

The Langston

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Tabor 100 Newsletter



*"We must accept finite disappointment,
but never lose infinite hope."*

– Martin Luther King Jr.

JUNE 2025


Tabor

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H

ello everyone!

It is great that we've kind of started summer, although, as we know, in the Pacific Northwest, summer doesn't come until after the 4th of July. I am looking forward to some more sun.

Lots have been happening with Tabor 100 over the past several years. We recently highlighted much of what we've done over the last 5 years and since we moved into our HUB location and shed our all-volunteer format. We work hard, but this is the first time we've tallied all our efforts over the years :

- 32,380 visitors to our HUB location since it opened in 2022
- \$460,000 to 25 businesses through the Black Business Equity Fund
- \$614,000 in loans to 25 businesses
- \$1,297,083 in consultant services support to businesses
- More than 1000 businesses have been helped since 2022

In the midst of all Tabor's work on promoting Black and other minority businesses, there have been headlines at the national level. We appreciate Earl Key, Senior Director

"I can do all this through him who gives me strength,"

- **Philippians 4:13**

of Transportation Equity at WSDOT, and Lekha Fernandez, the Acting Director of the State Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises, for keeping us up-to-date on federal efforts to fight the dismantling of the federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program. But more importantly, I want to acknowledge their work in ensuring there are

programs in this state that will continue to promote "business equity" in the absence of the DBE Program.

"Were you there for Tabor's first-ever Vendor Showcase?" It was a success!

Minority-owned vendors from across the region showcased their products, and many attendees showed their support through purchases. Thank you for attending, and it won't be the last time we do this. Stay tuned.

Our big night will be here sooner than you know it! The 2025 Captains of Industry Gala will take place on Saturday, September 20th. Planning is underway, and we invite you to be a part of it. The Gala Committee meets regularly, and I encourage you to reach out to Tabor Executive Board Member, Darci Henderson, at darci.henderson@tabor100.org to join in this very rewarding endeavor.

Ollie Garrett
CEO and President



Door Swings

June 2025 Visits | 3,842
Since Opening | 32,380

We must stand together
– Still, we Rise!



*We are not
going back!!*

SAVE *the* DATE

- 8 JULY**
6:00 - 8:00 PM
@ The Hub
Request for Proposal Seminar
(PW#0508-2025)
- 16 JULY**
6:00 - 8:00 PM
@ The Hub
Request for Proposal Seminar
(SC-2025-04)

New Members – JUNE

- Shyla Martinez**
ShyMar & Associates
- Giovanni Azael**
Aregio Construction,
LLC
- Deci Evans**
Kind + Co Events

Have a question related to
labor laws?

Scan this QR code or email:
zene.hall@tabor100.org



**Seattle Office of
Labor Standards**

SAVE THE DATE

Tabor 100
*24th Annual
Captains of Industry Gala*

“We Rise by Lifting Others”

**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 20, 2025**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR
THIS NIGHT OF CELEBRATION
AND RECOGNITION!

MORE INFORMATION TO COME.

**When The Roots Are DEEP,
There Is No Reason To Fear The Storm!**



Celebrating Watershed Moments

TABOR 100 CONSULTANT HIGHLIGHT

KATRINA SIMMONS (ARTISTIC RESUMES)

It all started very organically with a simple act of service:

reviewing a neighbor's resume. What seemed like a small gesture, eventually unearthed a calling that would blossom into Artistic Resumes and Cover Letters. Tabor 100 Consultant Katrina Simmons, a visionary with a vested interest in helping others navigate their careers and launch their businesses, planted the seeds of her company from a deep place of purpose and faith.

Katrina's first clients were military service members and their families stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, transitioning into civilian life. Coming from a long line of entrepreneurs, Katrina draws her motivation from the GodHead: Father, Son (the Lord Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit.

"This was something placed in my heart by the Lord," Katrina said. "It was the leading of the Holy Spirit to start my own business."

Yet, like many great journeys, hers began with a sense of vagueness. She didn't know the exact steps to take, but was sure of one thing, her community needed support, and she had the capacity to provide it.

"The business just somewhat grew from there," she said.

So, Katrina got to work. Her first step was developing a business plan, followed by securing her business license in 2022. The early days were filled with much groundwork, as attending events, generating ideas, building relationships, and actively gaining knowledge through each experience.

Through referrals from Tabor 100, she forged meaningful connections with entrepreneurs and organizations, forming a fusion of businesses and ideas grounded in community impact.

"I was in the public all the time," Katrina recalled. "I was going here, going there, learning and developing."

Throughout this journey, Katrina encountered people and organizations that shifted her perspective and helped her move forward, such as The Tacoma Urban League, which provided vital resources and consistent support through their weekly business

drop-in sessions; A grant-writing workshop in December 2023, led by Linda D. and Athena H., became a pivotal moment by opening her eyes to a new world of accessibility and opportunity.

"That opened my eyes and doors to a new world of accessibility and opportunities," she said.

This momentum led her to Tabor 100, where she applied and was selected as a consultant which was a tremendous milestone and a major breakthrough.

"I'm so grateful for that," she shared. "It was a really big deal for me."

Since joining the consultant program, Katrina's business has flourished. Through referrals from Tabor 100, she forged meaningful connections with entrepreneurs and organizations, forming a fusion of businesses and ideas grounded in community impact. Her work not only strengthens business infrastructure, yet fosters conversations around growth, resilience, and vision.

"I love the fact that I am able to pour into my clients like I do," she said.

"I have a range of entrepreneurs

under my belt that I am encouraging, motivating, and consulting."

What began as resume and cover letter support has since expanded into business plan creation, capability statements, and operational consulting, complete with policy development, NDAs, and HIPAA-compliant procedures.

Katrina's lived experiences give her unique insight into her clients' paths.

"I know exactly what it's like," she said. "I've been there; I've walked where they're going."

Each client brings something new, as a new layer, new a revelation or shift in perspective.

"It's not just a learning curve for them, but it's a learning curve for me too," Katrina reflected. "There is always some impact or 'Aha!' moment they bring to the table for me."

Through it all, Katrina leads with integrity, empathy, and clarity, thus merging empathy with strategic accountability to support lasting growth.

"It's always good to show empathy and kindness, because many times people are already having a hard time!" she said. "However, there are boundaries. This is their business. Sometimes, you have to bring them back into reality and remind them of that."

Importantly, Katrina honors the unwavering encouragement of her family and close friends, whose



incredible kindness, Michael and Emilio with Revby their strategic guidance continues to expand her business acumen; and Kirsten Kreis, a dedicated champion of small business success has been an invaluable source of guidance, encouragement, and consistently offering practical advice, resources, and unwavering support throughout my journey.

In addition to the aforementioned, Katrina acknowledges a

community of countless others who have invested in her journey. Organizations such as, The Tacoma Urban League, Tabor 100, the Tacoma Pierce County Chamber of Commerce, Chase Bank, and several entrepreneurs who have remained steadfast partners by providing the access, resources, and collaborative spaces necessary to nurture her entrepreneurial path.

prayers, patience, and presence have sustained her through every stage of her journey. Their support has been both grounding and motivating, reinforcing her resilience and vision when she needed it most.

Anchored by individuals who have generously shared their time, expertise, and belief in her potential.

"It's not just a learning curve for them, but it's a learning curve for me too, There is always some impact or 'Aha!' moment they bring to the table for me."

– Katrina Simmons

Among them are: Jermaine Ogden, Founder & Principal Consultant of Elevate Plus, whose leadership, insight and wisdom have helped sharpen her consulting approach; Jenda Kong-Bellus of Asia Pacific Cultural Center who assists with coaching, resources, workshops and

To fellow visionaries, Katrina offers this wisdom:

"Keep the Lord first, surround yourself with people who have a vested interest in your growth via mentors, collaborators, and community builders who want to see you succeed. And when the going gets tough, don't forget to celebrate the wins."

"Celebrate those watershed moments you have in your business," Katrina said.

"DON'T GIVE UP."

Tabor 100's first-ever Business Spotlight Expo

reminding them of the vast number of like-minded individuals they have, and can be in community with. Additionally, this expo acted as a way to share with Tabor's partners at Washington State the real stories and impact Tabor's services and programs have in helping small businesses not just survive, but thrive and grow.

"The connections I made at the showcase were incredibly valuable, and I'm looking forward to continuing those conversations," Sammy said. "I'm already looking forward to the next [business expo]."

For more information on Tabor 100 and the various services it provides, please visit www.tabor100.org.

The smell of fresh hotdogs and po'boy sandwiches, the sounds of children laughing and playing games, the sight of many small business owners filling the halls with enthusiasm, connecting with old friends and new....

These are just a few of the key components that created the community feeling everyone experienced at Tabor 100's first-ever community Business Spotlight Expo.

Occurring on June 20th, 2025, Tabor 100 put on its first business expo to give its members, consultants, and technical assistance recipients a chance to promote their business, advertise their products/services, and connect with other entrepreneurs in the community. From skincare and art/calligraphy to healthcare training and organizational development services, dozens of local entrepreneurs from a variety of industries within Washington State attended to promote their services, grow their business, and network with others.

"It was a truly energizing experience," wrote Sammy Kibe, Founder of the tech startup Sathiki that focuses on supporting small and medium-sized enterprises' operations through AI-powered automation/system integration. "From the engaging conversations to the strong sense of community, I walked away inspired and grateful to be a part of it."

This business spotlight expo was intended to help small minority-owned businesses like Sathiki spread the word about their practice, while also



June Highlights



Membership Meeting



9 million or 1.7%
 29.5 million or 2.3%
 can - \$3.6 milio
 9 million or 1.8%
 male - \$1 millio
 2.8 or 4.1%

- Black -
- Hispani
- Native
- Asian -
- Non-mi
- Non-mi



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>