



BUSINESS DIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Business Diversity Community Meeting Summary
Location: Southcenter Corporate Square Conference Room 105
635 Andover Park West, Suite 105 Tukwila, WA 98188
Sept. 24, 2015 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Government agency attendees: Tammie Wilson (L&I), Kimberly Ames (HCA), Chris Liu (DES), Renee Swenson (DOC), Kennly Asato (DES), Stacii McKeon (DSHS), Lori McCleary (DES), Dave Ziegler (WSDOT), Servando Patlan (DES), Linda Kent (DES), Alexis Oliver (OMWBE), Edwina Martin-Arnold (OMWBE), Cheryl Smith (Commerce), Michael Itti (CAPAA), Leslie Jones (Sound Transit)

Community members who signed in: Marian Lucas, Marilyn Moch, Frank Lemos, Tiffany Scroggs, Phillis Irigon, Isiah Mahoney, Kakela Hall, Sanjit T, Dan Seydel, Erin Lopez, Wang Tang, Roz, Bobby Fortch, Jaceen Marie, Ellen, Irene Reyes, Marcela Diaz, Davon Evans, Isaiah Mahoney, Frank Irigon, Cara Buckingham, Jaycene Marini, Bobby Forch, Marcela Diaz, S. Batt, Eleanor, Janet Clark, Hayward Evans, Bob Armstead, Jill Nelson, Sameth Mell, Troy Alexander

Facilitator: Renee Smith Nyberg (DES)

Meeting summary:

Opening by Renee Smith Nyberg, greeting by Chris Liu (DES)

- This meeting is about the state listening to the community. We will note your questions and comments. The Governor cares about the community.

Business owners, community leaders and representatives of nonprofit organizations shared concerns, visions and ideas regarding business diversity in Washington State. During the 90-minute meeting, numerous subject areas were discussed, including:

- Transparency and public records requests
- Governor, agency director and staff accountability for diverse business participation results
- Challenges / barriers with contracting and procurement practices
- Challenges / barriers in public works contracting
- Communication, education, outreach and mentorship
- Training
- Agency and state policies
- State and federal legislation
- Data collection and reporting
- Cultural differences between large firms and small and diverse firms
- Youth looks to established business community for examples
- Challenges / barriers associated with the state's diversity architecture
- Potential elements and benefits of a disparity study

Participants were encouraged to continue sending thoughts to BusinessDiversity@des.wa.gov.



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Prompted questions to the community:

- What frustrates you?
- What doesn't make sense about how contracting works (or doesn't work) now?
- What barriers do you see or experience?
- What challenges and difficulties are there in trying to participate in state contract opportunities?
- What impacts does this situation have on you personally or on those you know?
- What insights or ideas do you want to share?
- What questions do you have that this effort should answer?
- What else should we know?