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# LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Joseph P. Clearkin**  
Chairman of the Board  
GBCA



2020 is a year we will never forget. The pandemic turned our world upside down almost overnight, bringing all of us face to face with unprecedented challenges and complexities that threatened to bring virtually every corner of our industry to a screeching halt. However, I'm extremely proud to say that what stands out above all is our industry's unprecedented collaboration – led in large part by GBCA – which has allowed us to successfully navigate these uncharted waters together.

Building on the association's long history of providing best-of-breed safety, education and training programs, GBCA's response to COVID-19 has been equally swift and thorough. First and foremost, we served as a linchpin in bringing together the GBCA Safety Committee, the Building Trades Safety Committee, Philadelphia Area Labor-Management Committee (PALM) Built-Rite, the Eastern Atlantic States (EAS) Regional Council of Carpenters and Med-Tex Services to spearhead the development of industry-wide COVID-19 safety protocols.

In true GBCA fashion, these centralized job site protocols – and the complementary COVID-19 Awareness Training & Certification – set the industry standard. They have been critical in enabling tens of thousands of contractors and tradespeople in our region to be trained to the same high bar, which has provided a significant advantage in keeping ourselves and one another safe as construction continues buzzing in Philadelphia, the suburbs and beyond. These protocols were also listed as a COVID-19 resource in OSHA's weekly email sent to assist employers nationally.

This is just one example of how GBCA mobilized in the face of adversity. We also launched Toolbox Talk Toolkits online and via QR code, ensuring safety resources are available any time, any place, and built a dedicated COVID-19 corner on GBCA.com where members can find up-to-date tools and information related to safety, legislation, labor, economic recovery and more. We remain committed to serving as a hub of trusted information as the pandemic and CDC/health department guidance evolve.

As this year draws to a close, so ends my term as Chairman of your GBCA Board. It has been a privilege to lead you and this remarkable organization during such a pivotal time in our history. In spite of the pandemic, we have made great strides on many fronts thanks to everyone's involvement in our innovative and active association. When we work together, the sky's the limit.

**Joseph P. Clearkin**  
Chairman of the Board  
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## GBCA Members Continue to Set the Standard of Building Excellence

Established in 1891, General Building Contractors Association (GBCA), is one of America's oldest construction industry trade associations – one whose rich and storied history has been integral in the development of Philadelphia for nearly 130 years. The organization has been a powerful force in advancing the commercial, industrial and institutional construction industry - ensuring the best-trained, highly skilled and most-trusted contractors lead the charge in the region. Today, the organization unites over 300 general contractors, subcontractors, material suppliers and service providers.

From its early days, GBCA laid the foundation for collaboration, accountability and advancement that is now stronger than ever. GBCA serves as a critical resource and conduit – offering expertise while also fostering relationships between important stakeholders.

GBCA plays a key role in encouraging and facilitating the ongoing education of the vast and growing workforce, so everyone from entry-level hires to executives can develop or hone expertise in any number of areas, whether it's building information modeling (BIM) or business management.

GBCA also plays an important role as a steward of safety, working with the regional Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) office to promote compliance and keep work sites safe and accident free. Perhaps one of its most crucial functions, GBCA is the direct connection between the construction industry and other prominent leaders in Philadelphia, as well as at the state and national levels. By serving as the voice of the region's contractors, the Association advocates for and influences legislation. It also maintains collaborative relationships with various building trades, other trade associations, and negotiating teams to discuss critical issues and help ensure productive relationships. This important work benefits everyone involved and allows development to flourish.

Looking forward, the work of GBCA will become even more important as demands on the construction industry grow; ranging from changes in policy and legislature, to updates on safety regulations due to COVID-19, to an ever-present need to encourage diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace. The regional construction industry must be poised to capitalize on these opportunities for further solidifying the construction industry in Philadelphia as a leading industry – continuing to build upon the skyline and set the standard for building excellence.

### WHAT WE DO

#### PROMOTE INDUSTRY.

A strong, vibrant industry yields collective benefits for all stakeholders. To encourage economic and infrastructure investment, job creation, education, training, advocacy, and professional exchange, we promote dialogue and communication between members, adjacent industry groups, trade associations, elected officials, special interest groups, the media, and the general public.

#### EMPOWER MEMBERS.

Delivering value for members is at the core of our mission. We provide tools and resources that enable members to improve and grow their businesses, and continually seek to offer new solutions that address the needs of a changing landscape.

#### DRIVE CHANGE.

As the world around us evolves, GBCA recognizes the importance of embracing a forward-thinking, proactive approach to influence change that positively affects our stakeholders. We continually assess and update our standards and practices, focusing on opportunities that hold the greatest promise to yield results.

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