

The Langston

Vol 24 Iss 1

Tabor 100 Newsletter

**Tabor 100 – 25 Years of Creating
Change by Being the Rising Tide
that Lifts All Boats**



JANUARY 2024



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Visit our website: www.tabor100.org
Social Media Handle: @Tabor100

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Tabor Neighbors, welcome to 2024!

We want to help make it your best year ever!

We are about to conduct our first meeting of the new year and when you enter our building it will feel much like 2023. The reality though, is that Tabor 100 administrators and staff have been working behind the scenes to become better partners for businesses like yours. In the newsletter at the meeting, we will introduce you to new staff, an expanded org chart and additional programs to be of service to your business. You will find elsewhere in this newsletter a summary of the changes you will see in 2024. I urge all of you to take advantage of what Tabor 100 is offering to help grow your business.

I am pleased to report that we are once again active in Olympia and benefitting from the work being done by Paula Sardinas of FMS Global Strategies. She is watching out for Tabor 100 and other Black and Brown organizations in a number of different areas. We've already had Tabor 100 members testify on SB 6040,

sponsored by our own Senator Javier Valdez. The bill addresses one of the biggest

dilemmas facing small businesses – getting paid PROMPTLY!

One of the largest initiatives to occur in this state to benefit communities of color is just launching and will have a major impact in many areas. The Community Reinvestment Act contains \$200 million and is designed to help our community move forward in a number of different areas with funding set aside for economic development, civil and criminal legal assistance, community-based violence intervention and prevention services and reentry.

One hundred and thirty-eight million dollars will be directed to economic development.

Lastly, did you know that the largest single transportation project likely in the nation, is slated to be built between Washington and Oregon? The Columbia River Crossing (CRC) will cost \$5 to \$6+ billion and culminate in a bridge across the Columbia. Tabor 100 is committed to ensure that as many of these dollars come to businesses owned by Black and Brown persons. We will begin meetings, after the meeting, this Saturday, to talk about how you can position yourself for success on this project.

Lastly, congratulations to Tabor 100 member and new City of Seattle Councilperson, Tanya Woo.

Ollie Garrett | CEO and President



Door Swings

January 2024 | 317
Since Opening | 16,901

Most popular days at the HUB – Wednesday & Thursday.
Come meet up with fellow members!

The Bruce Harrell is the highest reserved Room!
Let us know what makes the Bruce Harrell Room the best!



SAVE the DATE

24 February **General Membership Meeting**
10:00 AM - 12 noon
@ The Hub

8 February **Meet & Greet Interstate Bridge Replacement Program**
4 - 7:00 PM
@ The Hub

20 March **OMWBE Business Certification**
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
@ The Hub

20-21 March **OSHA 10 Certification**
4 AM - 9:00 PM
7100 Fort Dent, Suite 100
Tukwila, WA

New Members – January

Angela Jones
University of
Washington-Monica

Joseph Wachira
International Center
for Professional
Consultants

Francisco Mendoza
RedLine Concrete, LLC

Jim Buchanan
Integrity Consulting and
Management Group

Jeremiah Edwards
Washington
Construction Group,
LLC

James F. Johnson
Miller Nash

Ryshun Sampson
Visionary Impact

Lourdes Tsukada
CuriosityBased

Grace R. Perez
Noah's Truck LLC

Abbas Mustafa
Basco, LLC

Chieko Whyte
Corporate Insider

Arthur Holloway
Alaska Airlines

Harry Cheema
Alaska Airlines

Meriann Talbert
Bayley Construction

Siraje Hassan
Live Good

Tabor

ABSHER

CERTIFICATION CLASS OSHA 10

CLASS SPECIFICS

- **DATES:** 03/20/24 & 03/21/24
- **TIME:** 4:00PM - 9:00PM
- **LOCATION:** 7100 FORT DENT
SUITE 100, TUKWILA, WA 98188
- ***DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED!**

Register
Click or Scan QR Code



<https://forms.gle/hYg8Xj5W6U8E7wN66>



Tabor 100 welcomes new staff

Zene Hall

Zene is the newest addition to Tabor 100 as a Senior Administrative Specialist.

She brings extensive expertise from diverse sectors, including banking, government contracting, and business management. She's excited to learn more from Tabor and the community it's built to lift while she climbs.

Born and raised in Washington, she works to drive a positive mark on the world as she navigates her way through life. As an African-American with a diverse cultural upbringing she's interested in using her unique background to highlight under-represented perspectives at every opportunity possible.

In line with her passion for supporting at-risk youth and young adults she serves as a board member for the Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability Account Youth Advisory Board otherwise known as PSTAA, participated in the construction of a tiny home for Nickelsville a tiny home homeless village, and actively empowers peers around her to better their careers and businesses in connecting them with any resources at her disposal.

Beyond professional pursuits, she exhibits a keen interest in fashion, an excitement for exploring new experiences, and a continuous curiosity about the intricacies of business operations.

She warmly extends an invitation to connect, encouraging anyone interested to reach out for a meet-up and a chance to share experiences at zene.hall@tabor100.org



Don Robinson

Don Robinson is bringing a wealth of experience and expertise as our new Program Director at Tabor 100. Don holds an undergraduate degree in Public Management from Millsaps College and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of North Texas.

Before joining the Tabor 100 team, Don led the community engagement program for the City of Kirkland. In that role, Don created and implemented The Kirkland Initiative, a program focused on increasing the civic engagement of historically underrepresented groups. Additionally, his commitment to inclusivity manifested through projects that covered installing belonging symbols with the first LGBTQIA+ pride flag crosswalk in Kirkland and collaborations with the Office of Minority and Women Business Enterprises (OWMBE) for increased professional contracting opportunities for certified small businesses.

Don's diverse professional background includes roles with the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services in Olympia, Washington, North Central Texas Council of Governments in Dallas, Texas, and the United States Forest Service in Jackson, Mississippi. Don brings leadership, program development, change management, and equity expertise to Tabor.

A native of New Orleans, he has called Seattle home since 2021. Beyond work, he's an enthusiastic vinyl record collector, patron of the live arts, and traveler. He is the eldest son of Don, Sr. and Dionne Carroll-Robinson of Dallas, Texas and the grandson of late New Orleans community leaders Dr. Joseph and Constance Carroll.

Don.Robinson@tabor100.org



Marc McCord

Introducing Marc McCord, the newest addition to the dynamic team at Tabor 100 as a Program Coordinator. With an impressive 13-year track record in project management and community outreach, Marc brings a wealth of experience to the table.

Hailing from the vibrant city of Mobile, AL, Marc is a proud graduate of the University of South Alabama. His journey in the professional world has seen him make impactful contributions to organizations such as Treehouse and Pacific Northwest Black Pride, reflecting his commitment to community development.

Beyond the boardroom, Marc has a passion for cooking and savoring southern cuisine. When not immersed in his professional endeavors, you'll likely find Marc unwinding with friends at a local brunch spot, adding his charismatic touch to any gathering. He cherishes moments spent in nature, often accompanied by his loyal 5-year-old black lab, Onyx. Together, they explore the beauty of the PNW, creating cherished memories along the way.

Help us in welcoming Marc to the Tabor Family!

Marc.McCord@Tabor100.org



Cindy Leiva

We are thrilled to introduce Cindy Leiva as the newest member of the Tabor 100 family! Joining us in the role of Administrative Specialist at the front desk. With a diverse background in customer service and sales, Cindy has successfully navigated her way through the industry by embracing versatility and stepping up where her skills were needed the most.

Cindy's journey in the professional world reflects her commitment and dedication to her personal growth. Having worked her way up, she brings a wealth of experience that aligns seamlessly with the dynamic needs of our organization.

Cindy fully comprehends the significance of our work and is passionate about contributing to the positive impact we strive to make. Her enthusiasm for our mission is bound to enhance the collaborative spirit within our team!

Outside of the office, Cindy is a true adventurer at heart. She loves exploring new places, trying new cuisines and in her spare time she enjoys cooking and spending time with her loved ones.

We encourage you to take a moment to stop by the front desk and extend a warm welcome to Cindy. As she settles into her role, let's embrace her presence!

Welcome aboard, Cindy! We're delighted to have you as part of our team!

Cindy.Leiva@Tabor100.org



Portland-Vancouver Bridge Replacement – time to seize the day

by Linda Kennedy

You may have heard that the I-5 Vancouver-Portland Bridge is being replaced. The northbound span opened in 1917. It's big green southbound twin, in 1958. But this is not the first time there have been such plans. The off and on debate began almost twenty-five years ago. Historically, modernization has meant gentrification and an end to Back and Brown cohesive neighborhoods. This time, however, there is serious commitment, not only to build a modern new bridge, but to do it equitably.

"The bridge is a lifeline for our community," said Principal Equity Officer on the project, Johnell Bell. He says the principals (Washington and Oregon Depts. of Transportation) are reaching out to diverse populations, "...to ensure that when the bridge is built, it is a true symbol and reflection of our collective community." Program Administrator for the two-state project is Greg Johnson. "This is a very public process," he said. "There are public meetings and public hearings to discuss all aspects of what will be moved forward for this bridge crossing." As for the possibility that neighborhoods could be decimated: "We are taking these aspects into this federal process for a deeper examination of impacts and possible mitigation and avoidance of impacts as we move forward... There will



be many opportunities for folks to have their voices heard in this process."

Faison Construction owner and Tabor 100 Business Development Chair, James Faison, says, "We know the history, but right now we are in a great position to make change and move. Roll up your sleeves and let's come up with a plan." Toward that end, Faison, who has a thriving business and projects in both Washington and Oregon, will hold monthly sessions after the Tabor meetings to help members get ready to be a part of this multi-billion dollar project. "This is an overall effort that has to come from the community, from the contractors, from Tabor and the Northwest Minority Business Alliance, and Latino Build. Everybody at the table. It's going to take months to get it moving in the right direction." Those monthly meetings begin in January, 2024.

The project is three to five years away, so now is the time to make connections, meet with large contractors, and make sure they know who you are and what you can offer. Try to secure partnerships. Maybe get into an apprenticeship program. "It's so far out, kids could finish classes in college and be ready. Get bonded, get your insurance in place, your financials, lines of credit; it's about who knows you."

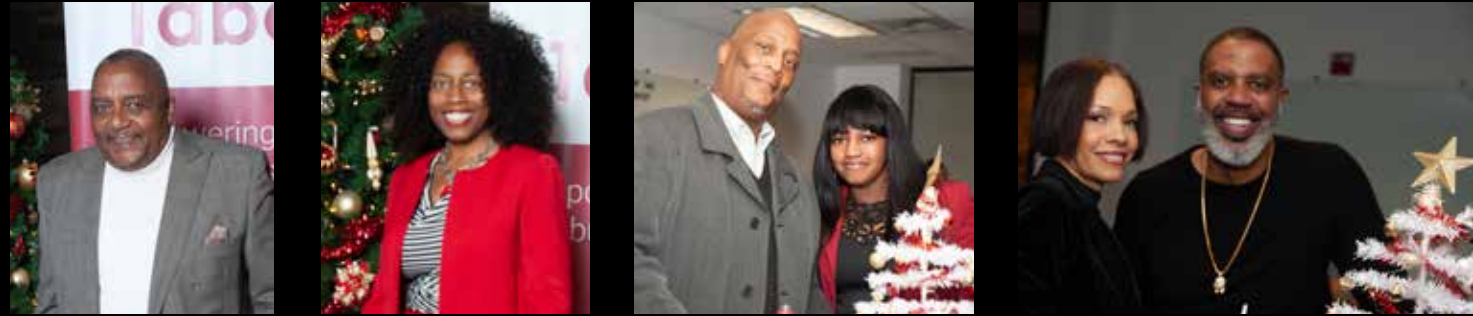
Faison realizes promises have been made before. "It's a crap shoot, but we have to go with our gut feeling. We can't sit around and do nothing. Because nothing from nothing leaves nothing. The big contractors will take the work and bring in people from other states. We have to get in front of that and get them to buy in. Greg says there's plenty for everybody. We have to work on the positive."

More information is available on this project at interstatebridge.org.

Member Meeting



Holiday Party 2023





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>