

# *The Langston*

Vol 21 Iss 5

Tabor 100 Newsletter



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MAY 2022

  
**Tabor**



## Message from the President

Ollie Garrett | CEO and President

I hope you are all doing well as we emerge from COVID (hopefully) and get back to business. Minority businesses were impacted more than others with about 41% of Black businesses not surviving the COVID era. My hope is that with the Black Business Equity Fund and efforts launched by others many of our local businesses were able to stay afloat and position themselves for future prosperity.

Langston Tabor, our namesake, would have been 80 years old this month. A few of our members knew him personally, but most of you didn't. Let me tell you a bit about him: He started Tabor Electric in 1978 with a \$400 unemployment check and collateral from bills for his finished projects. He was rejected by the electrician's union and the large electrical contractors would not hire a Black man, so he started his own business. Through force of will, knowledge and a desire to teach the trade, he expanded Tabor Electric

from one employee to dozens. He wired airports in several states and many commercial buildings, including skyscrapers. In 1997, he posted \$5 million in sales. Tabor chose the electrical trade to make his mark because, while in Africa, he saw

Black engineers and technicians involved in construction

projects and wanted to do the same as a Black man in the US.

While he had tremendous success in business, his passion and life's work was minority youth, single parents and other minority contractors. A single parent himself, he created an electrical mentoring project in the central area where he taught single mothers how to rewire their condos. In another project, he worked with CAYA (Central Area Youth Association) to assemble a group of young people and wire a 20,000 square foot building. "As an African American, I grew up with a sense of social responsibility" Tabor once told a Seattle Times reporter. "I realized that what was needed were employers."

Mr. Tabor died of a stroke on November 12, 1998 at the age of 56, days after state voters passed Initiative 200, ending affirmative action in state and local public contracting, education and employment. He worked tirelessly to defeat the ballot measure, spending

much of his money and his time fighting I-200. He stated often that he doubted whether his business would survive the end of affirmative action. He noted that builders might not want to work with even a well-known minority businessman without the encouragement of government agencies. He was right and, today, there is no minority business that comes close to the success Langston Tabor experienced in his era.

We are fortunate that the legacy and mission of Langston Tabor lives on at Tabor 100, a group formed in 1998 by Dave Tyner, Langston's best friend.

**A good name is to be more desired than great wealth, Favor is better than silver and gold.**

– Proverbs 22:1

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

### Tabor 100 Economic Development Hub

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**Joe Small**  
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## PortGen: Industry Day

Featuring

### The South Concourse Renovation Project



Come learn about the upcoming South Concourse Renovation Project (GC/CM) at Seattle Airport.

This PortGen will focus on the growth of SEA Airport and it's upcoming renovation. The project may also include federal infrastructure funding.

Date: June 9, 2022

Time: 1:30pm - 4:30pm

Location: SeaTac Airport- International Rooms

This event will be recorded.

For questions, please contact Josie Regan at [regan.j@portseattle.org](mailto:regan.j@portseattle.org)

Register  
Here!

#### Tabor 100 Visitor Report (Door Swings)

Total Visitors May 2022 – 457

Visitors 2022 YTD – 2,044

Visitors are stopping by to attend outreach events, meetings, get vaccinations, receive technical assistance, and so much more.

#### New Members – MAY

**Sheldon Gray**

Gray's Landscaping & Painting

**Mary T Lerdahl**

Emerald Consulting Services, LLC

**Tamaka Thornton**

Turner Construction

**Lisa Smith**

Washington State  
Microenterprise Association

**Theresa Smith**

Evergreen Business Capital  
Community Finance

**Sheila Winston**

Chase Bank

**Abigail McDowell**

Fortis Aletheia Consulting LLC

**Jesdarnel Henton**

Ms. Helen's Soul Bistro

**Anthony Harris**

Anthony Harris Photography, Inc.

**Tony Poole**

Tony's New Life Construction LLC

**Monika Mathews**

QueenCare

**Rache Boston**

John L Scott Real Estate

**Joshua Cheatham**

Furtado and Associates

**Joe Burris**

United Way of King County

**Eugene Moore**

Reign City Electric

**Mary Wideman Williams**

MWW Enterprises

**Rory O'Sullivan**

Washington Employment Benefits  
Advocates, PLLC



## SAVE the DATE

07 June

9:00 am – 3:30 pm

OSHA 10 Training

08 June

9:00 am – 3:30 pm

OSHA 10 Training

09 June

1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Port of Seattle Event:  
Industry Day South  
Concourse Renovation  
@ Sea-Tac Airport –  
International Rooms

13 June

Juneteenth Week

15 June

11:00 am – 12 noon

OLS Virtual Project Mgt  
with Annette Washington

22 June

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Technical Toolbox

25 June

10:00 am – 12 noon

General Membership  
Meeting

29 June

10:00 am – 12 noon

Port of Seattle & OMWBE  
Summer Certification  
Workshop





## Washington Future Fund: A Move Toward Financial Security

by Linda Kennedy

**H**ow do you explain why most White people have more assets than most Black people? Stolen land worked into profitability by free labor and passed on to sons and daughters of slaveholders is one reason. Jim Crow, redlining, restrictive covenants, ‘separate but equal,’ and predatory lending are others. The facts are there but not much, if anything, has been done. Now Washington State may be on the verge of making a difference.

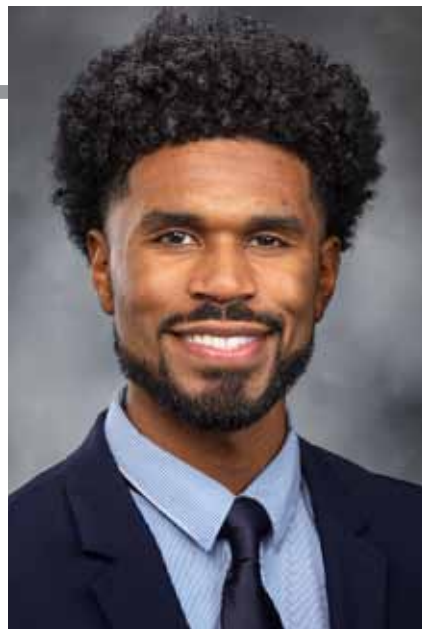
It’s called the Washington Future Fund. It would open a \$3,200 savings account for every child born under Apple Care, or Medicaid. That’s 52% of all the babies born in Washington. The money would be in an investment pool and would be available to participants once they reach eighteen and until they are thirty years old. “I co-sponsored the Future Fund bill as a State Representative and it is one of our State Treasurer’s top priorities,” said Jesse Johnson. Johnson is the Outreach and Community Engagement Director in the Treasurer’s Office. “This money is a first step toward financial security. It could be used in three ways: to further education, to start a business, or to buy a house. That \$3,200 could be ten to fifteen thousand dollars in eighteen years. A big push back is that most eighteen-year-olds really don’t know how to handle money.” He says one suggestion is that recipients be required to take a course in financial management.

Fund supporters say the plan provides opportunity for economic stability. It invests in young people and banks on a future with a more productive citizenry contributing to the State. It is also a move toward mitigating generational poverty. The idea is not cheap. “A bill like this is tough to pass. It costs \$250 Million to launch and \$125 Million every year.”

The bill to create Washington Future Fund was first introduced last year but it was stalled in the Budget

**“I co-sponsored the Future Fund bill as a State Representative and it is one of our State Treasurer’s top priorities.”**

**– Jesse Johnson,  
Outreach and Community  
Engagement Director,  
Treasurer’s Office,  
Washington State House of  
Representatives**



Committee. There was not enough demographic data on wealth disparity in our state and not enough data on generational poverty. Jesse Johnson says there’s a committee working to provide that information and get the bill passed in the 2023 legislative session. The State Treasurer would administer the program and if it passes, it would be law as of July 1, 2023.

Jesse Johnson grew up in Federal Way and has a Master’s Degree in Education from the University of Washington. He is a former high school counsellor and career counsellor. He was elected to represent the 30th Legislative District (Federal Way area) in January, 2020. In his newly created position in the Treasurer’s office, he will, among other things, expand financial literacy programs through outreach in cities and school districts throughout the state. For fun, he enjoys watching and playing basketball and hanging out with his nine-month-old son.

Jesse Johnson believes the Washington Future Fund will be a boon to this state and a step toward lessening the wealth gap.

It’s not 40 acres and a mule, but it is definitely something worthwhile. Let’s hope it passes!

## A Tribute to our Namesake LANGSTON TABOR

**A** great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies. It brings us together again and again.

Langston Tabor is that soul, and Tabor 100 is the proof. For the past 22 years, four presidents and many different meeting places, the goals have never changed; economic power, educational excellence and social equity for African Americans and the community at large. Langston was a champion for Black contractors/entrepreneurs, single parents, workers, and children, and, although the sun set on his amazing life, his legacy will live on, and we will all continue and be his champion.

We gather monthly in community to share opportunities, information, and goodwill. Tabor 100 has steadily built relationships with many government agencies and businesses and has pushed forth the agenda that was so important to Langston Tabor, helping minority contractors get contracts and help minority entrepreneurs sustain and grow their businesses.

We dedicate this month’s newsletter to Langston Tabor on what would have been his 80th birthday. We have filled our pages with what we believe would make Mr. Tabor so proud, lots of opportunity, community, and resilience.

The sentiment that is shared by those members who knew Langston or had the chance to meet or collaborate with him say, “It’s hard to forget someone who gave so much.” And for the rest of us we can revel in knowing there are some who bring a light so great to the world that even after they have gone, the light remains.



**Happy heavenly  
80th Birthday,  
Langston!**





OFFICE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

## DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE SUPPORT SERVICES

DBE Support Services is a federally-funded program designed to help those DBEs wishing to work on WSDOT highway-related construction projects. Support Services are available **ONLY** to DBEs who are certified in the highway construction industry, to include construction companies, consultants, and regular dealers.



### ONE-ON-ONE SUPPORT WITH BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ADVISORS AND PARTNER AGENCIES.

All services provided are at NO-COST to certified DBEs wishing to work on WSDOT and Local Agency highway-related projects.

### GET STARTED TODAY!

#### SERVICES INCLUDE:

- ACCOUNTING PRACTICES
- BID PREPARATION
- BILLING AND INVOICING
- BONDING ASSISTANCE
- BUSINESS PLAN DEVELOPMENT
- CHANGE ORDER ASSISTANCE
- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- MANAGING OPERATIONS
- MARKETING
- PROMPT PAY ADVICE
- SALES ADVICE
- SCHEDULING
- WORKFLOW MANAGEMENT

If you are interested in receiving support, please complete the Initial Contact form provided and administered by the Minority Business Development Agency – Tacoma Business Center.

### [CLICK HERE TO GET STARTED](#)

You can also email WSDOT directly at [DBESS@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:DBESS@wsdot.wa.gov) or call 360-705-7090 for more information.



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22-02-0042



## MEKO LAWSON: Professional Women of Color Network

by Linda Kennedy



**“If you want it, create it.”** Those words and an entrepreneurial spirit are what led Meko Lawson to create the Professional Women of Color Network (PWOCN) in 2002. The network was not Lawson's initial idea. She wanted to start a business conducting empowerment seminars for young women. “There was this vast marketplace and I did not know where to go and how to reach potential clients.” So she invested in herself and the PWOCN was born. Funny thing, it grew to overtake her original business. “I was complaining and then I realized the Network is my business. I was doing events every month empowering and educating women.” So she switched gears. But family matters caused her to leave Seattle for North Carolina and PWOCN foundered. Lawson returned just before the pandemic and in time for the Network to retool and go completely virtual.

The PWCN is steadily growing in 2022, and Meko Lawson is a Tabor 100 member and partner. She conducts an in-person ‘Women of Color Co-Working Day’ on the first Wednesday of each month from 9 a.m to 5 p.m. The drop-in events are free, themed, and usually include a speaker or presentation. “Now that the weather is nicer we’ll do a walk in the afternoon. I also encourage walking meetings. They get us out of our chairs and outdoors.”

Meko Lawson believes we are not only wearing literal masks to prevent Covid, we are wearing virtual masks to adapt in a White world. “Now we may adapt differently based on our ethnicity, but we all have stories to share and starting this network, I realized we are more powerful than we think. I am always listening and we struggle with many of the same things. We can build something together. That’s the vision of the Network.”

Lawson wants the PWOCN to expand nationwide, “so that if I’m sitting here in Snohomish County as the Executive Director of XYZ business and there’s a sea of White around me and I want to talk to a peer, a peer who looks like me, I can contact someone in the Network.”

Meko Lawson says she knows she has missed some opportunities by not being certified by the State. I’ve wanted to be an MWBE and DBE for decades. “I was overwhelmed by the paperwork. Then I went to an OMWBE workshop put on by Tabor 100. I was actually able to complete my MWBE and DBE application. All that was left was notarizing the documents.” That same day, she attended a Zoom meeting sponsored by Tabor on how to do business with the City of Seattle. Lawson is now a consultant listed in the City’s registry. “These are beyond huge for me. Since I became more active with my Tabor membership, it is amazing how much it is paying off.”

– **Meko Lawson**

Membership dues for PWOCN are \$199 per year, but stay tuned for a special rate for Tabor 100 members.

Contact Meko Lawson and PWOCN: 206-659-6356 | [info@pwocn.org](mailto:info@pwocn.org)





# SUB CONTRACTORS NEEDED

We are expanding our Technical Assistance program and are seeking Subcontractors who are looking to share their expertise with other businesses in our ecosystem in hopes of building a stronger business community through Technical Assistance

<https://bit.ly/Tabor100Subcontractor>

GET IN  
TOUCH

 **CALL**  
425-528-0110
  [aybee.anderson@tabor100.org](mailto:aybee.anderson@tabor100.org)
 [WWW.TABOR100.ORG](http://WWW.TABOR100.ORG)

FOLLOW  
US ON  
  



OFFICE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

## MINORITY AND WOMEN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE SUPPORT SERVICES

The Washington State Department of Transportation's Minority and Women Business Enterprises Support Services (MWBESS) state-funded program provides supportive services and training to minorities, females, and other socially and economically disadvantaged firms.



### ONE-ON-ONE SUPPORT WITH BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ADVISORS AND PARTNER AGENCIES.

All services provided are at NO-COST to MSVWBEs wishing to work on WSDOT and Local Agency highway- related projects.

### GET STARTED TODAY!

#### SERVICES INCLUDE:

- ACCOUNTING PRACTICES
- BID PREPARATION
- BILLING AND INVOICING
- BONDING ASSISTANCE
- BUSINESS PLAN DEVELOPMENT
- CHANGE ORDER ASSISTANCE
- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- MANAGING OPERATIONS
- MARKETING
- PROMPT PAY ADVICE
- SALES ADVICE
- SCHEDULING
- WORKFLOW MANAGEMENT

If you are interested in receiving support, please contact Adam Powers, Program Manager, for more information.

### [CLICK HERE TO GET STARTED](#)

You can also email WSDOT directly at [DBESS@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:DBESS@wsdot.wa.gov) or call 360-705-7090 for more information.



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22-02-0043



# Feel the Power, Join Tabor!

**Tabor 100** is an association of entrepreneurs and business advocates who are committed to economic power, educational excellence, and soial equity for African Americans and the community at large.



General Members Meeting



## Don't Miss an Issue

Be sure to add ou email address; communications@tabor100.org to your address book, so important news from Tabor doesn't end up in your spam folder.

## Share Tabor

Do you know someone you feel is a great fit for Tabor 100 membership? Take this opportunity to expand our territory by sharing Tabor with a friend or colleague who could benefit from all the great business opportunities, connections, and networking Tabor has to offer.

Check out three ways you can share Tabor right now:

- 1 Forward a copy of the electronic version of The Langston news magazine.
- 2 Click the three dots at the top of the Tabor 100 Facebook page and click share on the pull-down.
- 3 Invite a friend or colleague to have breakfast with us at our next monthly meeting.

This newsletter is produced in partnership with:



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# TABOR 100

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Happenings  
at the HUB!



TABOR 100

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HUB Founders



The HUB would like to thank all of our **HUB Founders & Partners** for their support. Since Tabor 100 began 22 years ago, it has had an extensive impact on our community. Without the support of our allies and partner organizations we would not be able to continue growing Langston Tabor's legacy. We are proud to be in partnership and community with the following organizations:



Ms. Ellen Kerr



Partners





# 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>