



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CHAPTER
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF MINORITY ARCHITECTS
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Meshella Woods Johnson is an architectural designer who brings 29 years of experience and multi-disciplinary skills including facilities management, project management, interior architecture (corporate office, commercial, institutional and healthcare design), video editing, e-commerce and commercial website development, conference/seminar/program development and e-learning.

Beginning her career with a small design firm in Ohio, Meshella developed her experience as a facilities designer over 17 years of service with the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. She recently retired from her position in facilities operations as Chief of Strategy and Portfolio Management for the Department of Treasury, IRS, where she also worked as a senior space planner and senior project manager during her 8 years of service.

Meshella is currently an executive board member of the DC Chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects, serving as their secretary. She is an Associate member of the American Institute of Architects and has been a charter (professional) member of the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) since 1995, serving as government forum director for the San Francisco Chapter in 2000. She is also a member of the Association of Independent Video and Filmmakers (AIVF) and the International Webmasters Association (IWA). In 2004 and 2005 she was president of the former Organization of Black Designers DC Chapter and is now Executive Director of *FocusOnDESIGN* (FOD), a non-profit charitable organization who provides designers of diverse backgrounds a forum for professional development, economic empowerment and social accountability.

With a strong commitment to education in the design industry, Meshella was a member of the Engineering and Trade Advisory Council for Laney College, Oakland, CA. She has been a member of the NeoCon East (the nucleus of commercial design in the Mid-Atlantic region) Advisory Council since 2003. A highlight in her career is the two years she was chosen as lecturer and critic at Kent State University through a grant to the interior design program for senior design studio classes.

Meshella has developed a life-long passion for promoting the use of design to improve the human condition. For several years, she has brought together well-known design educators, architects, interiors, graphic and industrial designers to explore various topics covering inclusive and socially responsible design and was instrumental in honoring eight African-American design pioneers for their significant lifetime design achievements through coordination of FOD conference and awards programs.

Meshella, a Kentucky state "certified interior designer" holds a Bachelor of Arts in Human Environment and Design from Ursuline College, Pepper Pike, OH. Owner of Contract Interior Concepts for more than 15 years, she is also a partner with her husband in Ôsoo Design, a multimedia/interactive design firm. On a more personal level, Meshella's interests and hobbies include dancing, hiking, biking, traveling, gardening and spending quality time with her family.

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