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IN FOCUS

HKS, city of Dallas host business design reunion

DALLAS — HKS Architects President and chief executive officer Ralph Hawkins and civic leaders recently attended the Business of Design Reunion at the W Hotel Marketing Center. The event reunited graduates of the 2003 and 2004 program. Diversity advocate Martin Burrell was keynote speaker.

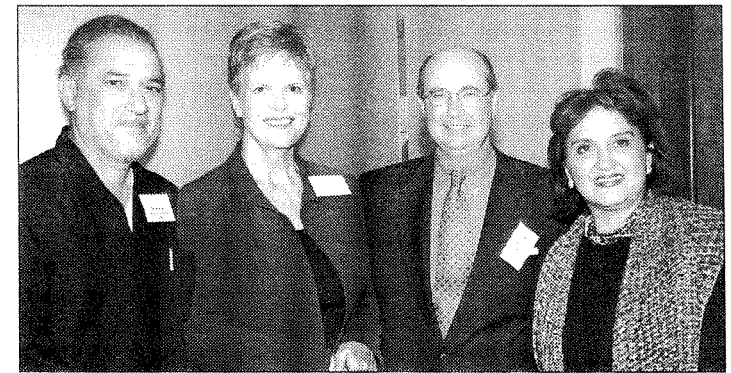
For the past three years, HKS and the city of Dallas have hosted the program, which is designed to enhance the technical and managerial skills of minorities, women and small local consultants — allowing their businesses to increase profits while continuing to build solid reputations in the commu-

nity. The interaction sessions, presented by professionals in their respective fields, discussed effectively pursuing work in various sectors, planning and setting up a project management program, managing quality and controlling risk, and successfully closing out projects.

“The conference series and this reunion serve as a win/win for all of us,” said Raymond Basye, president of Basye & Associates and former seminar attendee. “It allows the city of Dallas to provide a platform of learning, HKS to share their experiences, and attendees to meet and learn from both of these respected Dallas institutions. It also highlights that both entities care about small businesses and are proponents of their growth and profitability.”

According to H. Ralph Hawkins, FAIA, FACHA, president and CEO of HKS Inc., more than 150 people have attended the conference since it was originated in 2002.

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Among those in attendance were, from left: former city of Dallas manager Ted Benavides, acting city of Dallas manager Mary Suhm, HKS Architects President and CEO Ralph Hawkins, and city of Dallas councilmember Veletta Lill.

firms on projects that occurred during the previous sessions,” he said. “We hope that this program, working with the energetic city of Dallas’ Business Development and Procurement Services Management and Resource LINK teams, will continue to serve as a catalyst for cultivating new relationships and creating more work opportunities.”

The firm has already forged relationships with many of the firms who have attended the conference including Vidaud + Associates, ARS Engineers, Raymond Basye & Associates,

LopezGarcia Group, Caye Cooke & Associates, Multatech Engineers Design Associates.

“We are committed to delivering innovative programs like the Business of Design that help develop local businesses and impact the local economy,” said Forest Turner, director of business development and procurement for the city of Dallas. “By partnering with HKS, we have provided valuable information to businesses that will help them increase their job opportunities and overall vendor participation.”