

The *Langston*

Vol 21 Iss 6

Tabor 100 Newsletter

A Night of excitement, inspiration and motivation...



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COLA**
You're Welcome

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JULY 2022


Tabor

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Visit our website: www.tabor100.org
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Message from the President

Ollie Garrett | CEO and President

I've had so many people tell me how much they missed the annual Tabor 100 Galas. Our last was in 2019 and when it looked like we were all set for a Gala last year, a couple Tabor 100 members told me they'd bought new clothes and started new exercise routines to look their best. Unfortunately, we had to pass on a Gala in 2021, but this year, Saturday, September 24 specifically, we are hosting our 21st Captains of Industry Gala "Prospering where we are Planted," 5:30 at the Waterfront Marriott and you are all invited!

Fabulous food, networking you can't get anywhere else and words of encouragement and inspiration, are what's in store at this year's Tabor 100 Gala. Seattle's First Lady, UW Regent and Microsoft Executive, Joanne Harrell, will keynote this year's

"Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

– 1 Corinthians 5:8

event and will be joined onstage by an impressive group of local luminaries. They are all committed to making this place a welcoming and supportive environment for minority business. That includes Ms. Harrell's husband, Mayor Bruce Harrell, who will be MCing the event, something he's done for more than a decade,

in honor of our organization and in tribute to Langston Tabor, our namesake. Did I mention the networking? For anyone in business, especially Tabor 100's minority businesses, this is a "must attend" event. You will meet and greet people in the private sector and government who can move

your business to the next level. While our objective is to ensure that we fundraise for Tabor 100 and celebrate the accomplishments of our community, we want to give you access to those who can provide opportunities for your enterprise. We also intend to have fabulous prizes for auction and a few surprises as we host an event you don't want to miss!

If I haven't convinced you yet that the Gala is the best use of your time and money this year, let me appeal to your more basic instincts. We have requested the best bakeries in town to prepare cakes that we challenge each table to compete for in our "dessert dash." Even those who do not partake of dessert, work hard and bid high to get the right cake for their table and can be seen eating dessert for the first time in years! In the dessert dash, even the consolation prize is a winner.

Remember, Saturday, September 24th is the day we've been waiting for since 2019. Tabor 100 21st Captains of Industry Gala, Waterfront Marriott, Saturday, September 24, 5:30 sharp. Let's celebrate, connect and have a great time!



Tabor 100 Visitor Report (Door Swings)

Total Visitors July 2022 – 319
Visitors 2022 YTD – 2,837

Visitors are stopping by to attend outreach events, meetings, get vaccinations, receive technical assistance, and so much more.

New Members – JUNE

Darrell Bryant
A/D & Son's Transportation Group

Hodan Mikhael
Avanti Logistics Inc

Janis Meneatrice Clark
Safe Homes Intl

Zachary J. Robinson-Blair

Damithia Nieves
Thrive Yoga

Monica Acevedo-Soto
University of WA

Linda F. Stroud
Atkins Global



SAVE *the* DATE

2 August Planes, Trains & Automobiles –
2:00 – 3:30 pm How to do Business with FAA-FTA-FHWA

3 August Tabor 100 & PWOCN “Free C”
Working Space Day

11 August Department of Enterprise
12 noon – 1:00 pm Services Lunch & Learn:
what you need to know about solicitation

27 August General Membership Meeting
10:00 am – 12 noon



CINDI BRIGHT

Provocateur of Change

by Linda Kennedy

You may have read Cindi Bright's thank you letter to Tabor 100 in the March issue of The Langston. She received a BBEF grant to assist her while she was writing her book, 'The Color of Courage.' The following is a thread of her life from clerk-typist to entrepreneur and author.

Cindi Bright says she 'fell' into her mission as she typed her father's homework when he was studying to be a paralegal and when, at seventeen, she worked as a clerk typist cum personnel advisor taking notes on labor disputes, grievances, and employee hearings. "I started to see that these disciplinary actions were always Black people. Why is it always Black people, what is the issue here?" That question began her grounding in labor issues.

She left her Vallejo, California, hometown, got a job at Weyerhaeuser, and started to climb the corporate ladder. She was a human resources manager. From there, a vice president at SAFECO insurance. "Then, I was recruited by Russell Investments" for a higher level HR directorship. "Again, I was in traditional white environments." Along the way, she received her MBA. Bright was an at-will employee and Russell fired her. "What they did to me was what they do to every Black woman who has the audacity to defend herself." She prevailed in court and the settlement was enough to propel her into her own business. Aside from her book, Cindi Bright has a radio show and podcast, 'HeartBeat Radio.' She speaks locally and nationally about her mission to "...crush racism in corporate America.

Corporate America does not want to hear it. Black people have to demand it. I've been doing all this to build an enterprise to move the ecosystem that is tearing Black people down. That's why I do what I do."

Bright says it's time for Black women to lead across the United States. "Black women are the ones who should

"Black women are the ones who should be prospering in this society."

– Cynidi Bright

be prospering in this society. We have to get Black women elected and in key positions. Traditional recruiting methods have failed. Those in charge don't know who we are." Bright says we need a version 2.0 of diversity and racial progress. Her advice for success to Black women? "Build your

own empire." In other words, don't put your future in the hands of the oppressors.

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TABOR 100 GALA AND CRYSTAL EAGLE AWARDS

2022

You've got less than two months to get ready for the biggest event of the year – Tabor 100's Captains of Industry Gala, Saturday, September 24 at the Waterfront Marriott, 2100 Alaskan Way.

While the Gala is always a big hit, this year, we are coming back from our last Gala which happened in 2019 (so long ago). This year we are pleased to recognize community members who have been advocates for our businesses for decades, but also to recognize some newcomers who have made a profound impact on the community. We tip our hats to 10 individuals and organizations that have made the road to success for Black and other minority businesses easier:

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

Former Seattle Mayor Norm Rice

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD:

Yolonda Brooks, Community Engagement, WSDOT

EDUCATION EXCELLENCE AWARD:

James Dorsey, CEO, College Success

EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD:

Girmay Zahilay, King County Councilmember

EXCELLENCE IN EQUITY & INCLUSION:

Shana Barehand, Business Diversity Manager, DES

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AWARD:

Cornerstone General Contractors

TABOR 100 2022 VANGUARD AWARD:

Rick Dimmer, Founder & Executive Director R3 Community Services

TABOR 100 LEGACY HALL OF FAME AWARD:

Dave Tyner, Former President & Founder, Tabor 100

TABOR 100 LADY OF VALOR AWARD:

Senator Patty Murray

SURPRISE AWARD: You must wait until the night of the Gala

If you've been, you know what's in store – a night featuring recognition of those who've distinguished themselves in our community, scholarships to deserving young people, networking galore, incredible auction items, inspiration and motivation, the dessert dash and a chance to be a part of history!

For more information on how to become a sponsor at any level, buy a table or a seat, donate an auction item, provide a cake for the dessert dash or support Tabor 100 in any way you see fit, contact gala@tabor100.org.

We look forward to seeing you on September 24!!!





MARCUS COLA

Dancer, Singer, Veteran, Electrician, AND Tabor Member. You're Welcome.

by Linda Kennedy

Anyone who owns a business will tell you the work is often from 'cain't see to cain't see.' Marcus Cola calls it humbling and warns that you have to be willing to do everything it takes. "I work anywhere from 60 to 70 hours a week," he said, "...conduct, strategize, and prepare for the down times. There's alot when you first start. And you need access to capital...We have had to scrape by." Cola owns Apex Electrical Group, opened in 2020.

Marcus Cola grew up all over the world because his father was in the Army. He is the middle child of nine and claims to be the extrovert in the bunch and the loudest. He always wanted own a business and studied hospitality business management and international business at WSU. He planned to be a chef and even had a scholarship to attend the CIA—Culinary Institute of America, that is. "Unfortunately, I was deployed and found myself in Iraq, since I was also in the military at the time." He served two tours. After that his life, "...took a turn for the worse...suffering with PTSD and the effects of war. I lost the spirit of humanity for a number of years and contemplated suicide." Seventeen of the men in his unit took their lives after returning from Iraq.

You can thank Marcus Cola for the ability to charge the electronic devices at your seat in the United Terminal at the airport. That was part of an on-call contract with the Port of Seattle.

Cola no longer wanted to finish college and be a chef. Still, he wanted to work with his hands. "I knew I wanted to look back at the end of the day and see the results of my hard work." He was accepted into VICE, Veterans in Construction Electric. "It was a brand new program for people getting out of the military. It gave me the opportunity to apply for an apprenticeship through IBEW Local 46, the Seattle based local."

Marcus Cola and a coworker started Apex Electrical Group two years ago. The business is certified by the state as an MBE, DBE, and as a business owned by a service disabled veteran (SDVBE). He says the best thing about owning his business is helping others "It extends my reach. And it allows me to work in a team again like I had in the military. I'm the first in my family to own a business."

Working with Prime Electric, you can thank Marcus Cola for the ability to charge your electronic devices at many locations at Sea-Tac. That was part of an on-call contract with the Port of Seattle. And in the next phase, Apex is planning to expand its scope to excavating for projects which require underground electrical installations. Apex is proud to be part

of Tabor 100. "The connections we've made at Tabor are great and are helping move our business forward." said Marcus. "Glad we joined!"

The Port has provided Apex with several opportunities and the firm is doing work in the airport baggage area helping the conveyor belts move your bags to the plane. In addition, Cola points out that his firm is also engaged with both Boeing and the FAA.

Marcus Cola, his wife, and two young sons are part of the non profit veterans' organization, QMissions, "...that helps veterans who are suffering from PTSD to heal through serving others. "You learn about the effects of war and how to combat those feelings."

Cola also sings and has danced internationally in Kenya, Cambodia, Mexico, and Japan. Cola



showcased his hip hop moves and vocals in a fundraiser for QMissions. Check it out on YouTube. Go to QMissions, then scroll down to "You're Welcome."

Cola hopes for a grant through Tabor's Business Equity Fund, but right now he enjoys networking at the monthly meetings and the possibility of partnering with other business owners who may need Apex Electrical Group to complete a project. "I believe it's important to grow with diverse firms."

Contact Marcus Cola:
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509-592-3694

Want to contribute to Q Missions? qmissions.org



Feel the Power, Join Tabor!

Tabor 100 is an association of entrepreneurs and business advocates who are committed to economic power, educational excellence, and social equity for African Americans and the community at large.

General Members Meeting



Events and Outings



Don't Miss an Issue

Be sure to add our email address; communications@tabor100.org to your address book, so important news from Tabor doesn't end up in your spam folder.

Share Tabor

Do you know someone you feel is a great fit for Tabor 100 membership? Take this opportunity to expand our territory by sharing Tabor with a friend or colleague who could benefit from all the great business opportunities, connections, and networking Tabor has to offer.

Check out three ways you can share Tabor right now:

- 1 Forward a copy of the electronic version of The Langston news magazine.
- 2 Click the three dots at the top of the Tabor 100 Facebook page and click share on the pull-down.
- 3 Invite a friend or colleague to have breakfast with us at our next monthly meeting.

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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>