

# AWMB

Association of **W**omen  
and **M**inority **B**usinesses  
*Presents*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual NW CONTRACTORS' DAY

### **THEME:**

**To foster economic vitality in WA State and the NW region through Diversity, Equity and Inclusion while advocating for the increased utilization of certified women, minority, DBE, BIPOC and veteran owned businesses in all procurement endeavors.**

**Welcome all businesses:  
Goods & Services, Public Works, Private Entities,  
Consultants, MWBE, WBE, DBE & MBE**

**March 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2024  
8am-3:30pm**

**Emerald Queen Hotel & Casino  
Event Center  
2920 East R Street, Tacoma, WA 98404**



**Irene Reyes**

AWMB's mission is to increase the net worth of women and minority businesses while advocating with organizations we engage and do business with for diversity, equity, inclusion, and transparency.

The theme of our event **Bilateral Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act**, provides small and minority businesses an opportunity to learn about the various ways to pursue government projects and to connect with both government agencies and businesses for potential contracting opportunities.

We live in unprecedented times, I encourage my fellow small businesses to never give-up, always seek to be inspired and motivated, stand for fairness, equity, transparency and the truth. I would like to encourage you to give back to the community as it is important that we all do what we can to lift each other up! AWMB will continue to serve as an *incubator, accelerator and amplifier for women and minority businesses*. I'd like to encourage you all to join us in that effort!

A special note of appreciation to the National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC) Washington State Chapter, the US Department of Transportation, OSDBU and other federal agencies in making this dream of holding an event like this come to fruition.

Thank you is not enough for my board members most especially the Event Planning Committee who were diligent, devoted and inspirational throughout the process. I am humbled to have profoundly learned the virtues of patience, temperance, and diligence. I am so grateful to each and every one of you!

AWMB is committed now to doing an Annual Contractors' Day as well as more community engagement events. We will continue to strive to do what we can to amplify the voices and experiences of women and minority businesses.

Again, thank you all for being here!



**Meets via Zoom every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 4-5:30pm**

The Association of Women and Minority Businesses (AWMB)'s mission is to increase the net worth of women and minority businesses while advocating with organizations we engage and do business with for diversity, equity, inclusion, and transparency. It is an organization that serves as an accelerator, incubator and amplifier for women, minority and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) owned small businesses. Founded on the premise for a more coordinated approach and bridging the gap in serving a wider network of under-served businesses in the contracting community. AWMB board members come from various backgrounds, industries and extensive experience advocating for small, women and minority owned businesses throughout their careers and the uniqueness of the common passion and faith in BIPOC small businesses.

For additional information on how to become a member, volunteer, or an advocate visit our website [awmbwa.org](http://awmbwa.org)

## Board of Directors

**Chair - Irene Reyes**  
Excel Supply Company  
*CEO & Founder*

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Turner Construction  
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*Director of Diversity Equity &  
Inclusion - Senior Consultant  
Corporate Services*

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

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*Program Director*

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Forma Construction  
*Outreach + Inclusion Manager*

**Director - Young Sang Song**  
Song Consulting  
*Owner & Founder*



# Thank You



**Bob Ferguson**

*WA State Attorney General  
Speaker*



**Jay Inslee**

*WA State Governor  
Greetings From*



**Jesse Wineberry**

*Attorney &  
Former WA State Rep.  
Master of Ceremonies*

# Speakers & Presenters

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**First Panel:** *Update on the One Year Implementation of The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)*

**Maria Doucettperry**, Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer, Sound Transit

**Beto Yarce**, Regional Administrator, Region X, US SBA

**Ralph J. Rizzo**, Division Administrator, FHWA Washington Division

**Melanie Norton**, Director, SBA Seattle District

**Second Panel:** *Diversity, Equity & Inclusion*

**Speaker: Bob Ferguson**, Attorney General WA State

**Jesse Wineberry**, Attorney & Former WA State Representative

**Lekha Fernandes**, Director, OMWBE

# Workshop - Room A

## ***Construction Law, Bonding & Insurance***

**Tristan Swanson**, Attorney, Miller Nash

**Klien Hilliard**, Attorney, Miller Nash

**Kara Skinner**, Integrity Surety LLC

**Dorothy Reed**, USI Kibble & Prentice

## ***Progressive Design Build Projects, Design Bid Build***

**Tamara Hartner**, Design Phase Executive, Mortenson

**Robynne Thaxton**, JD, FDBIA, Attorney/Consultant,  
Thaxton Parkinson PLLC

## ***OMWBE Launching New Certification and Update***

**Sharon Harvey**, Director of Policy, OMWBE

**Sarah Erdmann**, Deputy Director, OMWBE

## ***A Conversation About Electrified Transportation & Education in Underserved Communities***

**Philip Saunders**, CEO, People of Color in Green Spaces

**Brian Trice**, Executive Director, Columbia-Willamette  
and Western Washington Clean Cities Coalition

**Michael Graham, Pete Thimmaiah, Christine  
Jackiewicz, Jannet Malig, Anthony Buckley,  
Angela Song** with People of Color in Green Spaces

# Workshop - Room B

## ***GCCM & JOC***

**Linda Shilley**, Procurement Manager, Pierce Transit

**Quinn Dolan**, Project Executive, Centennial  
Contractors Enterprises, Inc.

**Miguel Beltran**, City Contract Compliance Manager,  
City of Seattle

## ***Business Financing***

**Janie Sacco**, Outreach and Marketing Specialist, SBA

**Sean Devlin**, Senior Loan Officer,  
Evergreen Business Capital

**Laura Gomez**, Loan Officer,  
Business Impact Northwest

**Carol Duris**, SVP, Commercial Loan Officer,  
BBD Team Lead, Timberland Bank

**Walter McLaughlin**, SVP & SBA Manager, Banner Bank

**Kevin Janusz**, VP, SBA Team Lead, Beneficial State Bank

**Stephanie Lachman**, Business Lender, VP, Craft3

## ***Financing Your Business***

### ***Presented by JP Morgan Chase***

**Sheila Winston**, Vice President, Community Business  
Strategy, JP Morgan Chase

**Rocky Fong**, Vice President, Community & Business  
Development, JP Morgan Chase

## Public Agency Award

The Public Agency Award is presented to an AWMB Public Agency member who exemplifies the spirit of change, leadership and advocacy to benefit women and minority owned companies through encouragement for the utilization of certified firms. This agency demonstrated significant strides and results in helping alleviate the barriers of inequity, diversity, inclusion and transparency in procurement and contracting throughout Washington State and other public agencies. This agency has always been taken for granted as being small like David but have overcome some goliaths. This agency has undergone a transformational change in benefiting the minority business community.

## AWARDEES 2024





## Regina Glenn Advocacy Award

It is named after Regina Glenn, the president of Pacific Communications Consultants Inc, who, for several decades, has been active in the community providing advocacy at all levels supporting women minority veteran businesses.

This award is given to someone who has shown outstanding advocacy on behalf of women and minority businesses in our community. The recipient has demonstrated their commitment to take on hard issues and to follow through until results are achieved.

It is with great pleasure that we announce the Director of OMWBE, Lekha Fernandes as the recipient of this year's Regina Glenn advocacy award for outstanding voluntarism, community spirit, and excellence in her profession. This award is given to a woman who has demonstrated exceptional dedication to serving her community, showing unwavering spirit of generosity, and achieving excellence in her chosen field.

The recipient of this prestigious award is a shining example of selflessness and commitment to making a difference in the lives of others. She has dedicated countless hours to volunteer work, tirelessly working to improve the lives of those in need and making a positive impact in her community. Whether it be through organizing fundraising events, offering her time and expertise to local charities, or simply lending a helping hand to those in need, she has consistently gone above and beyond to make a difference.

Furthermore, this year's recipient embodies a true sense of community spirit, bringing people together and fostering a sense of unity and togetherness. She has shown a genuine care and concern for those around her, always willing to lend a helping hand and support those in need. Her positive attitude and infectious enthusiasm have inspired others to join her in making a difference and creating a stronger, more connected community.

Lekha Fernandes is truly a deserving recipient of the Regina Glenn Advocacy Award. We applaud her dedication, passion, and commitment to making a difference, and we look forward to seeing the continued impact she will have on her community and beyond.

Washington State Office of Minority  
& Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE)

# Is Your Business Certified?

## Get Certified with OMWBE for FREE through June 2024!

The Office of Minority and Women's  
Business Enterprises (OMWBE) certifies  
small minority - and women-owned  
businesses, to increase access to  
government contracting opportunities.



**CONTACT US:** 360.664.9750 [omwbe.wa.gov](http://omwbe.wa.gov)



## OMWBE is Waiving Certification Fees Thru June 2024!

OMWBE is celebrating our 40 years of service  
this September by waiving certification fees  
thru June 2024. We are so excited to invite  
small businesses throughout the state of  
Washington to get certified for FREE!





People of Color in Green Spaces (POCIGS)

Visit us at [www.POCIGS.org](http://www.POCIGS.org)



**Philip Saunders**  
*CEO*

People of Color in Green Spaces



**Brian Trice**

*Executive Director*

Columbia-Willamette and  
Western Washington  
Clean Cities Coalition

## WHO WE ARE

In 2020, the Columbia-Willamette Clean Cities and the Western Washington Clean Cities joined forces to create the first truly bi-state clean transportation and fleet-focused organization. The coalitions, separately formed in 1994, provide over 50 years of combined experience in catalyzing clean transportation.

The goal of the merger is to foster greater communication between fleets located in both states to help reduce barriers and catalyze the adoption of cleaner fuels and technologies.

We specialize in fostering partnerships with key fleets, industry stakeholders, government, academia, and policymakers to catalyze clean fuel and technology adoption.

Since 1994 we've been providing tailored educational resources, grant and incentive support, technical assistance, workforce training, and producing outreach events specifically for our member fleet and clean transportation industry members to help accomplish their goals. Brian Trice is the executive Director.

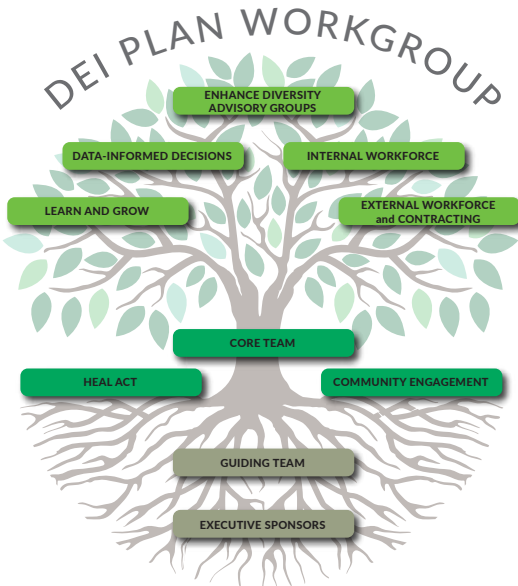
Visit us at [www.cwcleancities.org](http://www.cwcleancities.org)





The Washington State Department of Transportation is committed to actively combatting racism and strengthening our anti-racist, diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts to guarantee that our state's multimodal transportation system serves all Washingtonians. Our mission is to provide safe, reliable, and cost-effective transportation options to improve communities and economic vitality.

Through the efforts of an agency-wide workgroup, extensive collaboration with employee volunteers from all disciplines, and internal and external key partners, we developed a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan. Our DEI Plan's focus is on the following areas:



The DEI Plan is designed to improve our decision-making practices, enhance access, and create a culture of belonging for the community we serve and our employees. Working together, we can create a workplace that shows everyone dignity, respect, and appreciation.

To learn more about WSDOT, our DEI Plan, and the work ahead, scan the QR code or contact our DEI Plan Manager, TeyAnjulee Leon, at [LeonTey@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:LeonTey@wsdot.wa.gov).




# *Proud supporter* of the **AWMB**

At Sound Transit, we are working on the largest system expansion effort in the country and connecting more people to more places. We are also committed to doing things the right way by creating equitable opportunities for all and providing continued career growth and development. We believe that a diverse workforce and an inclusive environment where all voices are heard are what makes us a better, stronger, more innovative and creative company.

Learn more: [soundtransit.org](https://www.soundtransit.org)





We improve economic opportunities for small and diverse businesses by helping them become more competitive in statewide public works projects.

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Strengthening the business of government for a sustainable and just future.



Washington State  
**DEPARTMENT OF  
ENTERPRISE SERVICES**

**DES.wa.gov**

## Planning Committee

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Irene Reyes  
Elisa Young  
Robin Strom  
Young Sang Song  
Tamaka Thornton  
Carrie Whitton  
Brenda Nnambi

## Volunteers

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Sound Transit  
AWMB Board Members

## Donors

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Name Badges - Andersen Construction  
Bags - Excel Supply Company  
Graphics and Design - Excel Supply Company

## Contributors

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Andersen Construction  
Apex Accelerators  
MBDA  
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OMWBE  
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Parametrix  
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US DOT Federal Highway Administration  
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OMWBE Staff

## Exhibitors

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WA L&I  
WENA  
WSDOT

# Thank you

## Emerald Sponsors

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**MINORITY &  
WOMEN'S**  
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