

# The *Langston*

Vol 21 Iss 6

Tabor 100 Newsletter



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OFFICER

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JUNE 2022

  
Tabor

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Visit our website: [www.tabor100.org](http://www.tabor100.org)  
Social Media Handle: @Tabor100

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## Message from the President

Ollie Garrett | CEO and President

I usually do not dwell on past issues of the “Langston,” but last month’s issue that featured our namesake Langston Tabor, was very moving for me. We featured seldom-seen pictures of Langston and told the story of his life and commitment. It was a wonderful reminder of who and what we are. Our mission is to live up to the ideals of Langston Tabor. Growing our businesses, assisting those who want to start businesses and being an asset to the minority community is our mission.

In carrying out our mission, we sponsor an annual Gala where we raise funds for scholarships, discounted office space and other projects to promote minority businesses. Mark Saturday,

September 24 for this year’s Gala from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Seattle Waterfront Marriott.

There will be lots of networking and reconnecting at the event especially because we’ve not had one for a few years now. The Gala is one of the most exciting and rewarding Tabor activities for me personally. While we hope to fundraise for the event, it is also important for all of

us to recommit ourselves to selfless service. I encourage you to purchase a table or two, bring family and friends and celebrate with us. And if you want to be on the “inside” and help plan this extravaganza, contact Darci Henderson at [darci.henderson@tabor100.org](mailto:darci.henderson@tabor100.org)

**“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 a permanent ordinance.”**

– Exodus 12:14

I would be remiss if I also didn’t urge you to be an attendee, or possibly a sponsor, of the Regional Contracting Forum, sponsored this year by WSDOT and Sound Transit. The event takes place Wednesday, September 21 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Greater Tacoma Convention Center, 1500 Commerce St., Tacoma 98402, and features a matchmaker event in which smaller businesses have the chance to

spend quality time with larger firms explaining their capabilities and determining whether they are a match. Contact Yolonda Brooks at [Brooksy@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:Brooksy@wsdot.wa.gov)

As I always end my President’s messages, I want to encourage each of you to become active in Tabor 100. We are committed to community and can use your talents to continue to grow our organization and by getting involved, it can help your business. We have several active committees and you can find our committee chair’s contact information in this newsletter and are always looking for volunteers. We are only as good as our members and their involvement in the organization.





# SHERLINE WILSON

## Working in the Present: WERE's New Executive Director

by Linda Kennedy

**WERE** The word, itself, is past tense. WERE, the organization, is anything but. The Washington Employers for Racial Equity is up front and definitely in the present. It is a coalition of private sector leaders and CEOs dedicated to equity and advancement for Black people in the workplace and fostering investment in Black-owned businesses. Shirline Wilson is WERE's new Executive Director.

"I am encouraged by the aspirations and goals set out by members of the WERE coalition and their shared desire to realize authentic progress," Wilson said. "Collectively, we all must challenge ourselves, and be willing to be uncomfortable, if we are to get to the heart of the work necessary to make progress. It will be challenging work and I am honored to serve this mission at this critical stage." Wilson will also lead the efforts, along with stakeholders, to move the needle on racial equity in the State.

"We are thrilled to welcome Shirline to this effort. She brings deep experience in the private sector and as a coalition and community builder, which is essential to advancing the coalition's work to support an equitable future for Black Washingtonians," said Chris Gregoire, CEO of Challenge Seattle, a founding sponsor of the WERE coalition.

Shirline Wilson spent the last seven years as the state executive director for Education Reform Now Washington. As such, she managed a group of leaders from several organizations and was the liaison between them and state agencies, legislators, community-based organizations, and civil rights groups. Wilson was also one of the creators of the education improvement group, Black Joy Consortium, which



focuses on Black students and families. Wilson attended the University of Washington and has a master's degree in education policy.

WERE is committed to racial equity in Washington State. The eighteen-month-old group is beginning its work with Black Washingtonians because of the centuries-

**WERE is a coalition of private sector leaders and CEOs dedicated to equity and advancement for Black people in the workplace and fostering investment in Black-owned businesses.**

long injustice and unequal treatment of Black people. The group plans to listen, learn, and set goals. WERE's website promises to measure and report on collective progress.

"While a need for more robust and better data remains, this first report provides a baseline from which we will set goals and catalyze efforts to advance equity in our workplaces."

Best of luck, Shirline Wilson!

*Want more information? Read the WERE report at: [employers4equity.org](http://employers4equity.org)*

### Tabor 100 Visitor Report (Door Swings)

Total Visitors June 2022 - 328  
Visitors 2022 YTD - 2,336

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

### New Members - JUNE

**Kristine Augers**  
HNTB Corporation

**Masozi Nyirenda**  
Department of Enterprise Services

**Darrell Jones**  
Dont Stall Con

**Don D. Plowman**  
Teknon

**Angela Parker**  
Department of Enterprise Services



## SAVE the DATE

**23 July**  
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

**OMWBE Summer Certification Workshop:**  
In person session

**20 July**  
12 noon - 1:00 pm

**DES: How to do Business with the State**

**30 July**  
10:00 am - 12:00 noon

**General Membership Meeting**



## WE HAVE OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

- 1 Private Office | Seats 2
- 1 Private Office
- 4 Full Cubicals
- 2 Desks

For more info please contact  
[Aybee.Anderson@tabor100.org](mailto:Aybee.Anderson@tabor100.org)  
425.528.0113

"Prospering where we are planted"



TABOR 100 GALA & CRYSTAL EAGLE AWARDS

"PROSPERING WHERE WE ARE PLANTED"

*Save the Date*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24  
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

SEATTLE WATERFRONT MARRIOTT  
2100 ALASKAN WAY | SEATTLE, WA  
SEMI-FORMAL ATTIRE



## TERRY BLAKE

King County's New Chief Procurement Officer

by Linda Kennedy

**C**ongratulations to Terry Blake! Blake is King County's Chief Procurement Officer (CPO). "I am very excited for this leadership opportunity," said Blake. One of my first priorities will be listening to community-based organizations, such as Tabor 100, on how to strengthen partnerships that produce measurable results."

Terry spent the last sixteen years in procurement and supplier management roles. He is well-known as an innovator, creating both training and mentoring programs for his procurement team members. In the past, he worked at Expedia, Inc. as the Director of Procurement Tools and Data Intelligence. There he founded and directed the Technology Strategic Sourcing team. He also worked as a Senior Manager for Client Services Delivery at Accenture where he received the "Fire Starter Award" for innovation and leadership.

In November, 2020, Terry began consulting with King County. He worked to enhance project management and executive reporting. He also helped decision makers with corrections for the County's property tax system replacement project. Blake has big plans for his new role. "I plan on demonstrating the importance of pro-equity contracting principles in creating and sustaining a healthy, and strong economic environment for MWBE businesses and the citizens of King County."

"Terry fully understands that achieving results for pro-equity contracting is a top priority for King County," says Director of Finance and Business Operations, Ken Guy. "He's demonstrated an ability throughout his career to lead transformational change and build relationships that produce results. I'm confident he's the right leader at the right time to deliver on pro-equity contracting."

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Terry and Sandy Hanks, the County's Business Development and Contract Compliance Manager, will collaborate with other county agencies to implement equitable contracting in the County's small business program. King County Executive Dow Constantine, expects more participation by MWBE firms. Toward that end, State certified MWBEs now automatically qualify as small contractors and suppliers (SCS) with King County, making these MWBE firms immediately eligible for County contracting opportunities.

When Terry Blake is not working, he likes to travel, meet new people, and learn new things from their perspectives. He has been to North Korea, China, Eastern Europe, and India. But his place to "recharge" is the Sierra Nevada mountains where he was born and raised. On his desk, you will notice a dictionary and a stopwatch. They are gifts from his grandfather to remind him that 'words are powerful' and 'time passes quickly.'



# Black Coffee Northwest: More Than a Coffee Shop

by Linda Kennedy

Ever wonder what really happens to the Black Business Equity Fund (BBEF) money that Tabor 100 acquires? Black Coffee Northwest Cafe owner Erwin Weary is happy to tell you. “I am in business now because of Tabor 100. I just bought a new oven so we can make hot sandwiches. Now I can paint and pay for rewiring,” said Weary. “I am open only from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m., so I lose business. I will hire more staff and have longer hours. This money helps our business tremendously!”

Erwin and Damesha Weary planned to open their Shoreline coffee shop on October 1, 2020. But that day, their shop was hit by a molotov cocktail. Despite Nazi symbols, racial slurs and broken windows, they opened two weeks later. “I wasn’t going to let anyone drive us out.” Right after the opening, Black Coffee Northwest started registering voters. They were able to get a pop up vaccination station in their parking lot. “We are very community minded. We are a Black owned business

helping our community. We stand up for justice and our own people. We’re honest about that.”

The Wearys don’t just sell coffee. They host movie nights, barbecue cook offs, game nights, car shows, carnivals, and even ‘relationship panels’ for couples and singles to talk. “Coffee is just a small thing that we do. We are a destination spot.” Weary jokes. And he says there’s a vibe about the place. “When you come here, you feel it, you see the art, you feel it in how we treat each other and our customers. You know you belong when you’re here. I don’t know what the recipe is on that.”

Edwin and Damesha Weary also have a non-profit called ‘Grounded’ (pun intended). It caters to people fifteen to twenty-five years old. “We’re a Black business and people expect to see Black baristas. We could not find any.” So they started an internship program to teach the skill. They also teach soft skills necessary in the world of work, such as being on time and greeting customers. The



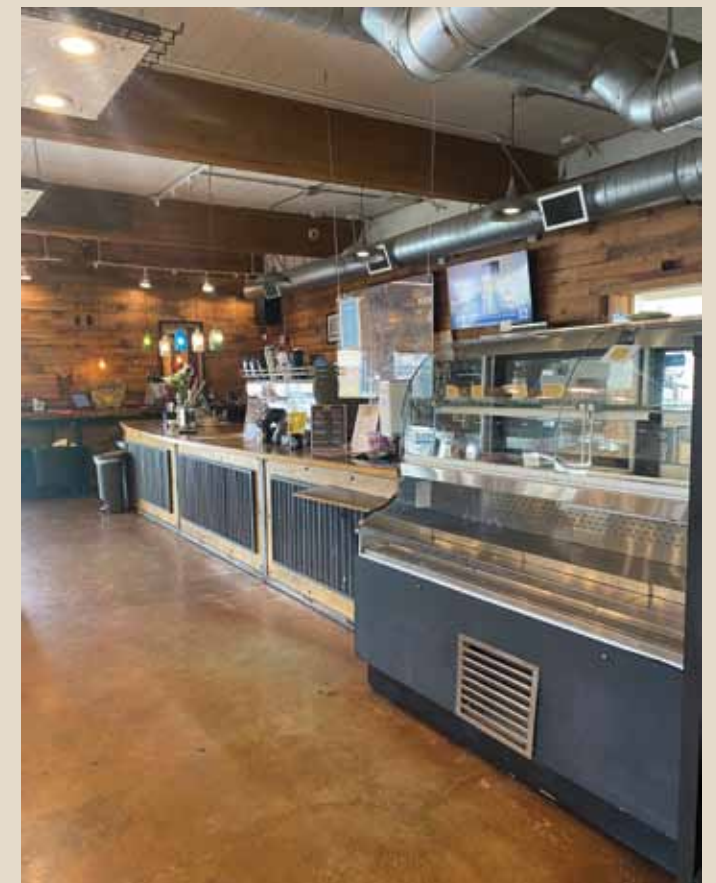
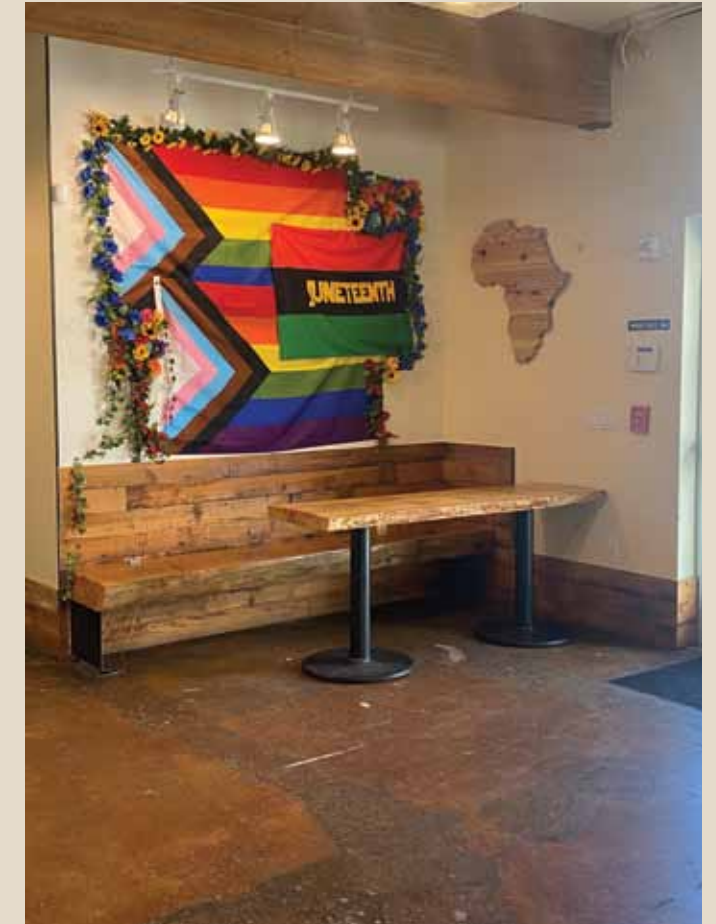
social justice side of Grounded helps the interns see the world as it is and realize they can make it better.

The Wearys have something to prove. They want to show people that they can do amazing things. Their business is not a charity case. “You know how people say, ‘Oh. You’re a Black- owned business, I bet you don’t make coffee that well, but we’ll support you.’ We actually have really good coffee and we are very competitive about our product.”

Edwin Weary grew up in Yakima and graduated from Eastern Washington University. He says he’s a ‘techie’ and spent some time at Microsoft. He’s also owned a vending machine company and just before opening the coffee shop he worked for a solar power company. But the coffee shop has always been a dream. “Twenty-four years ago, I met my wife over coffee. We both love coffee and a year later, we got married. Over the years we talked about opening a coffee shop. We even had a written business plan. I look around and that plan had everything we are doing now. It was a dream and I guess we spoke it into existence.”

Visit [www.blackcoffeenw.com](http://www.blackcoffeenw.com) for Events calendar, merchandise, youth programs and access to their podcast. They can be found on Facebook and Instagram.

**Black Coffee Northwest Cafe**  
16743 Aurora Ave North  
Shoreline, WA 98166



*The day Black Coffee was scheduled to open, it was hit by a molotov cocktail and defaced with Nazi symbols and racial slurs.*

# 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](mailto: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.

This newsletter is produced in partnership with:



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# TABOR 100

Photography by Keith Williams | [flyrightproductions@gmail.com](mailto:flyrightproductions@gmail.com)



# 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>