

The Langston

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Tabor 100 Newsletter



*"No man knows what he
can do until he tries"*

-Carter G. Woodson

FEBRUARY 2026


Tabor

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Another Black History Month

Each year, Black History Month gives us a moment to reflect. This year, it also reminds us why the work cannot stop.

No matter what efforts may surface to minimize or erase the contributions of Black and Brown people from the American story, Tabor 100 remains unwavering. Our history matters. Our impact matters. And we will continue to make sure it is seen, heard, and honored.

But recognition alone is not enough.

Last week, we proudly sponsored the 2nd Annual Black History Month Business Showcase. Thank you to the vendors who showed up with excellence and to everyone who supported them through your purchases. Economic empowerment is more than a theme, it is action. We hope you discovered outstanding local businesses and will continue to invest in them long after February ends.

At the same time, we are witnessing significant milestones right here at home.

"I urge, then, first of all that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority."

– 1 Timothy 2:1–2

January meeting shortly after being elected President of the Seattle City Council. Seattle also welcomed its first African woman City Attorney, Erika Evans. Today, three African Americans serve on the Seattle City Council. Executive Zahilay nominated three African American women to fill County Council seats, and one of them, Rhonda Lewis, became the first African American woman ever to serve on the King County Council.

These are historic achievements. They deserve recognition.

Yet we must never forget the shoulders upon which this progress stands.

In 1968, Sam Smith became the first Black member of the Seattle City Council, serving for 24 years. In

1986, Ron Sims became the first Black member of the King County Council and later served as King County Executive until 2009. Larry Gossett joined the Council in 1994 and served until 2020. We also honor Seattle's first two Black mayors, Norm Rice and Bruce Harrell.

Progress did not happen overnight. It was built, decision by decision, vote by vote, sacrifice by sacrifice.

At Tabor 100, we recognize that our responsibility is not only to celebrate history but to extend it. We stand on the foundation laid by those who came before us, and we are committed to strengthening and advancing that legacy through economic power, leadership, and collective action.

Let us celebrate. Let us build. And let us continue moving forward—together. ▀

Ollie Garrett
CEO and President



Girmay Zahilay, now the second Black person and the youngest ever King County Executive, joined us at last month's General Membership Meeting. Seattle City Councilmember Joy Hollingsworth attended our

Door Swings

February 2026 Visits | 625
Since Opening | 35,662

We must stand together –
Still, we Rise!



Tabor ACTION REQUIRED FOR ALL DBES & ACDBES FIRMS!

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has issued a new federal rule affecting the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Airport Concession DBE (ACDBE) programs. As of October 3, 2025, race- and gender-based presumptions of disadvantage have been eliminated.

SAVE the DATE

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

25 March
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
@ The Hub
OMWBE Certification Workshop

New Members – FEBRUARY

Loi Lumala
*Esperanza Hope
Immigration*

Javier Moran
Bright Plumbing

Aaron Holm
Helix

Darnell Richardson
JMR Trucking, Inc.

Kelly Bolen
Pandora Industries, LLC

Sylvia Feliciano
Solace Mind, LLC

Kathleen Schirmer
Marine Vacuum Service

Ken Valder
Akana

Have a question related to labor laws?

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



 **Seattle Office of
Labor Standards**

How Tabor 100 Can Help?

We are providing assistance FREE of charge :

- One-on-one application assistance
- Guidance in preparing social & economic disadvantage narratives
- Document review and submission support
- Guidance through the full re-evaluation process

SCAN OR CLICK,
GET HELP TODAY !



[CLICK HERE](#)

Building For His Family, His Community, Himself

A lifelong learner with over 20 years of experience in the construction industry, Abdull Khamis (PMP, MS) has always dreamed of investing in himself and owning his own company one day.

Founded in 2022, Abdull created Absons Project Management, a construction-focused project management company that ensure's it's customer's projects are successful. When asked what motivated him to invest in himself and his own practice, Abdull touched on the financial stability Absons Project Management has brought both for himself and his family.



PHOTO CREDIT: Absons Project Management

TABOR 100 OMWBE NARRATIVE HIGHLIGHT

ABDULL KHAMIS ABSONS PROJECT MANAGEMENT

“I’ve always wanted to have my own business and be my own boss one day,” Abudll said.

However, Abdull also emphasized his desire to use his platform to support other aspiring entrepreneurs from underrepresented & historically marginalized communities, such as the Black/African American community, in achieving their dreams as well. He mentioned how a lot of his colleagues possess great skill sets and sometimes just need some encouragement, learning how to channel their skill sets into building up their own capabilities and their own professional network.

“I want to help bring opportunities to people like me in the business,” he said. “So that they can help their families too.”

While Absons Project Management has experienced significant contracting achievements, including large campus modernization projects with Microsoft and complex multi-family housing unities in Seattle, WA, Abdull credits his largest achievement to the professional network he’s created along the



PHOTO CREDIT: Absons Project Management

way. From non-profit organizations such as Apex Accelerator, Tabor 100 and SBDC, to connections he’s made with federal and state government agencies like WSDOT, Sound Transit and City of Seattle, Abdull spoke to the pride he takes in the supportive network he’s taken the time to build for himself and others.

“I get to be myself everywhere,” he mentioned. “Achievement is getting contracts, but for me, achievement is also being able to connect with all of these big agencies.”

The road to success is never easy, though, and it isn’t meant to be walked alone. When you’re a new business owner, you’re already competing with established competitors who have a proven track record and preexisting relationships with potential clients. But when you’re a minority owned business, you face additional challenges.

Most recently, one of these additional challenges was fighting to maintain his Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certification, a status focused on leveling the playing field of equal access to contracting opportunities towards entrepreneurs of historically disadvantaged and marginalized groups.

As of October 3rd, 2025, due to new policy changes implemented by the United States’ federal government administration, minority-owned businesses owners were required to apply for their DBE status, even if they received approval in the past. Needing to submit to their request to Washington State’s OMWBE, the application process requires applicants to provide very specific examples of their lived experience and meet very specific criteria.

Otherwise, they’d risk losing their DBE status.

Absons Project Management was one of many businesses affected. They are also one of the many businesses who reached out for help with navigating it.

“Everyone who was talking about it was shocked” Abdull emphasized. “Everybody was depending on this program, including myself.”

A member of Tabor 100 who’s received assistance previously, Abdull learned Tabor was offering free technical assistance to businesses who needed help in writing and editing their narrative for submission to OMWBE, submitting an intake form to request services. Within two days of his submission, Abdull received one-

on-one assistance from Tabor 100 directly in helping him review and edit his narrative to make sure it met all the requirements.

Abdull submitted his narrative statement shortly after receiving help from Tabor 100. Shortly after that, his narrative was approved- Absons Project Management would keep it’s DBE status.

Needless to say, he was beyond excited and relieved.

“Your heart, it pumps fast whether it’s for good or for bad” Abdull described when he initially saw the notification in his email inbox regarding the decision on his status. “So when they said ‘hey, you’re approved, I said WOW! It was great!”

Thinking about the legacy and impact of Absons Project Management, Abdull spoke to the importance of being able to leave

the business to his children one day, keeping it in the family, hoping the company will continue long after his time with it has passed. With this sentiment, though, Abdull desires a greater impact:

Community building and inspiration. Using his success to show others that they can start their own business, like he once dreamed about not too long ago.

“This business will be a tool for other people to have their own business,” Abdull stated. “As long as you focus, put in your efforts and desire to do anything, you will achieve and get where you want to be.”

For more information on Absons Project Management, www.absonspm.com.

To request Technical Assistance from Tabor 100, visit tabor100.org/technicalassistance. ▶



PHOTO CREDIT: Absons Project Management

NEW TEAM MEMBER

Jason Tran



Hello! My name is Jason, and I am the newest team

member and intern at Tabor 100! I approach each day with the belief that growth is always possible. Whether I'm facilitating a team, supporting customers, or improving daily operations, I try to remain present and pay attention to what each moment has to teach. I've learned that every workplace, every interaction, and every challenge contains knowledge—if we're willing to look for it and improve on it. I find the same kind of learning not only through experiences, but through people. Each conversation, each story, and each perspective has value.

Books, tools, and the environments we work in can be teachers too, and I enjoy immersing myself in them the way others

might immerse themselves in music or art. Among my strengths, I would say that curiosity stands out the most. I am always asking, "How can this

be improved?" or "Why does this process work the way it does?" That constant questioning has helped me analyze workflows, strengthen communication, and support better outcomes for the teams I've worked with. I believe that a willingness to observe, learn, and adapt—moment by moment—is one of the greatest abilities anyone can bring into their personal and professional life.

I am proud to say I am conversational in Vietnamese, and am currently introducing myself to Spanish and French. When it comes to other personal and professional skillsets, I have been honing in on soft skills such as public speaking, self-advocacy,

"Your journey is shaped not by the miles you've already walked, but by the courage you bring to the steps ahead."

– Author unknown

and leadership, as well as hard skills such as data entry & analysis, workflow optimization, market research, financial statements reporting, and much

more! I also possess professional certifications such as American Red Cross CPR/AED, Scrum & Microsoft Excel Associate.

My career goals are to complete the Year Up United program and secure a role in the Project Management field. From there, I plan to explore new growth opportunities that will help me advance in my career and build long-term financial stability. I also aspire to make a meaningful impact at the company I join by contributing to strong team collaboration, effective project outcomes, and continuous improvement.

Ultimately, I aim to achieve a level of success that enables me to support my family and the future family I hope to build.

I look forward to getting to know and working with you all! ▶



POWERING PROGRESS. CONNECTING WHAT MATTERS.



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

February 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>