



News Release

Seattle District Office

Release Date: March 29, 2017

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Seattle Architect Firm Named 2017 SBA Washington 8(a) Graduate of the Year

*Rolluda Architects Takes Top Honors, Celebration to Recognize All Local SBA
Award Winners May 2*

SEATTLE – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) 2017 Washington 8(a) Graduate of the Year is Rolluda Architects in Seattle. Founded in 2002, Rolluda Architects offers a wide range of design services to a broad array of clients throughout the local, state and federal government, as well as companies throughout the private sector.

The company successfully graduated from the 8(a) business development program which helps small, disadvantaged business compete in the federal contracting marketplace.

Rolluda Architects currently maintains design contracts with the U.S. Forest Service and the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA). However, they initially found success with smaller contracts as they found this to be a way to form relationships and get their foot in the door.

“The 8(a) program helps minority or financially disadvantaged businesses gain access to the required 23 percent of small business set-aside contracts by the federal government,” SBA Seattle District Director Kerrie Hurd said. “Rolluda Architects is a shining example of how to best utilize this program: go after smaller contracts and make a name for yourself. This enables small businesses to prove their worth and focus on building quality, lasting relationships that lead to larger contracts.”

The SBA 8(a) Graduate of the Year Award – part of National Small Business Week in May – recognizes an outstanding business that has graduated from the SBA 8(a) Business Development Program for government contracting.

“The set asides really helped us to be able to compete at the same level as the other bigger firms,” Rolluda Architects Owner Alex Rolluda said. “It [the SBA 8(a) program] gives us the chance to start a relationship with these bigger companies and agencies.”

According to Rolluda, the SBA 8(a) program taught him the importance of diversifying the company's portfolio. Rolluda Architects maintains on-call contracts with King County Solid Waste and a working relationship with Boeing for various projects. He also regularly partners with other local small businesses to contribute to the local economy.

“National Small Business Week is a time to recognize the impact small business has on our country,” Hurd said. “It’s a chance to celebrate the dedicated, hard-working small business owners who are using innovation to create jobs and make a difference in our local communities.”

A celebration honoring local SBA winners from Washington and the SBA Seattle District – which serves Washington and northern Idaho – will be May 2. Other SBA local awards that will be recognized at the celebration include Small Business Person of the Year, Exporter of the Year, Family-Owned Business of the Year, Encore Entrepreneur, Financial Services Advocate of the Year and Small Business Advocate of the Year.

Each year since 1963, the President has issued a proclamation calling for the celebration of National Small Business Week. The SBA recognizes outstanding small business owners for their personal successes and contributions to our nation.

This year, National Small Business Week is April 30-May 6. For more information about National Small Business Week, visit www.sba.gov/nsbw.

About the SBA Seattle District Office:

The SBA Seattle District serves the state of Washington and northern Idaho with locations in Seattle and Spokane, Washington. SBA Seattle District staff provide resources and services in three areas referred to as “the three C’s” – counseling, capital and contracting. Visit www.sba.gov/wa for more information including resource partners, lenders, workshops, success stories and other resources to help business start, grow and succeed.

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