

The Langston

Vol 26 Iss 5

Tabor 100 Newsletter



MAYDAY

RECOGNIZING WORKERS EVERYWHERE

MAY 2026


Tabor

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Tabor Neighbors – Summer is just around the corner and, as the weather changes, so does the landscape for many of us who do business with the government.

As you already know, and have likely felt, the federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program has been radically restructured which is having a negative impact on minority businesses nationwide.

In an attempt to blunt the impact of DBE restructuring and create a fairer system when state and local monies are spent, WSDOT, the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) and the City of Seattle are rolling out new programs geared to offer more opportunity for our businesses.

At our last meeting, the city discussed changes it intends to pursue as a result of its Disparity

Study, which many of you participated in.

DES also announced changes it is making that will expand opportunity. And WSDOT is creating an entirely new certification

system that should boost the fortunes of minority and small businesses. Tabor 100 applauds these agencies for their foresight and creativity in ensuring we all benefit from the spending of public dollars.

Now let me mention Tabor 100's premier event of the year – our 25th Captains of Industry

Gala on September 12. If you've not

heard already, our keynoter will be none other than Sports Executive Larry Miller. From 2007 to 2012 Miller served as President of the Portland Trailblazers. In 1997 he was hired by Nike, Inc serving as vice president and general manager of Nike Basketball and

President of the Jordan Brand. Miller's

career in business and his journey from the streets of Philadelphia to one of the highest positions in the sports world is the subject of his book "My Secret Journey from the Streets to the Boardroom." As a Black man from a modest background, Miller's story is impressive. We welcome him to our Gala and encourage all of you to buy tickets early.

And if you want to volunteer for the Gala Committee, reach out to me or Darci Henderson.

Ollie Garrett
CEO and President

WSDOT, the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) and the City of Seattle are rolling out new programs geared to offer more opportunity for our businesses.



Door Swings

May 2026 Visits | 1,632
Since Opening | 36,669

We must stand together –
Still, we Rise!



Building More Opportunity in State Contracting



The new Business Diversity Program at DES launched a strategic plan focused on expanding opportunities

for small and veteran-owned businesses to participate in state contracting.

The goal is clear: move beyond performative and build enforceable programs that create real, measurable pathways to government work.

At the center of this effort is a long-term vision to make inclusion the default – not the exception – across DES and the broader state contracting system.

From strategy to action

This plan focuses on building programs that are sustainable, accountable, and shaped by the people they're meant to serve.

Key areas of work include:

- Evaluating legal authority to ensure programs are durable and effective
- Engaging businesses and stakeholders to design
- Building and launch new and expanded programs

DES is also expanding the Washington EDGE Program, using lessons learned from the pilot to strengthen support for small construction firms and prepare for broader roll out to architecture and engineering firms.

Building accountability into the system

A major shift in this plan is a stronger focus on accountability.

DES is developing internal systems to track progress in real time, including dashboards that show participation and spending. The plan also sets clear expectations for leadership, with progress tied to performance.

Supporting changes businesses will see

Along with new programs, DES is making updates across the contracting process to improve access and consistency. This includes:

- Bolstering solicitation and contract inclusion and non-discrimination language
- Increasing usage of direct contracting on the public works Small Works Roster
- Expanding outreach through open houses and matchmaking events between sellers and buyers

These efforts are designed to reduce unnecessary barriers and help businesses navigate the system.

What this means for you

For small and Veteran owned businesses, this work is about creating clearer, more consistent access to opportunities.

You can expect more ways to connect with agencies, better visibility into contracting opportunities, and continued support to help you get started or grow your work with the state.

DES will continue working with partner agencies and the business community to refine and improve this work over time.

This is ongoing work and feedback from businesses will play a key role in shaping what comes next. ▀

SAVE the DATE

28 May
6-8:00 PM
@ The Hub
Workshop – Capability Statement: Build Your Future

2 June
12:00-1:00 PM
@ The Hub
Learn About Priority Hire, CWA's, and Project Labor Agreements

4 June
10-11:00 AM
@ The Hub
Southern Transit Monthly Vendor Onboarding Session

New Members – MAY

Shawn Armour
Visionz Unlimited, LLC

Davon Evans
CleanCo Bins

Natacha Caze
JSC Enterprise LLC

Wallis Meagher
Arbor Vitae Financial Services, LLC

Thuli Lushaba
Korsmo Construction

Justin Allen
Allen Allocations Limited Liability Co. DBA AAM

Amber Gordon
Muse & Gordon Consulting

Nandjui Yannick
Richard Koutouan
Yannrich Enterprise, LLC

Karen Ilene McGrew
Karen McGrew

Chad Sotomayor
QuickPlanet | Chad WMH Soto LTD

Shannon Douglas
Resilient Management Group LLC

Rahil Vora
Great Web Ventures LLC

Mei Chi Chin
Science of Cuteness

Shirah M Miller
The Learning Studio by Shirah

Serwa Ashford
Cleaning Executive Operations, LLC

Jazmine Johnson-McCoy
Washington Realist Foundation

Noel Duropan
Koa Headwear and Apparel

Have a question related to labor laws?

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



June 5

Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection – Enumclaw (Wastemobile)

When: Friday, June 5th-Sunday, June 7th (10AM-5PM each day)
Where: Enumclaw Expo Center (45224 284th Ave SE, Enumclaw, WA 98022)
Phone #: 206-296-4692
Email: haz.waste@kingcounty.gov

June 10

Free Workshop: Pollinators and Beneficial Insects

When: Wednesday, June 10th (11AM-12:30PM)
Where: Meadowbrook Community Center (10517 35th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98115)
Phone #: 206-696-8252
Email: tori.fernau@seattle.gov

Community Resource Fair

When: Wednesday, June 10th (12:30PM-3PM)
Where: Community Resource Fair (12601 76th Avenue S, Seattle, WA 98178)
Phone #: 206-772-5541
Email: mrmather@kcls.org

June 12

Free Workshop: Habitat For Your Garden

When: Friday, June 12th (2PM-3:30PM)
Where: Queen Anne Library (400 W. Garfield Street, Seattle, WA 98118)
Disclaimer: Registration is required for participation.
Phone #: 206-386-4636

June 17

Free Workshop: Growing House Plants Naturally

When: Wednesday, June 17th (6PM-7PM)
Where: Woodmont Library (26809 Pacific Hwy S., Des Moines, WA 98198)
Disclaimer: Registration is required for participation
Phone #: 253-839-0121
Email: klcurtis@kcls.org

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

June 19

(Please Advise – King County government offices will be closed to observe Juneteenth)

Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection-Snoqualmie (Waste Mobile)

When: Friday, June 19th-Sunday, June 21st (10AM-5PM Each Day)
Where: Cascade View Elementary (34816 SE Ridge Street, Snoqualmie, WA 98065)
Disclaimer: Registration is required for participation
Phone #: 206-296-4692
Email: haz.waste@kingcounty.gov

June 20

Free Workshop: Pollinator Day

When: Saturday, June 20th (9AM-1PM)
Where: Ballard Locks (3015 NW 54th Street, Seattle, WA 98107)
Phone #: 206-633-0224

Garden Tour: Secret Gardens of Lake Forest Park and Market

When: Saturday, June 20th (9AM-3PM)
Where: Lake Forest Park Town Center (17171 Bothell Way NE, Lake Forest Park, WA 98155)
Email: vendors@lfpgardentour.com

June 26

Free Fair: Senior Resource Fair

When: Friday, June 26th (10AM-2PM)
Where: Rainier Vista (2917 South Snoqualmie Street, Seattle, WA 98108)
Phone #: 206-615-3300

Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection: Des Moines (Wastemobile)

When: Friday, June 26th-Sunday, June 28th (10AM-5PM Each Day)
Where: Midway Elementary (22447 24th Ave S., Des Moines, WA 98198)
Email: haz.waste@kingcounty.gov
Phone: 206-296-4692

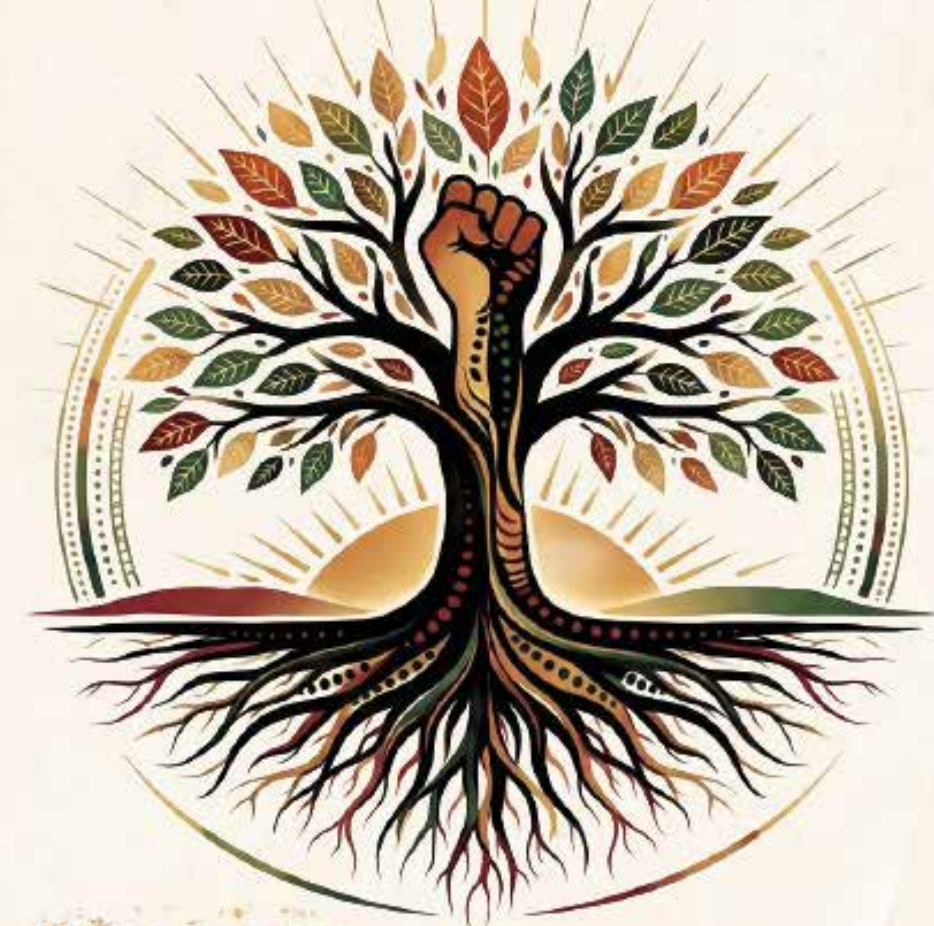
For more information on King County programs, business development resources & opportunities, visit kingcounty.gov

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

TABOR 100 MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

**GLORIA COLEMAN
EXITBLISS**



Everyone has a moment that changes the room they are standing in.

For Gloria Coleman, PMP, SHRM-SCP, founder of Exit Bliss Consulting, that moment came while working as an organizational development consultant. She was trying to document how an employee completed their work. The employee had been with the company for decades, known as a “gatekeeper of knowledge.” They knew the systems, the shortcuts, the history, the things no manual could explain.

But they were afraid to share too much, worried if the company knew everything they knew, they’d no longer be needed.

Three months later, the company let them go.

In one moment, the employee lost their job, and the company lost decades of knowledge.

“This person was so devastated,” Gloria said. “They didn’t know what they were going to do.”

That experience stayed with her. It became a life lesson.

In 2020, Gloria started Exit Bliss Consulting, a firm that helps organizations manage change, document key processes, prepare for leadership transitions, and stay steady when people leave, move up, or move on.

“Nobody stays in their work forever,” she said. “If you ain’t got your own plan, you are part of someone else’s.”

At first, Gloria built Exit Bliss while working on another business full-time. Then, in 2023, she had her own turning point. Her business partner ended their working relationship, leaving Gloria with a choice.

She could see it as a setback, or she could see it as the door opening.

She chose the door.

That moment gave her the push to fully commit to Exit Bliss and lead her closer to Tabor 100.

Gloria first heard about Tabor through her colleague, Nina Jones, a Tabor member. Later, she heard about the organization again from Annette Washington, another member and Tabor 100 consultant who helped Gloria get Exit Bliss established and registered to do business in Washington State.

Once Exit Bliss was established, Gloria received one-on-one technical assistance from a Tabor consultant in 2023. By 2024, she became a Tabor consultant herself, supporting other business owners the same way others had supported her.

Even while based in Oregon, Gloria made the drive to Washington for Tabor’s monthly membership meetings. What she found was more than a business organization. She found a community.

“It almost reminds you of a reception or fellowship after church,” Gloria said. “Tabor is conversational. It is communal. People are paying attention.”

Then she laughed and added, “They also don’t be on their phones at Tabor!”

Through her involvement with Tabor 100, Gloria gained relationships, confidence, and opportunities that helped Exit Bliss secure its first contract with Sound Transit in Washington State.

In 2025, Gloria became a full Tabor member. She still makes the monthly trip from Oregon to Washington because she sees the room as more than a networking space. It’s a place to build trust, share knowledge, and create opportunities for others.

“Nobody is competing at Tabor,” Gloria said. “I’m there in the room to build bigger relationships.”

Today, Exit Bliss continues to help businesses prepare for growth, leadership changes, contract opportunities, and the real-life transitions that can shake an organization if no plan is in place.

For more information on Exit Bliss, visit exitbliss.com.

For more information on becoming a Tabor 100 member, visit Tabor100.org/membership. ▶

Tabor 100 and WDC Invest in Small Businesses across King County

Tabor 100, in partnership with the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County, proudly awarded \$120,000 in grant funding to 28 small businesses throughout King County. The program was created to provide direct financial support to entrepreneurs and small business owners who continue to strengthen local communities, create jobs, and contribute to the region’s economic growth.

The grant program was structured into three funding tiers designed to meet businesses at different stages of growth and need. Through these tiers, selected businesses received awards ranging from \$3,500 to \$10,000 to help support operations, expansion, workforce development, and long-term sustainability.

The response to the program demonstrated the tremendous need for access to capital among small businesses in the region. More than 700 applications were submitted, representing

entrepreneurs from a wide range of industries and backgrounds. While only 28 businesses could ultimately be selected for funding, the overwhelming interest highlighted both the resilience of the small business community and the ongoing challenges many entrepreneurs face in securing financial resources.

The awarded businesses reflected the diversity and innovation of King County’s entrepreneurial ecosystem. Recipients included businesses in transportation, construction, education, healthcare, technology, hospitality, beauty, consulting, childcare, food service, and professional services. From trucking companies and early learning centers to cybersecurity firms and restaurants, each business represents a unique commitment to economic opportunity and community impact.

This investment represents more than funding, it represents a commitment to uplifting local entrepreneurs and helping small businesses continue to thrive. For many recipients, these grants will provide critical support to expand services, invest in growth, create employment opportunities, and continue building sustainable businesses that serve their communities.

Although not every deserving applicant could receive funding, Tabor 100 remains committed to supporting entrepreneurs through technical assistance, mentorship, business development resources, and continued partnerships that increase access to opportunity.

Through collaborative efforts like this partnership with WDC, Tabor 100 continues its mission of empowering small businesses and advancing equitable economic development throughout King County. ▶

BUSINESS NAME	BUSINESS OWNER	INDUSTRY
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Tier 1 Awards

Seven Star Bookkeeping & Accounting	Najah Hull	Accounting
WedVilla	Ira Shokeen	Wedding Operations App)
SJVIK Labs	Steven Vik	IT/Cybersecurity
Evergreen Human Development Academy	Sabrina Asress	Photography/ Videography)
Restaurant Construction LLC	Vahid Asress	Construction/ Restoration
Laro Tayo, LLC	Joysha Fajardo	Recreational/ Event Venue)
HuggieB Cookies	Bryonna McAfee	Retail Bakery)
S.T.E.P. Skilled Traded and Entrepreneurship Program	Joseph Phillips	Construction Technology Training

Tier 2 Awards

Chop Chop West African Cuisine	Tierra Tay	Food and Beverage)
Martin’s Auto Repair, LLC	Martin Mojica	Auto Repair)
JayHelpClean	N’Vida Yotcho	Janitorial)
JEsthetic’s Skin Lounge	Janeth Elizalde	Skin Care)
Fano’s International Cuisine LLC/DBA Seattle Chicken Express	Fana Estifanos	Restaurant)

BUSINESS NAME	BUSINESS OWNER	INDUSTRY
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Marvin Thomas Memorial	Marvena Kemp	Sport Instructor)
Johnnie McKinley Associates LLC	ohnnie McKinley	Administrative Management)

Tier 3 Awards

Connector Consulting	Anthony Shoecraft	Management Consulting)
Thompson Electrical Services LLC	Marcus Smith	Electrical Services)
GO Spectrum NW	Miguel Ortega	Environmental Consulting)
Fresh Family LLC	Debbie Wilson	Construction)
Nishaan Inc/DBA goEasy	Vandana Mishra	Transportation)
Tukwila Station Pharmacy	Abdikadir Arthur	Pharmacy/ Healthcare)
Blessential Trucking LLC	Larry Mays	Trucking and Transportation)
Morgan Cosmetics	Bachir Abba	Beauty E-Commerce)
Entertainment Resource Alliance	Kay Clemons	Education)
Goldenstars Early Learning Center LLC	Faisal Mohamed	Childhood Education)
Northwest Premier Event Staffing	Isaac Joy	Hospitality)
Sunglass Communications LLC	Estrella Sung	Construction)

May 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>