**Suzette Bather-Taylor**

**Program Director, Business Diversity**

**Aviation Department, Port Authority of NY & NJ**

Suzette Bather-Taylor’s broad experience in finance, construction management and supplier diversity has made her a change agent in the space of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

As Program Director, Aviation Department at the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, Suzette oversees tenant, contractor, and developer efforts to meet or exceed diversity goals across the entire Aviation Department enterprise.

 She has been instrumental in developing policies and provisions that hold Aviation’s tenants, contractors and terminal developers accountable by ensuring that they comprehend, commit to and comply with 30% goal for including Minority and Women-Owned Businesses, 3% goal for including Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses , as well as including Small Business Enterprises, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, and Local Business Enterprises, on all airport projects.

Since joining the Port Authority four years ago, Suzette has used her expertise to design program strategies, enhance or create workflows to achieve or exceed business diversity goals. Suzette rolled out the diversity Roadmap across large-scale programs, like the $18 billion redevelopment at JFK’s terminals 1, 4, 6 and 8 that requires airport partners to identify and substantiate diversity eligible project budgets, apply goals on requisite categories of work, including finance and other professional services, design, construction and operations and maintenance and overseeing them meeting or exceeding those goals.

Prior to joining the Port Authority, Suzette served as Deputy Director, Programs in the New York City Mayor’s Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises. There, she oversaw the City’s Minority, Women, Small and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Programs (MWSDBEs). She designed and executed a compliance process to monitor MWBE involvement in a $2.8 billion contract that increased NYC vendor utilization of MWBEs from .5% to 20%. She orchestrated a banking summit that resulted in several banks contributing $41 million to an existing fund to provide critical financing for disadvantaged contractors doing business with New York City.

Suzette’s keen understanding of compliance and supplier diversity was enhanced by working in New York Governor Andrew Cuomo’s Office of Storm Recovery as Program Manager, Diversity and Civil Rights. Working with FEMA, she managed a $700 million budget and focused on making sure MWBEs were contracted to work on community bridge and road repair projects in the wake of Super Storm Sandy and residual impacts of hurricanes Irene and Lee.

A great deal of Suzette’s business development expertise comes from her time working for the U.S. Department of Commerce as Program Director for the NYC MBDA Business Center. In 2011, she was hired to restart MBDA’s New York City Business Development Center. After launching the Center in a one-room office at Pace University, Suzette evolved it to 4,500 square feet of in-kind space in midtown Manhattan after successfully pitching to Bank of America. There she provided MWBEs earning $1 million plus with access to capital, contracts, consultancy, and marketing services and built a membership pool of MWBEs earning $1-$300 million in revenues. Suzette apportioned the space to create incubators for up to 10 smaller sized businesses to support their growth and capacity to work with private and public organizations.

Suzette gained critical business skills early in her career by holding a variety of roles during her 10-year tenure at JPMorgan Chase. She excelled across lines of businesses including Global Supplier Diversity, Retail Financial Services, Corporate Strategy and Treasury & Security Services, Liquidity, and Investment Products, where she repriced, liquid balances earning the bank $17 million in revenues.

Suzette holds an Executive Certificate from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College, an MBA in Finance and Strategy from Pace University and a BA in Psychology from Binghamton University.