

The Langston

Vol 25 Iss 1

Tabor 100 Newsletter

The New Visionary Leaders of Washington



Washington State Governor
Bob Ferguson



Washington State Attorney General
Nick Brown



JANUARY 2025


Tabor

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

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Tabor Neighbors!

Recently, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion has been in the spotlight. The current federal administration in its first day has dismantled programs designed to provide equity to racial minority and women-owned firms under the notion that they are wasting federal dollars.

In addition to ensuring that equity not be promoted in government, there have been mandates, threats and outright bullying of private sector firms to dismantle their programs to promote equity. Many large companies, including some headquartered here, have relented and eliminated or significantly reduced their programs geared toward recruiting and promoting people of color and women.

There have been some private sector entities that have not embraced the notion that DEI is bad. Notably, Costco Wholesale, based in Issaquah, has pushed back aggressively on the notion that it abandon or reduce its DEI efforts. In addition, our current Governor, while

Attorney General, was a strong supporter of DEI, including creating a Civil Rights Division in his office and



- joining other AGs in sending the message to corporate America that these programs are valuable and should both remain in place and be strengthened.
- Of course, for those of us who are people of color and operate businesses, many of us have benefitted from these programs designed to level a playing field in business that has become extremely one-sided due to systemic racism.

“Then you will understand what is right and just and fair—every good path.”

—Proverbs 2.9

Tabor 100 will stand at the forefront of efforts to maintain DEI in government and the private sector and will join other organizations, elected officials and others in bolstering these programs for the benefit of our members and society in general.

- We urge our government and private sector partners to continue to embrace and strengthen their efforts to create a just and equitable society. The work of this federal administration to further harm communities of color is shameful. Already, nationally, Black households have 1/10th the wealth of White households (the number is actually 1/16th here in the liberal NW).
- I urge all Tabor 100 members and those who support us to reject this anti-DEI trend which is based on a fantasy that non-minorities are suffering as a result of these programs.

Ollie Garrett | CEO and President

Door Swings

January 2025 Visits | 448
Since Opening | 8,944



Changes in the air?
You can prep your
business with us!

*Come visit to warm up
with a cup of cocoa!*

SAVE the DATE

- 28 JANUARY**
6:00 - 8:00 PM
@ The Hub
**Mastering the RFP/RFQ
Lifecycle Workshop**
- 4 FEBRUARY**
4:00 - 9:00 PM
@ The Hub
OSHA 10 Certification Class
- 6 FEBRUARY**
4:00 - 9:00 PM
@ The Hub
OSHA 10 Certification Class

New Members – JANUARY

- | | |
|---|--|
| Jonathan Jones-Thomas
Black Agriculture Leadership
Council | Mike Tsega
Shewa-Ber LLC |
| Chevon Powell
Golden Bricks Events | Tyrone South
SouthWorthy Builders |
| Vivian Menzies
Hays Professional Consulting | Tejasvi Chalamcherla
Avatar IT Solutions, Inc. |
| Marvin Chapman
Thoughts Cost | Favour Amaliri
Ada Unlimited |
| Margarita Hardy
Premier Electric | Min Lee
BFC Construction, Inc. |
| Dailarin Brooks
PSED | Miguel Angel Macias
EC Cyber Consulting |
| rYOUminate, LLC
Montana Houston | Darius Murray
Seattlepronetwork |

NEW MEMBER Renee Walker

Hello, my name is
**Renee Walker, and
I am excited to join**

Tabor 100 as the newest Senior
Administrative Specialist!

I bring 20 years of experience in
the financial industry and have
held various administrative roles
throughout my career. One of
my strongest skills is building
meaningful relationships with both
team members and clients, and I
am passionate about creating an
environment of collaboration and
support.

As a proud Seattle native, I
graduated from the University
of Washington with a degree in
American Ethnic Studies. I am also
an active member of Sigma Gamma
Rho Sorority, where I contribute to
the alumni chapter and participate in
community service projects.

I thrive on fostering connections
and making a positive impact in my
community, and I'm looking forward
to contributing to the success of
the Tabor team. I'm eager to meet
everyone and be part of such an
impactful organization.



Governor Bob Ferguson's Transition Team



A LOOK AHEAD AT THE 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION:



FMS
GLOBAL
STRATEGIES

WA BUILD BACK
BLACK ALLIANCE

Through THE EYES OF THE WBBA

By: Paula Sardinas, Chief Advocate WBBA

WBBA's Vision for the 2025 Legislative Session

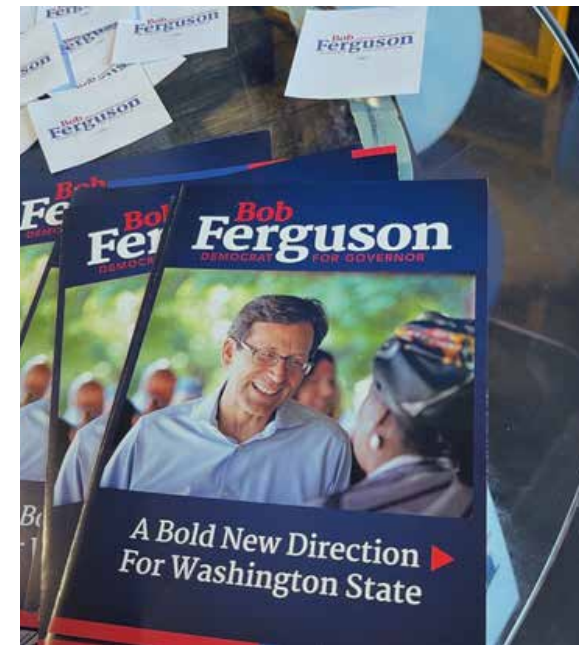
The dawn of the 2025 legislative session in Washington State brings with it a host of challenges and opportunities. As we prepare to tackle the pressing issues facing our communities, the Washington Build Back Black Alliance (WBBA) remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing equity, economic justice, and systemic change.

Through our lens, this year's legislative agenda is both a reflection of the needs of our communities and a call to action for state leadership, including Governor Bob Ferguson, the legislature, and Attorney General Nick Brown.

Governor Ferguson: Charting a Path Forward

Governor Ferguson begins his first full term facing significant headwinds. With a projected budget deficit looming over \$12 billion, his administration must navigate the delicate balance of fiscal responsibility while ensuring that critical investments in education, housing, and public health are not sacrificed.

Governor Ferguson has outlined a bold agenda that includes key priorities such as advancing affordable housing, addressing climate resilience, investing in mental health services, and ensuring public safety. His full agenda, available at [Governor Ferguson's Priorities](#), reflects a vision for building a more equitable and sustainable Washington. The WBBA applauds these priorities and urges the administration to ensure that equity remains at the forefront of every policy decision.



The Deficit: Test of Leadership

The state's \$12 billion budget deficit poses a stark challenge, with ripple effects likely to impact every corner of public life. For Black-owned small businesses, which represent over 99% of businesses in our state, this is not just a fiscal challenge but a potential existential threat. Cuts to programs that support economic development, workforce training, and small business growth would disproportionately harm the very communities that are already struggling to recover from the economic fallout of recent years. The WBBA will push for innovative revenue solutions that protect critical programs while promoting equitable growth.

The Legislature: Diverse Voices, United Action

As the legislature convenes, the balance of power remains tight, with Democrats maintaining control but facing increasing pressure from a more vocal and energized Republican minority. Bipartisan cooperation will be essential to pass meaningful legislation, and the WBBA will be watching closely to ensure that the needs of Black and underserved communities are not sidelined. Key legislative priorities for the WBBA include:

Economic Equity:
Strengthening prompt payment laws for subcontractors, expanding access to capital for minority-

owned businesses, and advocating for the \$200 million Community Reinvestment Plan (CRP), which funded more than 17 grants across Washington State to Black, Latino, and Indigenous businesses.

Housing Justice:
Supporting tenant protections, increased affordable housing funding, and anti-displacement measures.

Education Equity:
Advancing 9th-grade student success initiatives, expanding Early Learning programs, and ensuring robust funding for K-12 education.



Attorney General Nick Brown: Accountability and Advocacy

Attorney General Nick Brown, the first Black statewide elected official in Washington's history, has made clear his intent to prioritize consumer protection, civil rights enforcement, and environmental justice. This historic milestone reflects a significant step forward for representation and equity in our state's leadership.

The WBBA views the AG's commitment to holding corporations accountable as a crucial step toward leveling the playing field for small businesses and communities of color. We also look to the AG's office to take bold action in addressing systemic racism within state institutions and advocating for policies that promote economic and social justice.

A Call to Action

The 2025 legislative session represents a pivotal moment for Washington State. As the WBBA continues to advocate for policies that reflect the lived experiences of Black and underserved communities, we urge our state leaders to lead with courage, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to equity. Together, we can turn the challenges of this session into opportunities for transformative change. Let's not waste this moment—our communities deserve nothing less.



By Paula Sardinas, Chief Advocate, WBBA

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-Paula Sardinas

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CERTIFICATION CLASS

OSHA 10

CLASS SPECIFICS

- DATES:** 02/04/2025 & 02/06/2025
- 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://www.tabor100.org/events/>



Seattle Office of Labor Standards



The Liberty Project



Seattle Facilities & Administrative Services



Washington State Department of Commerce



Small Business Resiliency Network

Supported by Washington State Department of Commerce



January 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>