Looking Back To Move Forward

Always the educator, Dr. Mimms speaks at The Evergreen State College in 2016. TESC

Connecting with Community

Dr. Hardiman began actively supporting her community when she was twelve; today, Evergreen Students lovingly call her “Dr. J.”

Going to the Root of Who We Are

Dr. Tate Arunga is a grassroots person, the root appeals to her. “The idea of what do we have and do with the power within us, and how to use this capacity to heal people and the communities we live in.”

“Touchable”

In a discussion about local Black History, Karen Vargas emphasized how Dr. Mimms is a “Touchable - Maxine Mimms is still with us, still educating, leaving no one behind.”

By Karen Vargas, from her Maxine Mimms, “My Life is Education” story featured in 1968: The Year That Rocked Washington

As you enter The Evergreen State College building in Tacoma’s Hilltop neighborhood you are greeted by a bold, bright African mural. Just inside the door there’s a framed portrait of Dr. Mimms, donning a mortorbord, as founder and former executive director of the Tacoma program. She calls her Ph.D. a “Ph.WE” because her career has been dedicated to helping under-served, marginalized populations rise through education.

The events of 1968, often characterized as “The year that changed the world,” significantly impacted Mimms’ outlook on her role as a leader. “The murdering of a Martin Luther King and the Kennedys was very painful. But you have to re-image, ‘What does that mean in terms of you, Maxine?’” she says, framing the question rhetorically. “Well, I had to increase my studies. I had to look at theology. I had to absolutely say, ‘What does liberation theology mean to me? What does it mean for me to have met Martin?’ What privilege I had, I had to rise with confidence and do something about it. So in me, their farewells forced me to do a capital Hello. And in that, that’s why you have the Tacoma campus.”

SHE’S A MENTOR, not a mother,” says Dawn Mason, a former Washington State Representative for the 37th District, who considers herself a protégé (p. 16). African Americans of all ages— girls and young women in particular— arrive at her home to absorb her wisdom. Maxine Mimms isn’t a baking pies; she’s fostering knowledge and an understanding of their history and their culture. She gets a kick out of watching children from the city search for shells on her beach, learning there is nothing to fear in an unfamiliar environment. She wants history to remember her as the old black lady who lived in the woods and “wasn’t afraid of no bears.”

Connecting with Community

Dr. Hardiman began actively supporting her community when she was twelve; today, Evergreen Students lovingly call her “Dr. J.”

By Mary Cogger

Tacoma’s Hilltop district has seen many changes over the years. Dr. Joyce Hardiman, a Hilltop resident and historian told me history of the area, “It always the educator,” Dr. Mimms speaks at The Evergreen State College in 2016. TESC

years and careers later, Dr. Hardiman was teaching at Evergreen State College Olympia. She felt she needed more than a more diverse than Olympia. In 1980 after living in Olympia, Shelton, Seattle, and other Washington areas Dr. Joyce Hardiman very carefully chose the Tacoma Hilltop campus as her home.

She transferred from the Olympia campus to Tacoma’s branch Evergreen State College. She chose to reside on The Hilltop and bring her positive energy, passion, and actions to our community.

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Hilltop reminded Hardiman of Buffalo where she grew up in a loving two parent family. She saw a strong African American community where the leaders lived in the community.

Interview by Kristine Coman

I had the honor to interview Dr. Marcia Tate Arunga, Dean of Evergreen State College Tacoma, about her personal journey to understand how we are linked to our cultural heritage and how embracing this knowledge can motivate us to make a positive difference in our community. She told me that, “It is such an honor to be placed in the Hilltop which is a charming place of its own. I recognize the beauty, brilliance, grace and elegance of the Hilltop, and of Tacoma too. It’s an honor to do what I do in this community.”

Marcia Tate Arunga, Ph.D. is a 2017 graduate of the PhD Program in Leadership and Change at Antioch University. I read her Dissertation Conclusion, Back to Africa in the 21st Century: The Cultural Reconnection Experiences of African American Women (https://aura.antioch.edu/cgi/viewcontent. php?article=1349&context=edu) and wanted to start the interview here.

Kristine: Does connecting to the root of your culture help one step out of their personal vision and transform it into a “we” vision and encourage involvement in a social movement?

Dr. Tate Arunga: Yes, because the root and being familiar with the root of yourself is the universal—so everyone can connect with everything and everyone from that place. I think in our culture we are encouraged to be really superficial and stay at the ‘hi how are you I’m fine’ level of communication—we don’t really get to know more depth like what we have been through or achieved. One of the things that drives me in the scholarly work is noticing how we react to what is omitted or never knew. We live in real confined ways, but can still find how to live in real meaningful ways. We have no idea of what is really available to us.

Evergreen takes what is going on right now around us and studies that: the here and now. It’s a gift to be in an urban center where there is so much life to be examined. It’s time we examine it ourselves instead of letting someone else examine us like a specimen in a jar. It’s time we examine ourselves... it’s time for us.

Continued on Page 9
The Sankofa Bird: Looking Back To Move Forward

By Ashley Jones, Evergreen Student

Evergreen Tacoma is a sacred community that refers to a mythical bird from the Twi language of Ghana, Africa. The Sankofa Bird flies with its feet faced forward and its head turned backwards to secure an egg in its mouth or placed on its back. The word ‘Sankofa’ represents past, present, and future and is defined as, “Go back for that which you have forgotten.” In specific reference to your education, think of it in this way: your past serves as a guide for planning your future.

By entering the Sankofa community, you must nourish and protect your egg as you prosper through your educational journey. As we continue to navigate a global pandemic, we must demand and sustain positive change. We want to take our rich history and reach beyond to inspire the next generations to continue to create, change, and sustain positive change.

By Brendan Nelson

Hilltop Family,

I am extremely grateful for my ancestors’ optimistic attitudes, which were difficult to maintain during extremely challenging times in our history. Optimism and believing that things were going to be better have enabled us to move forward toward change. Our ability to believe in ourselves to overcome adversity has been a strength and testament to our will.

Black History is not just about learning about the challenges we as a people have been through. It is about our ability to have integrity, leadership, and determination in the face of our struggles. Crisis does not necessarily make the character, but it certainly helps to reveal it. Adversity creates strength in character and determination. A lesson to learn and celebrate as we chart our continued progress.

As the President of a non-profit that serves such a diverse community, I am wholeheartedly determined to effect positive change. We must demand equity for all — regardless of race, ethnicity, different abilities, sexual orientation, or family composition. Hilltop Action Coalition is deeply committed to helping sustain a resilient community with socially just housing, jobs, commerce, and quality of life. I look forward to working with residents, partners and other leaders to help us fulfill our mission.

Love and Light,

Brendan Nelson
President, Hilltop Action Coalition

Join Us

Hilltop Action Coalition Virtual Weekly Updates
Mondays @ 6PM

Meet your neighbors and become part of the Hilltop Community. Each week, we have presentations and information about community events, activities, policy, and important news.
HAC Collaborates With Evergreen Tacoma

Purposeful collaboration to provide information, opportunities and resources for empowering Hilltop community members.

You may have noticed in the past, HAC and Evergreen-Tacoma collaborating together to provide meaningful events and opportunities for families on the Hilltop. We’ve had our Hilltop Neighborhood Clean Up events in the Evergreen-Tacoma parking lot for years. In October 2019, Brendan Nelson and Dr. Tate Arunga, Dean of Evergreen, took it a step further. Dean Tate Arunga opened the doors for HAC to use their auditorium for a Hilltop District 3 Candidate Debate. A lot of folks were unsure of who to vote for (Councilman Keith Blocker and David Combs) so this opportunity ensured community members got their questions answered in an open forum prior to the election.

Last year in 2020, the Hilltop Clean Up had curbside pickups due to COVID-19 restrictions. Evergreen and HAC saw the need for community COVID-19 testing and partnered with Pierce County Health Department to bring free drive-thru style COVID testing in August and October. The use of Evergreen-Tacoma’s parking lot for community space is not new to the Hilltop College. They have many community events open to the public; however, due to COVID restrictions, events and activities have gone virtual.

Evergreen-Tacoma is a community serving school that serves to provide students with an education and mindset to go out into your neighborhood and make a positive change. HAC and Evergreen-Tacoma share the same mission: empower Hilltop residents. Brendan and Dr. Tate Arunga both agree that their is strength in partnerships that benefit everyone in the community. They also agree that you have to look back in order to move forward.

Taking a look at local, Tacoma Black History makers makes us look back and reflect at where we were, who moved us forward, what actions brought about our current conditions, and how to engage in a positive, uplifting plan that leaves no one behind. Instead of a one day Black History event, Black History on the Hill was envisioned as creating a month long series where we can explore and talk to local history makers and Black folks making a difference in our community today.

Each Monday at 6PM in Feb during the HAC Virtual Weekly Updates via Facebook Live, Special Guests from Evergreen-Tacoma share Black History and inspiration. Look for more collaboration between HAC and Evergreen in 2021!

HAC Virtual Weekly Updates
Community Updates & Special Guests!
A casual, fun, community centered meeting space.

Meet Brendan Nelson, Alyssa Martinez where Evergreen Board Members and your Hosts for HAC Virtual Weekly Updates! Join us each Monday at 6:00 PM via Facebook Live during the COVID-19 pandemic. HAC Monthly Community Meetings will return once we can meet in person again.

Your Hosts will share community updates and local events for the Hilltop Neighborhood. They also have Special Guests each week that will provide you with empowering information that we hope will improve your quality of life.

All virtual meetings are recorded and available to view on the HAC-Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition and click on the Videos tab.

Evergreen State College, Tacoma
Now A 4-Year Institution!

Enter to Learn, Depart to Serve.

By TaRessa Stovall

Great news! The Evergreen State College Tacoma Program has grown from a two-year to a four-year institution. This means that students who are high school graduates or have completed GEDs and have less than 90 credits may qualify for admission and earn their BA degrees. Our program is a full-time course of study that combines group work and independent projects for 16 credits a quarter.

From its beginning in 1972, Evergreen State College, Tacoma has been a nexus for community activists playing a key role in the Hilltop’s resurgance. Our Program founders longtime Tacoma resident and Evergreen faculty member Dr. Maxine where Evergreen, Tacoma, has grown from a handful of students meeting in the founder’s home in the Hilltop Neighborhood to more than 100 students and a permanent building on 6th Avenue.

At Evergreen Tacoma, our motto Enter to learn and depart to serve reflects our social justice theme and our roles as both scholars and practitioners. Our students—who we like to call learners—are coached and grounded in a practice of community building through dialogue, listening and participant observation. And they actively contribute to the student, growth and direction of the program as it evolves.

Our learners are diverse: the average age is 37, 74 percent are women, 64 percent are People of Color, and a third of these are African American. They have gone on to a variety of graduate schools and careers. And many Tacoma residents have taken their places as leaders in the region and continue to influence the growth of 21st-century Tacoma. Evergreen Tacoma is very accessible. Our online application process is free, and at around $8,500 per year (tuition, books and fees), it is affordable, with financial aid available to qualified applicants. To apply, be prepared to submit past transcripts, current FAFSA information and resumes, and application. At Evergreen Tacoma, we have an annual theme and common readings for all students. These are planned during our Lyceum, a weekly gathering of the student body and faculty. Lyceum sessions are followed by seminars where our stellar faculty lead students who work in small groups to discuss and deliberate relevant topics. Students also select courses related to the learning community’s annual theme, which cover a variety of academic interests such as biology, sociology, cultural and media studies, environmental studies, government and public health, literature and mathematics.

When I studied at the University of Washington, I experienced and noticed the stress of many students wondering how to apply their academic studies to the world around them in creative and meaningful ways. At Evergreen Tacoma, we are committed to helping our students make that vital connection at every point in their educational experience. And our alumni are a constant source of inspiration in the creative ways that they contribute to and improve the world around them.

We are seeking students who are ready to attain their BA degrees through meaningful studies and a relevant program that meets the needs of our society and helps move us towards a better and brighter future.

Are you ready to join us?

https://www.evergreen.edu/tacoma

Hilltop Action Coalition
Tacoma

BLACK HISTORY ON THE HILL

Dionna Bonner
Evergreen Student
Community Artist

JOIN US! HAC VIRTUAL WEEKLY UPDATE FACEBOOK LIVE MON, FEB 22ND AT 6PM

Karen Vargas
Evergreen Student
Founder and Director of Living Arts Cultural Heritage Center

Hilltop Action Coalition
Tacoma

By TaRessa Stovall

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Our learners are diverse: the average age is 37, 74 percent are women, 64 percent are People of Color, and a third of these are African American. They have gone on to a variety of graduate schools and careers. And many Tacoma residents have taken their places as leaders in the region and continue to influence the growth of 21st-century Tacoma. Evergreen Tacoma is very accessible. Our online application process is free, and at around $8,500 per year (tuition, books and fees), it is affordable, with financial aid available to qualified applicants. To apply, be prepared to submit past transcripts, current FAFSA information and resumes, and application. At Evergreen Tacoma, we have an annual theme and common readings for all students. These are planned during our Lyceum, a weekly gathering of the student body and faculty. Lyceum sessions are followed by seminars where our stellar faculty lead students who work in small groups to discuss and deliberate relevant topics. Students also select courses related to the learning community’s annual theme, which cover a variety of academic interests such as biology, sociology, cultural and media studies, environmental studies, government and public health, literature and mathematics.

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Are you ready to join us?

https://www.evergreen.edu/tacoma
Earnest S. Brazill: Living In A Future He Helped Create
He was the Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church for nearly 45 years.

The following biography is excerpted by Jo Davies from the Tacoma Historical Society publication: Speaking Out. The chapter, “From Crisis to Collective” (14) in Speaking Out includes biographies of four leaders of the Hilltop. They came together and managed to calm down the community and avert violence when anger in the Hilltop community came to a head in what came to be known as the Mother’s Day Riot in 1969. Subsequently, “they formed the Tacoma Black Collective as a regular opportunity to address the concerns and issues of the Black community. Since 1970, they have met every Saturday, every week of the year. Any Black person may attend to listen and to be heard” (15).

Rev. Brazill believed in the Hilltop and Tacoma and never left. He said, ‘I never get tired of reaching out. Sometimes, I get tired in the work, but never tired of the work.’ He always knew the future held great things for his community.

We are now living in that better future that Reverend Earnest S. Brazill helped create. Rev. Brazill continues to look over those of us on the Hilltop from his place on the mural on the corner of MLK and 11th. The mural by Bob Henry, titled “Get Going” also depicts Alberta Canada, Virginia Taylor and Frank Russell, Hilltop heroes all.

Nettie Craig Asberry: A Life Of Courage
Her life is the topic of “A Life of Courage” in Speaking Out (p. 10 - 11).

The following biography is excerpted by Jo Davies from the Tacoma Historical Society publication: Speaking Out.

One of the Hilltop’s most notable women was Dr. Nettie Craig Asberry (1865 - 1968). “Dr. Nettie Asberry taught piety to generations of students... She earned a Ph.D. in music when few African Americans could attend college due to discrimination, and she worked her whole life against racial inequality. One of her early actions was to challenge a measure against interra- cial marriage that legislators were trying to pass at the state capital. As she described her method: ‘We had an ‘underground’ worker there who let us know and, overnight, we got together a caravan of several cars of people of several races - white, colored, Filipi- nos, and others. We descended on the powerful Rules Committee as a surprise and defeated the measure’, ...Dr. Asberry fought against seg- regation at Fort Lewis and in Tacoma theaters, protested mistreatment by store and restaurant workers, and wrote many letters to the newspaper to argue against discrimina- tion” (Dorr 10-11).

Her letter of protest against the film “Birth of a Nation,” published on August 13, 1916, is “one of the most important documents in Tacoma’s civil rights history. It reflects the sharp mind and social conscience of a woman very much in tune with her own time and place but with a forward gaze that reaches us today” (Asberry vs. Wilson). Read more about this particular incident on the Tacoma Historical Society website: tacomahistory.org/2020-9/25/asberry-wilson.

The Speaking Out biography concludes: “She knew solving the problems of our society would take longer than her lifet ime, but she never gave up. When interviewed at age 96 she insisted that, ‘courage is the saving grace in this tense world racial situation’. Dr. Nettie Asberry’s courage to fight for what she believed in should inspire every generation of Tacoma citizens.”

To insure that she will continue to inspire Hilltoppers, Historic Tacoma, Forterra NW, and the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation have joined with the Tacoma City Association of Colored Women’s Club to preserve the Asberry house at 1219 S 13th St. In a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion the equity policy initiative in Governor Inslee’s proposed budget will include funding for the acquisition of her home. For more information about the preservation project, please contact the Tacoma City Association of Colored Women’s Club. http://tacomahistory.org. There’s a great deal more to know about this remarkable woman: the essay by Mary T. Henry on Historylink.org https://www.historylink.org/ File/8632 is a good place to start.


Nettie Asberry in front of her home, 1219 South 13th.
Maxine Mimms, “My Life is Education.”

The anticipation is palpable as the crowd rises to catch a glimpse of her. The P.A. system throbs with booming bass, and the antennas hum to the rhythm of the music. It’s her 90th birthday party. Dr. Maxine Mimms descends the stairs, surrounded by an entourage, and advances regally with a sparkling grace. She wears a white, flowered jacket over a vibrant red dress, with a matching sash. Her hair is styled in its signature bun, and she carries a bouquet of white flowers. With a proud smile and grand bearing, she passes through a curtain of people, greeting old friends, touching children. Smartphones held high capture her charisma.

Widely known in African American circles, Maxine Buie Mimms is an educator and counselor who works with schools all over the United States—both public and private. In her early years, she worked with her friend Oprah Winfrey’s Leadership Academy for Girls in South Africa. She knows what she had to do.

Dr. Maxine Mimms, Dr. Joye Hardiman, Dr. Gilda Sheppard and Dr. Marcia Take Arunga at Evergreen State College Tacoma. Photograph courtesy of Evergreen State College Tacoma.

In 1972, Maxine moved to Washington, a state that wanted a site-based satellite of the University of Washington. And at that time you certainly were not going to be able to do the traditional departments—the traditional academic disciplines. A lot of people don’t understand one of the reasons it’s such a great school is that it was able…to look at social justice as a part of the curriculum, no matter what discipline. And it gave an expansive image to the way you can change problem solving. So you had art teachers in the physics department, or you had physics people in the sociology. You’re trained in education to be separate. That’s why you have departments, and you have a whole language of those departments. So you’re not able to talk other than at some cocktail party and pretend that you are interested in that person’s project. Evergreen stopped all of that. We had to talk—not because of, in spite of, and even once you had a good enough class to be able to talk, we had to talk about our work. And that’s why Evergreen is suffering because we’re back in the world of competition, and “How will we measure success?” And the aggression is huge. Students of color are beginning to be interested in it because it’s better to be competitive rather than be collaborative with shared dialogue competency with this entity and this other one. It’s a challenging time in the world right now. It’s a good time to be alive.

By 1983, Evergreen Tacoma was seeking formal status. It boasted 150 graduates with bachelor’s degrees from its informal campus. Dr. Mimms’ philosophy has remained steady throughout: “If we could just understand we are all different, but we are all gnomes. The need to recognize that within our own community there are people who think like Plato, paint like Picasso and meditate like Buddha.”

Projecting her vision of education and human character.

The Tacoma campus’ motto remains: “Enter to Learn, Depart to Serve.” In 1986, the average age of Evergreen State students was 38 graduating. Though working adults, they are still required to attend school full-time. “I don’t like part time,” says Dr. Mimms. “I don’t encourage it. I’m from the generation where I like to stretch myself—stretch cognitively as well as physically. When we reduce our philosophy to part time, we produce a bunch of lazy people.”

She had a mission. Dr. Mimms’ message for educators today is this: “Have joy in the design to make people continue with hope.” She believes the future of education is in field trips and getting children out of the classroom, interacting with one another. She sees her legacy is care on keeping the campus funded. She’s nervous that adding her name would dilute the mission. “This is in our hearts,” she says. “A building could go and close up forever, but a Tacoma campus will always be here. No one will ever take it away. And even when I die I’m coming back to make sure of it.”

Read the full story on Maxine Mimms, “My Life is Education,” by Karen Vargas, at https://www.sos.wa.gov/_assets/legacy/sixty-eight/WashingtonTheYearThatRockedWashington/

Read the other remarkable stories from Legacy Washington and 1968 The Year That Rocked Washington at https://www.sos.wa.gov/legacies/washington-1968/

Dr. Maxine Mimms, Dr. Joye Hardiman, Dr. Gilda Sheppard and Dr. Marcia Take Arunga at Evergreen State College Tacoma. Photograph courtesy of Evergreen State College Tacoma.
The Tacoma Historical Society is delighted to announce the opening of our latest exhibit, “The Glory of Tacoma: Music in the Northwest” which explores the many facets of Tacoma’s diverse musical history. Building on research conducted by Kim Davenport for the latest in our 21 Tales book series, which will be released in conjunction with the exhibit, this Curator Elizabeth Kosorno has pulled together a broad range of artifacts which shed light on Tacoma history through the lens of music. This exhibit is generously sponsored by Ted Brown Music.

We also have two other exhibits on display in our new, larger museum space at 406 Tacoma Avenue South. “A Pioneering Spirit: A Fight for Liberty and Freedom” explores little-known facts about local history through written biographies and a series of larger-than-life oil portraits of African American pioneers by Tacoma-based artist Dionne Bonner. We are proud to also display our “Dreams That Matter” exhibit, which honors people from throughout Tacoma’s history who have worked for social justice and civil rights.

Pandemic restrictions are currently such that we must require you to make an appointment to schedule your visit – but we have made it easy to do so! Visit our website at https://www.tacomahistory.org/current-exhibit to learn more about the current exhibits, and then visit https://calendly.com/tacomahistory to sign up for a time for your masked visit to explore Tacoma history! Hours for museum tour appointments are Wednesday–Saturday, 11am–3pm. For questions, please email communications@tacomahistory.org, or call (253) 472-3738.

By Tacoma Historical Society

Explore Tacoma’s diverse musical history with the Tacoma Historical Society and find out about two new exhibits.

Dr. Delores Silas, 1st Black Woman on Tacoma City Council

Dr. Delores Silas, 1st Black Woman on Tacoma City Council

The following biography is excerpted by Jo Davies from the Tacoma Historical Society publication: “Speaking Out.”

The Speaking Out chapter titled “Bringing a Neighborhood Back to Life” features Dr. Delores Silas. “When Dr. Dolores Silas moved to the Hilltop in 1953 from Seattle, Tacoma gained a woman who would become one of its first Black teachers, its first Black school principal (DelLong Elementary) and the first Black woman on the City Council in 1991. She worked with the NAACP, which elected her its president in 1978, the Hilltop Multi-Service Center, the Urban League, the Black Collective, and the Human Rights Commission.

Dr. Silas had a vision for the rebirth of Hilltop as a model of people with different income levels living side-by-side, reclaiming the streets, and encouraging local businesses. Reflecting on her service as the first Black woman on the council when she retired, Dr. Silas noted, “It was important for the citizens of Tacoma to see me sitting up there...I’m someone for the youth to see and say, if she can do it, so can I.”...The benefits Dr. Dolores Silas brought to the Hilltop that have made the neighborhood better have made the city better for everyone” (Dorr, 33).

Tacoma continues to recognize the contributions of this remarkable Hilltop elder. In 2019, she was recognized with a Lifetime Service Award and now it has been recommended that Wilson High School be renamed Dolores Silas High School. The School Board will be voting on the name change at its meeting on February 11th. Stay tuned!


The Glory of Tacoma: Music in the Northwest

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By Tacoma Historical Society

Explore Tacoma’s diverse musical history with the Tacoma Historical Society and find out about two new exhibits.
Dr. Joye Hardiman Embraces Lifelong Learning

Connecting with Community, by Mary Cogger, continued from Page 1.

A place “where when you walked down the street you were everybody’s child... a family place.” “The Hill reminded me of home. It felt like home.” She found an activist community in the Black Collective and the Nation of Islam, and veterans who had seen other places, had global connections, and were “more open.” To Dr. Hardiman, who had thought college wasn’t for them, they were “more open.”

Besides establishing the physical identity of Evergreen Tacoma, Dr. Hardiman helped develop a strong infrastructure which was not driven by one personality. She collaborated on developing the Evergreen’s values system, its branding, and rituals. It was of primary importance that Black and Brown people not only be included, but thrive and graduate. She aimed for 500 success stories, but accomplished much more. Hardiman saw a strong curriculum to prepare students for graduate school. One thing she would ask students is “What will you do after you graduate?” Further education was highly recommended.

During her time at Evergreen Dr. Hardiman served as a Faculty member and acted as Executive Director for 18 years.

Dr. Hardiman has been and is working with community members to collaboratively design a mixed-use building as a chance to preserve Hilltop for the community that has long called it home. Design the Hill and fab 5 community development and city planning. (https://www.facebook.com/events/259182507838718/)

Dr. Hardiman is currently working with this project. She sees her role as support for the next generation of artists and activists. The Dr. told me of the importance of elders. She stated, “Step out of the way and train someone to take your place.”

Dr. Hardiman has been and is working with community residents to abolish displacement, transform vacant and waste into agency and opportunity, and redistribute power to Hilltop residents reclaim physical, economic, civic and cultural space. As a local arts organization, the Evergreen aims to create a strong community.

When Dr. Hardiman speaks of herself she says she is appreciated by more for her listening, synthesizing, and energizing skills. On the YouTube production Reflections: My 2020 I Am Statement, she says, “I take as my sacred duty to restore that which is in ruins and make it more beautiful than before, to resurrect truth from the chains of falsehood, and to applaud the sunrises that come after sunsets.”

Hilltop is changing again. Facing gentrification and displacement of low-income residents. Many including Dr. Hardiman are concerned. How can the best parts of the Hilltop culture survive? Forterra bought the Ritz Aid property in Hilltop and is working with community members to help the next generation of artists and activists. The Dr. told me of the importance of elders. She stated, “Step out of the way and train someone to take your place.”

Dr. Hardiman is currently working with this project. She sees her role as support for the next generation of artists and activists. The Dr. told me of the importance of elders. She stated, “Step out of the way and train someone to take your place.”

Dr. Hardiman has been and is working with community residents to abolish displacement, transform vacant and waste into agency and opportunity, and redistribute power to Hilltop residents reclaim physical, economic, civic and cultural space. As a local arts organization, the Evergreen aims to create a strong community.

When Dr. Hardiman speaks of herself she says she is appreciated by more for her listening, synthesizing, and energizing skills. On the YouTube production Reflections: My 2020 I Am Statement, she says, “I take as my sacred duty to restore that which is in ruins and make it more beautiful than before, to resurrect truth from the chains of falsehood, and to applaud the sunrises that come after sunsets.”

Hilltop is changing again. Facing gentrification and displacement of low-income residents. Many including Dr. Hardiman are concerned. How can the best parts of the Hilltop culture survive? Forterra bought the Ritz Aid property in Hilltop and is working with community members to help the next generation of artists and activists. The Dr. told me of the importance of elders. She stated, “Step out of the way and train someone to take your place.”

Dr. Hardiman has been and is working with community residents to abolish displacement, transform vacant and waste into agency and opportunity, and redistribute power to Hilltop residents reclaim physical, economic, civic and cultural space. As a local arts organization, the Evergreen aims to create a strong community. Hardiman continues to be an active pillar of the Hilltop community. This brief article only scratches the surface. If you want to know more, search the internet and YouTube.
By Julianna Verboort, Marketing & Communications Director for the Washington State Historical Society...

Washington State Historical Society (WSHS) is featuring two free online lectures to celebrate February’s Black History Month, and is also working with an advisory committee to implement Washington Black History Project initiatives that will educate and enlighten throughout every month of the year. (Find more information about the Washington Black History Project initiatives at https://www.washingtonhistory.org/heritage-resources/washington-black-history-project/).

From Migration to Mark Making: George Bush, Jacob Lawrence, and the Impact of Black Pioneers in Washington State will be presented free in a Facebook Live program on February 23 at 6:00 PM (https://www.washingtonhistory.org/Event/Black-History-in-Washington-History). Tune in for lively and informative conversations between Jason Turner, museum educator at the Northwest African American Museum; Gwen Whiting, lead exhibitions curator at WSHS; Leslie King-Hammond, a Jacob Lawrence scholar and founding director of the Center for Black Art and Culture at the Maryland Institute College of Art; and Beth Turner, author of Jacob Lawrence: The American Struggle. One of the first nationally recognized Black artists. Lawrence painted George Bush, the first Black pioneer to settle in what is now Washington, and his migration in a series of paintings held in the Washington State Historical Society’s collection. This program is presented in partnership with the Northwest African American Museum (https://www.naamnw.org/).Courtesy of Washington State Historical Society.

“Twenty-first century thinkers, we recognize that Black history is Washington history. It’s not just about famous Black people and notable sites in Washington, but rather educate about actions and impacts, and ripple effects across generations. Each person, place, or story impacts, and ripple effects across our state. It’s not just on famous Black people but rather educate about actions and impacts, and ripple effects across generations.” Mary Dolberry, an educational consultant and advisory committee member for the WSHS Washington Black History Project. “The remarkable legacies of Black luminaries George Bush and Jacob Lawrence, in particular, are full of inspiration. Their achievements and creativity have made our state a better and more beautiful place for all.”

Beyond these two lectures in February, Washingtonians can look forward to additional Black history projects coming online through WSHS.

“As twenty-first century thinkers, we recognize that Black history is Washington history. It’s not something to be relegated to a one-month focus, but rather is and has always been all around us,” said Mary Mikel Stamp, audience engagement director at WSHS. “Our Washington Black History Project will bring additional focus to this important history in our state.”

In 2020, WSHS received state funding to research, explore, share and celebrate the history of Black Washingtonians. WSHS convened an advisory committee to lead the process, and together they have developed a scope of work and objectives for the Washington Black History Project. As a result of the committee’s guidance, a new monument will soon be placed on the Capitol Campus in Olympia to recognize and honor pioneer George Bush and his son Owen Bush who became the first Black legislator in Washington.

A Washington Black History App is also in progress. The app will be free, accessible to anyone via the internet, and downloadable to smartphones. WSHS and the advisory committee are working with Dr. Maurice Dolberry, an educational consultant who earned a PhD in education from the University of Washington, to create content for the app. Dolberry’s vision for the app is that it will focus not just on famous Black people and notable sites in Washington, but rather educate about actions and impacts, and ripple effects across generations. Educational curriculum for grades 4, 7, and high school will be developed in connection with the new app.

To keep up with the Historical Society’s programs and future exhibitions, explore www.WashingtonHistory.org.

Celebrated artist Jacob Lawrence is one of the first nationally recognized Black artists. Lawrence painted George Bush, the first Black pioneer to settle in what is now Washington, and his migration in a series of paintings held in the Washington State Historical Society’s collection. This program is presented in partnership with the Northwest African American Museum (https://www.naamnw.org/). Courtesy of Washington State Historical Society.

Litter Free 253
Making Clean Fun On April 17
It’s time for Spring Cleaning on the Hilltop!

By Jo Davies

Litter Free 253 (LF253) is coming to our Hilltop Neighborhoods on April 17th, 2021, and you, your family and your neighbors will want to be part of the HACtion. LF253 is a city-wide event sponsored by the City and your Neighborhood Councils (Central Tacoma and New Tacoma). On April 17th folks will gather at designated sites at 9 a.m. and be issued gloves and trash bags to go forth to collect litterbug litter (fast food trash, chip bags, candy wrappers, drink containers, etc.) that accumulate on our streets, curbs, and sidewalks. Impromptu encampment debris and garbage is not part of this cleanup effort.

It’s easy to join in, either with a team or as an individual. Register on-line at https://signup.com/go/litterfree253 (secure/71702596621235061/faceb...)

Litter Free 253 shopping bags will be provided for the first thousand participants - each Council District will have a limited number of free litter grabbers to distribute (it would be great if you could bring your own). So gather up your family, your friends and neighbors, your church members and church groups, your work buddies and service club. Make a date and sign up today to be a part of the second annual Litter Free 253 event on Saturday, April 17th.

Check out Litter Free 253@LitterFree253 Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/LitterFree253. For more information, please email litterfree253@gmail.com.

LF253 Press Release

Welcome to the second CITY-WIDE Tacoma litter pickup event*, made possible by a grant to the West End Neighborhood Council. Form a workplace, community group, school, or neighborhood team (& give your team a fun name)! - OR sign up as an individual or family. Who can fill up the most trash bags with community litter? Prizes and giveaways will be awarded to the City’s top litter-picker-uppers, so we welcome a competitive spirit at this fun outdoor community event. We hope you will participate to make this city-wide litter pick-up event a tremendous success. We all win with a beautiful, clean Tacoma! Register today at https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/71702596621235061/faceb...)

LitterFree253 will follow all COVID-19 public health guidelines as an outdoor event with social distancing & face coverings required. Stay on top of all the latest details by going to www.facebook.com/LitterFree253.
Dr. Tate Arunga: Going to the Root of Who We Are

An interview with Dr. Marcia Tate Arunga, continued from Page 1.

Kristine: Do you think White people are able to find their heritage and culture to find out their own personal roots and truth?

Dr. Tate Arunga: Absolutely! All Americans are from 1st 2nd, 3rd, 4th or more generation immigrants…. unless you are Indigenous American Indian, your family heritage came from somewhere else. Everyone that came to the United States traded in their heritage and experienced a cultural immersion that turned us into becoming American. Yes, everyone, even white people, should find their cultural roots. It’s not about black and white, but, who do we come from? Where are our people? Your heroes and villains come out of your own family’s history. Even as a black woman, I have light skin. I would ask my mom, “Why do we have this skin?” She told me it was “sativa blood”. I checked out the history of enslavement and the mixing of racial blood. Apparently, you could fetch a better price for the lighter skin. These were actually graded based on the color of your skin where lighter skinned people worked inside the house and the darker skinned looked at their fields. Fast forward to 2021, we are reeled with colorism…. everyone I knew was obsessed with something. So, if we knew about our blood history, we would be more open to one another. Right now, we are stuck in black and white binaries.

Dr. Tate Arunga’s research was a longitudinal study started in 2000 that centered around the questions, What part of African American women are African? Because she lived in Africa for 11 years and was immersed in an African society, she thought it would be interesting to take people back to their ancestral homelands so they can look in a mirror and learn from the experience. She said we need, “to find our culture and aesthetics and so, that children and grandchildren will be clear about where their roots are.”

Kristine: What was some of the key changes and new capacities you experienced after returning back to America?

Dr. Tate Arunga: I think the first thing is how living in Kenya was a beautiful experience, people were in admiration of African Americans – it was very affirming as an African American Woman. I had a lot of beautiful things to focus on: as an artistic director, a teacher, a business woman and as part of a family I found that people shared more widely because of my African American status. After coming back to the states, I was starkly made aware of racism…. this is the box that is made for me, everywhere. I found myself coming back was not about economic change but about a caste system – I saw that everyone was in it - unspoken rules – it was interesting to see it with a returning set of eyes. I was making African clothing as my business teaching people about the culture I learned about before I started teaching in classrooms.

Kristine: We discussed Cultural Reconnection AKEW0, which is an organized delegation of women of African ancestry who went back to Africa to get reconnect to their African ancestry (https://sites.google.com/site/culturalreconnection/vision-and-planning-team). Dr. Tate Arunga was organized each trip. We talked about how they learned from one another during this cross cultural experience. She told me there were many women groups and that they had a national network for sending messages throughout the country: it only took 3 hours without phones or technology for one woman to communicate millions of women in this group. So, how did they do it?

Dr. Tate Arunga: In Africa, they used the African drum or some unspoken medium of culturally intimate communication. The African Drum is analogous to our Chitterling Circuit in the USA, which is a means to relay information from one to another without technology. The Chitterling Circuit is how we shared information about our Black entertainers and athletes before it reached mainstream media when I was a child because this information was not available to mainstream news. Black people would talk after church or other gatherings to catch up and hear the latest. Another example of cultural intimate communication is how the African drum which is used to send messages (drum messages were not allowed in America). If you don’t have technology, our senses are open to be tuned to other things we were not aware of…. that’s what going to the root of who we are is about. We have so many parallels in our African American culture.

Kristine: In 2010, Dr. Tate Arunga published a book, The Stolen Ones and How They Were Missed, available on Amazon (https://www.amazon.com/Stolen-Ones-How-Them-Were-Missed/dp/B005Z7DU9Q). You can watch her tell about Evergreen Tacoma in a short video called, Marcia Tate Arunga - Cultural Reconnection (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFJlKHtPH5s). While you were at Evergreen, did you discuss stolen family members?

Dr. Tate Arunga: Yes, it happens frequently. The book describes one where an elder was trying to piece together who they were. One example I will share is when she first heard about The Stolen Ones in a video called, Marcia Tate Arunga - Cultural Reconnection, she was fascinated and asked who I was. Her mother was from Kenya (I was not yet in the USA). When she came back to the U.S., she reconnected with Hardiman and Minmus. Minmus Arunga was a former Evergreen State College Tacoma in her kitchen beginning with 6 people. Dr. Hardiman was recruited to a new Tacoma in 1972. Evergreen began in a Pu that later to its current location at 1210 6th Ave. On July 15, 2019, Dr. Tate Arunga became the first Dean of Evergreen’s Tacoma program (https://www.evergreen.edu/magazine/post/whats-going-on-at-evergreen-names-new-dean-for-tacoma-program). Dr. Arunga holds her BA degree in Sociology, her MA degree in Anthropology and her PhD in Human Development. She was recruited to a new program in organizational leadership and development. Recently, she described how she began her human development program by discussing the American life span from childhood to adulthood. “Being an adult in America is 18 (so kids can go to war), in Ethiopia, the Oromo people practice the ancient Guada culture where a child is a child until age 24. The reasoning behind this is that the brains cranium closes at 24 and you can make decisions that are more rational. The Ethiopians have had this tradition for thousands of years.”

She mentions, “what’s beautiful about Evergreen Tacoma is the diversity. The voices of people get strong when they go back to their community. It’s a humanitarian issue…while we are living on this earth. Being forced to meet with people who are different than us, we learn that we have similarities, and it breaks down personal bias so we can connect and work together for better solutions. It removes systemic barriers too.” We both agreed that diversity should be a part of early childhood education. If we have diverse friends at an early age, we learn to appreciate the differences and embrace one another as human beings, rather than with a colorist lens.

Evergreen serves non-traditional students with an average age of 38 with some college background. They ask their students to ask themselves, “How are you growing your community? What skills can you take from your Evergreen educational back to your community to really make a difference? Evergreen’s liberating education is more than employment - it offers a self-determined liberating aspect towards life. Students are known for being trouble shooters, creative thinkers, team players and problem solvers. They know how to move projects from beginning to their final conclusion. A Student leaving Evergreen Tacoma will have a network already built, interacted with, and studied. “That’s the goal,” says Dr. Tate Arunga, “to see this as a runway to take off and you intend to make a difference when you go back to your community, and return with a game plan.”

The Stolen Ones and How They Were Missed

By Marcia Tate Arunga, Author & Isaiah Townsend Illustrator

An allegorical tale about a girl who was stolen from her African home to serve the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and was missed by her family and village. Order your copy on Amazon at: https://www.amazon.com/Stolen-Ones-How-Them-Were-Missed/dp/B005Z7DU9Q

HILLCIGHT ACTION JOURNAL

HAC Virtual Weekly Update

Mondays at 6:00 PM on Facebook Live

HAC will be holding Virtual Weekly Updates each Monday at 6PM until COVID-19 precautions are lifted.

HAC Monthly Community Meetings will return when in person meetings are available.
Shiloh Baptist Church Wins $50,000 Evergreen Options Grant For Solar Project

On a grassroots level, Shiloh wants to inspire other churches and community organizations to go Green and use collaborative planning to positively impact their future. “Installing solar in this way is a grassroots solution to the impacts of climate change, while investing in local facilities that are the backbone of this neighborhood.” – Pastor Gregory Christopher

By Julie Sallenbach

Shiloh Baptist Church is leading the charge toward a renewable energy future for Hilltop. The church was awarded a $50,000 grant from Tacoma Power’s Evergreen Options program to build a solar project that will cover more than half of the church building’s electricity use.

The Hilltop community will soon get to experience and learn about solar energy firsthand.

“For many of our members, investing in solar at their own homes is unrealistic,” said Gregory Christopher, the pastor of Shiloh Baptist. Tacoma’s most widely attended African-American church.

“Installing solar in this way is a grassroots solution to the impacts of climate change, while investing in local facilities that are the backbone of this neighborhood.”

Funding for the project comes from Tacoma Power customers who voluntarily elect to pay as little as $3 on their bill each month to buy electricity produced from renewable sources like wind and solar. Funds from the elective Evergreen Options program are also used to offer local non-profits grant money to build a custom renewable energy project that allows the organization to generate a portion of their own electricity.

Each year, the grant awardees are chosen by Tacoma Power customers who participate in the Evergreen Options program. Most recently, those voting customers chose Shiloh Baptist as the 2020 winner of the Evergreen Options grant.

“We love this program,” said Steve Bicker, Director of Customer Energy Programs at Tacoma Power. “The Evergreen Options grant provides a platform for collaboration among customers, the community, non-profit service providers, and the utility that results in a cleaner and healthier environment for generations to come.”

Shiloh Baptist Church is the recipient of Tacoma Power’s Evergreen Options Grant. It will use $50,000 to construct a 179.7-kilowatt solar photovoltaic installation that will reduce one of the church’s largest expenses: electricity for power and warmth. I had a chance to speak with Sedonia Young and Marsha Hopkins to find out how Shiloh plans to showcase their actions and how it relates to a climate impact on their community.

For Shiloh Baptist, the electric bill is one of their major expenses. It was easy to see the benefit of installing solar energy; After the first year, it would generate enough solar power to reduce the bill by $950, offsetting 90% of the building’s electricity used, pre-covid. If electric rates rise in the future, so would the amount of savings. But Sedonia explained that it was not just the reduction in the utility bill that got their attention and also using this as an educational opportunity. They have arranged for the builders and contractors to provide educational classes and training so youth and the community can get involved. This is where we are at and where we need to go — educating youth to go green.

By Sedonia Young & Kristine Coman

Shiloh Baptist Church contracted with Front and Centered to help the congregation understand the impacts of environmental justice and health disparities in the community. Tacoma has held two workshops, and one of the main things that came up was that when a community does not receive information on what is going on and the opportunities available. There are resources out there, and we need to get involved to know what is out there and how we can benefit from what is available. Shiloh Baptist members appreciate Front and Centered for coming into the community and encouraging them to step outside the box and aim high.

Sometimes you need someone outside of your network to objectively tell you, “Yes, you can do this.” Front and Centered organized great environmental workshops and were good with virtual meetings too. Sedonia shared that, “We thank them and Spark Northwest for their work, helping us with our grant application’s many technical details.”

Even though Shiloh Baptist Church won the Tacoma Power’s Evergreen Options Grant, they are still looking at other ways collaborative planning can positively impact their future. They just had a session last month about transportation regarding equity in access and public participation in permitting decisions. The train is going in on Martin Luther King Jr. Way, but they were not involved in the planning process. How will it displace homeowners in that area? Will people in the neighborhood be able to afford to ride the train? Transportation and how it benefits our community need more focus. They will keep the conversation going on this at Shiloh Baptist Church.

For more information on Shiloh Baptist Church, or to find out about the upcoming educational classes and training, visit their website: https://shilohbaptist.org

*Environmental Health Disparities Map made available at Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map at https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/EnvironmentalHealthDisparities/.

You can also take a look at Tacoma’s New Equity Index at https://www.tacoma-wa.gov/eqtnn/.

-—Sedonia Young, Shiloh Baptist Church

MLK Senior Housing

Groundbreaking Celebration

Join Mercy Housing Northwest in celebration of breaking ground on MLK Senior Housing in Tacoma Washington, January 21, 2021. Hear special remarks from Hilltop’s Brendan Nelson and from U.S. Representative Derek Kilmer. Click on this link to enjoy the video: MLK Senior Housing Groundbreaking Video or search for it on YouTube.

This development at 802 Martin Luther King Jr. Way will bring 60 new, affordable apartments for seniors to the Hilltop neighborhood. For more information about this project, email Ohmna Amobi at OAmobi@mercyhousing.org, or give him a call at (206) 602-3494.

"The goal is really to increase meaningful and inclusive engagement that removes barriers to participation that may arise due to race, color, ethnicity, religion, income or educational level. Communities of color need to get involved with determining our destiny."

–Sedonia Young, Shiloh Baptist Church

HILLTOP ACTION JOURNAL PAGE 10

Shiloh Baptist Church

The Evergreen Options program has 125 participants who have a vested interest in the environmental health and well-being of the Hilltop community. This is a great opportunity to get involved in the community and encourage others to do the same. It’s a great way to learn about the opportunities available.

The evergreen options program is a voluntary participation program that allows Tacoma residents to pay a little more on their electricity bill each month. The money collected is used to support renewable energy projects and programs that benefit the community.

The evergreen options program has successfully funded renewable energy projects and supported nonprofit organizations that provide educational classes and training on renewable energy. The program has positively impacted their future. “Installing solar in this way is a grassroots solution to the impacts of climate change, while investing in local facilities that are the backbone of this neighborhood.” – Pastor Gregory Christopher

This development at 802 Martin Luther King Jr. Way will bring 60 new, affordable apartments for seniors to the Hilltop neighborhood. For more information about this project, email Ohmna Amobi at OAmobi@mercyhousing.org, or give him a call at (206) 602-3494.
Tacoma Creates is in their second year of funding to support local organizations that work to advance or preserve art, culture, heritage and science. They have two funding categories: Comprehensive Organizational Support and Impact Funding.

The application process is competitive so they are offering an application support through free virtual workshops that can aid you in creating a strong proposal. You need to register in advance to attend and will receive a Zoom link by email. You are encouraged to read the complete guidelines before attending.

### Application Workshop Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Register Link</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun, Feb 14th</td>
<td>10-12pm</td>
<td>Comprehensive Organizational Support Funding</td>
<td><a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsf-DusLSjEtmPvHSiyVgzALfvfTQg-NhE-">https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsf-DusLSjEtmPvHSiyVgzALfvfTQg-NhE-</a></td>
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<td>Mon, Feb 15th</td>
<td>10-12pm</td>
<td>Impact Funding for all budgets and programs</td>
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<td>Impact Funding for annual budgets under $50,000</td>
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<td>Wed, Feb 17th</td>
<td>10-12pm</td>
<td>Impact Funding for annual budgets $50,000 to $50,000 for a single program or multiple programs.</td>
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<td>Thu, Feb 18th</td>
<td>10-12pm</td>
<td>Impact Funding for annual budgets $50,000 to $150,000</td>
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<td>10-12pm</td>
<td>Impact Funding for annual budgets $150,000 to $400,000.</td>
<td><a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZKryC0g0Noj7DiYAf4ZyYjzyy6qS7b30I">https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZKryC0g0Noj7DiYAf4ZyYjzyy6qS7b30I</a></td>
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### Applications are now open for supporting cultural organizations between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.

Applications are due in March 2021 - read more to find out how to apply!

**Funding Categories**

- **Comprehensive Organizational Support Funding**: can support up to 15% of an annual budget up to $400,000. Organizations must be a 501(c)(3) non-profit located in Tacoma and provide cultural programs for the public or youth education programs. The deadline to apply is 11:59pm on March 15, 2021. For more information, visit [https://www.tacomacreates.org/comprehensive-organizational-support](https://www.tacomacreates.org/comprehensive-organizational-support).

- **Impact Funding**: can support organizations with $3,000 to $150,000. Organizations must demonstrate their resilience, and ability to serve the community in new ways, and have a fiscal sponsor for funding to support public programs or youth educational programs. Business District Associations and Tacoma Neighborhood Councils are encouraged to apply. To find out more about who can apply for Impact Funding, visit [https://www.tacomacreates.org/impact-funding](https://www.tacomacreates.org/impact-funding).

### Topic: Impact Funding for all budget and programs—register in advance at

**The Tacoma Creates January 2021 Impact Funding for all budgest and programs.**

Visit Tacoma Creates website at [https://www.tacomacreates.org/impact-funding](https://www.tacomacreates.org/impact-funding).

### Topic: Comprehensive Organizational Support—register in advance at

**The Tacoma Creates January 2021 Comprehensive Organizational Support Funding.**


### Topic: Comprehensive Organizational Support Funding can support up to 15% of an annual budget up to $400,000. Organizations must be a 501(c)(3) non-profit located in Tacoma and provide cultural programs for the public or youth education programs. The deadline to apply is 11:59pm on March 15, 2021. For more information, visit [https://www.tacomacreates.org/comprehensive-organizational-support](https://www.tacomacreates.org/comprehensive-organizational-support).

### Topic: Impact Funding for annual budgets under $50,000 and/or a plan for a one time program or event—register in advance at

**The Tacoma Creates January 2021 Impact Funding for all budget and programs.**

Visit Tacoma Creates website at [https://www.tacomacreates.org/impact-funding](https://www.tacomacreates.org/impact-funding).

### Topic: Impact Funding for annual budgets $50,000 to $50,000 for a single program or multiple programs. Organizations must be a 501(c)(3) non-profit or have a fiscal sponsor for funding to support public programs or youth educational programs. Business District Associations and Tacoma Neighborhood Councils are encouraged to apply. To find out more about who can apply for Impact Funding, visit [https://www.tacomacreates.org/impact-funding](https://www.tacomacreates.org/impact-funding).
Metro Parks Tacoma

Check out Metro Parks activities - from outdoor recreation to online virtual classes - there is something for everyone!

Outdoor Recreation

Family sledding and snowshoe trips are open for registration. They also have an Urban Hiking Club and Outdoor Adventure Leadership Club. Find our more at https://www.metroparks-tacoma.org/activities-and-sports/category/outdoor-adventures/

Camps

Day camps offered at Baker Middle School for kids from Rimey, Fern Hill, Larchmont and Stafford. $200/child, financial assistance available. Day camps offered at Jason Lee Middle School for kids from Bryant, Grant and Lowell. $200/child, financial assistance available. Visit here for more information https://www.metroparks-tacoma.org/distance-learning-camps/ to find out about financial assistance opportunities, visit https://www.metroparks-tacoma.org/distance-learning-camps/ and click on 'Can I apply for a scholarship to participate?'

McKinney-Vento Camps being operated at STAR and People’s Center can be checked out at https://www.metroparks-tacoma.org/making-a-difference-every-day-for-kids-experiencing-homelessness/

Chip-In Volunteer

Ongoing Saturday volunteer work parties at various parks. Register on MPT website at https://www.metroparks-tacoma.org/volunteers/chip-in/.

For more information about Metro Parks activities and parks, visit https://www.metroparks-tacoma.org/. Feel free to email Courtney at courtneya@tacomaparks.com.

Metro Parks Tacoma has virtual and in-person events for you and your family to enjoy.

Metro Acts

On Demand Art Classes available for purchase for $6 so you can enjoy art at home on your own pace and time! Videos may be viewed on any device and will be available after purchase to view 3 times in 30 days. Visit https://www.metroparks-tacoma.org/articles-on-demand/ You can also sign up for virtual Ballet Classes, Hip Hop and Jazz Classes ($20 for 4 classes) at https://www.metroparks-tacoma.org/activities-and-sports/category/metro-arts/dance/.

Culinary

Virtual Cooking class: New Year’s Resolution Healthy Cooking - sign up at https://www.metroparks-tacoma.org/activities-and-sports/category/culinary-cooking/. Join us for virtual cooking classes, held via Zoom from the Mobile Teaching Kitchen, sponsored by Regence BlueShield. The Mobile Teaching Kitchen is a custom-built, 26-foot trailer featuring room for a group of people to prepare and cook a variety of foods. It was dedicated in March last year and is now used to host virtual cooking classes. Sponsoring the Mobile Teaching Kitchen is part of Regence BlueShield’s long legacy of giving back to the communities of Tacoma and Pierce County.

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

Get the latest Hilltop Link construction updates by visiting Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/505066506854906/

After-hours Construction Hotline: 888-298-2395

Keep Safe with Vaccine Information for COVID-19

Sign up for community vaccination clinic news today!

By Marcy Boulet, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Do you want to get notified on COVID-19 community vaccination clinic news? Sign-up for health department notifications, and you’ll receive an email on what’s new with COVID-19 community vaccination clinics. Just fill out our notification form on our webpage and select the topics you want to be notified of. This is the quickest way to learn what’s new with COVID-19 vaccination clinics. Sign up at https://www.tpchd.org/?splash=http%3a%2f%2ffindyourphasewa.org&____isexternal=true. Read their Flu News and Resources information at https://www.tpchd.org/healthy-people/flu.

COVID-19 Vaccine

Our next step to end the pandemic.

Why are vaccines important?

Vaccines protect us from diseases like measles, mumps, and seasonal flu. They helped stop the spread of other diseases like smallpox and polio.

How do I know a COVID-19 vaccine is safe?

Vaccines must pass tough safety measures before they become available like:

- FDA approval.
- CDC safety monitoring.
- Independent safety monitoring.

What happens when a vaccine becomes available?

Initially, supplies will be limited. People at highest risk will receive the vaccine first, like:

- People who work in healthcare and first responders who treat patients with COVID-19.
- Older adults in congregate care settings.

Learn more about COVID-19 vaccine planning, development and safety standards at tpchd.org/covid19vaccine.
Joy Wilde Selected to Mariners Hometown Nine

By Perry Newell

Joy Wilde Selected to Mariners Hometown Nine
and will receive a Five-Year Award and scholarship from the Seattle Mariners.

The On BASE Hometown Nine is a five-year commitment to nine (9) incoming eighth-graders designed to combat disparate baseball and softball playing experiences for youth of color in our region. Joy is a 12-year-old honor student from Tacoma, Washington with a 4.0 GPA. She enjoys playing soccer and basketball, but softball had the greatest impact on her life. Joy was selected to the Mariners Hometown Nine and will receive a five-year award and scholarship from the Seattle Mariners. At the age of seven, Joy suffered a traumatic experience that left her with post-traumatic stress disorder. At the school, she was “devastated and scared” without softball. But she continued to work out and practice her skills to maintain her athletic abilities.

Joy is in the process of publishing an anthology of “stories for change.” She created a website so she could get contributors. Please check it out at: https://www.storiesforequality.com. Joy’s thought process was that if her teammates knew how much some of their comments hurt her, they wouldn’t say them. “I want to make a place where BIPOC voices are strong and loud.” This will educate non-BIPOC teammates so they help create a culture where everyone can shine. “I wanted to publish a collection of stories for change” from female athletes who’ve battled racism in the sports world.

I know it’s not our job as people of color to educate White people about our culture, especially when it hurts so much to recount those experiences, but in participating in this project you will be taking down a piece of the barrier that is shielding racism on sports teams. What if we came together and made something so that future powerful girls of color could fully participate? What if your story made another person think before speaking? It will take too long for White people to figure it all out on their own, and I want to make a difference now. Don’t you?

Joy was recently recognized at the City of Tacoma 2021 Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Awards celebration and received the Emerging Leader Award.

Doodle for Google
$30,000 Award for Students K-12

By Perry Newell

Doodle 4 Google Competition - Award Amount: $30,000. Students in grades K-12 are invited to take part in the contest. From crayons to clay, graphic design, or even food, young artists can utilize any materials to bring their creation to life. Like all Google Doodles, each doodle must incorporate the letters G-o-o-g-l-e. One national winner will also receive a $30,000 college scholarship. Use your imagination to create a Google Doodle based on what kindness means to you. Students can work with any materials they want, but all doodles must be entered using the entry form. Parents and teachers can mail in the completed entry form or submit it online as a .png, .jpg.

The National Winner’s artwork will be displayed on Google.com for one day. He or she will also receive a $35,000 college scholarship; a $50,000 technology package for their school/non-profit organization; a trip to Google headquarters in California; Google hardware, and fun Googley swag. The four National Finalists, who do not become the National Winner, will have their doodles featured on the Doodle for Google gallery. Each National Finalist will receive a $5,000 scholarship, a trip to Google headquarters in California, Google hardware, and fun Googley swag. For more information or to apply, please visit the scholarship provider’s website at https://doodles.google.com/intl/en_us/d4g/how-it-works/.

Interview with a Local Girl Scout

By Elyse McWilson from Girl Scout Troop 4136

What work have I done with the homeles?
First for my bronze award when I was a junior (5-6 year) in girl scouts we worked with an organization called Birthday Dreams that creates birthday parties for homeless children. Then we worked with the Adams family shelter and the men’s shelter in Tacoma, and we made meals for them, and donated girl scout cookies. Also for a summer my mother, sister, and I would buy a full takeout meal from a restaurant and find someone on the street to give a meal to. The summer of 2020 I worked with my church Peace Lutheran and we visited Hilltop Urban Gardens and they focused on growing healthy food for the local community. And finally I focused my action project on homelessness and made packages with food, socks, and hygiene products.

Why did I decide to join girl scouts?
In kindergarten one of my friends asked me if I wanted to buy cookies and I said yeah even though I didn’t have any money (what little kid doesn’t want cookies). Then I asked her why she was selling them and she explained Girl Scouts to me and said that all of our friends were in it. So me feeling left out (and slightly jealous) joined, and I’m glad I did. It gives me so many different opportunities that I wouldn’t have given it I hadn’t joined.

What are your experiences as a leader among your peers?
My first experience was being a Program Aide at camp OH AH LAY’ and the girls that I was leading in my unit were either my age or one year younger so even though it was slightly intimidating I still had fun. Then a year later I became a Program Aide at Mountain valley community camp and that was the most fun I’ve ever had. We lead songs and activities and all of the girls who were program aides with me were so nice, and the girls that I was leading were nice and fun to be around.

What are my plans for the future?
My plans are to get through high school and move on to college, particularly a historically black college. I have a lot of ideas of what I want to be, but for now I just want to focus on the challenges in front of me, and to do my very best.

Who are your role models?
Mostly my parents, I feel like lots of people have role models that are characters in books and movies and tv shows, but since my family doesn’t really focus on being LIKE someone, that helped me figure out my own personality, and in that creating my OWN character.

What was your reaction seeing Kamala Harris run for vice president?
And then when she and Biden won?
I was very excited to see a woman and not only a woman but a woman of color. It was very inspiring to see that play out. And then when she won it was like, “Wow, women are powerful.” It was nice to see that people around the United States agreed with me.

Are there any models in popular culture that you, as a young woman of color, have been able to look to?
Definitely Rihanna. She’s strong, and her personality shows through all of her work so it’s inspiring to see a woman of color who loves to express her opinions, and show their character and personality with no apology.

How has your identity impacted your work?
Some people in the school’s administration underestimate my abilities to succeed in my work, but I like when people underestimate me because I love to see the shock on their face when I prove them wrong.

What stereotypes do you have to contend with as a woman of color in your work?
In school I am very outgoing and I love to talk to everyone, but lots of people also stereotype me as the loud, funny black girl. When in reality I’m not an entertainment show. A lot of the time people have stereotyped black people as entertainment (you know, the funny black guy in your favorite t.v. show), but we’re more than that, we are smart and strong and we fight for what’s right even though it may be a struggle.

“aracism is not it enough to be non-racist. We must be anti-racist.” - Joy Wilde

Photographs courtesy of Perry Newell.

Doodle for Google
$30,000 Award for Students K-12

By Perry Newell

Doodle 4 Google Competition - Award Amount: $30,000. Students in grades K-12 are invited to take part in the contest. From crayons to clay, graphic design, or even food, young artists can utilize any materials to bring their creation to life. Like all Google Doodles, each doodle must incorporate the letters G-o-o-g-l-e. One national winner will also receive a $30,000 college scholarship. Use your imagination to create a Google Doodle based on what kindness means to you. Students can work with any materials they want, but all doodles must be entered using the entry form. Parents and teachers can mail in the completed entry form or submit it online as a .png, .jpg.
JAMES WALTON: TACOMA’S 1ST BLACK CITY MANAGER

Today, at the age of 81, Walton continues to inspire change, break predominantly White barriers, and serve his community by joining the News Tribune Editorial Board and other community boards to add ethnic diversity.

He was present during the Mother’s Day Disturbance in Hilltop, which involved unrest between Tacoma Police and a Black driver and passengers who were stopped on a traffic violation. As tensions rose with community members becoming angry with Tacoma Police Department, Walton de-escalated the situation with the assistance of community leaders. Walton inspired the community to not make the mistake of going on a suicide mission by engaging angrily with the police; but instead, live to fight another day.

After that, Walton helped win concessions from the City Council as the youngest of several other Black leaders in the area. Walton and the other leaders grew to be the Black Collective that still resides in Tacoma today and is led by volunteers (https://theblackcollective.org/).

The city government took an interest in Walton and he began to involve himself in the government he once despised in order to help the Tacoma community. Walton went from director of Human Relations in 1970, to Assistant City Manager, then Deputy City Manager, and finally the first Black City Manager in 2003.

Retiring in 2003, Walton continued to bless the Hilltop Community by being one of the six founders of the Community Healthcare Center (https://www.commhealth.org) and being a co-chair of the Hilltop Regional Health Center Capital Campaign. CHC honored him in 2018 with the Humanitarian award.

Today, at the age of 81, Walton continues to inspire change, break predominantly White barriers, and serve his community by joining the News Tribune Editorial Board which lacks ethnic diversity. Walton is also on several community boards, like United Way of Pierce County and Elizabeth Wesley Youth Merit Incentive Award Program.

About us

Our Sisters House was founded in 1995 to fill a gap in services for girls of color who were adjudicated in the juvenile system. Today the organization continues to fill in a gap in services for African American women and children who have been impacted and victimized by domestic violence. OSIH has 5 programs that infuses juvenile family violence, children who have witnessed violence, a support group for African American women who are survivors of domestic violence, and advocacy programs that assist women fleeing their abusers. In Pierce County, there are several mainstream domestic violence agencies. The only OSIH is able to provide culturally specific advocacy and services to African American women and their families. Our programs New Beginnings and Healing Stories are the only programs in Pierce County that address juvenile family violence and children exposed to violence using a holistic approach that involves the entire family with a parenting support group component.

Programs

Domestic Violence Advocacy

Ours family violence advocates are able to assist survivors of domestic violence by providing supportive services and helping individuals navigate community resources in such a way that maintains confidentiality and keeps the family or individual safe. Advocates are able to provide clients with DV education, safety planning, access to resources such as shelter, housing, healthcare, food/stuffing, rental & utility bill assistance, or anything that may improve the safety and success of each individual. Gas and food vouchers may be provided based on current availability.

Legal Advocacy

Ours legal advocates can help clients navigate the legal system by offering help with protection orders, parenting plans, divorce/legai separation, assistance with the Address Confidentiality Program, paternity, and court accompaniment. Legal advocates are not lawyers and cannot give legal advice.

Confabulation

Confabulation is an online podcast where advocates and guest speakers express their views on current events and topics. We discuss a wide range of issues that deal with politics, social justice, domestic violence, and much more! Check us out on iTunes or Spotify @ Confabulation - OSIH. We would love to hear your comments and ideas for topics that you would like to see us discuss.

Contact Us

To receive services or access to more information contact us

(253) 383-4275

oursistershouse.com

Our Sisters’ House

Our_Sisters_House

Follow us for updates on our services & programs
A neighborhood shrouded in a history of racial redlining, Hilltop, Tacoma, became a site of gentrification, and now a pandemic. The Hilltop area community has been the site of a bit these past decades. Originally a low-income neighborhood of color, Hilltop residents have developed into a mix of classes and demographics in recent years. However, many Hilltop residences, predominantly minority communities, have felt the impacts of both this pandemic and the growing gentrification that has disproportionately impacted them.

Rebecca Schwartzman, project manager of local Hilltop nonprofit Forterra (https://forterra.org/), is working to help combat the increasing number of displaced Hilltop residences. The organization recently bought a parcel of land, in a project to create attainable housing for those in the community who have been displaced. They plan to have around 300 housing units, half designated for renters, the other for aspiring homeowners. Another 50,000 square feet will be allocated for local businesses, to which Forterra hopes there will be a high percentage of businesses owned by people of color.

“We own a city block … right there in the heart of the hilltop business district,” Schwartzman said. “It was an abandoned Rite Aid building, and one of the city council members, Keith Blocker, bought us back in 2017 and actually asked us to purchase that land to preserve it from being developed by market reasonable housing … that would be unaffordable to the community.”

Segregation in Hilltop has only fueled the racist practice of redlining, but current issues of gentrification are at the heart of the Hilltop area over the past 70 years, there appears to be more diversity in different neighborhoods, but neighborhoods specifically in Hilltop experienced a decline in the Black population, which impacts culture and whose many changes can be felt within the community. “Looking at segregation in the Hilltop area over the past 70 years, we have seen a disproportionate impact from gentrification,” Schwartzman said. “At first glance, you think, ‘Oh, well, still affordable,’ but there are still individuals in need. Things will continue to happen, and in fact, it was a challenge for us right when the pandemic first hit pretty much a year ago. We were operating in one way, and we were [so] fine that we were doing great.”

As community organizations push through, state and city officials have been preparing aid for families to assist them through the financial damages of the pandemic. Many are worried about what will happen to those who haven’t been able to pay rent or utilities, and the threat of evictions has definitely been looming over lower income communities.

Washington state Democrats recently announced a bill that would allocate $2.2 billion in COVID-19-relief fund allocating at least $365 million for rental assistance and gaps. Also included in the plan is $325 million that will go to rental and utility assistance programs targeted to households in Seattle, a special $30 million for an eviction assistance program. (https://depts.washington.edu/labisi/maps/race_tacoma.html)

Hilltop Action Journal

Reporter
By Chantel Ross, UWT Student & RNW

By Beth Jarot, Rasilient & Green Building Specialist, City of Tacoma

It’s not so affordable to the people living there … because the pandemic evoke this entirely sound transit line.” – Rebecca Schwartzman

With Hilltop now becoming a desirable place for developers, buyers, and renters, but there are also concerns — longterm Hilltop residences are at higher risk of displacement due to the flock of buyers and renters moving in its slight affordability compared to North Tacoma.

The question now during this pandemic, regarding the fight for affordable housing, is how will gentrification evolve after this pandemic? In all honesty, no one is entirely sure. “I do think the pandemic is aiding in, not necessarily gentrification, but continued displacement,” Brendan Nelson, the president of the Hilltop Action Coalition, said. “We will see individuals and families with nowhere to go because they aren’t able to afford their rent.”

According to Alyssa Torrez, a long time community organizer, believes that this pandemic has undoubtedly let the community to think on where they call home and how to preserve that home. “The pandemic has shifted our focus in a lot of ways and allowed us to think about what we want our neighborhoods to be. It includes looking at ways to support current residents and keep them there through the pandemic.”

Nelson, also a formerly displaced resident of Hilltop, expressed the importance to listening to the community and building new partnerships. Since the start of the pandemic, the Hilltop Action Coalition has connected with the

Green Remodeling
Green building and sustainable living involves premium building materials and products that create a healthier, more energy-efficient and water-efficient home.

By Beth Jarot, Rasilient & Green Building Specialist, City of Tacoma

So, you’re thinking about remodeling your home or business and want to make sure you’re making the right choices for your health, the environment and your pocketbook. Green or sustainable remodeling is a way to achieve all your goals.

By incorporating green building and sustainable living practices, you’ll offer you the best return on your investment. Green or sustainable remodeling is a way to achieve all your goals.

By incorporating green building and sustainable living practices, you’ll offer you the best return on your investment. Green or sustainable remodeling is a way to achieve all your goals.

Choosing green design and construction can increase resale value of your property, save you money through lower operating and maintenance costs, make a healthier home through improved air quality, and it reduces environmental impact by being resource-efficient and minimizing waste.

Green building and sustainable living is about using premium building materials and products that create a healthier, more energy-efficient and water-efficient home. A green home or building uses natural resources efficiently, is high quality, improves human health, uses smart design, and reduces energy and water use.

What should I consider when choosing green? You can incorporate re-used or recycled content into your project. We have two architectural salvage companies right here in Tacoma – Second Use (https://www.secondsave.com/) and Earthwise Salvage (https://www.earthwise.com/). You also want to use natural content and/or low toxicity components, and durable and low maintenance products (a product that lasts longer or requires less maintenance saves energy because manufacturing is very energy intensive; no need for re-treatment, painting, etc.; contribute less to solid waste issues). Choosing Green means it is easily recycled or reused, uses energy and water efficient products (including appliances, heating/cooling equipment and windows and doors), and is locally manufactured.

What if I’m not planning a major remodel or building project? You can still have a positive impact by using low- or no-volatile organic compounds (VOCs) paint and paint strippers and finishes. Using LED bulbs and installing water-saving devices (such as low-flow faucets and showerheads) will also make a positive impact. Try selecting Energy Star® appliances and choosing building materials with renewable and recycled content.

For more information, contact Beth Jarot, Green Building Specialist at bjatroctacoma.org or 253-208-4551.
At The Patio: Art Exhibits & Installations, Screenings, & DIY Crafts To Uplift Tacoma

Alma Mater continues to operate entirely outside with its outdoor eatery, The Patio. With fully heated and tented seating, Alma Mater is hosting several free events throughout February in its continued effort to bolster the local community.

With help from Tinkertopia, The Patio is providing free DIY make-and-take craft kits at every table until the end of February, with all the supplies necessary to craft sweet notes and heartwarming letters of love. Free and all ages, people can take these notes home or hang them up at The Patio for the public to enjoy throughout the month. Several screenings will also be taking place at The Patio: new and locally-produced children’s show “The Peace Bus,” regional treasure and documentary “Wheedle’s Groove,” and Throwback Thursdays—a series of weekly screenings to relive past live music performances from Alma Mater’s Firstvet Hall.

Additionally, Alma Mater’s Milk Gallery will be hosting a month-long exhibit featuring artwork and poetry from youth and young adults in Tacoma, curated by The People’s Assembly. “Abolition: Imagining How We Get Free” will be available to view virtually on Alma Mater’s website and in-person by appointment (contingent on the state’s COVID-19 guidance and mandates).

- *Month-Long Programs:
  - ‘Abolition: Imagining How We Get Free’ Exhibition at the Milk Gallery
  - Tinkertopia Sweet Notes DIY Crafts at The Patio

Screenings at The Patio:
- Feb 10, 17: Wheedle’s Groove
- Feb 11, 18, 25: Throwback Thursdays: Live Music Performances

Want to improve your community and environment? Easy - plant a tree!

Tree Coupon Program

By Arin Lewis, Urban Forestry

Well-placed and well-tended trees can improve community health while enhancing energy savings by moderating air-temperature and filtering pollution out of the air and water. To improve the health of our community, the City of Tacoma adopted a goal of increasing tree canopy cover from 20% to 30% by 2030. The Tree Coupon Program is one way we partner with residential homeowners to achieve this goal.

The City of Tacoma established the Tree Coupon Program on October 1 through March 31, 2021 from City of Tacoma *cityoftacoma.org/treecoupons. Coupons are valid for $30 off each tree purchased, up to three trees per coupon, at select local nurseries. Trees can be planted on private residential property and/or the right-of-way, such as the planting strips abutting your property. The City mails coupons to residents after they apply through an online request form at the website linked above.

To help reach our tree canopy goal, the City of Tacoma established the annual Tree Coupon Program for Tacoma residents in 2012, which expanded to Pierce County residents in 2014 through funding provided by the Puylup Watershed Initiative. Funding and support for this program today comes from City of Tacoma Surface Water Utility Fees, Tacoma Power Renewable and Outreach program funding, and the Puylup Watershed Initiative.

At the end of each season, the program is evaluated to reflect on the goals and outcomes of the season. The 2019-20 program made it possible for Pierce County residents to plant 1,421 new trees at 574 households across the County.

Last season, we took the opportunity to survey program participants, whether they redeemed a coupon or not, to learn how we can improve the program in the future. We also aimed to understand barriers that may prevent people from using the Tree Coupon Program to its full value. Summarized survey results are included with our annual report which can be found at cityoftacoma.org/treecoupons.

This past season, we also took a deep dive into the survey and available data to evaluate the equity outcomes of the Tree Coupon Program. Since its first year in 2012, more than half (53 percent) of all coupons requested in Tacoma are from low opportunity neighborhoods. Based on the **City’s Equity Index**, however, only 31 percent of trees bought in Tacoma (and presumably planted) were located in these low opportunity neighborhoods. This suggests people in lower opportunity neighborhoods have significant interest in the program, but barriers exist to redeeming the coupon as well as maximizing the number of trees purchased.

One key strategy we’ve identified to improve access to trees is expanding and improving translation services. If you or someone you know could benefit from language translation services to access information regarding this program, use the translation tool on the City webpage by clicking “Languages” in the top left corner of the webpage and select your preference. Residents can also contact our office for additional translation or language access requests.

The Tree Coupon Program may not be right for everyone, and does not exist as the sole incentive program for planting trees in Tacoma and Pierce County. You may want to learn more about other programs, such as Tacoma’s Grit City Trees street tree program, the Pierce Conservation District’s Urban Tree Sale, and the work of the Tacoma Foundation. For instance, Grit City Trees prioritizes applicants from lower-opportunity areas, provides trees, TAGRO, and other supporting material at no charge. In the case of neighborhood group applications, Grit City Trees even delivers trees and materials directly to the applicant’s property.

The City’s Urban Forestry program is about connecting people, trees, and communities. Improving the wellbeing of our community and environment includes finding ways to make tree planting accessible for as many people as possible. Planting and caring for trees makes a difference, and there are many ways to get involved with urban and community forestry. From applying to incentive programs, to simply having a conversation with your family or neighbors about the benefits of trees - even how you appreciate their tree - our goal is to build connections between people and trees, even before they are in the ground.

*Tree Coupon Request Form: https://www.cityoftacoma.org/aag/forestry/forestry_departments/environmental_sciences/urban_forestry click on Tree Coupon Program

**City of Tacoma Equity Index: https://www.cityoftacoma.org/aag/forestry/forestry_departments/equity_and_human_rights/tacoma equity

Grit City Trees: https://www.gritcitytrees.com

Puylup Watershed Initiative: https://www.puylup.org

Puylup Watershed Initiative's Urban Tree Sale: https://www.puylup.org/401-Urban-Tree-Sale

The Tacoma Tree Foundation: https://www.tacomatreefoundation.org

Reach out to Arin Lewis at AlLewis@cityoftacoma.org or call (253) 502-2138.
Talking With Your Doctor

By Bob Riler, Pierce County Aging & Disability Resources, Community Outreach & Education Specialist

It used to be that a patient visited their health care provider and were told their diagnosis, what course of action was needed and what prescriptions to take. That’s not happening any longer. Today patients (or their caregivers) are expected to be active participants in the conversation.

“Talking with your Doctor” is an opportunity to learn about the philosophy guiding the medical community today, the expectations that providers have for their patients, and how preparing for medical appointments is more important than ever. The presentation is a collaborative effort with Pierce County Aging and Disability Resources and the National Institute on Aging.

“Most clinicians are under a significant time crunch,” said Aaron Van Valkenburg, Manager of Pierce County Aging & Disability Resources. “And we have to share a limited amount of time with each patient. If a patient has not prepared adequately for their visit it could be time wasted for everyone. Knowing exactly how to describe symptoms, the context for an issue and preparing with questions makes a world of difference.”

With all that goes on at a visit to a health care provider, it is often recommended to have a second person with you. So much happens so quickly that it’s easy for one person to miss important parts of the conversation. In many cases, having a second set of eyes and ears can be crucial to good follow-through. Things to do and not do, things to eat and not eat, prescriptions to take and not take – all this can be confusing, misunderstood or misinterpreted after the fact.

Pierce County Aging & Disability Resources has a free information event, “Talking With Your Doctor” to help you learn to communicate effectively with doctors and other providers. Attendees will receive information about special tools that can help make the most of their health care visits. The information in the presentation has been provided by the National Institute on Aging, a Federal agency that is part of the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Health and Human Services and the Pierce County Aging & Disability Resource Center.

The presentation is free and open to the public. RSVP is required. A Zoom link will be provided at registration.

The presentation will be offered online twice in February:

February 18 at 6:30 p.m. Register in advance online at: https://piercecountywa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4X0Y_UzCfQOKMvWPk4Ktw

February 20 at 18:00 a.m. Register in advance online at: https://piercecountywa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_T7DF_Dk5TTRm-bwvzSxJGLEKw

Telephone option available at 253-215-8782 or 888-788-0099 – Webinar ID: 913 2484 5538

March 11 at 6:30 p.m. Register online at: https://piercecountywa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4X0Y_UzCfQOKMvWPk4Ktw

Join by phone at 253-215-8782 or 888-788-0099 – Webinar ID: 942 7025 442

A Proactive Approach to Scams

An Ounce of Prevention: learn about successful tools that we can all use to remain safe from predatory scams.

By Bob Riler, Pierce County Aging & Disability Resources

Some days you just want to scream at your telephone or your computer. “How stupid do they think I am?” That’s one reaction to scams. But more often than not consumers may not even recognize the truly effective scams. They are that good.

“An Ounce of Prevention: A Positive Approach to Scams” will provide participants the tools and techniques to recognize and prevent scams. The free for all ages online workshop will answer key questions. What are the most prevalent scams today? What can people do to prevent being scammed? What are the best tools to use – both high tech and low tech? How can victims recover from scams?

“It is no secret that we are all being approached more frequently with scams,” said Aaron Van Valkenburg, Manager of Pierce County Aging & Disability Resources. “Everyone seems to be receiving more robocalls, e-mail appeals, text messages, social media, voice messages from the IRS, Medicare, Social Security, courts, police and the like. We get them because they work for the scammer. We get them because they are successful. We get them because they work for the scammers. Scammers are smart. They use the best psychology to appeal to our worries, fears, hopes and aspirations. Hardly a day goes by for a scammer that they aren’t successful. They approach people in their teens and 20s because they can be easy prey. They approach seniors because they often have savings. It is essential that people know what’s coming and have the tools to prevent becoming victims.

“An Ounce of Prevention: A Positive Approach to Scams” will be presented by Lyn Peters, Director of Communications, Financial Education & Outreach for the Washington State Department of Financial Institutions. Advance registration is required either online or by calling the ADRC at (253) 798-4600.

March 11 at 6:30 p.m. Register online at: https://piercecountywa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4X0Y_UzCfQOKMvWPk4Ktw

Join by phone at 253-215-8782 or 888-788-0099 – Webinar ID: 942 7025 442

March 13 at 9:30 p.m. Register online at: https://piercecountywa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_T7DF_Dk5TTRm-bwvzSxJGLEKw

Join by phone at 253-215-8782 or 888-788-0099 – Webinar ID: 936 6787 6353dKx5JvNHiSSqytQ0hJZbasu

Music is universal. Styles may change with time and place but human beings have always created music for personal expression, communication, and entertainment. Music, therefore, can serve as a lens through which to explore history. What type of music did people make when, and why?

The twenty-one stories in this book do not necessarily represent the most famous or successful musicians or the greatest music in history. They do not give a comprehensive understanding of any particular musical genre. Rather, they teach us more about the history of the city we live in through exploring the lives of musicians who were in one way or another shaped by Tacoma.
Tacoma Police & 311

The 311 system also helps CLOs identify immediate issues that have garnered a large amount of community concern.

By Captain Shawn Stringer, Community Policing Division, Tacoma Police Department

The Tacoma Police Department recognizes the importance of partnering with the community. TPD’s Community Policing Division is one of the largest in the state. The division is currently organized into four policing sectors. Each sector is assigned one Lieutenant and several Community Liaison Officers (CLOs). The mission of the Community Policing Division is to partner with community organizations like HAC, as well as individual community members, to make neighborhoods safer for all residents.

In the past, community members would directly contact a Sector CLO to report neighborhood concerns. As routine personnel changes occurred, it became difficult for the department to provide the most current contact information on a consistent basis. The department also had no way to track how all concerns came in, the status of each concern and final resolutions.

In 2013, the City launched the TacomaFIRST 311 online resource to provide a “one-stop shop” for City services. TPD partners with TacomaFIRST 311 to track all community concerns that come into the department from outside the South Sound 911 dispatch center. This allows the department to provide the community with one phone number, 311, to reach their area CLO. This has helped CLOs and supervisors track concerns from initial submission through final resolution. The 311 system also helps CLOs identify immediate issues that have garnered a large amount of community concern. In 2019, there were 4,866 community concerns submitted to the TPD Community Policing Division. In 2020, that number increased to 5,281. The 311 system has been instrumental in helping the department track and respond to crime in Tacoma.

TacomaFIRST 311 allows the department to track all concerns that are sent to the CLOs. The system provides department commanders with weekly reports on the status of 311 submissions. Community members with neighborhood concerns, or requests for TPD to attend community engagement events, are encouraged to contact their area CLO through TacomaFIRST 311 by either calling 311 or visiting www.cityoftacoma.org/tacomafirst311online.

Community Service Project: Disaster Relief Buckets

Constance Gooie is an AmeriCorps member. As part of her service project, she hopes to create and distribute 80 disaster preparedness buckets to homeowners with an average monthly income of $1,414. Providing these Disaster Relief Buckets for our neighbors will strengthen our community’s resiliency and preparedness.

[Image of a bucket containing emergency supplies]

Tacoma Police
& 311

The 311 system also helps CLOs identify immediate issues that have garnered a large amount of community concern.
Please visit our website or Facebook to view the entire Calendar.

All Feb, Wed through Sun – Tinkertopia Sweet Notes DIY Crafts @ The Patio at Alma Mater 9am-8pm For all-ages arts & crafts, visit www.almamatertacoma.com/the-patio

Feb 12th, Fri - Evergreen State College Tacoma: Reparations, 12pm-1pm Black History Month Event Online at https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_council/ccmeetings


Feb 15th, Mon - Black History on the Hill with HAC Special Guest, Leash Ford - HAC Virtual Weekly Update 6:00-7pm at https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition/videos/?ref=page_internal

Feb 16th & 23rd, Tue - Tacoma City Council Meeting with Citizen’s Forum 5-7:00pm Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market ST https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_council/meetings

Feb 16th, Tue - STEAM Storytime: Black Women in STEM 3:30pm from Tacoma Public Library Free! Join us every week for STEAM Storytime! For Pre K through Grade 5. Registration is required: https://tacoma.bibliocommons.com/events/search?q=steam%20storytime&fq=branch_location_id:(BC_VIRTUAL)?fbclid=IwAR19T5NHLBSNNpKt56w6QmG0wvO1m5N50CFXN-989t1YQQG0d50TTh4N

Feb 18th, Thu - Black Voices from Tacoma’s Musical Past 6-7:30PM Event by Tacoma Public Library and Tacoma Historical Society. Free! https://www.facebook.com/events/405799767554510

Feb 19th, Fri - Evergreen State College Tacoma: Covid-19 - 12-1pm Black History Month Event Online at https://evergreen.zoom.us/meetings

Feb 20th, Sat – Black Institutions in Tacoma - A Virtual Exploration of History- 8pm. Free event by Pretty Gritty Tours and Tacoma Historical Preservation. Online: youtube.com or Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/events/536704145977525

Feb 21st, Sun - In Conversation: Introducing The Kinseys at 1pm. Free virtual event by Tacoma Art Museum and Tacoma Museum District. Join us for an intimate conversation between Lyle Qusiam Co-Chair of the Tacoma Black Collective and the Kinseys at https://2513a.blackbaudhosting.com/2513a/In-Conversation-The-Kinsey-Collection?fbclid=IwAR1x0qJ1KyYHJfI8XwC6HaaxxOcbutPC2mpJh5XcSg9u6sK9PmThdVhM

Feb 22nd, Mon - Black History on the Hill with HAC Special Guests Dionne Bonner, Whitney Brady and Karen Vargas - HAC Virtual Weekly Update 6:00-7pm at https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition/videos/?ref=page_internal

Feb 22nd & 24th, Mon/Wed – Band of Colors: Self-Scripting: Tell the Story of You 2:30-4:30pm Hosted by Rainbow Center. Sign up for FREE Theatre based classes! Available for youth ages 12-14 & 15-18 years old. Register here: https://www.rainbowcntr.org/band-of-colors?fbclid=IwAR1GdJwT9nLi7gs4i2IsIqh9pnnFF8w5gfSDP5kMho5xyv63MGOyDHPDn4

Feb 23rd, Tue – Band of Colors: Gonna Be Somebody: Character Building (Ages 9-11 & 12-14, 2 hours) 3pm-5pm by Rainbow Center. Available for youth ages 9-11 & 12-14 years old Sign up for FREE Theatre based classes here: https://www.rainbowcntr.org/band-of-colors?fbclid=IwAR1GdJwT9nLi7gs4i2IsIqh9pnnFF8w5gfSDP5kMho5xyv63MGOyDHPDn4


Register for the Virtual Club at https://www.bgcsps.org/virtual-club

Register for the Tournament at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf9L5TPbNwmMaHRoZ1iceru3qrwsoy-dLf1_9q7aMoD0q1QIEA/viewform

NEW Advertisement Rates

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Articles for the Journal

Topics Involving Hilltop
Up To1000 Word Count
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For more details, contact Kristine at 253-442-8848, or email hacoffice15@gmail.com.
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