

# The *Langston*

Vol 25 Iss 2

Tabor 100 Newsletter



*And still, we rise.*

FEBRUARY 2025

# What's Inside?

- 1 President's Message
- 2 Save the Date | Door Swings | New Members
- 3 Member Spotlight: Brave
- 4 Welcome Washington AG Nick Brown
- 6 Business Credit Workshop
- 7 New Deal for Black Prosperity
- 8 February Highlights
- 9 Membership Meeting

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Social Media Handle: @Tabor100

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Tukwila, WA 98188

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## Tabor Neighbors!

We are less than one month into a new federal administration and the changes underway are astounding, especially for minority businesses. The “anti-DEI” effort will be significant for us and hurtful for the country as a whole.

I want to thank both Governor Ferguson and Attorney General Nick Brown in their solid support for programs that benefit everyone in the state and do not exclude certain groups because of skin color, national origin or gender. While they are the political figures at the top of state government, overall, our state’s political leaders are backing longstanding contracting programs that promote fairness and inclusion.

It is important to note that the DBE program, which is used in the allocation of federal money for various units of government in this state – WSDOT, Sound Transit, Ports, cities, counties, etc... was reauthorized in the Bipartisan Infrastructure and Jobs Act in 2021 and

Congress is the only entity that can undo it. It is not subject to the whims of racist and sexist leaders.

Moving to another topic of discussion among Black and other minority

contractors as well as women, is the proliferation of Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) and Community Workforce Agreements (CWAs). These agreements, which are used by many local governments and on some state government projects (WSDOT), have provisions that tend to create barriers for our firms. Tabor 100 is committed to examine the elements inside these

agreements that hurt our companies and address them.

**“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when a wicked man rules, the people groan,”**

**– Proverbs 29:2**

I would be remiss if I did not mention the recently introduced **House Bill 1950**, sponsored by Rep. Debra Entenman. The bill would make it so that mandatory union trust fund contributions would not be due unless the certified minority or

women-owned business required to make the payment, was paid. Currently, the trust fund payment is due on a certain date, regardless of whether payment has been received. I urge all of you to support Rep. Entenman’s work on this critical issue.

There is so much going on that it is hard to address everything. I encourage you to attend the next Tabor 100 meeting at 10 a.m., Saturday, the 22nd at Tabor Headquarters – 7100 Fort Dent Way, for more. Join if you are not a member and enjoy access to the perks offered through membership. We need each other as all of us -- minority and women-owned businesses, government agencies and non-profit partners -- address some the most challenging times we’ve faced in modern history.

**Ollie Garrett | CEO and President**



# Door Swings

February 2025 Visits | 836

Since Opening | 24,810

*Happy Black History Month!*



We must stand together –  
Still, we Rise!

We are not going back!!

## SAVE *the* DATE

**26 FEBRUARY** Business Credit Workshop  
6:00 - 8:00 PM  
@ The Hub

**4 MARCH** Essential Bookkeeping for Business Success  
6:00 - 8:00 PM  
@ The Hub

**12 MARCH** OMWBE Certification Class  
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
@ The Hub

**24 MARCH** Power of Capital Workshop  
6:00 - 7:30 PM  
@ The Hub

## New Members – FEBRUARY

**Kennedy Akinlosotu**  
Nations Realty LLC

**Rev. Dr. Anna L. Jones**  
JC Hope Foundation

**Nancy Guerrero**  
Kraemer North America, LLC

**Mohamud Yussuf**  
Runta News Media LLC

**Abrehet Francis**  
Abrey Tzion LLC

Have a question related to labor laws?  
Scan this QR code or email:  
zene.hall@tabor100.org



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Brave

## The Power of Place: How Tabor 100 is Elevating Brave's Mission

**A**t the heart of Tabor 100's mission is a commitment to empowering Black- and minority-owned businesses and organizations, providing them with the resources, connections, and opportunities they need to thrive. One such success story is Brave, a transformative youth development program dedicated to supporting Black and Brown youth through mentorship, education, and cultural enrichment.

Founded in 2011 as Inspiration Workshops and rebranded as Brave in 2017, the program creates a sanctuary for young people, fostering self-expression, leadership, and social justice advocacy. With strong community partnerships—including Talbot Elementary School, Family First

Center, and Summer Charter Schools—Brave provides essential after-school programs and family support services that shape the next generation of leaders.

But Brave's success isn't just about its mission—it's also about the power of place. As a Tabor 100 member, Brave has found a home within the Tabor 100 Hub, a space designed to uplift and connect Black-led organizations. Vashti Breland, Brave's program coordinator, credits Tabor 100's environment with expanding the organization's reach, fostering invaluable networking opportunities, and providing essential operational support.

"Being part of Tabor 100 has been a game-changer," Vashti shares. "The Hub provides not just office space, but a thriving network of professionals, mentors, and resources that have directly benefited Brave. I've connected with influential community members who are

invested in our work and have helped us grow in ways we never imagined."

This access has translated into stronger community ties, new partnerships, and an increased ability to serve more youth. Through Tabor 100, Brave has been able to host impactful events, such as its annual Juneteenth celebration, Martin Luther King Jr. service project, and a Washington, D.C. historical tour that introduced young people to key civil rights landmarks.

Tabor 100 isn't just a workplace for Brave—it's a launchpad. By providing a space for collaboration, mentorship, and visibility, Tabor 100 has played a pivotal role in helping Brave expand its impact and continue its mission of empowering youth.

This is what Tabor 100 is all about: equipping its members with the tools and community they need to create lasting change.

# WELCOME Washington Attorney General Nick Brown

**T**he last election held some disappointing moments and some reasons to be more hopeful for minority businesses.

While the verdict is out regarding many priorities important to communities of color and business owners in general, we should note that Nick Brown, a 47-year old African American, was elected Washington state's 19th Attorney General.

Brown, who has attended numerous Tabor 100 meetings throughout the years and supported our efforts in many different ways, is a unique AG. He previously served as the US Attorney for Western Washington, was Governor Inslee's top lawyer and spent many years in the US Army, including a tour of Iraq. He was notably a Bronze Star recipient, one of the highest military honors any soldier can receive. He also did a stint on ABC TV's "Survivor," a show that has garnered him national attention as he ascends to the AG role.

Born in Steilacoom WA to a military family, Brown has vowed as AG to lead with "compassion and integrity," protecting the rights of Washington residents. Brown



recognizes the challenges he will face over the next 4 years of the Trump Administration and has vowed to enforce Washington State laws in the midst of attempts to undermine them coming from the federal administration. It is important to note that the previous Attorney General, Bob Ferguson, now Governor Ferguson, sued the first Trump Administration repeatedly.

"My goal in this office is not to sue the Trump Administration or anyone, for that matter, but I will uphold the rights of Washington citizens, and, in order to carry out our laws and protect our residents, I will use whatever tools are available for the AG, including litigation" Brown stated.

"Tabor 100 is pleased to welcome Nick as the state's Attorney General, said Ollie Garrett, President and CEO of Tabor 100. "His commitment to civil rights, especially

in his role working for Governor Inslee and as the US Attorney for Western Washington has been outstanding and his actions have reflected the mission of this organization"

Brown has vowed to focus on a number of key issues, many of which are especially important for Black communities as well as society as a whole. Preventing gun violence, preserving and expanding voting rights, combating violent extremism, building bridges between police and communities and reforming the criminal justice system, are top priorities for Brown.

"I know there are solutions that can make our communities safer without sacrificing equity and racial justice," Brown stated. "I appreciate Tabor 100's commitment to economic opportunity and see clearly the overlap between housing, economic justice, civil rights and dignity."

Brown's track record in the military, Governor's Office and as US Attorney for Western Washington, has been stellar. As a young lawyer in the Army JAG Corps, Brown served as a prosecutor and defense lawyer. He took on unscrupulous and predatory lenders that were taking advantage of soldiers and their families and defended the rights of young soldiers.

In the Governor's office, Nick implemented the Governor's moratorium on the death penalty and during the first Trump administration worked with then Attorney General Bob Ferguson in taking on Trump's early unlawful actions, including his Muslim Ban.

As the US Attorney for Western Washington, appointed by President Biden, Brown chaired the Attorney General's Advisory Subcommittee on Civil Rights and



brought a focus to keeping Washingtonians safe by preventing and prosecuting hate crimes and protecting the most vulnerable and members of marginalized communities. He was also very much engaged in the fight against drug cartels and sex trafficking, issues of special note for Washington state.

"More than anything, people want to be safe," Brown said. They want to live in an economic environment where they have opportunities, and they want to live in a place that defends and echoes their values. Tabor 100 has worked to open up economic opportunities, especially for Black businesses. I want you to know that Tabor 100 and the minority business community will continue to have a friend in the AG's office."



# Business Credit Workshop

Join us for a workshop designed to help business owners build and strength their credit profiles. Whether you're starting out or aiming to boost your finances, you'll gain valuable insights!



Led by **Tiffany Fritchman, Business Access Advisor**

- The essential components of business credit.
- How personal credit can influence your business credit?
- What lenders look for when assessing creditworthiness.

**REGISTER NOW**



**February 26, 2025**

**6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

**Tabor 100 Business Development Center**  
**7100 Fort Dent Way #100**  
**Tukwila, WA 98188**



**A**s Black History Month comes to an end, we are reminded not

only of the struggles our ancestors endured but of the blueprints they left behind for economic self-sufficiency and prosperity. *King County Councilmember De'Sean Quinn* believes it's time for a New Deal – one designed specifically to address the economic challenges facing Black communities today.

For Quinn, the economic devastation of historic Black Wall Streets – from Tulsa to Rosewood – is not just a lesson in loss but a mandate for action. The message? It's time to reclaim and rebuild our own pathways to prosperity.

“We've always valued collaboration,” Quinn says, “but imagine if we took it to the next level – what could we build together? Are we fully tapping into our collective power in

# A NEW DEAL for Black Prosperity:

## De'Sean Quinn's vision for economic empowerment

ways that create lasting impact?” His New Deal vision calls for a strategic shift – one where Black entrepreneurs, small business owners, and professionals stop seeing each other as competitors and instead form alliances that strengthen the entire community.

Quinn points to other communities – Asian, Latinx – who have mastered group economics, where business partnerships, cooperative investments, and intergenerational wealth-building are common

practices. “Individual success is powerful, but imagine what's possible when we build something that lasts beyond us.”

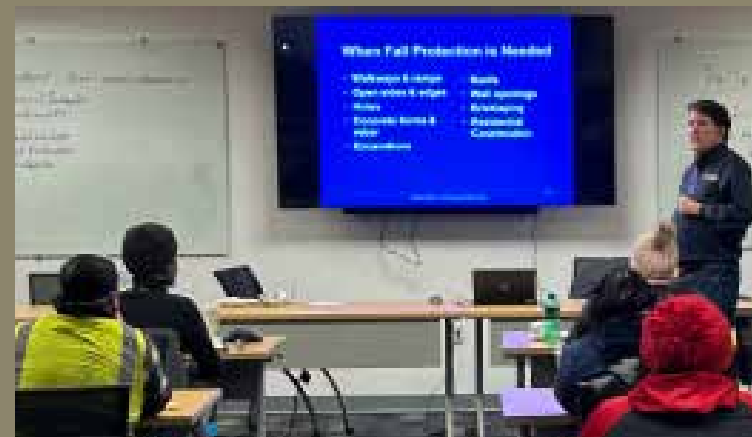
The urgency of his vision is magnified by the current political climate, where federal support for diversity, equity, and inclusion is disappearing under the Trump administration. Without a commitment to collective growth, Quinn warns, Black businesses will be left even more vulnerable to systemic economic exclusion.

His solution? A recalibration of economic strategy. He advocates for more co-op businesses, investment groups, and procurement partnerships that prioritize Black-owned enterprises. In a time of economic uncertainty, Quinn isn't just pushing for policy changes – he's challenging Black business leaders to rethink how they build and sustain wealth.

“In 2025, we don't just survive – we thrive,” Quinn says. And that starts with a New Deal of our own.



# February Highlights



# Membership Meeting





# Access to Equal Opportunity

The Port of Seattle is committed to building a strong, inclusive economy. With the Diversity in Contracting Resolution, we're making sure that includes businesses like yours.

Our goal is to triple the number of women and minority-owned businesses that contract with the Port by 2024 and remove barriers to expand the development of other disadvantaged business enterprises.

## **GROW YOUR BUSINESS AND SKILLS WITH THE PORT:**

### **1. Bid on open contacts**

Register your business in our database, and search and apply for contracts through a clear and fair process on <http://bit.ly/Facts19>.

### **2. Train with PortGen Workshops**

Excited for opportunities but not sure where to start? We're here to support you. Join quarterly workshops to learn how to do business with the Port, get certified as a vendor, and network with representatives.

### **3. Learn on our site**

Access resources year-round on the site. From video how-tos to lists of upcoming opportunities and events, you can find all the information you need for success.

[Learn More](#)

<http://bit.ly/Facts19>