

The Langston

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Tabor 100 Newsletter



WE RISE BY LIFTING
OTHERS—VOTE

JULY 2024



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

Tabor 100 Economic Development Hub

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Tabor Neighbors! I hope you are all well and prospering in your personal and professional lives.

As we enter another summer and barrel toward elections at the state and national level, I think about the importance of Tabor 100 at this time. We were created in the wake of I-200 which has devastated the minority and women-owned business community, the effects of which we are still experiencing today.

While I can only imagine what it was like back in the days when Langston Tabor fought valiantly to defeat I-200, I see much effort today directed at ensuring that even less opportunity comes our way. Efforts by the far right to eliminate the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program and other programs like it, both in the public and private sector, pose grave threats to our communities. The words Diversity, Equity and Inclusion have taken on a negative meaning for some. Imagine, the concept of equity being something that is bad!

So Tabor 100 is one of the few organizations fighting to ensure Black and other minority businesses both survive in the midst of these assaults on “DEI.” We are working to provide additional support

“For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,”

– *Ephesians 2:14*

to Black and other minority businesses as well as create a place where all of us can gather to support one another. We are speaking up about issues of importance to our members including timely payment and labor policies that sometimes negatively impact our firms.

Let me bring all this back to my basic theme. We are living in unprecedented times and the threats to our community, our businesses and us as individuals, is significant. Today, we are dealing with a threat as menacing as I-200. I urge you to engage in the elections that will occur in August (Primary) and then again in November (General). Tabor 100 cannot endorse candidates, but we can ask that you do your homework and engage in

supporting whoever you choose as being best for your businesses, family and community. While voting is important, volunteering, contributing and other forms of engagement are critical as well. I encourage you to engage with Tabor 100 on one of our committees, etc..., but I also ask that you participate in these upcoming elections given the fact that there is a bullseye on the efforts that assist us all in our daily lives. And yes, we will always strive for “equity.”

Ollie Garrett | *CEO and President*



Door Swings

Visits Since January 2024 | 4,059
Since Opening | 25,009

Come join us for our workshops this summer!
Let us know why you are coming to Tabor!

Host your coffee chats at Tabor!
So many networking opportunities!



SAVE *the* DATE

16 August @YMCA Job Fair
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
@ The Hub

17 August @Fall Protection Training
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
@ The Hub

20 August @Prevailing Wage Workshop
6 - 8:00 PM
@ The Hub

7 September @23rd Annual Captains of Industry Gala
5:00 PM
@ Seattle Convention Center Summit Building

18 September @OMWBE Workshop
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
@ The Hub

21/28 September @10 Hour OSHA Training
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
@ The Hub

5/12/19/26 October
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM @30 Hour OSHA Training
@ Seattle Convention Center Summit Building

New Members – JULY

George Clark
Mom & Pop Business
Funding

Wendy Ortman
Naylor Construction
Consulting

Nicole Norman
Pacific NW Bio

Geb Mengistu
SPWES, LLC

We Rise By Lifting Others

You're Invited to the
23rd Annual
Captains of Industry Gala

Celebrating **25** Years
of Service to the Community

**Saturday,
September 7,
2024**

The 2024 Annual Gala is attended by 700+ business and political leaders, small business owners, and community members who are excited to give back in support of Tabor 100

Visit tabor100.org
for more information

NEW EMPLOYEE *Olivia Freeman-Bradley*

by *Olivia Freeman-Bradley*



I'm thrilled to join the Tabor team

as a technical assistant. Currently a senior at Seattle Pacific University pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Communications, I plan to travel and obtain HR certifications after graduation, aspiring to a career in corporate mediation.

One of my strongest skills is conflict mediation. In high school, I collaborated closely with my vice principal to lead restorative justice meetings among students. I also enjoy engaging with others and taking on leadership roles as needed.

About me: I'm 20 years old, born and raised in Seattle. I enjoy going for walks, exploring new countries, trying out new restaurants, and spending quality time with my sister. Recently, I've taken up boxing and hiking. I've been working since the age of 11, starting at a local

printing shop and later at a community center. I also spent two years as a teaching assistant at my middle school, where I discovered my passion for working with children.

Community involvement is a core value for me. I've been actively engaged in nonprofit programs for six years, finding fulfillment in contributing to my community.

I thrive on connecting with people and am eager to meet everyone at Tabor!

Contact Olivia at olivia.freeman-bradley@tabor100.org or at her direct line: 425-528-0122.

NEW EMPLOYEE *Taylor Harris*

by *Taylor Harris*



Introducing our newest team member,

Taylor Harris, bringing a diverse range of skills and experiences to our team. With a solid foundation in distribution and project coordination within the medical gas industry, Taylor Harris has demonstrated exceptional problem-solving abilities and a keen attention to detail. Their expertise ensures seamless operations and client satisfaction, making them a valuable asset in our commitment to excellence.

Beyond their professional accomplishments, Taylor Harris is a multifaceted individual with a passion for creativity and adventure. Outside of work, you can find them immersed in music as a bass player, whether performing on stage or honing their skills during

leisure time. They also channel their strategic thinking and storytelling prowess as a dedicated Game Master for Pathfinder and D&D, crafting immersive experiences for fellow enthusiasts. Embracing the outdoors, Taylor Harris enjoys the thrill of longboarding and the serenity of hiking, embodying a balanced approach to both work and life. We warmly welcome Taylor Harris to our team and look forward to the unique perspectives and energy they bring to our dynamic workplace.

Contact Taylor at taylor.harris@tabor100.org

TECH GIVEAWAY

by Zene Hall

Tabor 100's Technical Assistance Program

continues to make a meaningful impact by equipping small minority- and women-owned businesses with vital resources. Through our initiative, we have been able to distribute laptops and provide Microsoft 365 subscriptions to entrepreneurs facing economic challenges. These tools enhance their operational capabilities and empower them to compete effectively in today's digital marketplace. We believe that by supporting these businesses, we are fostering economic resilience and promoting diversity and inclusivity within our community.

Each laptop and Microsoft 365 subscription we distribute represents a step towards leveling the playing field for underrepresented entrepreneurs. By offering technical assistance tailored to their needs, we aim to break down barriers and create opportunities for sustainable growth. Together with our partners and supporters, we are committed to building a future where every small business has the tools and support necessary to thrive. Thank you for joining us in this journey towards a more inclusive and equitable business environment.



Tabor holds ongoing Technical Assistance Workshops

In partnership with Tabor 100, the Washington

State Office of Minority & Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE) held a technical assistance workshop for small business owners on the State's certification process.

OMWBE is the sole agency to certify minority- and women-owned business enterprises to participate in the State's public contract and procurement opportunities. They can only certify small businesses that are owned and controlled by minority, women, and socially and economically disadvantaged persons. Certification strengthens the awareness of business existence to prime contractors and local agencies.

It is important to emphasize that when you become certified with OMWBE, your business is added to a Directory of Certified Firms where state agencies, local governments, and prime contractors seek qualified minority- and women-owned small businesses to fulfill their contracting needs.

There were 18 business owners who registered for the July 17 workshop, according to Taylor Harris who is a Tabor program coordinator. The OMWBE workshop was presented by Nereida Avendano, a certification analyst, who gave an overview of the certification process, answered questions and gave pointers to the participants.

"As an analyst, I look at all the documents provided with the application to make that determination. This can become a hurdle when the eligible owner does not own at least 51% of the business, have experience directly related to the operations of the business, or have control of the day-to-day operations. In

addition, the business must be able to independently perform the work to fulfill a contract," emphasized Avendano.

Avendano says that partnering with Tabor 100 provides a greater audience reach to locate businesses who may benefit from certification programs.

One of the workshop participants included Srliveinusi Niu. Niu is a new business owner, who is in the process of applying for his certification. He moved to Washington from Utah and started his business early this year called Concorde Electric, Inc. "While I have the professional knowledge and extensive years of experience as an electrical engineer," he said, "Attending the OMWBE workshop furthers my business and administrative management of the application process to become certified and gives me the opportunity to hear from other business owners about their successes and challenges." "Tabor has warmly welcomed me as a new member and I sincerely appreciate the guidance of the organization," Niu adds.

"Even though the application process can seem daunting, OMWBE is dedicated to leaving no questions unanswered to assist small businesses in their application process that are on the track of approval," Harris said.

OMWBE will hold two more remaining workshops this year: September 18 and November 20. Meanwhile, an OMWBE analyst is always available on Wednesdays at the Tabor 100 hub to happily assist small businesses or email technicalassistance@omwbe.wa.gov for more information and/or questions.



Terri Mestas joins Sound Transit as deputy CEO for megaproject delivery

Seasoned professional with more than 30 years of experience will fill newly created position to oversee delivery of capital programs

by John Gallagher

Sound Transit today announced that Terri Mestas has been appointed as deputy CEO for megaproject delivery, a new position created to lead the development of the agency's concurrent projects quickly and effectively and bring forth ways to accelerate project timelines and reduce capital expenditures. Sound Transit currently has the largest transit expansion program in the country, including ST3 capital projects totaling an estimated \$54 billion. Mestas has started her new position on April 29.

"The next phase of Sound Transit's expansion is categorically different than what the agency has done before, which is why the Board sought an experienced leader to deliver on our commitment to voters," said Sound Transit Board Chair and King County Executive Dow Constantine. "With her background as a leader of large, complex infrastructure programs, Ms. Mestas brings the depth of experience and expertise that the agency needs to set the nation's largest capital expansion project on a fresh path to success."

"With the opening of the Lynnwood Link Extension just months away, we are even more focused on extending light rail to Everett," said Sound Transit Vice Chair and Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers. "The Everett Link Extension will be the longest extension that Sound Transit will have ever undertaken and will be vital for enhancing economic opportunities and quality of life for Snohomish County residents. I'm pleased that Ms. Mestas will bring her wealth of experience to oversee



this complex project, as well as all the ST3 projects."

"Since before ST3's approval in 2016, it's been clear that voters want Sound Transit to build capital projects faster. Hiring a deputy CEO of megaproject delivery represents

a critical next step in delivering transformative transit for our region," said Sound Transit System Expansion Committee Chair and King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci. "By implementing a key recommendation of the Technical Advisory Group, today's announcement is a huge step forward to accelerate project delivery. We're fortunate that Ms. Mestas is willing to bring her incredible experience to take on this challenge. I look forward to collaborating with her and her team to execute on that commitment to build fast, frequent, reliable transit for the people of Central Puget Sound."

"It is absolutely essential that a culture of accountability and delivery is instilled at Sound Transit, especially while managing the largest transit megaproject in the nation," said Sound Transit Board Member and Pierce County Executive Bruce Dammeier. "That's why I'm excited we have brought on Terri Mestas as Sound

Transit’s first deputy CEO of megaproject delivery. Our communities have been paying taxes for decades and we have to make sure we are delivering for the entire region – including Pierce County. A leader like Terri is critical to accomplishing this.”

“Sound Transit’s capital program needs a strong leader who understands and can manage complex, multibillion dollar programs,” said Grace Crunican, chair of the Technical Advisory Group, or TAG. “TAG members were part of the selection process and believe Ms. Mestas is the right choice to deliver this program.”

“I’m excited to be joining Sound Transit at this critical juncture in its transformative capital program,” said Mestas. “The hard work and dedication of the talented staff have been essential to the program’s success to date, and I look forward to working with them in taking the program to the next level in achieving the goals that voters have entrusted to us.”

Mestas is a seasoned professional with more than 30 years of experience leading large, complex infrastructure programs for space exploration, military installations, national and international antiterrorism physical security, and innovative project delivery for the aviation industry. Most recently, she was the Chief Development Officer for the Los Angeles World Airports’ (LAWA) \$30 billion capital improvement program, the largest aviation capital improvement program in the nation.

Prior to her executive leadership role at LAWA, Mestas held several positions for AECOM supporting public and private organizations. Mestas led the capital improvement program at NASA’s Ames Research Center, which includes Moffett Federal Airfield, a joint civilian-military airport. She also held the position of senior director for capital projects, modernization, planning, design and construction at The California Institute of Technology, where she oversaw the development of one-of-a-kind research facilities. Mestas earned a Bachelor of Architecture from Catholic University of America’s School of Architecture and Planning.



Sound Transit builds and operates regional transit services for growing urban areas of Washington’s Pierce, King, and Snohomish counties. The region is home to more than 50 cities and more than 40 percent of the state’s residents, who have authorized the most ambitious transit expansions in the nation. Next month, Sound Transit will open the light rail extension from South Bellevue to Redmond Technology Center and later this year to Lynnwood.

CONTACT: John Gallagher, (206) 300-1597 or john.gallagher@soundtransit.org

— Sound Transit: Connecting more people to more places to make life better and create equitable opportunities for all. Visit www.soundtransit.org

PHOTOS CREDIT: SOUND TRANSIT

Membership Meeting



July Highlights



Tabor 100 gives a small business a grant check to further business growth





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>