

The Langston

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Tabor 100 Newsletter



"None of us just live in a silo"

-Vice President Kamala Harris

OCTOBER 2024


Tabor

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Visit our website: **www.tabor100.org**
Social Media Handle: @Tabor100

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Tabor Neighbors!

While normally, I talk about what is happening here at Tabor and how we are working harder to do what you need us to do, I want to diverge this month and talk to you about one of the most important tasks you have before you – VOTING!!

While every year we vote and it makes a big difference in our lives, negatively or positively, Presidential elections only happen once every four years. They make a big difference in how and whether we (minority businesses) even have a chance to benefit from the economic system we live in here in Washington state and this country overall. There are many forces working to undo programs geared to help our businesses and one of the most effective ways for us to counter those efforts is to participate in the system that selects who will control these programs in the future.

While most voting in Washington state takes place by mail, you can vote at various “Centers” around the state in

individual counties. Hopefully, you got your ballot in the mail and intend (or already have) to vote soon.

So if you didn’t get a ballot (you moved or whatever), go to VoteWA.gov, give your name and a few other pertinent details, and you will see lots of information about yourself, your ballot and your options for getting your vote in on-time.

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you."

– John 15:16

And if VoteWA.gov doesn’t give you what you need (maybe you are not in the system for some reason), you can email King County elections at elections@Kingcounty.gov or call 206-296-8683. If you are in Pierce County, you can reach out to elections@piercecounitywa.gov or call 253-798-8683. In Snohomish County, go to elections@snoco.org or call 425-388-3444.

There are initiatives on the Washington state ballot that could overturn recent legislation as well as many state legislative seats that are up for grabs. Add to all that a few critical statewide races – Governor, Attorney General and Commissioner of Public Lands – and our world can change in important ways after November 5.

VOTE, VOTE, VOTE, VOTE!!

Ollie Garrett | CEO and President



Door Swings

Visits Since January 2024 | 6,017
Since Opening | 26,967

Fall is here.
Grab a coffee here at Tabor!



*Share about your
experience here at
Tabor!*

Maybe you'll be in the next
Langston article!

SAVE *the* DATE

- 28 OCTOBER**
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
@ The Hub
@Beauty in the Business Workshop
- 30 OCTOBER**
4 - 8:00 PM
@ The Hub
@CPR Certification Class
- 30 OCTOBER**
10:00 AM - 12:30 PM
@ The Hub
@King County Supplier Registration Workshop
- 30 OCTOBER**
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
@ The Hub
@Doing Business with the State Drop-In Hours DES
- 2 November**
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
@ The Hub
@First Aid & CPR Training
- 20 NOVEMBER**
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
@ The Hub
@OMWBE Certification Class

New Members – OCTOBER

Terrell Kelly
Vault 84, LLC

Chasity Blakely
LMC Services

Cleavon Steele

Gila Jean Burton-Curl
NewPursuit Consulting
Services, LLC

Kay Clemons
Entertainment Resource
Alliance

MARY L. J. MITCHELL
MLJM Consulting

Romain Harris
Harris Insurance, LLC

Tai L Moultrie, CPA
HTM LLC

Craig DeJulius

Tzega Abera
PrimeChange, LLC

Have a question related to
labor laws?

Scan this QR code or email:
zene.hall@tabor100.org



**Seattle Office of
Labor Standards**

Looking for ways to stay connected with the community?



Want to stay up to date on key initiatives and projects? Come join our membership meetings!

It's the perfect way to learn who's who in the Tabor community, and you don't have to be a member to participate. These meetings

are held every last Saturday of the month from 10 AM to



12 PM, with free breakfast provided!

You'll get updates from the Tabor president Ollie Garrett and Tabor staff, hear about upcoming events from major government organizations, and network with others to help build your business.

NEW MEMBER Quisha Burrell

Quisha Burrell was born and raised in Seattle, WA, where her roots run deep. Her journey began in the culinary arts, attending Job Corps in Astoria, OR. This experience expanded her horizons, leading her to Treasure Island in San Francisco, CA, where she was scouted for her culinary skills with Norwegian Cruise Line as a cook connecting countries and exploring parts of the world.

After welcoming two wonderful boys into her life, Quisha decided to shift her career path, inspired by her grandmother's legacy as a

Senior Admin for Seattle School Districts. She transitioned into the administrative field, gaining valuable experience that has shaped her professional journey.

In her downtime, Quisha enjoys a low-key lifestyle, spending time with friends, indulging in Asian films, and binge-watching her favorite shows. Cooking remains a passion, but her main focus is being the best mom possible. Monthly visits to Dave and Buster's with her sons are a cherished tradition, where they enjoy role-playing as food critics while exploring new restaurants together.



Quisha's aspirations are ambitious. Her ultimate goal is to work in human resources, become a homeowner, and travel the world, with Japan sitting at the top of her bucket list. With her dedication to her family and her career, Quisha is on a path to achieving her dreams, one step at a time.



Boeing Awards Tabor 100 Business Enhancement



Tabor 100 was awarded \$50,000 from the Boeing Company to expand its technical assistance programs.

"Boeing has been a reliable partner to Tabor 100," said Ollie Garrett, CEO and President of Tabor 100. "Using the Boeing funding, we've been able to advance many Black and other minority businesses." This latest round of funding will allow Tabor 100 to continue its work, providing direct assistance to the minority business community. In addition, experts in particular fields will be made available to assist Black and minority-owned businesses in a variety of fields that members tend to cite as barriers to their success. The list of offerings Tabor 100 currently provides and expects to enhance as a result of the Boeing grant are extensive. The Tabor 100 Economic Development Center is the only one of its kind devoted to the betterment of Black and minority businesses in Washington state.

Listed below are services that will be enhanced with the Boeing grant funds:

- Review and assistance to understand responsibilities and implications of contract proposals, alternative language, and contract obligations so small firms are prepared to perform and minimize disputes and maximize profits;
- Advice and counseling to understand unsuccessful work pursuits, why they went that way and how to increase your chances in the future;
- Accountants, CPA and/or billing experts to assist in pricing, creating proper invoices, etc.;
- One-on-one assistance with Project Labor and Community Workforce Agreements;
- Connections to organizations that provide licensing, bonds and insurance or capital.

So far, in 2024, Tabor 100 has provided over 3500 hours of technical assistance to black and other minority-owned businesses. In addition, more than 6,017 people have used the Tabor 100 Economic Development Center

conducting both smaller meetings in complimentary (for Tabor members) conference room spaces to larger gatherings in its larger (100+ individuals) conference center, which also includes many spaces that can accommodate 20-40 individuals at a time.

Additionally, the Tabor 100 Economic Development Center provides Collaborative Work and Office Spaces for black and minority-owned businesses. The Hub offers private offices; shared workspaces and an address for business owners who choose to office out of the "HUB." While other collaborative workspaces such as WeWork, The Riveter (for women-owned firms) are models where entrepreneurs can rent office space, none are oriented towards minority entrepreneurs. The Tabor 100 hub provides high-quality, low-cost offices space and shared services, attracting a density of minority business that offers support and collegiality (particularly important to black-owned businesses).

11th Annual Cities United Convening

Tabor 100 recently welcomed Cities United as part of the 11th Annual Cities United Convening, which underlined the importance of collaboration in building safe, healthy, and hopeful communities. The visit allowed Cities United members to learn more about the impactful work Tabor 100 is doing to foster economic empowerment and social equity in the greater Seattle area. Participants were treated to a comprehensive tour of Tabor 100's facilities, followed by a presentation from President and CEO Ollie Garrett, who discussed the organization's mission of supporting Black-owned businesses and promoting inclusive economic growth, and finally a panel discussion on "Tabor 100, The Liberty Project and Black Business in Seattle," exploring the mission of Tabor 100 and our collaborations with community, government, and local universities. The panel included representatives from UW, Seattle University, and Tabor 100 board member Darci Henderson.



Tabor 100, established as a beacon of economic opportunity, continues to play a pivotal role in addressing the challenges faced by underrepresented entrepreneurs. Through strategic initiatives such as mentorship programs, business development services, and access to key resources, Tabor 100 empowers a new generation of leaders to achieve lasting success. During the site visit, guests could explore the wide range of services offered by the organization and gain insights into how Tabor 100's programs are driving transformative change in the local business landscape.

Cities United, founded in 2011, focuses on reducing homicides and shootings of Black men and boys across the United States. Cities United partners with more than 150 communities to reimagine public safety by addressing the root causes of violence and investing directly in those most impacted. The organization's commitment to building comprehensive public safety plans that involve mayors, community-based organizations, and local leaders aligns perfectly with Tabor 100's goals of creating equitable pathways to economic prosperity.

The visit from Cities United underscored the shared values between the two organizations. Both are deeply invested in breaking down systemic barriers and creating sustainable, community-led solutions to some of society's most pressing issues. As Tabor 100 continues to champion economic empowerment, the organization remains dedicated to working alongside partners like Cities United to create opportunities that uplift marginalized communities and inspire hope for future generations.



MAKING A HOME BUSINESS WORK WITH J J FREEMANN CONSTRUCTION & PAINTING

They say necessity is the mother of invention, and in the case of the Lamars, it was the beginning of their small business journey.

Four years ago their home was flooded during the global pandemic. They faced many challenges and difficulties working with contractors to renovate their home, so they decided to do things right on their own. And just like that, J J Freemann Construction & Painting was born.

Over the next few years, Jerry and Tameka began developing their business. Their primary goal was for customers to have a much better experience with their home renovations.

Jerry, who is a veteran, graduated from Finishing Trades Institute NW as an industrial painter. Tameka, a natural people person with a background of sales, handles the operations and overall development of the business.

While initially building up a portfolio of residential work, they transitioned to commercial projects in 2023, securing their first commercial contract in January 2024. The couple also discussed their involvement in community projects and their future goals to hire young adults providing the skills to build their futures.

Their ultimate goal is to expand to working on naval bases and become a go to connection for government contracting.

Timeline of a Tabor Neighbor's Success Story

2020 - Founded J J Freemann Construction & Painting

2021 - Mentored by Darling Nava

2023- Focused on Commercial Marketing and Outreach Events

2024 - First Project with Bayley Construction, Renton School District

- 3 new clients
- 50 job sites
- 3 years of backlog



Seattle Public Schools Community Service

Maintaining strong community ties has been a big driver for the Lamars. Tameka often does outreach events with schools and local fairs throughout Seattle and Tacoma alongside Angie Mosley, CEO of Double Dutch Divas. Her first foray into bidding non-residential jobs began with schools, successfully winning Sierra Heights Elementary with Bayley.

Staying the Course with Tabor100 Training

After joining Tabor100 and getting serious about growing the business, they credited the importance of accessing technical assistance and learning, including getting licensing, networking, and maintaining relationships that lead to their eventual long-term success.



Mentorship and Relationships

During Rainier Beach High School’s outreach event with Lydig construction, Tameka met Darling Nava, another Tabor member who works as an independent DEI Consultant. Their connection was instantaneous, as both women share a passion for business development and growing their small businesses.

With Darling’s guidance and a host of community mentors both of the Lamar’s hard-work ethic, they grew their business steadily, or as they like to call it, “brick by brick.”



Positioning for Public Works

2024 has become the breakout year for J J Freemann.

Their big entrance into public works began with the estimating assistance they received from John Julius Muwulya, Senior Project Manager at Bayley, who recently became a Tabor100 member.

Through ongoing mentoring and training with Darling Nava, Tameka continued to build her networks and joined a group called “Ladies Who Golf” with Thuli Lushaba of Korsmo Construction.



All Good Things to Those Who Wait

Now in their fourth year of business, the Lamars have developed strong relationships with the community and small business advocates to the point where they are able to receive a number of offers.

With their recent painting project award for Sierra Heights Elementary School in Renton, the floodgates have finally opened, this time in a good way, with new businesses in multiple markets and recently joining the Renton School District Capital Planning & Construction Committee.



Just this summer, J J Freemann started working on several residential projects, awarded from Tacoma/Pierce Habitat for Humanity, Tacoma Housing Authority and Heron’s Key Retirement living in Gig Harbor.

What’s the secret to their success?

Tameka says: “The importance of showing up for yourself, your business, and the team that you bring along the way. And finding passionate mentors who help guide you along the journey.”



October 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>