

The Langston



Vol 25 Iss 8

Tabor 100 Newsletter

*“The best way
to find yourself is
to lose yourself
in the service
of others.”*

– Mahatma Gandhi

**Tabor 100's
support ensures
small business
owners can follow
their dreams and
give back to the
community... PAGES 4, 6**

**Standing firmly
behind leaders who
fight for fairness,
justice, and
opportunity... PAGE 3**

AUGUST 2025


Tabor

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

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Greetings to all:

I want to personally extend an invitation for you to join Tabor 100, our many members and supporters, at our 24th Annual Captains of Industry Gala, Saturday, September 20th at the Seattle Convention Center, Summit Building.

For those of you who have bought tickets and/or confirmed your sponsorship, thank you. Your support of Tabor 100 is a strong commitment to minority community entrepreneurship.

As you know, Tabor 100 is laser-focused on making success in business a reality for Black businesses and other minority-owned firms.

We know that business success is critical for strong community and that community is essential in making our businesses successful. That is why we celebrate those who have went above and beyond in their everyday work to benefit minority communities. We are pleased to present our 2025 Captains of Industry Crystal Eagle awards:

EXCELLENCE IN EQUITY AND INCLUSION: Rodney Maxie, Deputy Director, Seattle Department of Transportation



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT: Michael Verchot, Director, University of Washington Foster Consulting & Business Development Center.

“Now this day will be a memorial to you, and you shall celebrate it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations you are to celebrate it as permanent ordinance.”

— Exodus 12:14

- EXCELLECE IN PUBLIC SERVICE:** The Honorable Jamila Taylor, Washington State House of Representatives
- OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY:** Nick Allen, Policy and Advocacy Director, Inatai Foundation
- EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION:** Toyia Taylor, Executive Director & Founder, Speak with Purpose

TABOR 100 VANGUARD: Anthony Wright, CEO, Pioneer Human Services

TABOR 100 LEGACY HALL OF FAME: Brenda Nnambi, Director, Equity in Contracting, Sound Transit

While the Gala is a major highlight of the year, there are other things happening. Most local governments are in the midst of leadership changes and I encourage everyone to participate by voting for your chosen

candidate in November. We want our leaders to support and uplift our community in every way, including making sure that our businesses get a fair chance at opportunities.

I urge you to check out the special workshops and seminars offered by Tabor 100 and take advantage of the agency staff you can connect with during specific days of the week – City of Seattle, Sound Transit, State Department of Transportation, Office of Minority and Women’s Business Enterprises, King County and others are making themselves available for one-on-one discussions at Tabor 100 each week. Call to get the latest schedule: 425-528-0114. 📞

Ollie Garrett
CEO and President

Door Swings

August 2025 Visits | 4,887
Since Opening | 33,425

We must stand together
– Still, we Rise!



*We are not
going back!!*

New Members – August

Daniel Williams
*Dreams Business
Resources*

Khadijah Toms
A Legacy of Love

Almand Tyne Newton
Emerald City Smoothie

Abdias Calixte
*Complete Fusion
Welding LLC*

Ann-Marie Doerhoff,
PE, PMP
MWH Constructors

**Theresaviane O
Crossman**
Veluxe pods.com

Rokia Dedior
*Fondation Coeur
Dedior*

**Kapuanani
Barber-Strong**
ACMS NorthWest

Estella Williamson
EW LifeWorks LLC

Theo Martin
Island Soul LLC

SAVE *the* DATE

26 August
6 – 8:00 PM
@ The Hub
**Tax Planning Strategies for
Entrepreneurs Workshop**

10 September
6 - 8:00 PM
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
@ The Hub
**Online Marketing Strategies
Certification Workshop**

Have a question related to
labor laws?

Scan this QR code or email:
OLS@tabor100.org



**Seattle Office of
Labor Standards**

Statement from Ollie Garrett, President & CEO of Tabor 100

July 31, 2025

I want to extend my deepest appreciation to Mayor Bruce Harrell and City Attorney Ann Davison for their courageous and principled stand in defending Seattle's values of equity, inclusion, and local authority. By filing this lawsuit, they are sending a clear message that our city will not be bullied into abandoning its commitments to fairness and justice in order to secure federal funding. Their stand makes it clear: we will not be intimidated into abandoning our commitment to equity and inclusion.

Let's be real—equity is about fairness, not sameness. It's not about giving everyone the exact same thing—it's about giving people what they need to succeed. That's how we improve lives and strengthen communities.

Seattle's diversity is one of its greatest strengths. Our economy thrives because of small business owners, workers, and leaders from every background—Black, Indigenous, LGBTQIA+, immigrant, and more. These executive orders from the Trump administration are not just unconstitutional—they're



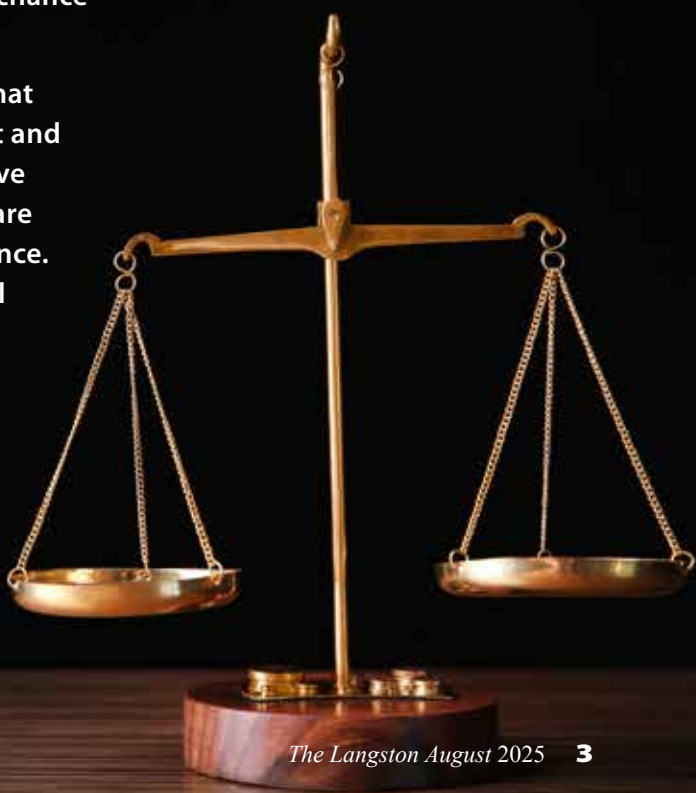
an attack on that very diversity and on decades of progress.

Federal dollars support public safety, housing, health care, and infrastructure. Tying those funds to political ideology is coercive and dangerous. This lawsuit is about protecting people—about ensuring that every resident, especially those historically pushed aside, has a real chance to thrive.

At Tabor 100, we know that economic empowerment and social equity cannot thrive when fear and coercion are used as tools of governance. Thank you, Mayor Harrell and City Attorney Davison, for defending our city's autonomy,

and for standing up for every Seattleite who believes in a future where opportunity is not dictated by ideology, but by fairness and facts.

At Tabor 100, we stand firmly behind leaders who fight for fairness, justice, and opportunity. We will not back down. ▮



Consciously Crafted with Love

You're arriving home after purchasing a new jar of lotion from the nearest chain cosmetics store. The label lists a dozen unfamiliar ingredients in tiny font, and you hope this time it will work, only to be met with disappointment, dryness, or worse, irritation. For many, skincare isn't just about avoiding adverse reactions; it's about finding products that meet their specific needs to hydrate, moisturize, nourish, and protect the skin.



TABOR 100 BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT

ELLA BRAIDE (AVEA GLOW)

That's why Ella Braide created Avea Glow, a sustainable personal care brand crafting clean, cruelty-free, and ethically sourced formulas with simple, minimal ingredients. Handcrafted in small batches, each product delivers deep, lasting moisture and hydration for all skin types, melting luxuriously into the skin and leaving it soft, radiant, and delicately scented.

"I wanted something that was simple," Ella said. "I wanted to create a better alternative for other people."

Founding Avea Glow back in 2024 while simultaneously enrolled in graduate school, Ella dreamed of creating a natural, sustainable, and affordable alternative to standard skincare products to help with different skincare needs like eczema, extreme dryness, and irritation. From using recyclable packaging and printing materials to obtaining the resources for her products from other small

businesses, Ella is passionate about fostering a brand that embraces reducing one's carbon footprint and positively impacting one's community.

"We wanted to make it [skincare] more accessible to people and more affordable," Ella said. "Our goal is to make high-quality, clean, and natural skincare products affordable, and we're doing just that when compared to our competitors."

A local brand based in Seattle, WA, embracing community impact, Ella said she is thankful for the support she has received from her community. One way of expressing this support is that Ella often donates her business's products to organizations like the YWCA and other local organizations committed to supporting and providing resources to women in need.

"We're committed to community impact," she said.

In order to stay committed, however, Ella said all businesses, including hers, need access to funding in order to expand and stay afloat. Funding most of



her business through multiple credit cards, Ella emphasized the importance of capital in order for small businesses to succeed.

"Starting a business is a leap of faith, you're betting on yourself and showing up every day, and that's the most important investment you can make," Ella said.

That bet may soon pay off, as Ella recently received a no-interest loan from Tabor 100's small business loan program.

"It's amazing!" Ella exclaimed. "It's literally everything."

Needing to spend money to make money, Ella has used the loan thus far to fund the creation of new products, internet marketing, new equipment, and paying off high-interest credit card debt.. Wanting to eventually expand and grow her team beyond herself, Ella said support from organizations like Tabor is vital in ensuring small business owners can invest in their practice, support their dreams, and give back to the community.

"I would not be able to do what we are doing in our community if we did not have access to funding like

this," she said. "It's amazing when people can support that dream."

Driven to have a business that supports their community and addresses real problems for real people, Ella hopes her business model inspires others to start their businesses and pursue their dreams.

"I hope that Avea Glow inspires others to create with purpose," Ella said. "We're just getting started, and I'm excited for the ways we'll continue to grow, innovate, and give back to the community that's supported us." ▶



Bless It LLC – Anthony Davis

Anthony Davis founded Bless It LLC in 2005, starting with humble beginnings serving meals from the basement of his father’s church. Long before food delivery platforms became common, Anthony built a grassroots catering operation focused on community and service. Over time, Bless It LLC grew, and by 2020, Anthony was on the verge of securing several business investments to expand operations and staffing.

However, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic severely disrupted his progress. “When that hit, it just wiped me out,” Anthony shared. “It’s like I’m still reinventing.”

In the face of financial challenges and limited access to capital, Anthony transitioned his operations to a dual-home kitchen model. While Bless It LLC continued to operate, he lacked the tools necessary to efficiently manage workforce-related tasks such as in-house financing, digital marketing, and administrative tracking functions critical to employee retention and growth.

Recognizing these barriers, Tabor 100, through its partnership with the Workforce Development Council (WDC), identified Bless It LLC as a priority population business eligible for workforce development assistance. Anthony received a computer at no cost, allowing him to streamline his internal systems, manage orders, handle payroll digitally, and enhance online outreach—functions directly tied to workforce efficiency and sustainability.

“If it wasn’t for the support from Tabor 100 and Workforce,



I would’ve had to dip into savings or go into more debt,” Anthony explained. “This equipment doesn’t just help me—it helps keep my team moving and makes our day-to-day operations possible.”

The impact goes beyond technology, it represents opportunity. “It gives hope that somebody cares,” he said. “These programs give people the chance to grow. What you guys are doing is amazing!” ▶





Join Tabor 100 for our Annual Gala!

Tabor 100 is thrilled to invite you to our 24th Anniversary Gala! This is a night dedicated to celebrating our community, recognizing outstanding achievements, and fostering connections that drive success.



Volunteer
Sign Up Today



Gala Sponsorship
Package

Donate Here!



Dessert Dash

←.....

Silent/ Live
Auction

.....→



August 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>