

# *The Langston*

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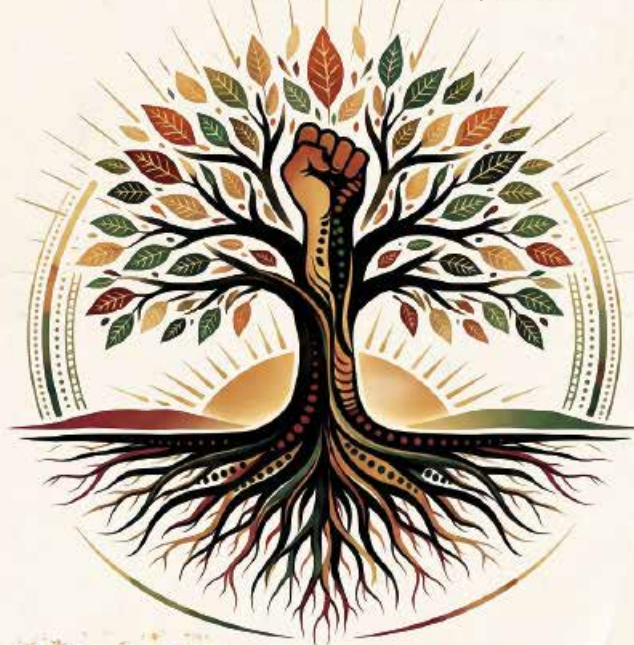
Tabor 100 Newsletter

TABOR 100 PRESENTS

THE 25TH ANNUAL  
CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY  
GALA

SAVE THE DATE FOR AN EVENING OF LEGACY,  
LEADERSHIP, AND CELEBRATION.

SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2026



ROOTED IN JUSTICE,  
RISING IN POWER

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

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**It is already April, and we are continuing to navigate significant shifts in the overall business climate.**

I hope you and your family are doing well. As always, I want to remind you that Tabor 100 is here as a resource, a connector, and a catalyst to help you move your business vision forward.

This year, we move with intention under our 2026 theme: **“Rooted in Justice, Rising in Power.”**

This is more than a statement, it is a call to action.

We are rooted in justice through our long-standing commitment to equity, access, and advocacy for minority businesses. That foundation has carried us this far. Now, we must focus on rising in power, economically, strategically, and collectively. That means building stronger businesses, accessing larger contracts, securing capital, and positioning ourselves where decisions are made.

We have now surpassed 500 members, far beyond the original vision of 100. That kind of growth does not happen by chance.

It happens because this community understands the value of connection, collaboration, and shared purpose.

But growth alone is not the goal, impact is. And impact comes when each of us takes full advantage of the opportunities in front of us.

While I often use this message to speak on broader issues affecting minority businesses, this month I want to focus on how Tabor 100 is actively helping you rise.



**“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”**

— Luke 6:38

Since opening the Tabor 100 Business Development Center in 2020, we have welcomed more than 36,000 visitors. That is 36,000 moments of access, information, and opportunity. Our weekly drop-in sessions connect you directly with contracting experts from the City of Seattle, King County, State Departments of Transportation, Equity, Commerce and Enterprise Services, the Port of Seattle, and the Office of Minority and Women’s Business Enterprises. These are not passive conversations; these are pathways to doing business. If you are serious about growth, you should be in those rooms. Visit [Tabor100.org](http://Tabor100.org) for details.

Our Business Development Center also continues to expand as a hub for engagement. Public and private partners are choosing this space to host outreach sessions that connect directly with our members. That visibility matters. That access matters. And it positions you to compete and win. Financial power is just as critical.

Through our loan programs and targeted assistance efforts, including support for initiatives like electric vehicle acquisition, we are helping businesses secure the capital needed to scale. Since launching the Black Business Development Fund in 2020, we have delivered real financial support to our members. Today, through our partnership with King County Workforce Development, we are expanding those opportunities even further.

**Being rooted in justice gives us purpose. Rising in power requires action.**  
Tabor 100 is building the platform, but it is up to each of you to step forward, engage, and take full advantage of what is being offered. This is the time to position your business for growth, for contracts, and for long-term success.

Thank you for reading, and more importantly, thank you for being part of a community that continues to push forward.

**Ollie Garrett**  
*CEO and President*

# Door Swings

April 2026 Visits | 1,252  
Since Opening | 36,289

We must stand together –  
Still, we Rise!



## DES Strengthens its Commitment to Business Diversity

DES is improving how it serves businesses and communities across Washington.

**A**ct now: Get certified to be counted on DES public works projects. DES is making an important update to how small businesses are recognized on public works projects. This change takes effect July 1, and businesses should take steps now to prepare.

Starting July 1, DES will use the Public Works Small Business Enterprise (PWSBE) certification from the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE) to count small business participation on DES public works projects.

This update creates a consistent and reliable way for agencies to count participation of small businesses and helps ensure they receive credit for the work they performed.

### What's changing

Businesses should continue to register in Euna — DES' public works bidding portal — to bid on opportunities. However, starting July 1, agencies will only use PWSBE certification to track and report small business participation on DES public works projects.

You can still bid and work on public works projects without certification. However, if your business is certified as PWSBE, state agencies and prime contractors can count your participation for participation goals.

### Why this matters

Public works projects include goals to increase participation by small businesses. Using certification helps ensure that the state measures participation consistently and that businesses are recognized accurately.

Certification confirms that businesses meet established small business standards, creating a shared understanding of who qualifies as a small business, and aligns with existing guidelines used across the state.

In short, certification helps create a fair and transparent way to recognize small business participation and support long-term opportunity.

### What you should do now

If you want your business to be counted toward small business participation goals on DES public works projects:

- Check if your business is certified as PWSBE — if you're MWBE, you're already opted in!
- Learn more about certification
- Consider if certification supports your business goals

Again, this change does not affect your ability to bid on or work on projects — but if you're not certified, agencies won't be able to count your work toward their small business goals.

### Looking ahead

DES is expanding opportunities for small businesses and making sure participation is recognized in a fair and consistent way across the state.

Taking action now can help position your business for continued success in public works.

Learn more and get certified at <https://des.wa.gov/about/inclusion-plans>. ▶

## SAVE the DATE

6<sup>May</sup>  
10 – 11:00 AM  
@ The Hub  
Sound Transit Monthly Vendor Onboarding Session

20<sup>May</sup>  
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
@ The Hub  
OMWBE Certification Workshop

## New Members – APRIL

**Bernard Luyiga**  
Homsmart Generations LLC

**Benjamin Davis**  
BCCDS

**Eric Madlock**  
Superior Saw & Supply

**Leslie Harper-Miles**  
Hyflyers, LLC

**Michael E Maddox**  
APU Inc

**Lynn J Roberts**  
YouByUs Professional Services, PLLC

**Kenyon Johnson**  
6K Builders LLC and J&L Pacific Design LLC

**Victor Jones**  
DV Squared

**Andrew Onguko**  
Balozi Transit LLC

**Ali Mustafe Mohamed**  
Puntland Global Fund

**Tiffany N Kirkland**  
Kairos Industry

**Shawn Hairston**  
Kirie Holdings

**Cecilia CeCe Smith**  
Ideas by CeCe LLC

**John Johninon**  
Verity Works Too LLC

**De Angelo Jones**  
Rain City Accounting Professionals

**Alex Montoya**  
Western Hemlock Tree & Stump Service

Have a question related to labor laws?

Scan this QR code or email:  
[OWS@tabor100.org](mailto:OWS@tabor100.org)



 Seattle Office of Labor Standards



## May 1

### Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection – Redmond (Wastemobile)

**When:** Friday, May 1st-Sunday, May 3rd (10AM-5PM Each Day)

**Where:** The Home Depot (17777 NE 76th Street, Redmond, WA 98052)

**Phone #:** 206-296-4692

**Email:** haz.waste@kingcounty.gov

### Free Workshop: Growing Herb's Naturally

**When:** Friday, May 1st (2PM-3PM)

**Where:** Seattle Public Library (Queen Anne, 400 W. Garfield Street., Seattle, WA 98119)

**Phone #:** 206-386-4636

## May 8

### Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection – Kent/Covington (Wastemobile)

**When:** Friday, May 8th-Sunday, May 11th (10AM-5PM Each Day)

**Where:** Puget Sound Fire Station #75 (15635 SE 272nd Street, Kent, WA 98042)

**Phone #:** 206-296-4692

**Email:** haz.waste@kingcounty.gov

### Edible Plant Sale: Fruits, Veggies, and Herbs

**When:** Friday, May 8th (5PM-7PM)

**Where:** Meridian Playground (4800 Meridian Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103)

## May 9

### Edible Plant Sale: Fruits, Veggies, and Herbs

**When:** Saturday, May 9th-Sunday, May 10th (9AM-3PM)

**Where:** Meridian Playground (4800 Meridian Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103)

To stay involved with additional events & opportunities as they're added, visit King County's Events & Public Meetings Calendar at [kingcounty.gov/en/calendar](http://kingcounty.gov/en/calendar)

## May 14

### King County Airport Vision 2045 Open House

**When:** Thursday, May 14th (5:30PM-7:30PM)

**Where:** KCIA Flight Service Station (6526 Ellis Ave. S.)

## May 15

### Free Workshop: Volunteer Garden Workdays

**When:** Friday, May 15th (10AM-12PM)

**Where:** Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands (5513 Cloverdale Street, Seattle, WA, 98188)

## May 16

### Free Garden Tour: The West Seattle Bee Festival

**When:** Saturday, May 16th (12PM-3PM)

**Where:** High Point Commons Park – 3201 SW Graham Street, Seattle, WA 98126

## May 20

### Free Workshop: Container Gardening

**When:** Wednesday, May 20th (6PM-7:30PM)

**Where:** King County Library - Woodmont Library (26809 Pacific Hwy South, Des Moines, WA 98198)

**Phone #:** (253) 839-0121

**Email:** [klcurtis@kcls.org](mailto:klcurtis@kcls.org)

## May 29

### Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection – Bothell/Woodinville (Wastemobile)

**When:** Friday, May 29th-Sunday, May 31st (10AM-5PM Each Day)

**Where:** UW Bothell Campus (18115 Campus Way NE, Bothell, WA 98011)

**Phone #:** 206-296-4692

**Email:** haz.waste@kingcounty.gov

For more information on King County programs, business development resources & opportunities, visit [kingcounty.gov](http://kingcounty.gov)



# POWERING PROGRESS. CONNECTING WHAT MATTERS.



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

**P**ublic policy too often moves at the speed of comfort—not at the speed of justice.

The Community Reinvestment Program is what happens when that pattern is disrupted.

This program did not emerge from theory. It came out of a hard truth that could no longer be ignored—the war on drugs devastated Black communities and other marginalized populations, while the state of Washington now generates hundreds of millions of dollars from legalized cannabis. The question was never whether harm occurred. The question was whether the state would take responsibility for repairing it.

For too long, the answer was no.

The concept that would become the Community Reinvestment Program was first advanced on the Cannabis Social Equity Task Force—alongside Representative Melanie Morgan and Senator Rebecca Saldaña. From the beginning, the framework was clear—if the state benefits from systems that caused harm, then reinvestment is not optional; it is required.

Modeled after work in New York, the proposal was both direct and necessary. The cannabis trust held approximately 333 million dollars. Two hundred million dollars could be swept to establish a pilot—one designed to reinvest directly into the communities most impacted by the war on drugs.

The name itself carried meaning. Community Reinvestment Account—drawn from the federal Community Reinvestment Act, a policy created to force banks to reinvest in communities harmed by redlining. The lesson from that history remains clear; systems that extract must also repair.

The initial priorities reflected lived experience—civil legal aid, economic development, reentry services, violence prevention, and youth development. These were not abstract investments. They were targeted responses to generational inequities.

## FROM CONCEPT TO CODIFICATION: Why the Community Reinvestment Program Matters Now

*By Paula Sardinas*

But the path forward was not immediate.

It required years of disciplined advocacy, coalition building, and strategic execution. The program moved through provisos—year after year—proving its value without the certainty of permanence. Community-based organizations delivered results while the policy itself remained vulnerable.

That is the reality of equity work—it must succeed before it is secured.

Over time, the outcomes became undeniable. More than 900 community-based organizations have been certified as by and for. Nearly 200,000 Washingtonians have been served. More than 400 organizations have received direct funding. The program has expanded to include homeownership, youth sports, financial literacy, and workforce development—because the community defined what investment should look like.

This work did not happen by accident.

Paula Fillmore Sardinas and FMS Global Strategies, as the original architects of the Community Reinvestment Program and founders of the Washington Build Back Black Alliance, have led this advocacy since



2021—bringing together over 100 community-based organizations and thousands of small businesses to move a unified strategy forward. This five-year effort reflects intentional design, policy expertise, and an unwavering commitment to ensuring that equity is resourced—not just referenced.

Critical to the foundation of this work was the partnership of Jim Buchanan and Darrell Powell, whose leadership and unwavering advocacy were instrumental in securing the initial appropriation and advancing the early vision of reinvestment. Their contributions helped move this concept from idea to action at a pivotal moment.

This effort has always been powered by coalition—and that coalition delivered.

The Black Homeownership Initiative mobilized its network to advocate, submit letters, and testify—ensuring that wealth building and housing stability remained central to the program’s evolution. The network of United Ways across Washington strengthened this work through advocacy, partnership, and statewide reach—helping to elevate community voice at critical stages.

Legislative leadership mattered. Representative Kristine Reeves, Representative Melanie Morgan, Senator T’wina Nobles, and Senator Rebecca Saldaña did more than support this effort—they sustained it. The Office of Equity and the Washington State Commission on African American Affairs ensured that community voice remained central to implementation and oversight.

Governors Jay Inslee and Bob Ferguson recognized the importance of this policy and continued its advancement.

Now, after five years, the Community Reinvestment Program is codified.

It is the largest grant ever written into law in Washington State.

That distinction is significant—but it is not the destination.

Codification shifts the work from temporary to permanent. It creates a framework for accountability. It signals that reinvestment is no longer a pilot—it is policy.

But policy alone does not guarantee equity.

The real work begins now. The integrity of this program must be protected. The funding must reach the communities it was designed to serve. Oversight must be real, consistent, and grounded in community voice.

Because history has shown—when equity work is not protected, it is diluted.

As we reflect during Women’s History Month, the words of Shirley Chisholm remain instructive: “If they don’t give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair.”

In this case, community did more than bring a chair.

Community built the table—designed it, fought for it, and secured it in law.

This is not just a policy victory.

It is a commitment to repair.

And repair, if it is to mean anything, must be sustained. ▀

# March & April 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>