

Pronounced as [ômbē]

Board of Directors Biographies



Chair:
Irene Reyes

Founder of AWMB (pronounced as ômbē) dba Black and Minority Contractors is also **CEO and Founder of Excel Supply Company.**
excelsupplycompoany.com

Irene Reyes, an enthusiastic, tenacious, compassionate, and vivacious individual is better known as “the Glove Lady®” and “the Supply Lady®” is the CEO and Founder of Excel Supply Company in Fife, WA. Just unexpectedly, Ms. Reyes decided one day the best way to give back to the community was to form a non-profit, AWMB which she initially funded this organization in 2017. Ms. Reyes made her first sale of twenty boxes of gloves by telephone from her one-bedroom apartment worth \$120 and with limited capital. As an importer, distributor, and manufacturer for almost 29 years and several millions in revenues, the company continues to thrive and diversify in the supply chain solutions for the public and private sectors providing medical, safety, office, and cleaning supplies. EXCEL has been certified in several states as a woman, minority, DBE, SBA 8a, SBA Hub-zone, SDB, company since 1995. By utilizing resources offered by both the federal and local government, she competitively won bids thereby was awarded three federal GSA Contracts. Ms. Reyes has strong conviction in giving back to the community, equality, advocacy and achieving legislative actions for the benefit of woman and minority owned businesses. She was an Advisory Board Member for the Washington State Small Business Development Center, which is a U.S. Small Business Administration funded program that assists established small businesses grow to the next level. Irene Reyes has served on numerous boards for small businesses, although she finds it most compelling to serve on the Advisory Board of the (OMWBE) WA Office of Minority Women Business Enterprises and as a Governor Inslee’s appointed advisory board member of WA DES CPARB, Capitol Projects Advisory Review Board. Ms. Reyes also serves on the Pierce County Workforce Central and NAMC WA. Ms. Reyes continues to write and speak for statewide functions, meetings related to business development, empowerment for emerging or start-up businesses, woman and minority business barriers, government contracting, time management, marketing, and the integration of technology with every business aspect. The Glove Lady® and Supply Lady® started a consulting business, Certo Consulting, LLC on the side dedicated to sharing almost three decades of experience to small and emerging businesses on bidding, government contracting and procurement. In 2022, Ms. Reyes Established Manol Development, LLC that distributes and erects metal buildings.



Vice Chair:
Elisa Young, J.D., C.D.E.

Senior Consultant Corporate Services Director of Diversity Equity & Inclusion.
www.parametrix.com

Elisa Young has worked as an Attorney and an Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Advisor for more than 12 years representing and consulting individuals, families, businesses, non-profits and government. Elisa’s diverse background, legal training, private and public experience and ability to meet goals are strategic assets which give her the ability to formulate successful solutions. She has negotiated successful business transactions and represented families, individuals and small businesses, providing consulting in business and program diversity, anti-discrimination frameworks and supplier diversity initiatives. After practicing law for over 10 years, Ms. Young transitioned to the public sector, using her legal background to strategically advise and consult executive leadership on state and federal compliance, policies and programs related to EEO, Title XI, Title XII, Accessibility, and foundational principles of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion. Prior to that, she managed supplier diversity for the State of Washington and led the accessibility programs for the Washington State DSHS. Being uniquely positioned in the practice of law and it’s cross-cultural capabilities, Ms. Young possesses an exceptional ability to respond to the challenges of an ever-evolving workforce by spearheading internal and external initiatives from design through execution, resulting in effective outcomes that are precise, practical, persuasive, equitable and sustainable. Ms. Young is a Certified Diversity Executive, a graduate of The Ohio State University College of Law and Oakwood University (HBCU), where she earned double BBA’s in Business Administration and Accounting.



Treasurer: Carrie Whitton

**Outreach + Inclusion
Manager, Forma
Construction.**
formacc.com

Carrie brings over 18 years' experience in construction business development and

operations. At FORMA, she works closely with project teams to develop, implement, and assess contract-specific inclusion plans—evaluating the data and adjusting to provide an ever-greater number of subcontracting and mentorship opportunities for historically underutilized businesses. In this role Carrie interfaces with the offices of W/MBE, DBE, VOB, BEE, and SBA subcontractors and suppliers—providing mentorship, resources, and assistance with the contractual requirements of the public process. Previously she worked for Sound Transit as a Contracts Specialist and owned a small design services business. Carrie was raised in rural Montana and has a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from the University of Montana.



**Director:
Tamaka Thornton, JD,**

**Community and
Citizenship Director for
Turner
Construction-Seattle.**

*www.turnerconstruction.com/
office-network/seattle*

Tamaka has over 20 years' experience within public, private, and legal sectors specializing in diversity within the construction and transportation industries working with clients and agencies to develop, administer, and monitor community-outreach programs and contractor-diversity/inclusion programs to ensure participation from traditionally underutilized small, women, and minority owned businesses.

Previously, Ms. Thornton held the position of Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program Manager at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and Regional M/W/DBE Diversity Manager-West Division for Dragados USA, in which she provided MWDBE Program Compliance oversight and monitoring of M/S/W/DBE programs and outreach efforts.

Ms. Thornton has worked with project's Construction and Procurement Departments to ensure that underrepresented/marginalized businesses were afforded an opportunity to bid and work on the projects based on their expertise and overall firm's capabilities. She has worked on several key transit and heavy civil construction, GC/CM, Design-build, Design-bid-build, and P3 highway construction projects focusing on DBE and Labor Contract Compliance in Texas, North Carolina, California, Washington(state), and Arizona. Also, she previously worked at the Birmingham International Airport (Birmingham, AL) and with the law firm of Gentle, Turner, Sexton & Harbison on several multi-million/billion-dollar Personal Injury/Property Class Action lawsuits.

Currently, Ms. Thornton is responsible for Turner Seattle's overall diversity and inclusion business program including compliance, as well as Youth Engagement, Workforce Development-Apprenticeship project goals (Proposal thru Closeout phase), and Community Service. Furthermore, Ms. Thornton facilitates training personnel and engaging the community and trade partners in delivering the best diversity and inclusion initiatives. She is a graduate of Faulkner University (BS), University of Phoenix (MBA, MHR), and Miles Law School (HBCU).



Secretary: Robin Strom

**Diversity Manager,
Andersen Construction**
www.andersen-const.com

Robin Strom has been in the industry for 14 years and brings years of experience working with diversity

compliance programs. Robin is passionate about creating opportunities to develop connections and integrate diversity and racial equality goals into all facets of Andersen Construction's business approach, including long- and short-term strategies, community involvement, and racial and gender workforce opportunities. Most recently she created a diversity program for joint venture partners working on a large construction project in Redmond WA for a confidential high-tech client. Robin has managed diversity contract compliance programs for Federal DBE and SBA programs as well as managed programs for OFCCP compliance for construction projects. Robin has earned Diversity Professional Credentials from Morgan State as a Certified Compliance Administrator (CCA) and a Master Compliance Administrator (MCA).



Director: Kate Kleyman

Social Impact Program Manager, and Vendor Diversity & Building Good Specialist, McKinstry.

www.mckinstry.com

Biography Coming Soon...



Director: Young Song

Owner and Founder, Young Song Consulting, LLC.

songconsultingllc.com

Young brings more than 20 years of experience working for prime contractors during

his entire career. He began his career as a field engineer, working on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge Design-Build. He then worked his way up as a superintendent, structures manager, project manager, and regional manager, gaining experience not only in the field, but also in estimating and scheduling, while successfully delivering projects. Throughout his career with prime contractors, he had the opportunity to work with S/DBE firms, recruiting, engaging with, and mentoring them on multiple projects. In 2017, Young recognized his calling to work more closely with the S/DBE community, helping not only certified firms, but also prime contractors in understanding how to better engage the community and ensure that work packages are sized correctly. He has worked directly with more than 15 UDBE and FSBE firms in the Pacific Northwest, Canada and Alaska to provide business mentoring and assistance since opening his own firm. Construction management professional services including highway, road, street, bridge, and alternative delivery.



Director: Frank Boykin

Frank Boykin is the **Director of Washington State Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA).**

www.mbda.gov

Frank Boykin, an award-winning business executive and progressive leader, is the Director for Washington State Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA). Mr. Boykin has more than two decades of experience in business development, as well as a broad spectrum of experience in corporate America, government, nonprofits, higher education, public policy, and community organizations.

Most recently serving as Director of the Manufacturing Industrial Council (MIC) at the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber from 2020 - 2022, Mr. Boykin successfully raised the level of engagement and impact of Pierce County's manufacturing, industrial and maritime businesses. One of his biggest achievements in this role was helping to end the cycle of uncertainty that accompanied Non-Interim Regulations for businesses in the Tideflats, thereby helping to protect our state's economic infrastructure, and ensuring that those businesses will continue to provide living wage jobs that support our friends, neighbors, family members and communities. While serving as Director of the MIC, he also served as head of the Pierce County Business Accelerator (PCBA), a cohort-based program established in direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic to provide resources to entrepreneurs and business owners in Pierce County including training, coaching and technical assistance. His contribution was acknowledged as PCBA received the Economic Development Board's (EDB) Golden Shovel Award 2022 for outstanding business results.

Frank's business and financial acumen, as well as his unique combination of professional leadership, relationship-building and community experience to achieve success across lines that might otherwise divide, distinguishes him as an asset through a myriad of capacities. In addition to a wealth of knowledge and experience, Frank has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri. Locally, he served his community in numerous capacities, including as a Board member for the World Affairs Council - Tacoma, President of the Pierce College Foundation Board of Directors, Board Member for American Leadership Forum (ALF) of Tacoma - Pierce County, Planning Commissioner and Vice Chair for +15 years in University Place, WA, WA State Commission on African Affairs and Trustee at Annie Wright School. He's currently a board member at the University of Washington-Tacoma Center for Leadership and Corporate Responsibility. He's a devoted husband to wife Alyce and dad to their daughter Tasia.