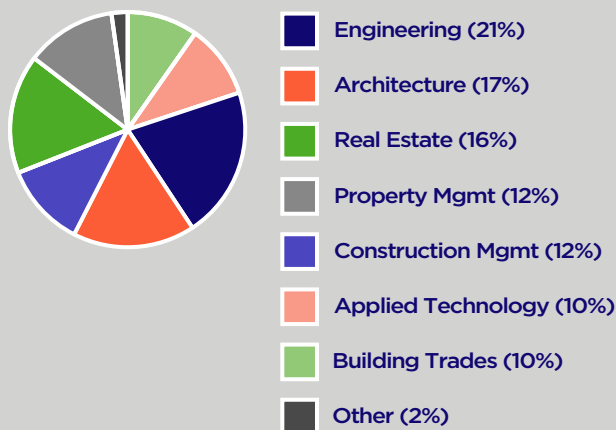
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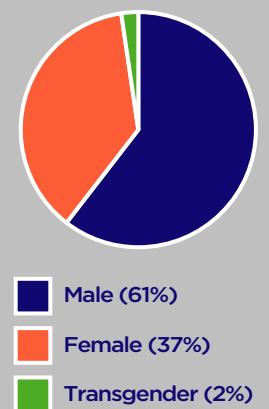
### BY RACE



### BY CAREER INTEREST



### BY GENDER



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