

The Basics of Lean Construction Methods

By Holly Welles

Lean construction is a way to manage building projects by cutting waste and adding more value for clients. It focuses on teamwork, making improvements, and treating workers with respect. By reducing inefficiencies, lean construction helps projects finish on time, improves the quality of the work, makes workers happier, and reduces risks. Teams can adopt lean construction by empowering workers, pursuing continuous improvement, maintaining equipment proactively, using pull scheduling, and aligning goals with client priorities.

Most construction companies want to deliver the best possible results for their clients while expending the least possible resources. Yet, the construction industry has traditionally been littered with waste and inefficiencies. Today, some of the most successful companies use lean construction philosophy to guide their operations. Such companies regularly impress clients, maintain high morale, and create high-quality structures.

Many industry professionals have heard of lean construction, but they may not know what exactly it is or how they can apply it effectively. Let's take a look at the basics of lean construction and its benefits below.

What Is Lean Construction?

Lean construction is a relationship-focused production management system that aims to eliminate waste from the entire construction process and deliver greater value to clients.

The method has its roots in the Toyota Production System. First developed in Toyota Automatic Loom Works in Japan in the 1920s and later implemented in Toyota automobile manufacturing facilities after World War II, the system focused on providing greater customer satisfaction while reducing waste and giving workers more meaningful jobs. Toyota's strategies were found to be so successful that lean concepts were adapted for use outside of manufacturing.

In the United States, lean construction has become heavily associated with tools such as just-in-time inventory, in which companies receive



materials on an as-needed basis. However, as a philosophy, lean construction involves much more than effective inventory management.

Lean construction offers a framework for improving the entire construction process, from

Small Business Exchange • Voice of Small, Emerging, Diversity-Owned Businesses Since 1984

Click to read more

Opportunities

LOUISIANA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Public notices and participation activities

Click for details

Doreen's Jazz New Orleans

- Private lessons from Queen Clarinet
- Band performances at your venue
- Master classes for groups

504-908-7119
doreenja@bellsouth.net
www.doreensjazz.org

Balthazar Electriks

WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTORS

We deliver a wide range of products and services to proudly serve construction, industrial, utility, and commercial businesses

ELECTRICAL
Wire, Distribution, Wiring Devices, Installation Material

LIGHTING
Bulbs, Ballasts, Exits/Emergency Lights, Installation Options

SECURITY
Smoke, Carbon Monoxide and Metal Detectors, Surveillance Equipment, and Batteries

COMMUNICATIONS
Fiber Optic Cable, Telecommunication Systems, and Office Equipment

Contact info: 3623 D'Hemecourt Street • New Orleans, LA 70119
504-891-5504 • 504-891-5580 • Belectriks@balthazarinc.com • www.Balthazarinc.com



Small Business Exchange Louisiana DEI

- Advertise
- ITB to Targeted (NAICS/SIC/UNSPSC) Certified Businesses
- Telephone Follow-Up (Live)
- Agency/Organization Letters
- Computer Generated Dated and Timed Documentation
- Customized Reports Available

For more info contact
Valerie Voorhies at
vvv@sbeinc.com

Lagniappe BAKEHOUSE

Lagniappe Baking is a neighborhood bakehouse owned by pastry chef Kaitlin Guerin, a 2025 James Beard Award nominee. The one-of-a-kind assorted pastry boxes highlight the local, seasonal bounty of the Crescent City's agriculture. Each box challenges your taste buds with flavor combinations and leaves you anticipating the next.

www.lagniappebaking.com

Learn More

NMSDC

National Minority Supplier Development Council

VIRTUAL EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

2026

Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Certification Program Webinar
Tuesday, June 16, 2026, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: Patrice Dozier, patrice.dozier@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required

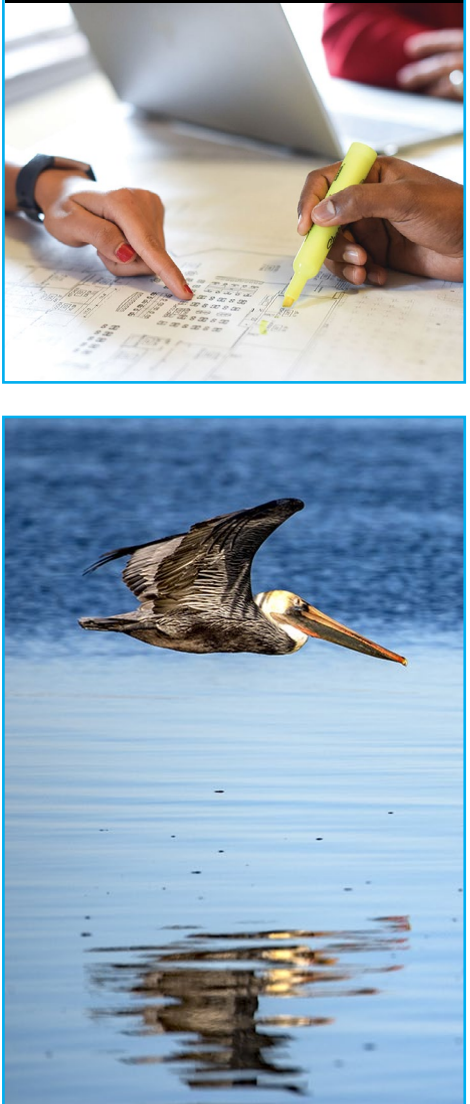
SBA is creating a space for Woman-Owned Small Businesses, via WOSB certification! Are you a woman owner of a small business? The federal government's goal is to award at least five percent of all federal contracting dollars to woman-owned small businesses each year. Join us for training on how to register for SBA's Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program, which helps eligible small businesses to qualify for federal contracting opportunities. The monthly sessions include an overview of the self-certification process, and a discussion of the NAICS codes that qualify as WOSB or EDWOSB. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/woman-owned-small-business-wosb-certification-program-tickets-1986913543896>

SBA 101: Introduction to SBA Programs Webinar
Monday, June 29, 2026, 9:00 am–10:00 am CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, Rhode Island District Office
Contact: Brian Hopkins, 401-528-4575, brian.hopkins@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required

This free workshop, presented by the Rhode Island District Office, is designed to help entrepreneurs understand the various SBA programs and services available to help them as they start, expand, grow, and recover their businesses. This overview presentation covers: Introduction to the SBA; SBA Resource Partner Network—Business Training and One-on-One Counseling; Selling to the Federal Government—SBA Contracting Certification Programs; Access to Capital—Loan and Surety Bond Programs; International Trade Assistance; Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Assistance Loans. Register online for the free workshop webinar at <https://www.sba.gov/event/85134>

Federal Contracting for Small Businesses Webinar
Tuesday, July 14, 2026, 11:00 am–12:30 pm CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: Irene Gonzalez, 208-334-1673, irene.gonzalez@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required

Learn the essentials of federal contracting for small businesses. This event will cover the basics of navigating the federal contracting process, as well as the various certifications available to help your small business succeed in the government marketplace. Certifications include: 8(a) Business Development Program, HUBZone Certification, Woman Owned Small Business (WOSB/EDWOSB), and Veteran Owned Small Business (VOSB). Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights and resources to help your small business. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/federal-contracting-basics-and-certifications-for-small-businesses-tickets-1977729664666>



LOUISIANA

BUSINESS

JOURNAL

PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES

With a database of over 1.6 million notices, SBE assists agencies with public legal notices

Advertisements

Placed in various Louisiana Business Journal digital publications every month and at www.louisianabusinessjournal.com

Special Follow-Up Services

Custom design and development of services that you need for particular situations such as small business marketing, diversity goal completion, and agency capacity building

Call for more information: 800-800-8534

1984

42

2026

Years

CERTIFICATION

Small Business Exchange, Inc.
is DBE certified by the Louisiana UCP.

Certificate of Proclamation
Louisiana Business Journal

In recognition of the 38th publication since Hurricane Katrina and to the rebuilding of business in your community.

Mitch Landrieu
MAYOR MITCHELL J. LANDRIEU • CITY OF NEW ORLEANS
June 15, 2010
DATE

Advertise in our digital

LBJ

weekly or whenever wherever to whomever you need to reach among agencies contractors diversity firms

