

Friday, August 31, 2007

## Stanley Tucker

Baltimore Business Journal - by [Scott Dance](#) Staff

Entrepreneurship was instilled in Stanley Tucker as a child, and he has carried it with him since -- now using his experience in investing specifically for the gain of minority- and women-owned startups. What he learned from his father, a construction entrepreneur, helped him not only in his career but also with the people he now invests in as president of **Meridian Management Group Inc.**

### What is the climate like for minority business in Baltimore today?

There's a lot of work to be done. Usually the government is the catalyst -- they try to create an environment for opportunities, particularly for minority- and women-owned business. Most of the time it has to be legislated, unfortunately, because really you want to create an environment so the private sector recognizes the talent and the opportunities here. I would say the environment is still challenging in terms of getting access to capital for minority- and women-owned businesses.

### What did you learn from having entrepreneurial parents?

It made a huge difference, because I was exposed to it early on. When I was 6 years old, we were up at 4:30 in the morning with my father going down to the job, preparing for his other employees to come, so we learned the value of getting up early and being there on time. Then we would come home, and at the dinner table, talk about what happened in the business. And we would sit in his office and he'd teach us the nuances of how he does business. My father was a brilliant craftsman, but the business side he didn't have as much training on, so he had to learn that over the years.

### What did you learn that you might not have if he was just a good employee?

The difference is that when you're the entrepreneur, you have to be able to see things that other people can't see and have the creativity and the will to make it happen. The other thing is that as an entrepreneur, you're also responsible for these other families. You're sitting at home planning for five, ten years down the road, thinking, 'Do I have enough cash to pay these workers?' We used to see our father there thinking, and talk to him about how he was going to do it. He was learning and teaching us the importance of cash flow. And that builds confidence, because to be an entrepreneur, you have to be kind of cocky, and you have to be able to take risks.



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with Stanley Tucker,  
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