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Building their Dream Team – BRIC Fosters Culture of Inclusivity

Education-Focused BRIC Architecture, Inc. Becomes Oregon's Largest WBE Firm

[PORTLAND, OR, APRIL 18, 2019] [BRIC Architecture, Inc.](#) is proud to announce their Women Business Enterprise (WBE) certification through COBID. Of BRIC's three owners and founding Principals, two are women, making it the largest WBE firm in Oregon. The majority women-owned firm supports a staff of 43 professionals – 20 of whom are women.

When Amy Friendly, Dan Hess, and Karina Ruiz created BRIC, they envisioned a company culture that fostered a genuine sense of inclusion. Ruiz recognizes that this certification is integral to the firm's identity:

"We founded BRIC under the key principles of representation, integrity, and inclusion, so we're proud to have created an environment where people of diverse backgrounds, genders, and experiences can grow and thrive. Our team believes that design is better when it captures a variety of perspectives; as we collaborate with our clients and staff, we strive to create space for all voices."

While women comprise two-thirds of our ownership structure and women of color represent one-third of our leadership team, our culture of inclusion encompasses more than just numbers. Not only have we closed the gender pay-gap, but we have continued to develop individualized opportunities for each of our employees to co-create growth plans that align with their personal and professional aspirations."

As the firm continues to grow, the entire team remains committed to promoting representation throughout the AEC industry. From their community engagement methodology to their partnerships with organizations like [Girls Build](#) and [ACE Mentor Program](#), BRIC is excited to champion diversity under their new WBE status.

BRIC Architecture, Inc. is a community-focused architecture firm that works alongside students, educators, and other local community members to engage in authentic, value-driven conversations. Through innovative designs, the team promotes solutions that allow students to engage, succeed, and thrive as lifelong learners. Collectively, the team has worked with over 40 public school districts and completed over 75 school projects in the last 15 years. Their work ranges from new and remodeled facilities to assessments, master plans, and bond campaign support. BRIC was recognized as a Top Workplace by the Oregonian in 2018.

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