

Diversity in Contracting

Diversity in Contracting 2026 Q1 Newsletter

April 10, 2026

Inaugural Port Construction Industry Day



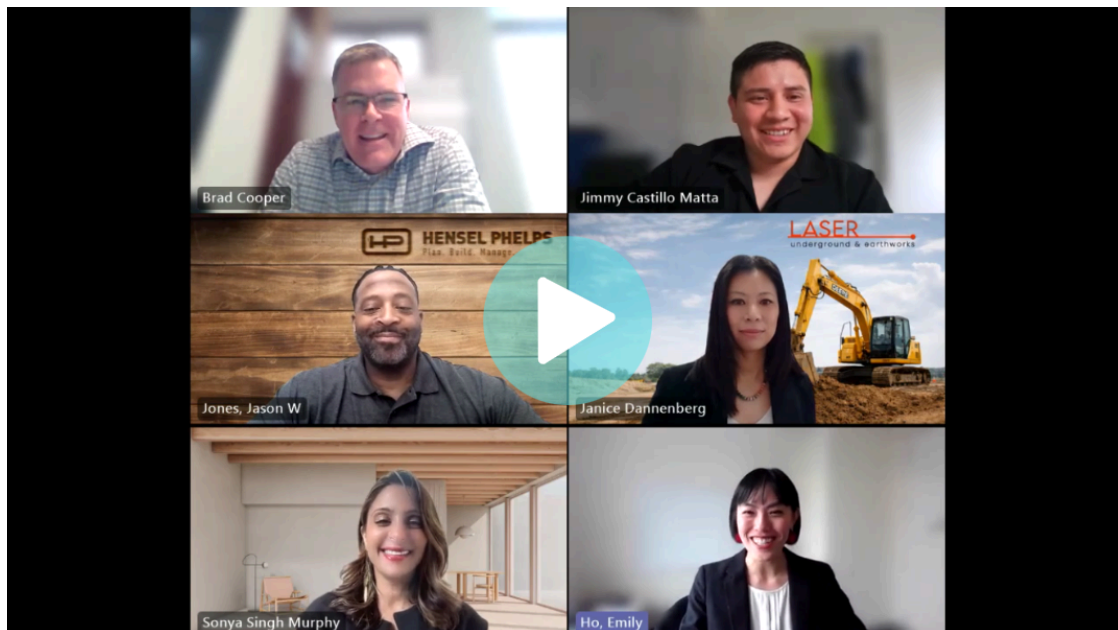
We want to thank you all again for joining our inaugural Port Construction Industry Day event! With over 130 people joining us virtually in the morning and over 140 people joining us in the afternoon at SEA Airport, attendees had an opportunity to hear from Port leaders and small business owners that have scored contracts with the Port, and to meet with some of the Port's key contractors to get one step closer to a contract!

We are thankful for the five panelists that shared their Port contracting experiences with us, the nine prime contractors who met with businesses for three hours straight, the 18 key contractors who set up booths for the exhibitor walk, and the 30+ incredible Port of Seattle staff that volunteered their time to make our Construction Industry Day event a huge success!

If you attended the virtual presentation and/or in-person networking portion of the event, please check your email and complete the post-event survey if you haven't already! We look forward to making this event even better next year!

Access the Powerpoint presentation here: [Construction Industry Day](#)

View the recording of the presentation by clicking the thumbnail below:



Q1 Outreach Report

Q1 Outreach Statistics:

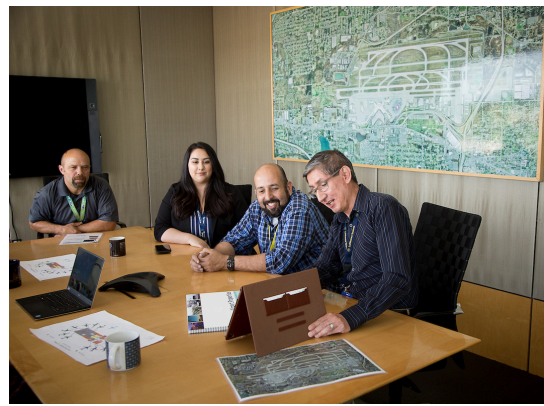
- PortGen Events: 2 events
 - PortGen First Look (2/18/26): [Specialty Retail Incubator Kiosks](#)
 - PortGen Connects (3/31/26): [Construction Industry Day](#)
- Total PortGen Attendance: 273 attendees
- PortGen Unique Business Attendance: 202 Firms
 - 135 WMBE Firms
 - 81 DBE Firms
 - 149 SBE Firms
 - 14 VOB Firms
- Collaborative Presentations & Tabling Events: 4 events
 - MLK Day Opportunity Fair (1/19/26)
 - SIBA Thrive Conference (3/7/26)
 - Seattle Southside Chamber Mixer (3/18/26)
 - Alliance Northwest (3/26/26)

Please check out our [How to do Business with the Port](#) page to view all presentations, recordings, and registrants lists for our events

Upcoming Events

Inaugural Architecture & Engineering Industry Day

Are you a diverse or small business in architecture, engineering, or the design field? If so, join us at our Port headquarters for our inaugural Architecture & Engineering Industry Day for an opportunity to connect with Port project managers, some of the Port's key consultants, and learn tips and tricks on landing a consulting contract at the Port.



This event will feature both a virtual presentation on Microsoft Teams in the morning as well as in-person networking which will feature an exhibitor walk and scheduled 1-on-1 meetings.

Save the Date!

**Tuesday, June 2nd
Pier 69
2711 Alaskan Way Seattle, WA**

Business Accelerator Mentorship Program Applications Open Early Summer!



Are you a woman, minority, disadvantaged, or small business owner in construction, engineering, architecture, and/or energy looking to scale up your business?

If so, keep an eye on the Diversity in Contracting website and e-mails for when the Business Accelerator Mentorship Program applications open early this summer!

Inaugural Port Goods and Services Vendors Day

Are you a diverse or small business supplier or service provider? If so, join us at our Port headquarters for our inaugural Port Goods and Services Vendors Day for an opportunity to meet and connect with purchasers from across the Port, and share with them your incredible products and services!



This event is an in-person networking event at Pier 69. Leading up to the event will be virtual events highlighting teams from across the Port and their various goods and services needs.

Tuesday, September 29th
Pier 69
2711 Alaskan Way Seattle, WA

Save the Date!

End of Year Celebration & Accelerator Graduation



Celebrate the success of small businesses with us at our End of Year Celebration & Accelerator Graduation!

During this event we'll celebrate our 2026 Business Accelerator cohort, recognize 2026 Port WMBE partners, and preview 2027 opportunities!

Save the Date!

Tuesday, December 15th
Pier 69
2711 Alaskan Way Seattle, WA

Blog Posts

Karla Butler, Owner and Principal of Dossier Black History Month

Since 1976, the United States has commemorated February as Black History Month and the Diversity in Contracting team had the privilege of hearing from Karla Butler, owner and principal of [Dossier](#).

"As a Black woman, you can be made to be invisible, but it's so important to stand up for yourself. In this industry, there is added pressure to excel because there are so few of us. Just remember that if you were hired for the job, it's because you have the skillset to do it! Take pride in your work because when you're the only one in those rooms, you may be representing all of us. I take pride in being a trailblazer because I want there to be less obstacles for the next Black entrepreneur. I want to improve the narrative around our people." - Karla Butler



Read the full interview on the [Diversity in Contracting website!](#)

Nicole Norman, Owner of Pacific NW Bio - Women's History Month

March was Women's History Month and the Diversity in Contracting team had an opportunity to interview Nicole Norman, owner of [Pacific NW Bio WA LLC!](#)

"Government contracts provide more consistent work but residential contracts are less complex; there's a tradeoff. On government contracts, you will have to wait for your money to some extent. Also, you have to keep in mind that workers need to be paid prevailing wage on certain public works contracts which is much higher than their hourly wages so keeping cash reserves is a must or you have to ensure you're having income to keep your workers paid as you wait to get your contract payout. I prefer doing both.." - Nicole Norman



Read the full interview on the [Diversity in Contracting website!](#)

In Case You Missed It



As the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. continues, the Diversity in Contracting team as well as the Port's Human Resources Department and other Port leaders attended the MLK Opportunity Fair at Garfield High School

supporting the local community in finding gainful employment and economic opportunities!

If you or anyone you know is looking for employment with the Port of Seattle, visit our [Port of Seattle Careers](#) page to find information on current job openings at the Port of Seattle, jobs with businesses at SEA Airport, our cruise terminals, fellowships for veterans, and internships for students and rising professionals!

[All Current Solicitations](#)

[Future Solicitations](#)

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About the Port

Founded in 1911 by a vote of the people as a special purpose government, the Port of Seattle's mission is to promote economic opportunities and quality of life in the region by advancing trade, travel, commerce and job creation in an equitable, accountable and environmentally responsible manner. In 2025, Port Commissioners adopted a new Diversity in Contracting (DC) policy, Resolution 3836, building upon our previous policy directive from 2018, Resolution 3737. Our directives seek to drive equity in Port contracting. Last year we established new five-year goals from 2025-2029 to increase the number of women and minority owned businesses doing business with the Port to 500 firms, and to increase the amount of spend on WMBE contracts to 16%.



Port of Seattle | 2711 Alaskan Way | Seattle, WA 98121 US

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