

# Black Business Empowerment

*A panel discussion and  
small business resource fair*



Tacoma Public Library  
Wednesday, Feb. 12 | 12:30 to 3 p.m.

## Agenda

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| 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. | Doors open, Check-in, Networking at the Resource Fair   |
| 1:00 to 1:15 p.m.  | Opening remarks, Welcome<br>Linda Womack — MBDA Tacoma Business Center Program Director<br>Victoria Woodards— Mayor of Tacoma<br>Jeremy Field— SBA Regional Administrator   |
| 1:15 to 2:15 p.m.  | Panel discussion with successful business owners<br>Moderated by Jenefeness Tucker— Washington Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Adviser<br><i>See the reverse side for moderator and panelist biographies</i> |
| 2:15 to 3:00 p.m.  | Resource Fair and Networking  |
| 3:00 p.m.          | Adjourn   |

## MODERATOR



After relocating to Washington in September 2019, [Jenefeness Tucker](#) noticed there was a lack of “community” like the one she was used to in Columbus, Ohio. So, she began to seek opportunities to develop it. When asked to be the moderator of this Black Business Excellence panel she jumped at the opportunity. Jenefeness is a Certified Business Advisor with the [Washington Small Business Development Center](#), Professor at [Seattle Central](#) and a [Certified Life Coach](#) specializing in actualizing results in your life and finances. Ms. Tucker is also creating a league of [Black women golfers](#) in the PNW.

## PANELISTS



After deciding punching a clock for someone else was not for her, [Samantha Neal](#) took a leap of faith and bet on herself to fulfill her dreams of owning a multimillion-dollar franchise. Samantha, a 26-year-old mother of two, started [Coastal Maintenance Solutions Tacoma](#) in 2016 as a small cleaning company, simply focusing on move out cleans. Samantha now runs a very successful company that specializes in Post Construction Clean Up in Tacoma, she has also recently opened a location in Columbia, SC and continues to focus on sustainable expansion.



After graduating from California Polytechnic State University, [Roger Newton](#), embarked on his construction career that has spanned more than three decades having held a wide variety of positions, from Carpenter to Project Manager, on residential, commercial and environmental remediation projects. He is currently the founder and President of [Newton Building and Development LLC](#) a full service commercial general contractor that specializes in Government, Military and Health Care facilities. Mr. Newton is an 8(a) Graduate, a member of the SBA Emerging Leaders Class of 2018 and he currently sits of the Board of Directors for the Dry Eye Foundation.



After 17 years of military experience with the U.S. Army, and several mental health and recovery related jobs, [Dana Pittman](#) decided to build the company she wanted to work for. With Colin Higginbottom, in 2005 she founded [Sustainable Interiors](#), a commercial interior contracting business specializing in federal, state, and commercial projects. Dana operates her business with a mindset committed to excellence and low environmental impact. Dana has served on several boards including the Capital Projects Advisory Review Board and the Entrepreneurial Institute of Washington.



After graduating from Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising (FIDM) in Los Angeles, CA at a fresh 19 years old [Umi Wagoner](#) went to work full-time for The Hundreds is Huge Inc. an independent lifestyle and content company with a hyper focus on branding and apparel. Umi worked a total of eight years with The Hundreds, the majority of his time was spent as the flagship store manager and eventually a small stint as West Coast GM of retail. In 2014 he returned home with the schooling, know-how and skillset to open his current retail location [eTcTacoma](#) with lifelong friend and business partner Perris Wright.