



STATE OF WASHINGTON
Capital Projects Advisory Review Board

June 17, 2022

Representative Gary Pollet, Chair
House Local Government Committee
Post Office Box 40600
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

Re: Business Equity/Diverse Business Inclusion Report

Dear Representative Pollet:

The 2021 Legislature charged the Capital Projects Advisory Review Board (CPARB) with the creation of best practices guidelines and recommended legislative changes for increasing and sustaining access to contracting opportunities in alternative public works for minority, women, and veteran-owned businesses, and small businesses through [Section 20 of SB 5032](#). CPARB responded to this request with the attached report, which highlights and provides strategies to reduce barriers in order to access and successfully deliver on our many public works contracts by small and diverse businesses in Washington State.

This report was developed by CPARB's Business Equity/Diverse Business Inclusion Committee through a year of collaboration with the many voices across the construction industry. It focused on three primary hurdles small and diverse businesses encounter on a regular basis, which are access to opportunities, access to capital, and access to training. The report also stressed the importance of establishing and sustaining a culture for success and ensuring accountability. CPARB recognizes the report is just the beginning to evolving the culture of the construction industry where small and diverse businesses are seen as first choice for their valued participation toward project success. The Board will continue this effort by enhancing outreach activities to engage even more owners, stakeholders and small businesses alike. Additionally, the report identified several areas where legislative changes would be of benefit and the Board is developing proposed legislation for the 2023 legislative session.

Our report and the many supporting documents are located on the [CPARB Background & Resources webpage](#). CPARB appreciates the continued opportunity to serve the legislature and thank you for entrusting us to develop this report.

If you have any questions, please contact lead staff for CPARB, Nancy Deakins at nancy.deakins@des.wa.gov or (360) 280-6236 or myself at zahn.j@portseattle.org or (206) 787-3798.

Sincerely,

Janice Zahn
Chair

cc: CPARB Members
Tara Smith, Director, Department of Enterprise Services
Ann Larson, Government Relations, Department of Enterprise Services
Jason Marquiss, Chief Operations Officer, Department of Enterprise Services
Bill Frare, Assistant Director FPS, Department of Enterprise Services
Janet Jansen, E&AS Program Manager, Department of Enterprise Services
Nancy Deakins, Department of Enterprise Services