Walk along the Hilltop Business Corridor and you’ll notice things are changing. Community voices are leading this change so new spaces are for familiar faces.

By Kristine Coman

Take a walk along MLK Jr. Way and you are confronted with construction activity at almost every corner. The roadway has been torn up to add Hilltop Tacoma LINK rails for new transit oriented development which supports a more dense residential, commercial and leisure space within walking distance of public transport. LINK construction in the roadway will be completed next year; however, the sidewalk and Festival Area will take longer to complete. Liz Ellis, Sound Transit Community Specialist, is always available for questions - give her a call at (253) 208-0586 or email liz.ellis@soundtransit.org. There is also a 24 hour construction hotline at (888) 298-2395.

If you’ve been getting coffee at The Red Elm Cafe, you may have noticed the building that housed Mr. MAC and Sam & Terry’s Barbershop has come down. Curious about what will take its place? HAC has you covered!

Come on out to Happy Hour with Cider & Conversation on Monday, August 23rd at Grit City Ciderworks (1016 MLK Jr. Way) - you can speak to Tacoma Housing Authority about the plans for this space.

Across the street from The Red Elm, you’ll notice the old Rite Aid building has a face lift - local artists have painted beautiful murals on the building exterior celebrating the reactivation of this space by community members. T.U.P.A.C. has been holding summer dance camp inside and outside the building for our Hilltop youth. Did you know that T.U.P.A.C. offers free dance lessons for young males? Find out more at (253) 327-1873 or visit their website at https://tacomaupac.org/.

Forterra has big plans for the Rite Aid site and plans to add commercial business space and up to 300 housing units. This housing development is driven by the Hilltop Community. You can read the Hilltop Community Investment Council Report about Driving Design at 11th & MLK by visiting Forterra’s website at https://tacomaupac.org/. Meet Jeff Trude, Program Manager for Forterra’s Community Development, at the Aug 23rd Happy Hour and find out more about this Hilltop project.

Walking a little further down MLK Jr. Way and you’ll notice a big crane and lot of activity across from People’s Park at MLK Jr. Way and 9th ST. Koz Development is building 156 housing units with commercial space on the ground floor. To encourage car-free living, the project will house electric cars, scooters and bikes in a secured garage. Find out more about this project at https://www.kozauddevelopment.com/koz-on-mlk-way.

Meet Koz Development representatives at HAC’s Happy Hour with Cider & Conversation on Aug 23rd from 6-7:30PM. Did I mention there will be a walking tour of these 3 project sites? See you on Aug 23rd for Cider & Conversation!
President’s Message

By Brendan Nelson

Hello Hilltop Family,

Let me say this to all of you, “Thank you!!” I am humbled and proud to be a part of the Hilltop community. I have observed this community abide by the expectations laid out by State officials, seen thousands of meals and supplies delivered to those in need, watched students and families work to navigate virtual learning environments, and participated in celebrations that honored the diversity of our community. I am so impressed by the efforts of many organizations that have labored for months to design safe plans for reopening. Recognizing the unpredictable nature of the virus, and the expected protocols to ensure safety, we have all learned to be flexible and responsive to individual needs, while keeping everyone safe and healthy. Much respect to our community!!!

As we venture into the new phase of togetherness, let’s do so with hope and optimism, while being disciplined and focused. By teaming up together, we will be able to embrace the bold and new things that are truly excellent. Our optimism, while being disciplined and focused. By teaming up together, we will be able to embrace the bold and new things that are truly excellent. Our optimism, while being disciplined and focused. By teaming up together, we will be able to embrace the bold and new things that are truly excellent. Our optimism, while being disciplined and focused. By teaming up together, we will be able to embrace the bold and new things that are truly excellent. Our optimism, while being disciplined and focused. By teaming up together, we will be able to embrace the bold and new things that are truly excellent. Our optimism, while being disciplined and focused.

Thank you for your support and trust in HAC. We are in this together, and will be stronger as a result.

In service,

Brendan Nelson
President, Hilltop Action Coalition
Meet HAC Board Member: Michealea Lemons

Meet Hilltop Action Coalition Board Members! A Board Member will be highlighted in each edition of the Journal.

By Aaliyah Walton

The passionate and hardworking Michealea Lemons says that the Hilltop Action Coalition board is right for her, just as much as she believes she is right for it. A member since January 2020, her journey with HAC began in 2018 when she first attended HAC’s in-person Monthly Community Meeting. Michealea found that compared to other council meetings she had encountered, this board was different from the rest in that they were more connected and involved with their community members.

This positive experience inspired her to further explore her role in the community as a board member a year after that first introduction, as her schedule became more open to delving into community board work. Being from Hilltop at that point, going to Community Healthcare, volunteering in the area, attending UWT and familiarizing herself with HAC events, Michealea was already representing the Hilltop community. “The people who live there want to spend time together” she shares, as a unique distinction about this neighborhood that she admires.

Another huge inspiration for her came from a love and devotion for community service which was introduced to her by her grandma who would take Michealea to many community outings and events in San Antonio in order to connect her with her community. This experience taught her to selflessly devote her time to volunteering, which had many pros including exploring different career paths she might consider in the future.

“Sometimes it was to see if I wanted to do these things professionally and sometimes it was this fun,” she expresses. I think this is a great lesson for anyone struggling to figure out what they want to do. Although she is still forming her own profession and passion, she was able to filter out anything she might have not enjoyed and explored many different columns of work through volunteering.

This shows up for Michealea now, as she is passionate about serving her community through not only the HAC board but advocating for black people through her work with PCAF, an organization that works toward HIV prevention and fights against the harmful stigmas surrounding it. “We offer a lot of free services, so figuring out how to plug that in for a space that has been traditionally black was super important to me and still is.”

As a HAC board member, Michealea has been able to network and incorporate her passions into the board by being a voice for the black women that she strongly advocates for. “HAC has opened my eyes to so many things” she adds, talking about her new knowledge about non-profits as a first-time non-profit board member. She now realizes how much work it takes and the details that go into place that make everything happen.

It has been interesting for her to be a part of this learning process while also providing her own knowledge and expertise. Michealea would like to share that she is available for her community, and she has shown through her history of devoted volunteering and advocacy, but also her love of anime and doggies “I just want to be a resource for fun and for work,” she would like Hilltop to know. We appreciate a kind, fun team player like Michealea to advocate for us on the Hilltop Action Coalition Board of Directors!

HAC Board Member, Michealea Lemons. Reach out to Michealea, with the Pierce County Aids Foundation, at (253) 383-2565 or via email at mlemons@pcaf-wa.org.

“HAC has opened my eyes to so many things.” Michealea wants Hilltop to know that, “I just want to be a resource for fun and for work.”

~ Michealea Lemons, HAC Board Member, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Advocate

Happy Hour with HAC

Drop in for Happy Hour on August 23rd and enjoy conversation with local housing developers from Forterra, Tacoma Housing Authority and Koz Development. They’ll take you on a walking tour of on-going development sites on the Hilltop. HAC Board members will be at Grit City Ciderworks to greet you. Have a glass of Cider or Kombuchas on HAC and enjoy free appetizers from Love by the Slice!

Everyone had a great time at the July 26th Happy Hour.

MLK Jr. Way - Forterra’s development site has been activated with murals. The building Mr. MAC was in is gone (right corner by tree).

MLK Jr. Way - Koz Development is making progress across from People’s Park.
Thank You!  
Hilltop Summer Splash Sponsors!

Hilltop Action Coalition and Tacoma Housing Authority want to give a special SHOUT OUT to our Summer Splash Sponsors:

City of Tacoma Special Event Funding is providing the Summer Splash Hilltop Business Crawl a $3000 award.

Sound Transit has provided a Cannon Ball Level $2500 Sponsorship.

!! THANK YOU !!

Hilltop Summer Splash & Block Party

Hilltop Action Coalition, Tacoma Housing Authority and Hilltop Business Association are partnering for a community connection experience this summer. The Summer Splash event will include the Hilltop Business Crawl which will offer a virtual and in-person opportunity to support local businesses. To add to the community experience, there will be a Block Party till 6pm with MLK Jr. Way closed to traffic from 10am to 6pm from 9th Street to 14th Street, and along S 11th Street from MLK Jr. Way to L Street. This is not a Streetfair, but rather a time for locals to get together and celebrate the reopening of Hilltop! To add to this celebration, HAC has added a few events leading up to the August 21st Splash. Find out more at https://www.hilltopcrawl.com/. We hope you’ll join us for some pre-Splash fun!

Summer Splash Events Schedule

**HAC Summer Social & Fundraiser**
Tuesday, August 17th, 4:30 to 7:30pm  
Join HAC for free drinks and appetizers during their Friend-raiser & Fundraiser!  
Tacoma Arts Community Center (corner of 1102 S 11th ST/MLK Jr. Way)

**Hilltop at TAM**
Thursday, August 19th, 10:00am to 6:00pm  
Join HAC and view the Kinsey African American Art & History Collection!  
Hilltop greeting area with free hearty appetizers and refreshments.  
Tacoma Art Museum (1701 Pacific Avenue) Free Event

**Summer Splash Pool Party**
Friday, August 20th, 10:00am to 6:00pm  
People’s Community Center (1602 MLK Jr. Way) Free Event

**Hilltop Summer Splash & Block Party**
Saturday, August 21st, 10:00am to 6:00pm  
Support local businesses with a Hilltop Crawl!  
Back-to-School Resources, Health & Community Resources Areas  
Bike & Skateboard Obstacle Courses - Everything is Free  
MLK Jr. Way (street will be closed from 9th ST to 14th ST)

**Happy Hour with Cider & Conversation**
Monday, August 23rd, 6:00 to 7:00pm  
Join HAC & Local Developers for Conversation & A Walking Tour  
Your 1st glass of cider is on HAC - Free appetizers from Love by the Slice!  
Grit City Ciderworks (1016 MLK Jr. Way)

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Hilltop Action Coalition & Metro Parks Tacoma

**POOL PARTY**
People’s Community Center  
1602 MLK Jr. Way  
Fri, Aug 20th from 12-2 PM  
Splash in for Free!  
Refreshments Served

Children 6 and under must be within arm’s reach of an adult at all times.

Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.
Second Cycle Community, a bicycle shop in Hilltop, is celebrating 10 years as a non-profit organization with an open-house fundraising event on August 21st. “We had no idea that the community would support this project with so much interest,” says Noah Struthers, executive director and a founding member of the project. “This is a huge milestone for the shop.”

From humble beginnings in a small rented room in the alley behind Le Le Restaurant, Second Cycle now occupies a 4,600 square foot storefront on MLK Jr. Way. The shop receives donated bicycles from the community that are then refurbished, stripped for parts, or recycled. Refurbished bikes are sold through a retail storefront that also offers new parts, as well as full-service repairs. Reducing financial barriers to the joys of cycling is a primary focus of the shop.

During the height of COVID restrictions in 2020, the demand for repair services exploded as folks turned to cycling as an outlet to the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order. With the shop’s DIY Toolspace closed, staff had to perform many of the repairs that riders would have otherwise been encouraged to do themselves. Customers who identified as unhoused or front-line workers were given priority and offered free or reduced-cost services. By the end of 2020, Second Cycle staff had performed $10,000 of in-kind bicycle repairs during the year.

An expansion project in early 2021 created more warehouse space for a dedicated youth class program which has been essential to resuming programming while social distancing. Programming includes classes for kids and youth, including summer camps and monthly Slow and Social group bike rides, with burned-up last COVID restrictions having loosened.

“Creating a safe space for youth has always been a goal of Second Cycle,” says Struthers. “In the early days it was a place for neighborhood kids to get their bikes fixed and learn some mechanic skills. The neighborhood youth are a large part of this shop’s identity.”

Second Cycle will celebrate 10 years with a fundraiser party at the shop on August 21st from 2pm-5pm to coincide with the Summer Splash open streets event hosted by HAC and HBA. As part of the festivities, the new youth classroom will be dedicated to Gerod Byrd, former Second Cycle board member and long-time volunteer, who succumbed to his fight with cancer in 2017. The day will include music, food, and fundraising activities inside the shop. The party will be preceded by a free community bike ride at 12:30 pm and a bike obstacle course will fill the street in front of the shop during that afternoon.

“We’re excited to showcase what we do in this community and also to honor a dear friend,” says Struthers.

More information about the event and the shop can be found at www.2ndcycle.org.

Gerod Byrd, long-time volunteer and first board chairperson of Second Cycle

By Matt Newport, Second Cycle

Second Cycle’s Youth Summer Camp in July 2021

By Kristine Coman, HAC Program Manager

I’m always encouraging other people to pursue their dreams… start your own business. I decided to take my own advice as I’ve been working on... phonetic marketing (Jennifer English, Spacesworks Business Training Coordinator, and Co-Owner of SPUN Clay Arts Studio & Gallery, taught the workshop).

Part I was really engaging as we jumped right into how to create statements for your vision (where do you want to go? what is the dream for your company? mission [how will you get there? What does your Company do?], and values (how will you act along the way?). The most fun part for me was about finding your ‘Why’.

Finding your ‘Why’ helps you stay focused. It’s your purpose, your passion or a cause/mission that drives you - and if it resonates with others, that’s why they buy from you. Jennifer shared her ‘Why’ for SPUN:

Jennifer added that clearly defining your ‘Why’ helps you define where and who to market to. It’s like a dating bio that can reach their full potential. So cool!!

Part II covered Market Research & Target Market. Jennifer relayed why it is important to know who your customers are early on so that you are better off later on. She said that “it can be really difficult to get it or trying to please everyone, but by casting a wide net, you may end up missing the mark with all of your audiences.” Jennifer added that clearly defining the demographics (married, male, 35+ etc.) and psychographics (loves to travel, avid hiker, values family time, etc.) can help you figure out what similarities you see across your sales. For example, check out the analytics on your social media posts to see where and what kind of posts that you are getting interaction on - what you are getting engaged. I asked her how to get that information, besides your current research, and she said a great way is pop-up questions when they check out online. The most important tip she offered was, “How did you hear about my product?”

Jennifer offered special advice for artists and creative businesses: ask these 3 questions: 1) What’s my niche interest? 2) What’s my subject? 3) What’s my style? To make more of her insight, register for the next webinar.

Developing a customer personas helps you define where and who to market to. It’s like a dating bio that can reach their full potential. She also advised that you pick carefully which social media sites to post on - you can’t post on all of them or you’ll go crazy. Pick a couple and do it well. You can also check out a competitor’s site and see what kind of customer is following them and which sites they use. No matter what site you use, be sure to include a link to your site so people can make a purchase.

Jennifer teaches other business foundation classes for Spacesworks. Look for the 12-week Business Launch Cohort this winter for folks that have a product or service but you might not be selling it yet. In the Fall and Spring, she has a 4-week Idea Co- hort. Visit https://www.spacesworks	.com/ for more details on how to sign up for their newsletter so you’ll know when the applications are open. You can check out Spacesworks graduates at the STAR BAZAAR. A Spacesworks Showcase event with vendors, performances, food and art. Feel free to reach out to Jennifer English for more information too at JenniferE@spaceworkstacoma.com.

Norcie Wilson (Norcie and Herschel Wilson) went through the program the Spring 2020. They own the Painting Panda down at Freghthouse Square: a Paint it yourself pottery studio.
The Hilltop Neighborhood Reopens During National Night Out

HAC visited 4 National Night Out Celebrations on Aug 3rd and was delighted by the sights and sounds of community being together again.

The 1st stop was at New Tacoma Apts where people were eating delicious food while waiting for the band to play.

People’s Community Center was next - they had a HIG bouncy toy, home cooked food, and a chance for Kristine Coman to snap a picture with Mayor woodards.

Booked with Hilltop was at People’s Center too - they will be at the Summer Splash handing out free books!


8th & I’s National Night Out celebration was organized by neighborhood youth. They had their annual Fence Painting party along with tasty treats made by neighbors. Picture courtesy of Lisa Monet.

The City of Destiny
Where every street is a realization of a dream
Hard work and dedication
Conversations of innovation
Inspiration pours from our spirits
Don’t believe in limits
We believe
We can rise above any obstacles given

We are a people who have overcome
We are a people who get things done
Yes we have our ups and downs
But the trend is always up

We got that T-Town love
We trust our gut
We grind it out in the rain
We sweat in the sun

This is grit city
You from Tacoma then you tough
You have what it takes to achieve at every level
We all know that the Tac
Only produces special
We are Tacoma official

From the North End
To Hilltop to the East Side
Everyone in this town
Is about that life

That life of perseverance
Remaining consistent
Building up a business
For our children’s children’s children’s

Tacoma is legacy
Tacoma is everything
If your in Tacoma then
You can truly be all you can be

By B.Lyte of Power 2 The Poetry

Welcome to the 253
The City of Destiny
Where every street is a realization of a dream
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253
The city of Destiny

Bethany Montgomery aka B.Lyte
Founder & President of Power 2 The Poetry LLC
TedX Spokane -https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pR99bPNj1DK
Website https://power2thepoetry.com/
Dr. Michelle Marconi prepares vegan food that is gluten free.

If you have not been paying attention since 2018, Mayor Woodward, City Council Members, the Planning Commission, and the Housing Equity Taskforce began taking steps to fulfill their Housing Action Plan (HAP) for the City. Before Covid, you might have even learned about the new building options called ADU’s and DADU’s which you might think of as tiny homes that are either attached or detached from an already existing building. Several years ago, I opened the doors to Marconi Chiropractic and Wellness in the Hilltop Tacoma region to provide a place where your needs can be fulfilled.

Getting To The Root Of The City Of Tacoma’s Zoning Change Proposal

Each area of Tacoma has different needs and if there was ever a time to become engaged at the local level, this is it.

Hilltop Action Journal

By Sandy Arthys, sandy422@uw.edu

Marconi Chiropractic and Wellness

By Dr. Michelle Marconi

Marconi Chiropractic and Wellness was established in November of 2016 in the Hilltop Tacoma region to provide a one stop shop for locals to fulfill their wellness needs. I, Dr. Michelle Marconi, also wanted to create a home environment in the clinic where patients can actually see what I eat. I’ve been eating a vegan/vegetarian diet for 29 years and I’ve been gluten free for over a decade. I found out after giving birth to my oldest daughter that I couldn’t tolerate gluten and I was left with stomach aches. After taking a food sensitivity test, a test that I offer here at the clinic, I took out gluten and I’ve never looked back! I now offer gluten free vegan cooking classes. So many people ask me, “What do you eat??”, easy... food!! And I show people through my cooking classes how easy it is to actually make tasty food that is good for you. It’s not the food in your life but the life in your food that help fuel us or poison us. I choose to eat a whole food plant based diet and regardless if you want to go vegan or gluten free or just incorporate more vegetables into your diet, help people with this task.

So why are so many people going gluten free and is it really healthy to cut gluten out? I’m here to answer that question for you. Gluten is a protein that acts as a binding product in many items such as wheat, rye and barely products. Gluten consumption has increased dramatically over the past 100 years causing an uprise in gluten intolerance, celiac disease and gluten sensitivities. Some common signs that may point to having gluten issues include: diarrhea, constipation, headache, tiredness, depression, bloating, skin rashes and so much more. Gluten damages the gut wall leading to leaky gut syndrome, nutrient deficiencies, anemia and severe digestive issues. If you’re thinking you have a gluten issue, contact us and we can help figure out your health needs.

Marconi Chiropractic and Wellness is not just for chiropractic adjustments. It is also required to be designed to match existing home and residential patterns. To help with this, a height limit is being placed on buildings to keep them under three or four floors with transitioning spaces required so a temporary home isn’t sitting next to a three-story building. Although, this is something the City has always wanted to do.

A criticism of this project is mentioned in the City’s Minority Report which is from diverse members of the City Council and include a warning for for-profit developers. New buildings constructed by for-profit developers are not to be viewed as the Kearns North project of the Kearns South project of the Kearns East project. This minority argument doesn’t reflect that the same opportunities are available to non-profit sector and community.

This is rather a chance for capital investors and community organizers to make ‘A Dash for the Timer.’

The Root Policy Research team admits that there are more opportunities if housing is built north of I5 rather than south, as median sales prices for home in Tacoma, state, or federal funds. Also, the expansion of any Commercial Districts is currently being limited meaning areas like the Eastside won’t become a ‘destination within the city’ anytime soon.

Let’s crunch some numbers: The Root Policy Research group reported that the median rent for 2019 was $1,273 (pg. 7). To check the feasibility of getting this cost down or stabilized, we need to look at the Growth Targets for Tacoma which are reported on by several organizations (pg. 12). Between 2016-2019 the growth in Tacoma was an average of 1,755 housing units which is below all suggested targets for housing market to keep pace with the new demand. Therefore, if the goal is to make rents go down, the city needs way more housing units built each year than ever before.

The estimated time for the zoning change to occur and for developers to start submitting proposals is one to two years. Each area of Tacoma has different needs and if there was ever a time to become engaged at the local level, this is it. Communities around the US (and the world) have been creating their own Affordable Housing Co-ops, Community Land Trusts, and even Community-Owned Grocery Stores for decades.

Tacoma also requires that in-fill housing is not as it is the same as community or even business investment with city, state, or federal funds. Also, the expansion of any Commercial Districts is currently being limited meaning areas like the Eastside won’t become a ‘destination within the city’ anytime soon.

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The estimated time for the zoning change to occur and for developers to start submitting proposals is one to two years. Each area of Tacoma has different needs and if there was ever a time to become engaged at the local level, this is it. Communities around the US (and the world) have been creating their own Affordable Housing Co-ops, Community Land Trusts, and even Community-Owned Grocery Stores for decades. This zoning change provides the legal framework that Community Leaders may use to transform their neighborhoods from the inside-out creating true bottom-up change but if the people don’t unite, they risk this zoning change becoming a free-for-all.

To find out more, receive updates or ask questions about the Home in Tacoma Project, please email: planning@cityoftacoma.org or visit the Cities page: https://www.cityoftacoma.org/cms/one.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=180033.

Footnote Links


3 - 1/10th of 1 Percent Sales Tax Increase https://www.thenewstribune.com/home/2020-07-13/1-10th-of-1-percent-sales-tax-increase

4 - The City has always been good at https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local-article/24946/1946.html

By Dr. Michelle Marconi

Marconi Chiropractic & Wellness

Dr. Michelle Marconi prepares vegan food that is gluten free.

PAINTING: Frederic S. Remington (1861-1909); A Dash for the Timber; 1889; Oil on canvas; Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas; 1961.381 (image: Public Domain)
The Kinsey African American Art & History Collection

Coming This Summer to Tacoma Art Museum

This groundbreaking exhibition features over 150 works of art, photographs, rare documents, and more, celebrating the achievements and contributions of Black Americans from 1595 to the present day. Exhibition open through November 28, 2021.

The exhibition has been cited in Tacoma Art Museum is pleased to host the widely acclaimed exhibition, The Kinsey African American Art & History Collection, celebrating the achievements and contributions of Black Americans from 1595 to present times. Considered one of the most comprehensive surveys of African American history and culture outside the Smithsonian Institution, the exhibition will feature over 150 of the shared treasures amassed by Bernard and Shirley Kinsey during their five decades of marriage. The collection includes masterful paintings and sculptures, photographs, rare books, letters, manuscripts, and more. The exhibition at TAM, which will include some works from the Kinsey Collection that have not been shown before, will run July 31 – November 28, 2021.

The exhibition has been cited in three national awards, including the National Medal for Museum and Library Service. Garnering national media attention and experienced by more than 15 million people, the groundbreaking exhibition has toured 30 cities in the U.S. and internationally, including the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, The Museum of American History, The Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., and the University of Hong Kong, among others. Additionally, the exhibition has been shown in numerous locations across the United States, this will be the first time the exhibition has been presented in the Pacific Northwest. According to Bernard Kinsey, “The collection at TAM is an opportunity for people in the Pacific Northwest and surrounding areas to see historical artifacts and artworks that are extremely rare and vitally important to the story of America.”

David F. Setford, TAM’s Executive Director, said, “When I traveled to Dallas in September 2019 to see this exhibition and meet the Kinseys, I was overwhelmed. I was amazed by the power of the documents and works of art on display, by their ability to tell an untold story, and by the commitment of the Kinseys to share that story. I resolved that we needed to share this story at TAM.”

The exhibition’s presentation at TAM and related community programming is being developed in collaboration with an exhibition advisor team consisting of 18 Black leaders, artists, educators, and activists from the greater Tacoma area. Special events include tours, talks, educator workshops, school tours, youth programs, and more. The exhibition will be hosted at TAM and virtually during the exhibition. TAM and the Kinsey family are also excited to collaborate with, highlight, and celebrate Black-owned small businesses in Tacoma. The TAM Cafe is partnering with Black-owned restaurants to host rotating pop-ups with menu offerings from local favorites, including Uncle Thurman’s Soul Food, Humble Jones, Lizzie Lou’s, Southern Kitchen, Campfire Coffee, Only Oatmeal Cookie Creations, and more. The TAM Store will be hosted at TAM and virtually.

Additionally, a richly illustrated book with a foreword by Douglas A. Blackmon, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II, accompanies the exhibition and will be available for sale in the TAM Store.

For more information on this exhibit, visit https://www.tacomaartmuseum.org/exhibit/the-kinsey-collection. TAM is open Wed 10am–5pm, Thu at 10am–8pm, and Fri–Sun 10am–5pm. Admission is $18 Adult, $15 Senior, and $13 for children 18 and under. Free: Thursday Neighborhood Nights are free from 5–8pm. Join HAC at TAM on Thurs, Aug 19th 5–8pm for some Hilltop Summer Splash Fun! HAC@TACOMAARTMUSEUM.}

PAGE 8

HILLTOP ACTION JOURNAL
Understanding The Art And History Of Black Americans From 1595 To Now

Art educates, saves lives, and gives the truth to know where we are today. It’s time to change the narrative of African American history.

By Perla Vasquez, University of Washington Tacoma, HAC Intern

On a beautiful Thursday morning in the city of Tacoma, Washington, on July 29th at 10 AM, The Tacoma Art Museum presented and honored, The Kinsey African American Art & History Collection. Many individuals came to the grand opening to celebrate, contribute, and honor the history of Black Americans and over 150 treasures that were found by the Kinsey family.

The Kinsey African American Art & History Collection has grabbed the attention and been experienced by millions of people all around the world. It has toured over 30 cities all around the United States. The exhibition has been presented in The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of African American History, EPCOT Walt Disney World, and so much more.

The Kinsey African American Art & History Collection includes and introduces paintings, sculptures, books that were never seen before, letters, photographs, and so much more. Every single piece of collection shown, represents the lives and history of African Americans through slavery, civil rights movements, and where they stand today. For example, legal papers documenting the slave trade, Harlem Renaissance art and literature, items that represent the key moments of the civil rights movements, and so much more.

The Kinsey African American Art & History Collection became the voice and representative for the African American historical, artistic, and became the exhibition to change the narrative for African Americans. The collection that gets introduced helps give the experience and visual of what African Americans had to deal with and how they contribute to the country today. It also introduces the truth and different perspectives that were ignored during history.

The Kinsey African American Art & History Collection doesn’t just want to change the narrative of the African American history, but educate youth the true history of African American. The exhibition provides the youth with never seen before historical information that empowers and helps improve self esteem about their own culture. African American history is not taught the correct way, viewed, and ignored in history. Which affects African American children and youth to not see themselves be part of the picture or be part of the narrative. The goal of the Kinsey African American Art & Museum Collection is to help young children from different parts of the world to know and deepen their knowledge of the African American history.

“The Kinsey Collection strives to give our ancestors a voice, a name, and a personality, enabling the viewer to understand the challenges, obstacles, triumphs, accomplishments, and extraordinary sacrifices of African Americans in building this country.” – Bernard Kinsey.

The Kinsey African American Art & Museum Collection has been shown in many different parts of the United States, but this will be the first time that it will be shown in the Pacific Northwest. “The collection at TAM is an opportunity for people in the Pacific Northwest and surrounding areas to see historical artifacts and artworks that are extremely rare and vitally important to the story of America.” –Bernard Kinsey.

Here are some TAM events that you may be interested in attending:

Hometown Treasures - Saturday, September 25, 11am-4pm
Dig into your history at TAM with their Hometown Treasures event! TAM invites families from Tacoma’s African American communities to have their treasures identified and historical pieces reviewed by professionals. Learn about how art can be used to archive and record our history and build legacy for future generations.

Hear from the Kinseys / Harlem Renaissance - Sunday, Oct 3 at 2pm
Join the Tacoma Art Museum for an exclusive conversation with the Kinseys as they discuss the Harlem Renaissance, its place in The Kinsey African American Art & History Collection, and how the spirit of community and collaboration continues to shape Black art into the present day.
Registration required at https://www.tacomaartmuseum.org/event/ hear-from-the-kinseys-harlem-renaissance (5$, free to members and students).

Live Performance / Northwest Sinfonietta Attuned - Thursday, November 4 at 6pm - Join TAM for the Northwest Sinfonietta’s, Attuned, a live concert featuring African-American composers throughout history with special dance choreography performed and created by the Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center (T.U.P.A.C.).
FREE Registration required at https://www.tacomaartmuseum.org/event/live-performance-northwest-sinfonietta-attuned/

Community Conversation / The Kinsey Collection and Tacoma - Sunday, November 14 at 2pm.
Join the Tacoma Art Museum for a community conversation with the Kinseys. Explore the inner workings of The Kinsey African American Art & History Collection, the connections between the exhibition and Tacoma, and how the show has affected local communities. FREE – Registration required at https://www.tacomaartmuseum.org/event/community-conversation-the-kinsey-collection-and-tacoma/

Hilltop at TAM
Bring your family and friends to TAM on Thursday, August 19th from 5-8pm, to enjoy the Kinsey African American Art & History Collection for FREE.

Hilltop Action Coalition will be there to greet you! HAC feels that this exhibit is important to our historically Black community and hopes you will take time to visit this collection before it leaves TAM on November 28, 2021.

“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.” – Marcus Garvey
Grit City Trees 2021: A Free Street Tree Program

In the 2020 season, Grit City Trees distributed about 206 trees with 75% going to Tacoma’s traditionally underserved neighborhoods.

The Urban Heat Island (UHI) happens when buildings, roads, and other heat-absorbing infrastructure attracts and holds onto more of the sun’s energy (heat), compared to natural landscapes. This heat is slowly reemitted throughout the night, which keeps urban places hotter, around the clock. This excess heat causes an increase in heat-related illness to the community.

The neighborhoods with the highest heat island values almost always directly correlate with low-income, historically minority neighborhoods. This holds true in Tacoma as well.” – Tacoma Tree Foundation 2020.

Tree coverage is a major factor affecting the livability of a neighborhood and leads to clear differences in quality of life across neighborhoods in Tacoma. With tree canopy coverage as low as 2.9% in some traditionally underserved neighborhoods, it is vital that the City provide resources to support tree growth in these communities, to help improve the health of these communities.

Tacoma is committed to racial, social, climate, and environmental justice. The goal of the Grit City Trees program is to equitably grow happy and healthy neighborhoods through community tree planting. With the City’s commitment to anti-racist transformation, even trees have a role to play. The Grit City Trees program prioritizes planting in Tacoma’s traditionally underserved neighborhoods, which includes Hilltop.

In the 2020 season, Grit City Trees distributed about 206 trees with 75% going to Tacoma’s traditionally underserved neighborhoods. We hope to increase the number of trees being planted in our traditionally underserved neighborhoods and increase the quality of life for people living there.

We would not have reached these numbers without the amazing work of “Tree Captains.” These community leaders inspire their neighbors to take incremental actions like tree planting, which continuously improve the environment and quality of life in their neighborhoods for generations to come. For that, we are forever grateful.

How to participate
The City can promote planting, but it takes a village to grow a forest. Neighbors are encouraged to work together, while following COVID-19 safety precautions, to apply for Grit City Trees as a group. Individuals are also eligible to apply. Tacoma residents interested in participating will need to send in the Grit City Trees application available at https://www.cityoftacoma.org/environmental-services/urban_forestry/grit_city_trees. All applications will be considered with preference given to neighborhoods applications from Tacoma’s traditionally underserved neighborhoods.

Free trees and other supporting materials such as TAGRO, tree stakes, and tree ties will be available for free, starting in October. In the spring, watering materials will be delivered for free, starting in October. In the spring, watering materials will be available for ease of tree watering during the dry summer months. Regularly watering a new tree for at least the first three years after planting is crucial for them to establish healthy roots and thrive.

We want to hear from you
Additionally, we want to extend an open invitation to talk about the urban forest and the Grit City Trees program. We recognize this program may be limited and are especially interested in learning how we can better support traditionally underserved communities in improving the environment to have a positive impact on community health.

To learn more information about tree planting, visit https://www.cityoftacoma.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=111377. For other questions or comments, contact trees@cityoftacoma.org or call at (253) 502-2138.
Clean Water And Green Neighborhoods: That’s What Tacoma’s Healthy Watersheds Are All About

“Water is the most critical resource issue of our lifetime and our children’s lifetime. The health of our waters is the principal measure of how we live on the land.” – Luna Leopold

By Shauna Hansen, City of Tacoma Environmental Services, Science & Engineering, Center for Urban Waters

Hilltop – do you know where your rainwater ends up? When rainwater hits hard surfaces like roofs, sidewalks, driveways and parking lots, it becomes stormwater runoff and washes pollutants like litter, pet waste, and car oil into the city stormwater system leading directly to Commencement Bay and Puget Sound. In Tacoma, the stormwater system is separate from the pipes that collect wastewater from sinks, showers and toilets. Wastewater is cleaned at the Central Wastewater Treatment Plant before being released into Puget Sound, but stormwater doesn’t get cleaned at the treatment plant. So in Tacoma:

In other words, Puget Sound Starts Here: wherever we live, work or play on the Hilltop. This fall, there are lots of opportunities for Hilltop neighbors to help take care of our piece of Puget Sound. September is Puget Sound Starts Here month!

- Apply for a Make a Splash grant. Applications for 2022 projects are accepted during the month of September (www.cityoftacoma.org/makesplash). Be reimbursed up to $4,000 for a project that helps protect our surface waters or educate about the importance of preventing stormwater pollution.
- Adopt-a-storm drain on your street. Starting in September, volunteer to sweep up, rake up, pick up and keep litter and leaves out of your storm drain to prevent stormwater pollution and flooding when it rains. Program participants receive a yard sign to let everyone know you are helping protect Puget Sound. You can also request stencil art for your storm drain (pictured above.) Sign up at www.adopt-a-drain.org.
- Sponsor a Neighborhood Dog Waste Station – Is doggy doo an issue on your street? A friendly doggy bag station may help. Apply to have a free station installed on your street with a sign, bag dispenser, and free bag refills. All you need to do is monitor and restock the bags. To get started, contact Sarah Norberg at (253) 208-0536 or snorberg@cityoftacoma.org.
- Mark your catch basins (street drains) – Help your neighbors remember “only rain down the drain” by marking catch basins in your neighborhood with curb markers. Contact Citizens for a Healthy Bay www.healthybay.org to borrow a marking kit and get busy.
- Depave. Do you have too much pavement on your property or in your community? Apply for Depave assistance to cut out and remove the asphalt and create a new green space!
- Urban Habitat. Tired of mowing your lawn? Turn your turf into habitat at home! Get help now to create pollinator-friendly wildlife habitat.
- Rain Tank. Start harvesting rainwater in a large cistern and use it later to water your gardens during dry periods.

Ready to get started? Contact Robb Krebbiel (robbk@piercecd.org) to learn more and set up a site visit to discuss your project. Applications are due on or before October 29th.

What do you care about most in your neighborhood: Shade trees? Sidewalks? Clean streets? We are currently developing Tacoma’s first Urban Watershed Management Plan to help prioritize actions that protect our nearby waterways from polluted stormwater runoff while responding to community priorities at the same time. We’d love to hear from the Hilltop. Learn more and take the healthy watersheds community survey at www.cityoftacoma.org/healthywatersheds.

Shrine Drain Art Stencil - Oasis of Hope Center Parking Lot – 1937 S. G Street
COVID-19: Accurate Information For School Requirements

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department have you covered! During the pandemic, it’s more important than ever for your child to stay up-to-date on immunizations that prevent disease. Call your provider’s office or Mary Bridge free immunizations for kids at (253) 403-1767 to make an appointment.

You’ll need to bring your child’s immunization record to record new vaccinations. Immunizations are available at the following locations:
- Tacoma WIC - Mary Bridge WIC at 316 North L Street, Tacoma, 98403 (behind Frisko Freeze) - from 8:00am to 4:30pm (routine vaccines)
- Puyallup WIC - Mary Bridge WIC at 1011 East Main Street, Puyallup, 98372 – from 9:30am to 3:30pm (routine vaccines)
- UW Tacoma - 1918 Pacific Ave, Tacoma, 98402 - Walk-ins are available from 1-7pm (COVID-19 vaccine)
- Baker Middle School - 8001 South 35th Street, Tacoma, 98408 - 11:00am to 1:00pm (routine vaccines)
- Curtis High School - 8425 40th Street West, University Place, 98466 - 8:00 to 9:30am (COVID-19 and other vaccines)

Find out more about free immunizations for kids by visiting https://www.tpchd.org/health-people/diseases/covid-19/vaccine-information-for-children.

Children 12 and older are eligible to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Learn more about COVID-19 vaccine and find a vaccine event calendar at https://www.tpchd.org/health-people/diseases/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine-information.

Vaccine Information for COVID-19

COVID-19 Vaccine Access In Your Neighborhood

Hilltop Regional Health Center - 1202 MLK Jr. Way - Appointments are recommended. Call (253) 722-1855 or register here https://atstrans.org/.

Sea Mar Community Health Center - 3112 S Cashman - Appointments are recommended. Call (253) 289-4503 to register. Walk in appointments may be available. More information is available at https://www.seamarestatus.org/covid-vaccine.html.

Lost your COVID-19 Vaccine Card?

If you lost your COVID-19 Vaccine Card, you can call the Washington State Dept of Health at 1-800-325-5399 or submit a request at www.doh.wa.gov/YouAndYourFamily/Immunization. You will receive a new immunization record, showing your Covid-19 vaccine.

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Purchase 2 months & get 1 month free

For more details, contact Kristine Coman at 253-442-8848 or email hacoffice15@gmail.com.
How can we improve transportation in Pierce County?

We need your feedback!

The Pierce County Coordinated Transportation Coalition (PCCTC) is a dedicated group of people who understand that reliable transportation is important for people to stay independent and healthy in their community.

Please take five minutes to fill out an anonymous survey. Your answers will help us develop transportation services for people with limited or no transportation options.

PierceCountyWA.gov/Tsurvey

Call 2-1-1 for other languages or a paper copy.
Honors, Awards & Scholarships Can Support Your Education Goals For A Bright Future

Free money for all ages to support your educational goals. Don’t hesitate - your future begins today!

By Perry Newell, Funding College Project

We are very pleased to have been helping individuals and their families for the past 50 years. Organized as a non-commercial effort, we have been recognized and have been honored several times. Supported by a family, a small Episcopal Church, THE SUBURBAN TIMES and other media partners, Legions of Mentors, Contributor, the participation of elected, public, and private individual- izations, organizations, and schools too numerous to name and through the support of organizations, and various Educational, Social, Civic and Col- lege Networks.

If you have been following my posts, you know that scholarships aren’t simply for high school se- niors and current college students. There are many programs available to high school underclassmen, grad- uate schools, and even adults who are heading back to college or attending for the first time.

But did you know that there are also ample opportunities for elementary and middle school students? It’s true! Unfortunately, due to the Child- ren’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), online scholarship search resources are not available to students under the age of 13, which can make finding these opportunities a little more difficult.

That’s why I felt it was important to share with you some of the programs that are currently open (and others that may be opening soon) for younger stu- dents. The Funding College Project & Cash for Kids are non-commercial activities and have been asked to supply to individuals, groups, newspapers, and community bul- letin boards serving the area with information about active honors, awards, scholarships and insight- ful advice. Visit our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/groups/572667424955161/ to find out about more opportunities to fund your college project.

The Education Planner is your one- stop career and college planning website at https://www.education- planner.org/. This site includes a variety of metals and interesting stones, Ajmer by Jodi offers pieces that blend elegance with playfulness. Our pieces are crafted with love, and we want you to love what you buy! We want to hear from you! We welcome any questions, concerns, or feedback you may be willing to share to help guide the upcoming decisions.

We will begin our time together with a short update, move forward with a few guided questions to warm us up, then open the floor for anyone who wishes to share questions, concerns, or feedback.

Please RSVP for this virtual Zoom event at https://bit.ly/2K1I88Z

Keep Up-To-Date with Hilltop Light Rail Link Construction

Grit City Co-op is beginning talks with Koz Development Inc. about potentially becoming the retail tenant in the building at 9th and MLK Jr. Way.

We want to hear from you! We welcome any questions, concerns, or feedback you may be willing to share to help guide the upcoming decisions.

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Get the latest Hilltop Link construction updates by visiting Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension Facebook

If you have questions, reach out to Liz Ellis, Sound Transit’s Community Outreach Specialist by emailing liz.ellis@sountransit.org or calling (253) 206-0586.

After-hours Construction Hotline (888) 298-2395

Grit City Co-op

Community Listening Session

Grit City Co-op is beginning talks with Koz Development Inc. about potentially becoming the retail tenant in the building at 9th and MLK Jr. Way.

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Ajmer by Jodi Jewelry

Using a variety of metals and interesting stones, Ajmer by Jodi features unique designs in fun boho style. Designer Jodi has been in the jewelry business her whole life and strives to create pieces that blend elegance with playfulness. Our pieces are crafted with love, and we want you to love what you buy!

If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please feel free to contact me directly at 1-888-298-2395 or via email at liz.ellis@sountransit.org.

Hilltop Action PAGE 14

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Join HAC’s mailing list and keep on top of the HACtion! Email hacoffice15@gmail.com today and start receiving HAC eNewsletters along with the digital Hilltop Action Journal.
Finding Housing Solutions For Young People May Just Be One Day Away

Unique housing solutions to meet the needs of our young people... there is no cookie-cutter way to approach finding housing for everyone.

By Nicolle Roe, Program Coordinator for Tacoma Northwest Education Access

This past Monday afternoon, I got a call from a student I work with who needed access to money for housing. The following day, she was renting a room from a friend’s house and had 3 months paid for, including gas, to get her SUV there.

The funds we used for her specific housing solution are called Centralized Diversion Funds (CDF) managed by A Way Home Washington. It’s a highly flexible fund aimed to house 12-24 years old experiencing a housing crisis and not currently in a housing program. The goal is to get folks housed as soon as possible or within 30 days, for at least 90 days, and living outside the homeless housing system.

My expertise; however, is not in housing but it does overlap with my work. I completed A Way Home Washington’s free three-day training to be someone from my organization that can apply for the funds. About seven more agencies in Tacoma have at least one person on staff who has been through the training and can support folks in that same way. As a Program Coordinator with Northwest Education Access, I serve students on non-traditional education pathways, ages 16-29, in navigating post-secondary education. I offer one-on-one, long-term educational support to and through graduation no matter how long that may take. Housing comes up often in my work as something that can keep a student from persisting, so CDF has been a tremendous resource that I want to share with others.

Our student-led model works, and A Way Home Washington uses a very similar person-centered model and flexibility to think up creative housing solutions. The funds can be used towards a ton of different things because they understand that there is no cookie-cutter way to approach finding a housing option for everyone. The specificity of an individual’s needs varies, so the solution to get them housed must also be. And no, there is no cap on the amount one can request, but it is meant to be a one-time application (rather than, say, an ongoing emergency rental assistance).

A Way Home Washington is even flexible in this, though. Here are some ways students have utilized these funds: One young person was couch surfing and occasionally sleeping at his uncle’s house, but he couldn’t stay at his uncle’s permanently because there wasn’t enough room. The uncle’s house did, however, have an unfinished basement. With Centralized Diversion Funds, they were able to buy the materials and tools they needed to renovate it and make it liveable so that the young person could stay there permanently.

Another young person used CDF to buy a plane ticket to New York to live with his mother permanently and to cover the cost of food on the way there. One other person had CDF cover the security deposit, pet deposit, and additional move-in expenses for an apartment, including a UHaul truck, gas for the moving truck, a bed frame, mattress, and sheets. Lastly, a PLU student used it to cover summer quarter housing at the dorms after finding out their financial aid package couldn’t cover it.

There are many more examples, but my point is that housing solutions are just as unique as people. Everyone holds different relationships in their community that can be leveraged and thought about to consider possible solutions. Someone like me, certified by CDF to apply for the funds, can work with a young person to think through what some of their possibilities are and ultimately get out of their way and tell us what they need. As Nikita Oliver says, “Those closest to the struggle hold the solutions.” Young people are no exception.

There are no income requirements where you have to prove your income status. There’s no credit check, background check, any barriers that would keep someone from applying. It starts with a conversation and thought partner to complete the application after figuring out a safe and permanent housing plan.

For anyone wanting to know more about this resource or apply, please feel free to contact me or share the list of others in Pierce County who are certified to apply alongside folks. I may be reached at (253) 200-0798 or by email at nicolle.roe@nweducationaccess.org.

Regional Housing Strategy

Have a voice in the draft regional housing strategy - comment period ends August 13th

The draft Regional Housing Strategy is now available for public review and comment online. The public comment period will run from Monday, July 12, through Friday, August 13, at 5 p.m.

Recognizing that housing access, affordability, and choice are regional issues that do not stop at a jurisdiction’s borders, VISION 2050 (https://www.psrc.org/vision) the region’s long-range plan for growth, calls for a coordinated regional housing strategy. In addition to addressing existing gaps and needs, VISION 2050 identifies the need for more housing of all types to meet the needs of the region out to 2050.

The Regional Housing Strategy is a “playbook” of regional and local actions to preserve, improve, and expand housing stock in the region. The project goal is to make a range of affordable, accessible, healthy, and safe housing choices available to every resident and to promote fair and equal access to housing for all people. The Regional Housing Strategy will help inform upcoming local comprehensive plan updates and shape regional housing priorities.

How to make a comment:

Online comment: https://engage.psrc.org/hub-page/regional-housing-strategy-for-public-comment
Email: LBenjamin@psrc.org
U.S. Mail: ATTN: Regional Housing Strategy, 1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98104
Fax: ATTN: Regional Housing Strategy (206) 587-1641.

Rental and utility assistance is available for up to 12 months in past-due rent and utilities. Assistance can be applied for on a single, centralized online portal at https://housinghelp.piercecountyallassistance.org. Applicants must qualify as low-income or at below 80% Area Median Income (AMI), but priority will be given to those under 50% AMI.
MultiCare Invests $5 Million In Forterra Fund To Improve Community Health Through Affordable Housing

Investment in Forterra’s Strong Communities Fund II supports a sustainable model for creating community-driven affordable housing in Tacoma’s Hilltop neighborhood.

Press Release July 20, 2021

By Holly Harvey, at MultiCare, and Kevin Max, with Forterra

TACOMA, Wash. — MultiCare Health System is proud to announce a $5 million investment in affordable housing in Tacoma’s Hilltop neighborhood through Forterra’s Strong Communities Fund II (SCF II), which partners with communities to lower the cost of home ownership.

The new community-designed project will have four buildings with an anticipated 300 homes and approximately 25,000 square feet of commercial space. Half of all the housing provided will be attainably priced for local Hilltop residents. When there’s limited affordable housing options, families and individuals may have to spend more than a large part of their income on acquiring or maintaining secure housing. This burden can mean that people are not able to pay for things such as health care or healthy food.

This can have lifelong, adverse effects on a person’s health, and research shows that affordable housing can decrease the risk of diseases, mental health problems and other health issues.

“Our mission is focused on partnering with communities for healing and a healthy future, and this affordable housing project is a huge step forward for community health,” said MultiCare CEO and president Bill Robertson. “This is MultiCare’s investment in SCF II, Forterra’s first investment in a project of this kind, and we’re glad that it’s in one of the older residential communities in Tacoma.”

The Hilltop community of Tacoma has been the center of Black culture in the South Sound for generations and, the neighborhood is experiencing a rapid gentrification that threatens to displace long-time residents and businesses. Hilltop residents are among the fastest rising in the nation, and the impact of increasing prices is magnified in the diverse and resilient Hilltop community, where housing has become unaffordable to its residents.

In 2019, Hilltop community leaders reached out to Forterra to help secure a key property at the heart of the Hilltop community, which was purchased in 2020. Later this year, Forterra bought the property at the corner of MLK Jr. Way and S. 11th Street through MultiCare’s Strong Communities Fund, and immediately began working with the Hilltop community to support the area residents that is attainable in the short term and affordable over the long term.

For the past two years, Forterra has worked with local community engagement partners, including Fab-5, to address the community’s needs for attainable homes and affordable spaces for locally-owned BiPAC shops and restaurants, in a development that will incorporate Hilltop culture and art into this block. This new community-designed project contemplates four buildings with an anticipated 300 homes and approximately 25,000 square feet of commercial space. Half of all the housing provided will be priced to be attainable to local Hilltop residents and families with an anticipated groundbreaking in fall 2023.

“MultiCare’s investment in SCF II puts those funds into a vehicle directly designed to build attainable and sustainable homes in under-resourced communities,” said Forterra’s managing director and CEO Michelle Conner. “We are pleased that the MultiCare’s holistic approach to wellness leads back to healthy, affordable homes that displace a long-standing community footprint.”

Learn more about the Hilltop Project at https://forterra.org/Forterra/About-Strong-Communities-Fund-II/.

For more information, please contact Holly Harvey with MultiCare at 253-403-1121 or holly.harvey@ multicare.org; or, Kevin Max with Forterra at 206-905-6956 or kmax@forterra.org.
By Leslie Barstow, Manager Community Relations with the Port of Tacoma

M C Delivery’s Road To Success

"Originally published in the July 2021 issue of South Sound Business magazine. www.southsoundbiz.com"

By John Stearns

Tacoma’s M C Delivery doesn’t deliver packages by motorcycle anymore, but its delivery roots trace back almost 100 years to a Tacoma motorcycle dealership looking for a way to sell more inventory.

That dealership, Indian Cycle Co., sold Indian motorcycles and was owned by Max and Ida Steinhart. In 1928, they started Indian Cycle Delivery as a way to sell new motorcycles to customers by giving them local courier jobs in order to support themselves and pay for the motorcycles. According to a historical account provided by M C Delivery.

In 1940, Western Union telegram vice presidents in M C Delivery, will manage the business in 1986 and remains CEO. His twin daughters, Shari Laycock and Sara Laycock-Webb, are also involved in the business. The Laycocks’ son, Andrew, took over the business in 1986 and remains CEO. His twin daughters, Shari Laycock and Sara Laycock-Webb, are also involved in the business.

MDP eventually retired the motorcycle sidecars in the 1950s in favor of panel trucks to accommodate more diverse work and a booming economy.

But after the release of the highly sensationalized noir film "The Wild One," starring a young Marlon Brando and Lee Marvin portraying outlaw motorcycle gang leaders riding and racing recklessly and taking over a small town in the process, the company changed its name to M C Delivery in 1958, according to the historical account. The kangaroo logo was added in 1965, completing the look that remains to this day.

The Laycocks’ son, Andrew, took over the business in 1986 and remains CEO. His twin daughters, Shari Laycock and Sara Laycock-Webb, vice presidents in M C Delivery, will likely take the reins within two years, said Shari, operations supervisor for the 40-person company.

Her father was planning on retiring around the time COVID-19 emerged, but he’s stayed on board to help get through the pandemic. “Because if we can survive this, then anything that comes in our future … we should be able to handle,” Shari said.

Today, M C Delivery operates a fleet of 60 cars, vans, trucks, and tractor-trailers doing mostly business-to-business delivery throughout Greater Puget Sound and beyond. “We go up to Arlington once a week and we go down to Longview once a week, so it’s what the customers need,” Shari said, adding that M C even makes occasional trips to Eastern Washington.

The company offers same-day and expedited delivery of everything from documents and packages up to 70 pounds, to one or two pallets of items to full truckloads.

M C Delivery, in honoring and celebrating its history, plans to change signage on its delivery fleet to include a photo from its days as Indian Cycle Delivery, featuring original owner Max Steinhart with couriers of yesteryear in addition to the current kangaroo logo. All vehicles will have the new look by the 100th anniversary on July 15, 2028. The company also is transitioning its name to Indian Cycle Delivery/M C Delivery to honor its nearly 100-year history.

“We want to thank all of our employees, past and present, as well as the local business community, for supporting M C Delivery over the past century,” the company said. “We could not have done it without you. We look forward to the next century.”

Loyal to the Local

Business Map Locations

The Loyal to the Local Business Map helps you make a huge financial impact on the Hilltop Neighborhood by shopping with your local businesses. Check it out at https://www.soundtransit.org/site/ default/files/documents/loyal-to-local-hilltop-full-business-map.pdf and be Loyal to the Local!
By Lis Saunders

Interested in a solar array? Local schools, nonprofits and government agencies are eligible to apply for a grant of up to $50,000 from the Evergreen Options program to help with the purchase and installation of on-site renewable energy projects located in Tacoma Power’s service territory. Applications accepted through August 20. Visit the website at https://www.tacomapower.org/community -programs/clean-energy/mer -evergreen-options-grant-program or contact evergreenoptions@tacomapower.org for more information.

If your organization is interested but not sure where to start, Spark Northwest offers free consultation to local, indigenous or people of color-led organizations to help with group visioning, general education for organizers and members, talking through decision points, follow up research, cash flow estimates, connecting with installers, drafting an application. Visit Spark Northwest at https://sparknorthwest.org or call (206) 328-2441, or email sparknorthwest.org to find out more about their services.

More About Evergreen Options-Grant Program

Evergreen Options is a voluntary program that allows Tacoma Power customers to buy electricity produced from new renewable sources, like wind and solar, through renewable energy certificates (RECs). This annual grant program helps recipients generate a portion of their own electricity from renewable sources including wind, solar, geothermal, landfill gas, wave or tidal, biomass, gas produced during the treatment of wastewater, and qualified hydropower. Recipients may also receive credit for any extra electricity their system provides back to the utility. Grant funding comes from Tacoma Power residential and business customers who participate in the Evergreen Options program.

The 2021 application period is open. The deadline for 2021 applications is August 20, 2021. Please submit your application prior to the deadline to be considered for the 2021 grants.
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