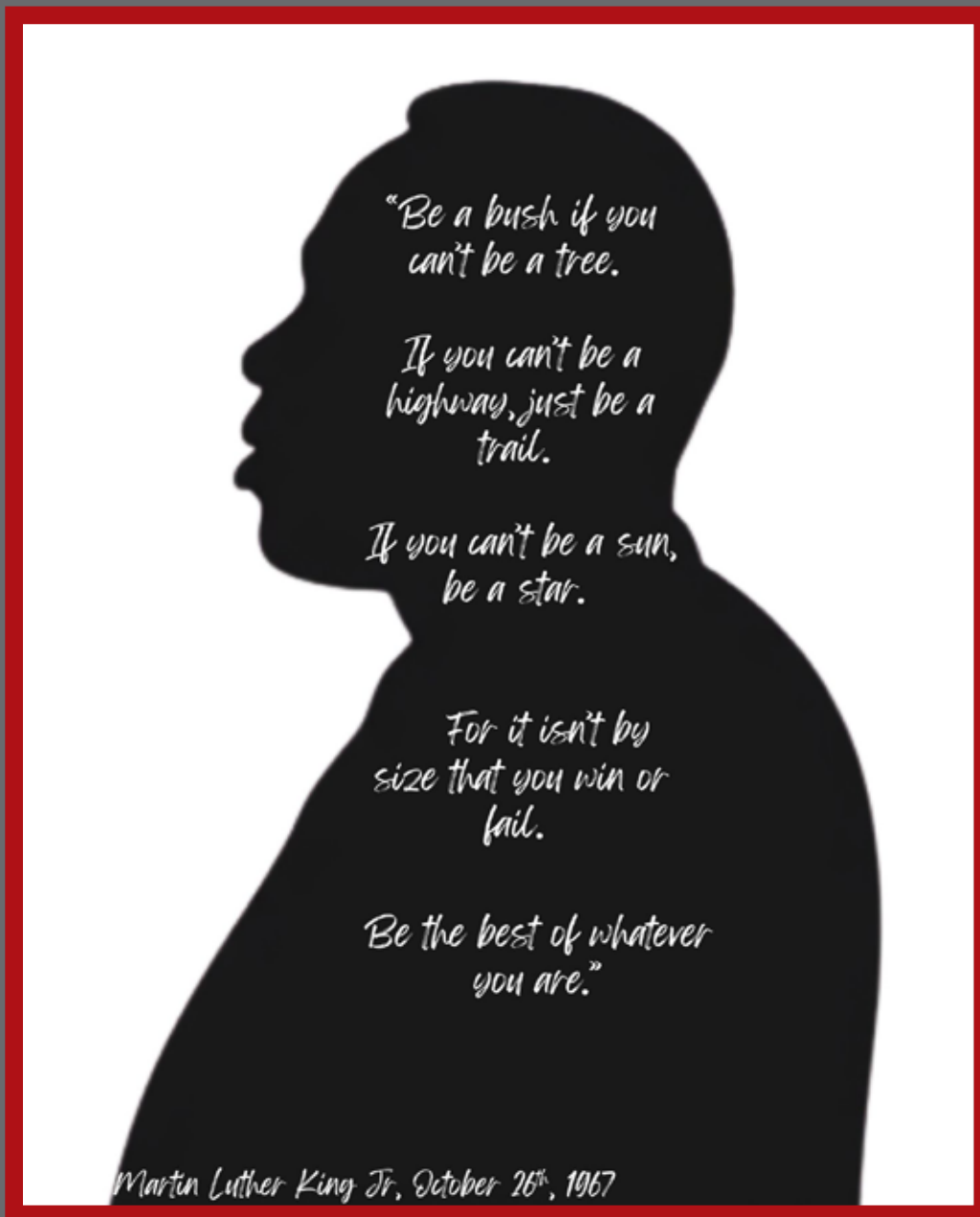


The Langston

Vol 26 Iss 1

Tabor 100 Newsletter



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Visit our website: www.tabor100.org
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Welcome to 2026. As we step into this new year together, I want to be honest about where we are and clear about where we're going.

We are living in very unsettling times. As minority entrepreneurs, we have always faced obstacles, but over the last year the level of difficulty has intensified, particularly at the federal level, with no clear end in sight. These challenges are real, and they demand that we be both strategic and resilient.

Prospering in times like these does not happen by accident. It requires intention, collaboration, and access to the right resources. This is where Tabor 100 continues to lead. We are standing against injustice while actively equipping minority entrepreneurs with the tools, connections, and advocacy needed not just to survive but to thrive.

History reminds us that times like these do not last forever. The pendulum always swings. Until it does, we must lean on one another, work together, and strengthen our collective economic power. Community is not optional in moments like this, it is essential.

On the right are some opportunities designed to help make your business more competitive and position you for success in the months ahead:

I hope these opportunities help you move forward with

confidence and provide meaningful ways to support other minority-owned businesses as you grow. Be sure to stay connected through Tabor100.org and OMWBE.wa.gov, as new events and resources are added regularly.

As we move through this season together, I'm reminded of this scripture:

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another."

Have a Blessed "2026."

Ollie Garrett
CEO and President

1. Attend the Tabor 100 General Membership meetings
2. REAPPLY FOR FEDERAL DBE STATUS: Tabor 100 can help.
3. Attend the Black-Owned Business Excellence Symposium on February 1 at the Seattle Public Library
4. Attend "Contracting Coffee Hour" at 9:30 a.m., Monday, February
5. Attend one of the monthly OMWBE certification workshops with the next one at Tabor 100 on Wednesday, Feb 4 (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.)
6. Attend Part 1 and Part 2 of Tabor's Capability Statement Workshop Wednesday and Thursday, February 18 and 19 (6 p.m. to 8 p.m. each day)
7. Attend and/or sell your products at the Black History Month Business Showcase at Tabor 100's offices, Wednesday, February 25 (12 p.m. to 7 p.m.)



Door Swings

January 2026 Visits | 202
Since Opening | 35,239

We must stand together –
Still, we Rise!



SAVE the DATE

4 February **OMWBE Certification Workshop**
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
@ The Hub

5 February **Sound Transit Monthly Vendor Onboarding Session**
10 – 11:00 AM
@ The Hub

10 AM – 12:00 PM **Skanska Small Business Academy: Building Connected Mock Bid Workshop**
@ The Hub

18 February **Capability Statement Workshop (Part 1/2)**
6–8:00 PM
@ The Hub

19 February **Capability Statement Workshop (Part 2/2)**
6–8:00 PM
@ The Hub

24 February **OSHA 10 Certification Class (Part 1/2)**
4–9:00 PM
@ The Hub
Disclaimer: Participants must attend both parts to get certified.

26 February **OSHA 10 Certification Class (Part 2/2)**
4–9:00 PM
@ The Hub
Disclaimer: Participants must attend both parts to get certified.

New Members – JANUARY

Dalis L La Grotta
Dalis La Grotta
Counseling PLLC

De Anna Thomas
All Things MOMS

Jeff Gray
Lean Revisions

Jill Mellecker
Cornerstone General Contractors

Josette Wicker
Josette Wicker

Nila Griffin
Golden Griffin LLC

Patricia Ovando
Haven Rebuild LLC

Sadia Hirsi
Sadia Hirsi

Thomas Jordan
CETS LLC

Tony Hawkins
Pacific Link North West

Virginia Bethea
Seattle Public Schools

Linda Lowry
Year Up United

Have a question related to labor laws?

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



Seattle Office of
Labor Standards



POWERING PROGRESS. CONNECTING WHAT MATTERS.



**Take root. Join The City of Seattle's
Small Business Roster today and
help build the future.**

Moving Forward and Becoming Great is Good Enough

Originally a professional basketball player, Garry Priam of Diventa Solutions's athletic ventures led him to live abroad in Italy for nine years across six different cities. Garry's time in Italy had a lasting impact on him. His fluency in Italian and work as a published Italian author shaped his perspective as both a person and a professional consultant. Making it a tradition to bestow his businesses with Italian names, Garry's most recent venture, "Diventa" (meaning "to become"), embodies his belief that anybody can become something great.



TABOR 100 CONSULTANT HIGHLIGHT

GARRY PRIAM DIVENTA SOLUTIONS LLC



"I would consider myself to be a really good listener," Garry said. "Everybody here has something to offer, and we're all amazing creatures."

During his Italian basketball career, the owners and sponsors of Garry's teams would sometimes ask him and his teammates to lead team-building initiatives and deliver keynote speeches focused on leadership development. Realizing he loved and looked forward to these events, combined with a passion to work for himself, helped plant the seeds for Garry to invest in himself, leading to the creation of his first business.

"I was actually doing these keynote speeches in Italian," he said. "If I can do this in Italian, I can do this in English!"

Eventually moving from Italy to Canada, Garry would go on to create his first consulting company in 1999, "Mossa," Italian for "to move." Focusing on organizational development, change management, and strategic planning, Garry assisted businesses from a variety of industries and sizes.

Garry learned the importance of homing in on what he was naturally strong in, combined with surrounding himself with people who wanted him to succeed and possessed unique strengths and gifts different from his own.

"Focus on your strengths," Garry emphasized. "Then bring in other people to help you."

As Garry's network and experience grew, most of his projects came from referrals and connections he made as long as 15-to-20 years ago. This culminated into one of his most formative experiences when he

got a contract with "Kal Tire" (think Canada's version of America's "Les Schwab" as they have the same business model). Garry reached out to the vice president of human resources, who remembered him from a networking event years earlier, where they spoke in Italian. She later talked to the vice president of training and development about Garry and recommended that he be brought on as a contractor.

Needless to say, Garry got the contract.

What was thought to be a 9-month contract expanded into a two-year endeavor. Garry and the rest of the contract consultants got the opportunity to actually work in the stores for five months doing oil changes, tire rotations, brake jobs, going on sales calls and all the other tasks of working at a tire store. This enhanced the facilitation of the training and ERP project and everyone at Kal Tire from the President to Administrators are required to work in the stores for 6-to 9-months with customers and alongside employees so they can speak to pain points and areas of growth from personal experience.

"It was really difficult, but we learned so much!" he exclaimed. "The leaders know the pain points [like] how long it takes to do the work, because they've been in the trenches."

Eventually moving from Canada to the United States, Garry opened his second consulting Company "Diventa Solutions LLC" in 2023, providing similar services as Mossa, helping organizations become more inclusive, cohesive, and successful.

Garry is also involved with Tabor 100 and heard about Tabor originally from a fellow consultant at a Seattle networking event about a year after moving to Washington. Becoming a Tabor 100 consultant, has allowed Garry to grow his practice, his professional network, and work with a variety of people.

Through his consultantship with Tabor 100's Technical Assistance (TA) Program, Garry has provided vital TA services to small minority-owned businesses through Diventa Solutions, such as business development, coaching and marketing support. Currently, Diventa Solutions is one of the consulting firms actively providing Personal Narrative-writing services assisting in certification renewals of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) with Washington's Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises.

"It's been an excellent business relationship being a part of Tabor 100" Garry said. "I've met some great people there!"

When it comes to takeaways as a consultant and business owner, Garry touched on themes of being a lifelong learner, using opportunities like his professional workshops to teach and to learn from his students and to grow as a professional and person.

"You have to create a magic potion where you have to have a whole lot of belief, [and] a whole lot of craziness," he said.

Garry stressed that aspiring entrepreneurs and business owners should spend less time chasing perfection at the outset and more time putting something solid and workable into the world, recognizing that progress often comes first and refinement follows.

"Good is good enough," he said. "You can try making it perfect, but we're all perfectly imperfect."

For more information on Diventa Solutions, visit www.diventasolutions.com

To request Technical Assistance through Tabor 100, complete an initial intake form at tabor100.org/technicalassistance



Holiday Season Highlights



Membership Meeting



BLACK OWNED BUSINESS SHOWCASE



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Scan to Register



Free to Attend

Come join us to support, connect, and celebrate outstanding Black-owned businesses in our community as we honor Black History Month.

 **FEB 25TH, 2026**
12PM - 7PM

 **7100 FORT DENT WAY,
SUITE 100
TUKWILA, WA 98188**

BLACK HISTORY MONTH IS A TIME TO HONOR THE PROFOUND CONTRIBUTIONS, RESILIENCE, AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF BLACK INDIVIDUALS THROUGHOUT HISTORY. IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT ON THE STRUGGLES OVERCOME, CELEBRATE THE RICH HERITAGE, AND RECOGNIZE THE ONGOING JOURNEY TOWARD EQUALITY AND JUSTICE. TOGETHER, LET'S AMPLIFY VOICES, STORIES, AND PROGRESS. **COME JOIN US!**

Are you a black owned business interested in hosting a free table?
[CLICK HERE](https://tabor100.org/eventscalendar/) or Visit tabor100.org/eventscalendar/



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>