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## MEET OUR TEAM

The Workforce Development Strategic Solutions (WDSS) Team at R.J. Leeper is actively engaged with trade partners and community training programs to facilitate the employment of qualified individuals to current construction projects and improve upward mobility within the local construction workforce. The WDSS Team serves as an internal recruitment liaison, informing community workforce development partners of employment opportunities on projects, facilitating the presentation of qualified candidates to Trade Partners, and advocating for full-time hiring at competitive wages.

Our monthly newsletter serves to inform our community partners, trade partners, and prospective Workforce Development employees with current news.

## OUR MISSION

"foster a safe, sustainable, and inclusive skilled construction workforce in which we function as a liaison between our joint venture trade partners and our community resource partners, who are committed to champion strategies that uplift our local underserved communities by focusing on providing economic upward mobility."

PROJECT  
SPOTLIGHT:

## THE PEARL INNOVATION DISTRICT



The Pearl Innovation District will be a multi-phased, mixed-use development featuring office, lab, retail, residential--including affordable housing--community gathering, and academic spaces. The first phase of the District includes Charlotte's first four-year medical school, Wake Forest University School of Medicine Charlotte.

Construction will take place at the intersection of Baxter and McDowell Streets in Brooklyn Village. This phase of The Pearl project consists of Parking Garage A, an 8-level, 200,000 GSF, 554 space precast parking deck intended to serve the adjacent Research One and Center for Education buildings. Future phases will be released very soon, which involve landscaping, hardscaping, pavers, asphalt, signage & wayfinding.

## The History of Brooklyn Village

Brooklyn Village, formerly known simply as 'Brooklyn', was once a thriving black community. Filled with lively shops, schools, and church's, Brooklyn had a life of its own. The prominent area was destroyed during the 1960s and 1970s due to The Urban Renewal Act, displacing thousands of residents and ultimately demolishing 1,484 structures. The name "The Pearl" is intended to pay homage to the rich history of Brooklyn, the "city within a city".



Nestled near Brooklyn lied Good Samaritan Hospital (GSH), a privately funded, independent hospital built exclusively for and staffed by Blacks in North Carolina. In 1961, GSH became Charlotte Community Hospital, which was also associated with Charlotte Memorial Hospital, now known as Atrium Health. Though the original GSH building is gone, the memories remain. As Atrium Health leads the development partnership of The Pearl, it is our hope to be apart of the lasting legacy of Brooklyn. Over the next 15 years, The Pearl is projected to create more than 5,500 onsite jobs – 40% of which are not expected to require a college degree – and more than 11,500 jobs, in total, in the Charlotte community.

Photos courtesy of Atrium Health

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SPRING 2023 URBAN LEAGUE GRADUATES



On June 15th, our team had the pleasure of attending Urban League's Class of 2023 Spring Commencement Ceremony at the First United Methodist Church. Urban League is one of our trusted community partners committed to empowering communities to reach financial stability and social justice. Over twenty graduates received their certifications in nursing, medical coding, electrical, and HVAC. We are so excited for these graduates who may embark upon a career in construction and wish Urban League continued success!

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Careers Connection in collaboration with NC Works, - July TBA
- Goodwill Carpentry Class Site Tour - July 14th, 2023
- North Carolina Agricultural and Technology University Career Fair - September 19th, 2023

**For more information on our Workforce Development Initiative, please email:**  
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