

DERYL MCKISSACK, PE, PMP

Chairwoman and CEO, McKissack & McKissack

Deryl McKissack is Chairwoman and CEO of McKissack & McKissack, an architectural, engineering, program and construction firm managing over \$10 billion in projects nationwide. During the past 27 years under her leadership, McKissack has managed such landmark projects as: the Smithsonian's National Museum of African-American History and Culture, MGM National Harbor, Obama Presidential Center, and the Navy Pier Centennial Projects in Chicago. The firm is also known for leading the construction and serving as the architectural *firm of record* for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington, DC.

As a licensed professional engineer and registered project management professional, Deryl McKissack is part of the fifth generation of her family to work in the design and construction field. McKissack & McKissack is the outgrowth of the nation's oldest African-American architectural firm and traces its beginnings to Moses McKissack, a master builder who was also a slave.

By the age of six, Deryl was drafting architectural drawings under her father's tutelage. After graduating from Howard University with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering, she worked at Turner Construction and Dames & Moore; while at these firms, she honed her experience in field work, business development, and construction management.

In 1990, with a shoestring budget of \$1,000 and a business plan crafted with help from a mentor at her alma mater, Deryl started McKissack & McKissack. Of that formative time, she remembers, "What got me through was a whole lot of passion."

Through Deryl's guidance and vision, McKissack & McKissack has grown to 170 employees, with offices in Baltimore; Chicago; Dallas; Los Angeles; Miami; and Washington, D.C. The firm is ranked by *Engineering News Record* as one of the top Construction Management For-Fee firms in the nation and received the DC's Business of the Year Award by the DC Chamber of Commerce in 2017.

Deryl was named the 2013 Engineer of the Year by the District of Columbia Society of Professional Engineers. She is active in numerous professional organizations, including the Construction Management Association of America, D.C. Building Industry Association, DC Chamber of Commerce, and U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations, Industry Advisory Group. Deryl serves on the board of directors for the Construction Industry Round Table, District of Columbia Building Industry Association, Living Classrooms Foundation (Baltimore, MD), Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, and Pérez Art Museum Miami. She also supports many philanthropic, civic, and cultural groups, including: the International Women's Forum, Career Academy Engineering Industry Advisory Council, Commonwealth Institute, and the National Building Museum.



Media Links:

[Deryl McKissack Discusses the Obama Presidential Center, *Texas Insider Politics*](#)

[Deryl McKissack on Drawing Boundaries for Millennials, *The New York Times*](#)

[The Descendant of a Slave Got the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture Built, *Washingtonian*](#)

[Lead Project Manager of NMAAHC Opens Up, *ABC7*](#)

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