

## BURRIS ELECTRIC, LLC (MBE)



## 'Building Stronger Communities' is the Core of Civil Design Inc. Success

Jason Burris, owner of Burris Electric, LLC, is among the newest firms certified by St. Louis Lambert Airport Business Diversity Development (BDD). "Certification was a very thorough process. It was online and that process clarified everything," said Burris.

Burris is certified as a Minority Business Enterprise. He seeks opportunities for contract work at the Airport. "When traveling through the Airport, I noticed I could do quite a bit of electrical work," he said.

Burris is no stranger to contract work. He spent 20 years working with large contractors on everything from new construction to demolition projects. He started his company in 2018. "I'm still learning. It takes time, and having more people in your corner alleviates some of the stress. I have support from my wife. We are truly a home-based mom and pop shop," he said.

Burris had completed one client project, his second in the year when the Coronavirus hit. "It was difficult. But I continued to receive emails from different sources on projects, and I tried to move forward as if it wasn't there. I wanted to keep myself open for things that were shut down," he said. When Burris isn't working on his new business, he volunteers for the Rebuild St. Louis Program. He donates labor and materials to residents in need. He's working with the St. Louis Development Corporation to help young people get into trades and apprenticeships. "I've written reference letters to help them get into apprenticeships and I want to employ some of them when the time comes," he said.

Burris grew up in North St. Louis. He's thrilled to see the new construction on the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's western headquarters in his old neighborhood. "The NGA is going to do wonders for the city and bring economic growth to communities that desperately need it," he said.

Burris now lives and operates his business in O'Fallon, MO. He and his wife have an eightyear-old and a soon-to-be six-year-old, whom he hopes will one day join the family business.