

The **Langston**

Vol 26 Iss 9

Tabor 100 Newsletter

25TH ANNUAL GALA **ROOTED IN JUSTICE,** **RISE IN POWER**



SEPTEMBER 2026


Tabor

What's Inside?

- 1 President's Message
- 3 Crystal Eagle Awards/September Events
- 4 Gala Moments
- 6 Grow Your Business with King County
- 7 DES Strengthens Its Commitment
- 8 Thank You to Our Sponsors



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Whew! Another Gala in the books, and what a milestone. Our 25th Annual Captains of Industry Gala is now in

the rearview mirror, and once again, our community showed up in a tremendous way. Thank you to everyone who attended, sponsored, and volunteered to make it an evening I will not soon forget.

This year's Gala spoke louder than anything I could write here. Our theme, Rooted in Justice, Rising in Power, was alive in that room. One guest, Mapalena MK Khothule, captured it perfectly afterward: *"The roots were in the room. The rising was in the room, too."*

Larry Miller, guided by the very able Seattle City Attorney Erika Evans, had me hanging on every answer. His story of struggle, redemption, and international success moved me to tears of joy. One idea stays with me: there is no lack of talent in our community, only a lack of opportunity. That is exactly why Tabor 100 exists.

The young people who spoke and the students who received scholarships did my heart good. They are the reason we do this work.

Our Crystal Eagle honorees were all deeply deserving.

Judge McCullough, an icon who has launched countless law careers, was especially meaningful for me. Jackie Bayne, who has spent her career building up minority- and women-owned businesses, finally received her long-overdue



applause. Courtney Fraga, though newer to us, has made a significant impact. Representatives Reeves and Entenman have helped us rise in power in a sometimes-hostile Olympia. And Dr. Chappelle never seeks the limelight but deserves so much of it.

The Black Future Co-op Fund has helped Tabor 100 and many other organizations do more for our community. Mario Bailey could have rested on being a Husky legend and 1991 national champion. Instead, he has spent his life pouring into others, from coaching at his alma mater, Franklin High School, to his role today as the Seahawks' Vice President of Community Engagement and Legends. Jim Buchanan turns community priorities into real investment, from cannabis social equity to participatory budgeting that gives the Black community a real voice in where resources go.

Darci Henderson works tirelessly without recognition or fanfare, and this year she chaired our Gala Committee. The evening you enjoyed carries her fingerprints. Thank you, Darci, and thank you to our staff, Gala Committee, and volunteers who made it all possible.

This year's Gala reminded me of something we have always known: we rise by lifting others. I encourage you to take full advantage of everything Tabor 100 offers. Attend a workshop, seek technical assistance, and build relationships with fellow members. Most importantly, keep supporting one another.

Thank you for believing in Tabor 100 and for being part of this journey. The future is ours to build.

Ollie Garrett
CEO and President

Door Swings

Septmeber 2026 Visits | 3,159
Since Opening | 38,096

We must stand together –
Still, we Rise!



**We are not
going back!!**

SAVE *the* DATE

1 October
10-11:00 AM
@ The Hub

**Sound Transit Monthly Vendor
Onboarding Session**

31 October
10:00 AM-12:00 PM
@ The Hub

**Tabor 100 Monthly Membership
Meeting**

New Members SEPTEMBER

Kate Gralton
*Quantum Energy
Group LLC*

Nu-Gina Rogers
*Brand Image
Construction and
Maintenance Inc*

Kendra Luther
*Kendra's Notary
Consulting and
Investments*

Have a question related
to labor laws?
Scan this QR code or email:
OWS@tabor100.org



**Seattle Office of
Labor Standards**



**Economic Power, Educational Excellence,
And Social Equity For African Americans
And The Community At Large.**

Crystal Eagle Awards



September Events



Gala Moments





Grow Your Business with King County



Understanding SCS Certification

If you're a small business owner looking to grow and explore opportunities with King County, then you'll want to consider getting your Small Contractor and Supplier (SCS) Certification.

We understand government contracting can feel overwhelming, especially if you're new to the process. One way to lighten the load can be from obtaining SCS certification. Created by King County, this certification is meant to create additional opportunities for small businesses who want to get involved with, and compete for, public contracts offered through King County's government departments.

What Is SCS Certification?

SCS is King County's small-business certification program designed to support small businesses who are interested and eligible to compete for contracting and procurement opportunities.

In addition, this program focuses on supporting any small business owners & firms within Washington State who provide services in high-demand fields, such as construction and professional consulting.

Why Should You Consider Getting Certified?

If doing business with King County is one of your goals, becoming SCS certified can increase your chances of success when pursuing new opportunities both within and beyond King County. For example, businesses that are on King County's SCS certified roster could be eligible for other opportunities available to certified businesses through **Port of Seattle, Sound Transit, and Seattle Colleges**.

Please note: Obtaining SCS certification doesn't automatically mean you'll receive a contract.

You still have to do the work of finding, pursuing, understanding, and meeting the requirements for potential opportunities. Think of certification as

another tool in your toolbox to help you get your business in front of the right opportunities.

Does Your Business Qualify?

To qualify for SCS certification, your business must meet the following requirements:

- Be registered as a for-profit entity
- Possess a Washington State business license
- Meet all Washington State requirements needed to be officially classified as a small business.
- Meet any King County requirements related to your company's revenue and personal net worth of its majority owner(s)

If your business is already certified through OMWBE as an **MBE, WBE, MWBE, CBE, or SEDBE**, you may already qualify for SCS certification without going through the standard application process.

Ready to Take the Next Step?

At Tabor 100, we always encourage small business owners to learn about the certifications and resources available to them. If government contracting plays a role in defining the future of your business, SCS certification is definitely worth considering.

With that in mind, it's only the beginning. Even after obtaining certification, you'll want to continuously research upcoming opportunities, attend vendor/networking events, develop your capability statement, and build strong relationships with agencies and prime contractors. *update*

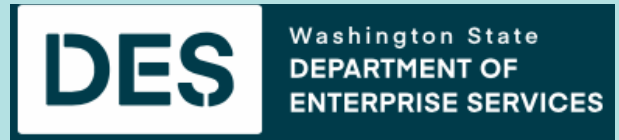
You may not be ready for every opportunity today, but understanding what's available can help you prepare for the opportunities that come tomorrow.

Please remember- your business may be small, but that doesn't mean your opportunities have to be. ▀

For current requirements and application information, visit the King County Small Contractor and Supplier (SCS) Certification Program webpage.



DES expands participation on stateside office supplies contract



Interested in public works? Start with the DES State Public Works Contracting Opportunities and Open House

Are you interested in public works with the state but not sure where to start? Great news – DES is expanding its monthly **virtual State Contracting Opportunities and Open House** to include public works.

Held every third Wednesday from 3-4 p.m., the State Public Works Contracting Opportunities and Open House is a chance for contractors to learn about upcoming opportunities, understand how DES contracting works, and get information that can help them prepare how to bid.

DES wants to connect with more contractors, especially small and diverse businesses. Expanding the State Contracting Opportunities & Open House from only goods and services to include public works is one way

we are helping more businesses learn about opportunities before they become available and understand what it takes to work with the state.

During the State Public Works Contracting Opportunities & Open House, contractors can learn about:

- Upcoming DES public works opportunities.
- How to register in EUNA, the system DES uses for public works solicitations.
- Requirements to know before bidding.
- How the DES public works contracting process works.
- Resources that can help businesses get ready for state contracting.

And you don't need to have experience working with DES to attend. The State Public Works Contracting Opportunities & Open House is designed for businesses that are new to state contracting as well as contractors that have worked with the state before.

Reaching more businesses also benefits the state. A larger pool of contractors can bring more competition to public works projects and help DES increase opportunities for Washington small businesses. The state Legislature has put state agencies on a path to improve opportunities and outcomes with small businesses, and building stronger connections with contractors is an important part of that work.

The State Public Works Contracting Opportunities & Open House is also about making state contracting more transparent. Contractors should have a clear understanding of how the process works, what DES expects, and what they need to do before pursuing an opportunity.

Curious about public works with DES? JOIN US at an upcoming virtual State Public Works Contracting Opportunities and Open House to learn what's head, get prepared, and ask questions! ▶

Thank you to our partners

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors and partners for making Tabor 100's fundraising gala and 25th Anniversary celebration a tremendous success.

Your generous support helps fund critical training, technical assistance, and programs that strengthen Tabor 100, the Tabor Economic Development Hub, and the businesses we serve. Your partnership reflects our belief that "We rise by lifting others." Thank you for helping us create growth and opportunity within our community.



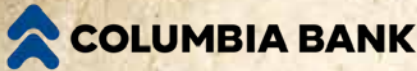
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Sellen



SWINERTON



JH KELLY



**Representative
Kristine Reeves**



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>