

## **Biography For Renee Watson**

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RENEE WATSON (San Antonio) serves as the Manager for Bexar County's Small, Minority and Women Owned-Business Enterprise (SMWBE) Program. Her responsibilities include coordinating, facilitating, implementing and monitoring the County's SMWBE program. She acts as a liaison with offices and departments to ensure that SMWBEs have access to County procurement, contracting and professional services opportunities. She reviews current practices to assess and recommend improvements to increase participation. Renee works in cooperation with the Purchasing Agent, offices and departments to explore these concepts and analyze the advantages and disadvantages to modifying current practices. In addition, she works directly with community organizations, other public entities and vendors to promote participation and access in local, state and federal procurement opportunities.

In 2005, Renee was appointed to serve as the Texas county representative on the Texas Department of Information Resources Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Advisory Committee. She recently served fourth consecutive terms as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the South Central Texas Regional Certification Agency (SCTRCA).

The SMWBE Program was recognized as an Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) 2004 Governmental Regional Project of the Year. She was selected as the US Small Business Administration Region VI and San Antonio District Office 2005 Minority Small Business Champion of the Year, the 2006 La Prensa Foundation Women of Action Business Award, 2007 Antioch Community Transformation Network "Man in the Mirror" Award and the San Antonio Business Journal "Women's Leadership Award for Public Service." In 2009, she was recognized as an honoree for the San Antonio Ecumenical Center for Religion and Health's "Ethics in Business" Award.

She was selected as a National Urban/Rural Fellow and awarded her Master's in Public Administration in 1989. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration - Marketing from the University of Texas at San Antonio. She is a graduate of Sam Houston High School in San Antonio.

Renee often works as a marketing consultant for the UniverSoul Circus of Atlanta, GA and in 2001 traveled with the show to Johannesburg, South Africa where the talent performed as part of the Celebration for Nelson Mandela's 83<sup>rd</sup> Birthday.

She has also worked as the Chief of Staff for State Senator Rodney Ellis, Houston and Councilman George Stevens, San Diego, CA. She was selected as one of the San Antonio Business Journal's "40 under 40" Rising Stars for 2000. She is an alumnus of the Leadership Texas 2002, The PhD Project - 2001, People to People Ambassador Program- China- 1997, Leadership America- 1995, Leadership California- 1993, and Leadership San Antonio- 1991. She will attend the 2008 Democratic National Convention as an Obama Delegate representing Texas Senatorial District 19.

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