

# Phil Barnett

## CEO, Imigiz Enterprises

***Imigiz Enterprises takes pride in satisfying their customers by making everything they touch a work of art.***

competitive. We specialize in industrial and commercial painting but we also partner with other contractors to provide drywall, acoustical ceilings and electrical services.

***When you are not on a job site what are some of your community based interests?***

I am really proud of the work we are doing in the community. We adopted a mile near Six Flags on Blair Bridge Road to get more involved in cleaning up the community. When you adopt a mile it says a lot about your character, your cleanliness and commitment to work with others in your community. During our first day, we had 11 bags of trash. We are now down to 4 bags when we clean up. We are seeing a change.

***What would you recommend to a high school or trade school student who is interested in becoming a painter or contractor?***

Right now in Atlanta it is a good opportunity to get into this industry. In Atlanta, you have access to many of the decision makers. You have to be persistent and do what you say you are going to do when you accept a job. Also, show up on time.

When my brother and I first started we were painting

brownstones in Brooklyn, NY. I never imagined I would be painting an airport concourse with other fellow entrepreneurs on day. But those are the opportunities you can have if you take advantage of what is available to you.



By Zeron Turlington

**A**lmost 20 years ago, Phil Barnett began Imigiz Enterprises, a painting and renovation business, with his brother's help and his father's tenacity. Today, with clients such as Target, Wells Fargo, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and several other satisfied customers, Phil is focused on growth, service and giving back to his community. The Atlanta Business Journal met with Phil to learn more about his keys to success.

***How has your company rebounded from the economic downturn Georgia faced over the last 5 years?***

First, in 2007 and 2008, we knew we had to separate ourselves from everyone else. What made us different was we educated ourselves by getting our GDOT certifications, MBE (Minority Business Enterprise) certification and AABE (American Association of Blacks in Energy) certification. We also worked with mentors like the late Mr. H.J. Russell and companies like C.D. Moody Construction to learn how to work on large commercial projects. Today, our commercial projects have picked up tremendously. We are working on both the Brave's Stadium and the Executive Parking Deck at the Falcon's Stadium.

***With so many construction projects happening in Georgia, how do you differentiate your company from other contractors?***

In this market, you have to be flexible. You have to be ready for whatever a customer is asking for to remain