

## Venues Project Brings Parramore Residents Good News

Written by BNN

Thursday, 13 November 2008 12:04 -

---

With concrete and steel rising from the Orlando Events center job site, the long-anticipated progress on the Community Venues project is finally visible to downtown Orlando residents.

“Columns are coming out of the ground,” Mayor Buddy Dyer told the crowd that packed into the community room of City View Apartments in Parramore Monday night to hear the latest update on the Venues project. The Mayor said he was excited to see local residents on the work site, although construction has just begun. “This is just the start,” he declared.

“We’re here to tell you the truth about what’s happening,” said District 5 Commissioner Daisy W. Lynam. “We’re very proud of where we are.”

The meeting was the third in an ongoing series of quarterly meetings designed to keep Parramore residents apprised on the progress of the Venues project and the associated BLUEPRINT initiative.

Lynam and other speakers acknowledged that, in the past, promises to Parramore residents have not always been kept. The quarterly meetings are an effort to stay in closer touch with residents.

Among the positive reports:

- Overall construction on the Orlando Events Center “the first building in the three-venue project to get under way” is on schedule. Construction on the Events Center began in September and is expected to be completed by late 2010.
- Deep underground utilities work on the Events Center is approaching 40 percent completion.
- Elevated concrete superstructure work for the Events Center started on schedule in late October along Hughey Avenue and will progress clockwise around the job site.
- Work is continuing six days a week for eight to 10 hours a day with occasional Sunday work as well.
- The BLUEPRINT Employment office opened on Sept. 17 at 1200 W. South St. in downtown Orlando and has already received more than 1,800 job applicants.
- More than 33 percent of the total contracts and subcontracts for the Events Center and The Dr. P. Phillips Orlando Performing Arts Center awarded as of July 31 -- the latest date for which figures are available -- have gone to minority and women-owned firms. Under the BLUEPRINT, 18 percent of the work must go to firms owned by minorities and 6 percent must go to women-owned firms. Major contractors must partner with local minority- or

## Venues Project Brings Parramore Residents Good News

Written by BNN

Thursday, 13 November 2008 12:04 -

---

women-owned companies. The BLUEPRINT sets standards and goals for employment and contracting/sub-contracting opportunities for residents and minority- and women-owned businesses.

- The Performing Arts Center is still in the design phase with construction managers currently being interviewed. Groundbreaking is set for October 2009 with completion set for 2010.

- Renovations to the Citrus Bowl renovation will start in the winter of 2009 and are expected to be finished by 2011.