



The **Langston**

Vol 24 Iss 3

Tabor 100 Newsletter

We RISE By

LIFTING Others

MARCH 2024



What's Inside?

- 1 President's Message
- 2 Save the Date | Door Swings | New Members
- 3 New Employee Aileen Alvarez
- 4 Celebrating Women's History Monrh
- 6 iUrban Teen and Jumpstart Weekend
- 7 King County Grant Award
- 8 March Highlights
- 9 Member Meeting



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

Tabor 100 Economic Development Hub

7100 Fort Dent Way
Tukwila, WA 98188
425-528-0110 | Staff@Tabor100.org

Photo credit: image by Freepik

Our Board

Ollie Garrett
CEO and President
Ollie.Garrett@Tabor100.org

Brian Sims
Chair
Brian.Sims@Tabor100.org

Sherlita Kennedy
Vice Chair
Sherlita.Kennedy@Tabor100.org

Elisa Young
Treasurer
Elisa.Young@Tabor100.org

Darci Henderson
Secretary
Darci.Henderson@Tabor100.org

Shannon Horton
Membership Chair
Shanon.Horton@tabor100.org

Henry Yates
(Interim) Public Affairs Chair
Henry.Yates@Tabor100.org

Dan McGrady
Government Affairs
Dan.McGrady@Tabor100.org

James Faison
Business Development Chair
James.Fasion@Tabor100.org

Kevin Washington
Education Chair
Kevin.Washington@tabor100.org

VACANT
Fund Development Chair

VACANT
Economic Development Chair

Advisory Members

Aundrea Jackson
Aundrea.Jackson@Tabor100.org

Ellen Kerr
Ellen.Kerr@Tabor100.org



Happy Spring, Tabor Neighbors!

As the daffodils bloom and the weather warms, Tabor 100 is offering its members more than ever and working hard as a catalyst to your business success.

We are partnering with many other organizations, for profit and non, to offer better ways for you to grow your enterprise. Whether it be the City of Seattle, the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials, the Skyway Project (residential construction) or the State Department of Transportation, and many others, we are focused on your profitability. Check out the website or talk with Tabor 100 staff who are at the HUB from 8-8 Monday - Thursday and 8-5 on Fridays

I hope you enjoyed last year's Tabor 100 Gala. I was pleased to see so many Tabor members and community partners in attendance. This year, we will be celebrating our 25th Anniversary and the

Gala will be the biggest and best ever. Save

September 7 on your calendar, but more importantly, make your mark on the event – your expertise is

“I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

– *Philippians 4:13*

needed! We have seven committees from Program Planning to Silent Auction, Graphic Design and others. Lend a hand and help create one of the most memorable nights of the year!

Elsewhere in this newsletter is a summary of the state legislative session. I want to thank all the Tabor 100 members and others who visibly supported key legislation critical for the success of minority businesses.

You came out in force to support SB 6040, which begins to address a universal problem for businesses across the board – being paid promptly. Kudos to long-time Tabor

member, Senator Javier Valdez, for his stalwart support of this legislation. We are just beginning to tackle the issue of “prompt pay.” Work on this item will occur over the next several months and your help will be needed again so stay tuned.

As I have done before, I ask that you participate in Disparity Studies. This session, the Legislature authorized a study to determine disparities in contracting with the State of Washington. This one is critical given some disappointing numbers regarding our opportunities with various state agencies. Studies like these will help fend off court challenges to eliminate programs to assist our businesses. There are currently several legal challenges to these programs nationwide and it is critical that we continue striving for contract equity and not have it stripped away in the courts.

Ollie Garrett | CEO and President

Door Swings

January 2024 Visits | 1,549
Since Opening | 18,133

Most popular days are Wednesday & Thursday.
Come meet up with fellow members!

Host your coffee chats at Tabor!
We've got plenty of creamer!



SAVE *the* DATE

5 April
1 - 4:00 PM
@ The Hub
@Tabor 100 Diverse Business Enterprise (DBE) Outreach Event

16 April
6 - 8:00 PM
@ The Hub
@Tabor 100 Financial Projections Workshop

27 April
10:00 AM - Noon
@ The Hub
@Tabor 100 Membership Meeting

15 May
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
@ The Hub
@Tabor 100 OMWBE Workshop

21 May
6 - 8:00 PM
@ The Hub
@Tabor 100 Personal Credit Workshop

New Members – MARCH

Natalie Hester
Natalie Hester Consulting Service

Ryshun Sampson
Visionary Impact

Stephanie Caldwell
Absher Construction, Co.

Pearl Leung

Yolonda Brooks
WA State Dept of Transportation (WSDOT)

Kara L Williams
Kara Williams Consulting L.L.C.

Erik McFrazier
Pacific IT Support

Monica Guevara
Emerald Cities Collaborative

Carlton Sellars
Edge Home Finance

Nicole Lorenzo
Tita Bun Collective

Mpaleng “MK” Kothule
Agape Insurance & Bonding

Minewyelet Fekade
YilmaMuller Transportation

James Moore
The Light Seattle

Rick Dimmer
D&I Solutions Consulting, LLC

Teedi Kelly
Tac Resource Group

Save the Date

September 7, 2024

SEATTLE CONVENTION CENTER
Summit Room

WE RISE BY LIFTING OTHERS

25th
Anniversary Gala

NEW EMPLOYEE *Aileen Alvarez*

by *Zene Hall*

Proudly hailing from the dynamic City of Seattle, my professional journey has been marked by a fervent commitment to service and a passion for excellence. Commencing my career at the age of 14 in the offices of the Seattle Aquarium through the City of Seattle Summer Youth Training Program, I discovered an early passion for the intricate world of customer service and the joy derived from aiding others.

Over the years, I've cultivated a diverse skill set with a focus on Bookkeeping/Accounting, Customer Service, Payroll, and much more. My expertise encompasses a broad spectrum of responsibilities, ensuring the seamless operation of various administrative functions.

I derive immeasurable joy from spending time with my five grandchildren outside of my professional pursuits. As a nature enthusiast, I treasure moments such as sunrises, sunsets, heavy rain, and rainbows for their simple beauty. Additionally, I am an avid sports fan and draw inspiration from supporting teams like the Seattle SuperSonics, Mariners, Seahawks, WNBA Storm, and the UW Huskies.

Most recently, I've dedicated my efforts to cancer charity awareness, a cause that resonates deeply with me due to the personal impact of witnessing loved ones navigate the challenges of this relentless adversary.

Looking ahead to retirement, my vision involves spending invaluable time with my grandchildren daily, capturing the serenity of ocean sunsets through the lens of my camera. With a rich tapestry of experience, a



commitment to excellence, and an unwavering dedication to service, I am poised to continue making a positive impact in both my professional and personal spheres.

aileen.alvarez@tabor100.org

Tabor 100



FMS
GLOBAL
STRATEGIES

WA BUILD BACK
BLACK ALLIANCE



CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The Visionary Leadership of Paula Sardinas

A Beacon of Change in Public Policy

In celebrating Women's History Month, we spotlight Paula Sardinas – a beacon of wisdom, prosperity, and leadership. As President and CEO of FMS Global Strategies and founder of the WA Build Back Black Alliance, Paula represents the strength and perseverance of the Year of the Dragon — embodying strength, wisdom, and the ability to navigate through challenges with perseverance. Paula's leadership transcends conventional advocacy,

setting a new benchmark in legislative achievements and championing the cause of equity and social justice.

A Session to Remember

In her 30th legislative session, Paula Sardinas' leadership through FMS Global Strategies and the founding of the WA Build Back Black Alliance (WBBA) has been extraordinary. This period saw the WBBA deeply engaged in a Supreme Court Amicus Brief and

supporting an extensive portfolio of over 377 bills tailored for communities of color. Additionally, Paula spearheaded efforts to secure nearly \$20 million in community project budget and agency requests.

This ambitious agenda not only underscores Sardinas' commitment but also sets a remarkable precedent in Washington State. As the first Black lobbyist to champion such comprehensive initiatives in housing, small business, education, and workforce development on behalf of the community, Sardinas is reshaping the landscape of advocacy in the state.

"Women's History Month ignites the spark of collective progress, urging us to build the legacy of those who've paved our paths toward equality and empowerment."



"Together, we're not just dreaming of a brighter future; we're creating it."

Highlights of Our Legislative Success

SB 6040 - Prompt Payment in Public Works:

A crucial victory ensuring timely compensation for small, women, and minority-owned subcontractors, championed by Paula's unwavering advocacy.

SB 6069 - Enhancing Retirement Security:

This bill, passed with Paula's leadership, establishes Washington Saves, promoting retirement security for private sector workers.

HB 1915 - Financial Education for Graduation:

Although it did not pass, this bill reflects Paula's commitment to empowering students with financial literacy, a testament to her dedication to comprehensive education.

OMWBE Disparity Study Funding Proviso:

A pivotal moment facilitated by Paula's negotiation skills, ensuring funding for studies that highlight disparities faced by minority-owned businesses.

SB 5904 (Tabor Education Committee):

Extending financial aid eligibility, a direct testament to our dedication to accessible and inclusive education for every student.

SB 1870 (Economic Development):

Catalyzing local economic development by unlocking federal funding opportunities, a key victory for community prosperity.

The Power of Membership: Strengthening the WBBA

Membership in the WA Build Back Black Alliance (WBBA), under Paula Sardinas' guidance, exemplifies the transformative power of collective advocacy. This alliance serves as a testament to the strength that comes from diverse voices uniting for a common cause, demonstrating how solidarity among members can significantly impact the journey towards equity.

By joining forces, WBBA members not only amplify their voices but also actively contribute to shaping a future that values and uplifts every member of the community.

A Legacy of Impact

As we reflect on Women's History Month, Paula Sardinas stands as a towering figure of resilience and influence. Her achievements through FMS Global Strategies and the WBBA underscore a legacy of tireless advocacy and leadership. Paula's journey, marked by significant legislative victories and a profound commitment to justice, paves the way for future generations.

We applaud the resilient women at FMS Global Strategies, led by Paula Sardinas. Their collective stories of overcoming challenges illuminate the path for future leaders. Their efforts inspire us to persist in our advocacy for equity and justice, making their legacy a guiding light for all.

iURBAN TEEN AND TABOR 100: Empowering Seattle's Future Leaders

iUrban Teen, a pioneering nonprofit, offers STEM education and mentorship to BIPOC youth. Through programs like iCode 1.0 and iEngineer Camp, students explore technology and engineering, preparing for rewarding careers. Annually, nearly a thousand students join iUrban Teen programs, eager to unlock the world of coding.

In iCode 1.0, a 2-month boot camp, participants dive into coding languages like Python and Java, shaping futures rich with STEM opportunities. Complementing this, Tabor 100, a network of Black entrepreneurs, focuses on economic empowerment and racial equity. Together, they create transformative opportunities for students, bridging gaps and uplifting communities.

Community strengthening is central, as seen in initiatives like CPR Certification Training. According to the U.S. Bureau



of Labor Statistics, engineering offers lucrative career paths. With iUrban Teens iEngineer STEM Camp, students delve into engineering, gaining insights into future opportunities.

As iUrban Teen and Tabor 100 continue their collaborative efforts, they're poised to impact Seattle's educational landscape and beyond. Join them in shaping tomorrow's leaders and innovators at iUrbanTeen.Org.



JUMPSTART WEEKEND AT TABOR 100

Jumpstart Weekend at the Tabor 100 Business Development Center marked a successful launch for 45Camp, a program supporting underrepresented entrepreneurs. Created with VertueLab, it includes a pre-accelerator, accelerator, and Jumpstart Weekend. The event offered a crash course for aspiring entrepreneurs from marginalized backgrounds, fostering learning, mentorship, and community connection.

Participants kicked off with energetic mingling and rapid-fire pitches. Six teams formed, including Kika Flowers, Ocasio Design, ClimateX, Evalv, Pine Home, Sheba, and Redyoos. Mentors like Angie Parker, Chris Ponce, Darryl Dexter, and Mary Phillips provided invaluable guidance.

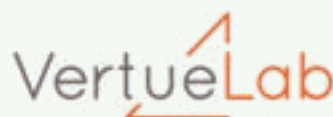
The climax featured final pitches before judges Paula Sardinas, Aina Abiodun, and Devon Horace. Teams Evalv, Pine Home, and Sheba claimed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place



respectively, showcasing innovative solutions to climate challenges.

Applications are now open for the 45Camp Pre-Accelerator program. \$5,000 will be awarded to 20 companies competing in the Pre-Accelerator and will move on to compete in the Accelerator Program.

To learn more, head to www.45camp.org.





© Cyber Capitol + SungLass Communications



Through a grant, Cyber Capitol received funds to invest in dismantling racism and protecting the health and well-being of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color so that all communities can thrive with access to technology.

SOURCES

www.cybcap.com
[The Gathering Collaborative](#)

Like so many in our communities of color, Les Struthers and his peers struggled these past few years to get back to “business as usual” when countless companies were impacted by a global pandemic. His IT firm, Cyber Capitol, was launched in 2018 and didn’t gain much traction until he made a phone call to Estrella Sung with SungLass Communications, a MWBE marketing and outreach firm. Two decades ago, Les and Estrella worked together at Garry Struthers Associates, Inc., an 8(a) SDVOSB firm known for award-winning public works projects such as the U.S. Department of State Embassies Worldwide and Sound Transit Link Light Rail.

Grant IT

When presented with the opportunity to apply for a grant to address racism as a public health crisis, Les and Estrella engaged Derek Lane, a Tabor grant writing consultant, to support the submittal effort. In July 2023, Cyber Capitol received a \$100,000 grant from a \$25 million total budget that was distributed by an iterative co-creation effort between King County and the community, known as The Gathering Collaborative.



© SungLass Communications



© Flyright Productions

TABOR ASSISTS WITH KING COUNTY GRANT AWARD

With grants given to more than 120 small businesses, nonprofits, and community organizations, Cyber Capitol is focusing on lessening the impact of the “Digital Divide” on the African American community, one of the most affected by the technology gap in the United States.

According to a Pew Research Center report, only 66% of African American households have access to the internet, compared to 78% of white households.

Networking In Neighborhoods

Cyber Capitol and SungLass Communications, both Tabor member firms, have reached out to several Black, Indigenous, and POC-led organizations in the past 6 months, finding qualified award recipients including:

- Africatown
- Family First Community Center
- United Indians of All Tribes Foundation
- People of Color Against AIDS Network

After the final distribution to the selected groups this year, Les’ goal is to apply for additional funding in the next grant cycle. Seeing the joy and gratitude he and his team have experienced, he knows that the work in building these neighborhood networks has only just begun.



Empowering diverse minds in tech creates a mosaic of innovation that reflects the world we share. — **Les Struthers**

March 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>

