

PIERCE COUNTY
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DEVELOPMENT
BOARD** TACOMA
PIERCE COUNTY

ONWARD

PIERCE COUNTY MEANS BUSINESS

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Your Concierge for Local Business

In late March, Tanja Carter was announced as the new Community & Economic Development Department Director for the City of Tacoma. "I was attracted to the role because of the passionate team already in place," said Carter. "They produce high quality work that is thoughtful and strategic while hitting the mark for the community." With ED experience in several Puget Sound cities, Carter was drawn to the potential in Tacoma.

"I love to inspire good works, and Tacoma is a really authentic city, filled with self-made people that still view it with a Pioneering spirit." Carter brings a unique global perspective to her role, being a native German speaker who is also fluent in English and Spanish with a bachelor's degree in economics and international relations from The American University. Her experiences living around the world directly inform her long-term goal of cultivating a strong 'sense of place.' She envisions her department supporting this goal by providing resources and creating an environment that attracts both businesses and the workforce they need. "While direct City funding is finite, our strength lies in facilitating connections between local businesses and resources supporting their growth and workforce needs," said Carter. "Think of our department as your knowledgeable 'concierge' for local business advice and resource navigation."

In the short term, Carter has her eye on the World Cup. She asks herself; how can the department embrace and activate the city to make it a great place for the visitors' experience? But, also for long lasting economic benefits. "We need to leverage this event for the future and introduce the world to our city filled with natural beauty and thriving business districts," Carter said.

Carter envisions working with the EDB of Tacoma Pierce County as a collaboration. "We work hand in hand with EDB Tacoma Pierce County to attract and support business, so we make sure we are all moving ahead." With her unique background and skill set, Carter hopes to inspire the business community to be successful and help people make great things happen.

EDB Board Member Spotlight - Thuli Lushaba



Thuli Lushaba grew up in South Africa and moved to the United States in 2010. She has since risen through the ranks of the construction industry working in New York and Los Angeles before coming to the Puget Sound. Currently, Thuli serves as the Director of Diversity and Community Outreach at Korsmo Construction in Tacoma.

To learn more about Thuli Lushaba read her Q & A using this link.

[Read Thuli's Q & A HERE](#)



Tariffs, Trade, and Tacoma

For companies based near the Port of Tacoma - a major gateway for Pacific Rim trade - tariff and trade policies are particularly significant. To better assist local Pierce County businesses the EDB asked Port Commissioner, Kristin Ang, some key questions.

[Read Q & A](#)



City Spotlight - Puyallup

As the third largest city in Pierce County, Puyallup is home to more than 43,000 residents. Most well known as the location of the Washington State Fair, Puyallup is also a vibrant business community with more than 2100 permits processed in 2024.

[Read More](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

Support from the EDB and Regional Partners Around Tariffs

The Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County is actively supporting businesses navigating trade shifts. In collaboration with the World Trade Center Tacoma and the Port of Tacoma, the EDB is offering resources, insights, and connections to help local companies stay competitive. For more information about these efforts, read comments from Michael Fowler, Executive Director & Senior Trade Consultant at the World Trade Center Tacoma

[Read More](#)

Board, Dignitaries Celebrate Pierce Transit's 45th Anniversary

On April 14, Pierce Transit hosted former Board members, community partners, elected officials and dignitaries to celebrate the transit agency's 45th anniversary. Event attendees shared stories with current Board members, recapped the many ways the agency has served the people of Pierce County over the years and were present for the reading of a Board resolution detailing the agency's many accomplishments since its founding. Agency employees have provided more than 473 million bus trips, 16 million SHUTTLE paratransit trips and 24 million Rideshare (Vanpool) trips.

Impact WA Training

The third training program from IMPACT Washington's series created in partnership with Economic Development Board Tacoma Pierce County will be held on May 13th from 10 am to 2:30 pm. Presented at the EDB offices at 950 Pacific Avenue in downtown Tacoma, Suite #410, this 4-hour CMMC workshop provides a practical, real-world overview of cybersecurity and the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC). The training covers foundational cybersecurity hygiene, NIST 800-171 and CMMC concepts, plus industry best practices.

Participants will engage in hands-on activities to learn how to apply NIST 800-171 requirements within their organization. With expert instruction and case studies, attendees will gain the skills needed to improve cybersecurity hygiene and meet the advanced security and compliance requirements for CMMC Level 1 & 2 certifications. Register [HERE](#)

Arts & Culture Unrestricted Funding Opportunity Opening Soon!

ArtsFund and the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation are partnering once again on the Community Accelerator Grant program. The program will distribute \$10 million in unrestricted funding to Washington State arts and culture nonprofits, fiscally sponsored organizations, and tribal entities. Application for the grants of \$2,500 to \$25,000 will be accepted from now through June 6th. You can find more information and access all materials [HERE](#)

NEWS

[EDB Board Member Mike de Alwis Interview with South Sound Magazine](#)

[2025 State of the Workforce Report for Pierce County](#)

[Pierce County Creates New Community Needs Grant Program](#)

[Watch the 1 Hour Video Recording of Navigating Tariff Impacts on Washington Businesses Presented on April 29th by Economic Development Board of Tacoma Pierce County, Economic Alliance Snohomish County, Seattle Metro Chamber, and Kitsap Economic Development Alliance](#)

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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