



**Home Forward** remains committed to serving our community by providing housing to those in need. To do so, we require business partnerships. We frequently have contracting opportunities, particularly for businesses owned by Black and Indigenous People of Color, women, LGBTQ+, veterans, and emerging small business owners in such areas as:

- Professional Services
- Construction
- Social Services
- Goods and Services

<http://www.homeforward.org/work-with-us/business-contracting>

Please visit the Business Contracting area of our website at the above address to learn about specific opportunities, or for information about resources such as free training, technical assistance, and workforce hiring and training programs.

For more information, contact:	<b>Celeste King</b> Procurement and Contracts Manager 503.802.8541 Celeste.King@homeforward.org	<b>Peter Garcia</b> Sr. Procurement Coordinator 503.802.8549 Peter.Garcia@homeforward.org	<a href="http://www.homeforward.org">homeforward.org</a>
--------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------

# ‘We have progressed’

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

needs to be a better way to handle these interactions,” she said.

Last year, Tolbert served as vice president of the Vancouver NAACP when listening sessions were held before the Clark County Council to outline racial equality concerns. Systemic racism is a longstanding problem in Clark County and can be traced back to a tight connection between the Ku Klux Klan and county leadership in the 1920s and 1930s, she said.

The NAACP outcry drew opposition from one council member at the time, Quiring O’Brien, who declared that she does not believe Clark County has any systemic racism.

O’Brien resisted calls by the NAACP and other civil rights advocates to resign after her statement, but the Council took action against her remarks by passing a resolution declaring “systemic racism in Clark County is a public health crisis.”

The NAACP and other civil rights leaders have been part of public demonstrations and marches for racial justice over the past two years, but some of these actions have been marred by violent demonstrators, that “have not amplified Dr. King’s message,” Tolbert said.

But Tolbert also points out how many people have forgotten how tough it was for King and his followers back when they led protests in the 1950s and 60s.

“It’s a complicated topic because the way that society has whitewashed Dr. King and his message and used his phenomenal and impactful words, makes it hard to bring him up to condemn current violent activists,” she said. “We see the activism and the rebel intent that he displayed during his time, but the folks who condemn the way we protest are the same folks that pretend they didn’t see the dogs and the hoses used in those ‘peaceful’ protests...I love the framework Dr. King used, but it’s disheartening to see how that is weaponized against us.”

Census records show there are more than 12,000 Black residents in Clark County and more than 4,000 of them live in the city of Vancouver. Going forward, Tolbert said her goal is to serve that community.

“This year we will be figuring out how we can continue expanding while also starting to rebuild relationships within our community,” she said. “We’ve been apart for so long because of the pandemic and we want to be sure that our community feels nurtured and cared for after so much separation.”

## ADVANTIS CREDIT UNION COME WORK WITH US.

### COMMITTED

We value every person and take care of our community. Inclusion, diversity, and equality are the heart of our organization. So that each employee feels safe and supported.

### INVESTED

With generous tuition assistance, robust training programs, and personalized career development plans, we’re here to help you realize your full potential.

### COMMUNITY

We use our time, talent, and resources to strengthen the places our members and employees call home. And we seek new ways to support Black, Brown, and all people of color, as well as underrepresented members of the greater Portland community.

### JOIN OUR TEAM

We provide an honest and ethical culture, competitive pay, and terrific benefits—with a generous 401(k) plan and comprehensive health insurance. We work with passion and purpose, and empower employees to do the right thing.

Check out our career opportunities at

[www.advantiscu.org](http://www.advantiscu.org)



**Advantis**  
credit union  
WITH US YOU CAN