

# ONWARD

PIERCE COUNTY MEANS BUSINESS

January 2022 | No. 261 | [ChooseTacomaPierce.org](https://www.chooseTacomaPierce.org)



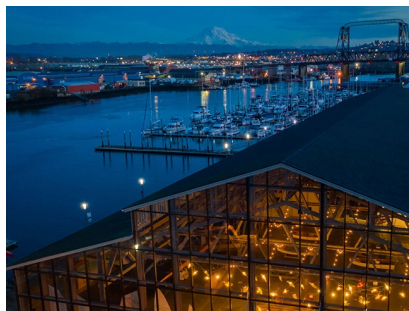
## A message from EDB Chair Brian Marlow, Keybank South Sound Market President

As we begin the new year, our primary mission at the EDB remains the same: to help companies create new jobs and grow the economy of the South Sound. But in 2022 and beyond, there's more to our economic development story.

We can't look ahead without looking back on the last two years. Self-reflection by the EDB board ahead of the

COVID-19 pandemic and tragic events in our country made it clear we had to ensure diversity, equity and inclusion took a more prominent role in our work. With Herb Simon at the helm, we brought a more diverse group of leaders and perspectives to the table to help us focus specifically on BIPOC-owned businesses, reflect on the small- and medium-sized business environment, and recraft our vision and purpose in a more representative way.

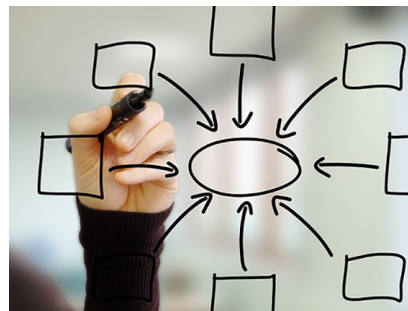
Our work to make Tacoma-Pierce County a more diverse, equitable and inclusive community will continue. And our economic development story will be even more compelling.



## Pure business, pure potential: Economic development brand comes to life

The revamped EDB website shines the spotlight on Pierce County site locations and communities. Learn what's new and improved,

[Read more](#)



## EDB taps design thinking to meet local business needs

With the help of the UW Tacoma Global Innovation and Design Lab, the EDB is making sure its 2021-25 work program is on track to support Pierce County businesses and communities.

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### **FREE fast-track MBE and DBE certification training, Jan. 19**

Participants will receive in-person training on Minority Business Enterprise and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise certifications and ongoing support.

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### **Invista invests in workforce solutions**

Invista helps businesses and organizations access Job Skills Program matching grants to fund workforce training and development needs.

[Read more](#)



### **EDB welcomes Tamsin Bell, Vice President of Business Development**

The EDB is pleased to welcome Tamsin Bell, new Vice President of Business Development. She joins the EDB team following a fruitful stint with the Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County.

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### **Tacoma Grit Tech Success: Brightly boosts access to eco-friendly products**

Brightly CEO Laura Wittig is using her e-commerce experience to help conscious consumers across the world find and purchase ethically developed products.

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## **NEWSBRIEFS**

### **Hire Pierce County Next Gen: Young adult internship program**

The new young adult job prep and placement program offers paid internships to young adults ages 16-24, at no cost to businesses or organizations.

[Read more](#)

### **Continued Acceleration program launched in Tacoma**

The EDB and Minority Business Development Agency Washington Business Center have launched Continued Acceleration. The program will support BIPOC-owned businesses graduating from regional accelerator programs.

[Read more](#)

### **Washington Maritime Blue finalist for \$100M in Build Back Better funding**

Washington Maritime Blue is the only finalist from Washington State to compete for funding in the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration's Build Back Better Challenge.

[Read more](#)

## **NEWS**

[Tacoma adopts climate action plan to eliminate carbon emissions](#)

[Investor bets on South Sound office market with \\$41M](#)

[purchase of Tacoma tower](#)

[Enforcement of COVID-19 vaccine-or-test rules for businesses delayed until Feb. 9](#)

[Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department takes different approach to reporting COVID-19 data](#)

[Port of Tacoma gets \\$15.73M grant for storage capacity](#)

[Washington ranks #15 on Tax Foundation's 2022 State Tax Business Climate Index](#)

[Businesses take on the role of educators](#)

### Team With Us

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Onward is a service of the EDB, a non-profit corporation focused on recruitment and retention of primary businesses in Tacoma and Pierce County, Washington, USA.

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