Hilltop Business Crawl Success

Leads to Hilltop Holiday Crawl, Dec 12-13

“This is the first normal day I’ve had in 6 months.” ~ Anonymous on MLK Jr. Way

It was great, really awesome and very positive. The Crawl was much needed in the community. Everyone was happy.
~ Lenard Olsen, Barber at Sam & Terry’s Barbershop

Hilltop Business Crawl (HAC) and Tacoma Housing Authority (THA) partnered together to provide an opportunity for community connection on August 22nd and 23rd, 2020. The focus of the Hilltop Business Crawl was to bring awareness and support to Hilltop businesses impacted by the Tacoma Hilltop Link Construction and COVID-19. The “Crawl” footprint was MLK Jr. Way from 9th Street to 13th Street, and S. 11th Street from S. M Street to S. I Street.

The Hilltop Business Crawl provided the community with incentive to visit businesses at least twice: August for the Hilltop Business Crawl, and September with business coupons available in the Hilltop Action Journal. Customers who turned in a Crawl Passport were entered into a Business Raffle Drawing and voted for a People’s Choice Award. A Hilltop History Walk brochure was also added to the Crawl. 2020 Census taking and voter registration locations included HAC and Goodfellas Barbers.

THA and HAC partnered with The Community Market to provide Black and Brown micro-vendors, day of event hosting and volunteers, and marketing services. Downtown on the Go provided a Passport Map of the Crawl footprint for in kind services. Sound Transit provided a $2500 ‘Boss Level’ Sponsorship to fund t-shirts and tote bags. City of Tacoma sponsored 3 months of brand photography and social media marketing strategies for local business owners.

Surveys were conducted with participating businesses and attendees to measure the Crawl’s impact on the Hilltop. Results showed the Crawl was a huge success! Linking local businesses and residents together helped Hilltop thrive during Link Light Rail construction and COVID-19 precautions. Businesses reported increased sales from 10-40%. Findings also showed 60% of businesses and 87% of attendees reporting an increase in community connections. This relationship building between businesses and residents increases social capital and improves the overall resilience for the neighborhood. Both residents and business owners are requesting the Crawl be a regular community occurrence.

The pandemic certainly had an impact on how the Business Crawl could be organized; however, the use of COVID-19 social distancing precautions helped 100% of participating businesses and 94% of attendees feel safe.

This encouraging data inspired a Hilltop Holiday Crawl for December 12th and 13th! Feedback from the surveys will be used to improve the Crawl experience. Stay tuned for more information in the near future!
Hilltop Action Journal
Award-Winning Publication!
Journals are viewable online at www.hilltopactioncoalition.org!

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• Affordable & Obtainable Housing
• Pathways to Home Ownership
• Programs for Youth and Seniors
• Create a Hilltop Neighborhood Library

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Hilltop Action Coalition
Hilltop Action Coalition is a community-based coalition and 501(c)3 nonprofit that is working to mobilize and empower diverse individuals, families, businesses and other public and community organizations to build a safe, clean, healthy, resilient and united community.

President’s Message
By Brendan Nelson

Hilltop Family,

Lately, times have been tough. We have seen resources go down and workloads go up. We have seen uncertainty rise. We have all sacrificed. We have missed time with our families and friends, our social activities and sense of community has been deeply impacted. I have personally felt a sense of fear, resignation and doubt as to what will happen next for us.

Yet, in the midst of uncertainty, we are surviving. The challenging times have tested our character, but we have not backed down. It has tested our perseverance, but we are still here. It has tested us as a community, and we are still strong. I want you to know that even through the worst, it will always get better. I am deeply honored to serve my community and journey alongside so many amazing people.

The best we can do in challenging times is appreciate each other and celebrate what we have accomplished together. Know that despite our challenges and different methods of doing things, we are still making a difference. We should be proud.

Proud of ourselves, proud of all we have done together, and proud of our community.

In service,
Brendan Nelson
President, Hilltop Action Coalition

Advertise with us
Email hacoffice15@gmail.com

Hilltop Action Coalition is recruiting Board Members! Email hacoffice15@gmail.com

HAC Virtual Meetings
Weekly Updates during COVID-19

Join the Hilltop Action Coalition - That's You! - and find out what's going on in your Hilltop Neighborhood! Say “Hello” to friends, and stay socially connected.

Brendan Nelson and Alyssa Torrez, and other HAC Board Members, are hosting Virtual Weekly Updates 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.

HAC Virtual Meeting Library
Visit HAC Facebook, click on the ‘Videos’ tab, and check out some of the new editions to the HAC Virtual Meeting Library for a complete list of HAC Virtual Meetings. TURN TO PAGE #

Aug 10 Special Guest Eric Upchurch, Goodfellas Barbers
Aug 14 Special Guests: Nikki Korsakas (Catholic Community Services), Jermain Easterlin and Alyssa Simmons (WorkSource), Courtney Acoff (Metro Parks), Racy and Amalia (Multicultural Center)
Aug 31 Special Guests Mike Carey and Arin Lewis, Grit City Trees
Sep 14 Special Guest John Gaines, Tacoma Public Utilities
Sep 21 Hilltop Business Crawl Raffle & People’s Choice Award
Sep 28 Special Guests Rob Swiger and Laura Lakowski, South Sound 911

How to attend HAC Virtual Meetings
During the scheduled meeting, be on Facebook & click on the HAC has gone ‘Live’ notification to go to the live meeting.

No Facebook? Google search ‘Hilltop Action Coalition Facebook Live now’, during the scheduled meeting and click on the HAC Facebook link.

Join Us
Hilltop Action Coalition
Monthly Community Meetings
3rd Mondays @ 6PM

Meet your neighbors and become part of the Hilltop Community. Each month, we have presentations and information about community events, activities, policy, and important news.

Light refreshments and kid’s activities provided!

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Love by the Slice: A Hilltop Resident Follows Her Dream

Cassandra Williams knew she had a gift and a purpose for starting and maintaining her baking business in her beloved community.

By Aaliyah Walton, Hilltop Action Coalition Journalist

Cassandra Williams, owner of Love by the Slice Bakery, has been crafting delicious cakes and pastries for over a decade. Her love for baking began early in life, and she quickly discovered that two hours of sleep was not enough. The business that she had started seemed to be growing, but it was a struggle to keep up with the demand. Cassandra decided to take the next step forward to an official location in the Hilltop area.

In 2019, Love By The Slice secured its very first store front location in Hilltop! They are located at 1122 S 11th street and offer a variety of pound cakes and cupcakes on demand. Curbside pick-up and delivery services are available as well. The company has created two programs which fund necessary store front renovations. The first program is called, “Cake of the Month Club” (annual subscriptions costs apply) through which a variety of pound cakes are distributed monthly to club members. The second program is called, “Site Champions” (one-time subscription applies). The Site Champion offers perks such as personally engraved gold stars permanently placed in the store front on Love By The Slice’s Community Wall and offers other creative perks for people who have a passion for helping small businesses grow to include an honorary membership in the Cake of The Month Club.

A few short months after securing the location in Hilltop, the COVID-19 pandemic literally froze all efforts for the storefront build-out! One day, on her way to a team meeting with cupcakes, someone asked if she was still baking to which she responded yes. Almost immediately it seems, online ordering began to increase and people began to order for sweet treats and gift cards can be placed at www.lovebytheslice.com and utilizing the new curbside pick-up service and requesting deliveries of individually wrapped cupcakes and bars. The Hilltop Business Crawl was a critical event because it increased awareness of the new storefront and encouraged people to walk by and stop to buy treats!

This business was not a dream come true for Cassandra, but a dream made true. When obstacles came her way, she worked to overcome them and kept going. A gift was an option, but she kept going. She knew she had a gift and a purpose for creating a legacy while sharing the sweetness of community.

Cassandra wants to tell every small business owner and/or entrepreneur to "HOLD ON TO YOUR DREAM AND NEVER GIVE UP!" She recalls meeting with a business consultant for the first time, telling her plans and being told, “It will never happen!” But TODAY, because of faith and hard work, her dream is manifesting. Cassandra believes that “having a Hilltop Holiday Crawl right in front of our doors is a great idea.”

She is very appreciative for the local partnerships that organized the Hilltop Business Crawl. The businesses that were part of the event because it increased awareness of their businesses, especially for the street torn up. Bill told us that Johnson’s “loves anything that can help businesses,” and is very appreciative for the local partnerships that organized the Hilltop Business Crawl.

“With construction going on, its been hard to attract people to the Hilltop.” ~ Bill Johnson

By Kristine Coman, Photograph courtesy of Stephanie Graves

Voting was close for the Hilltop Business Crawl’s People’s Choice Award...Bill Johnson with Johnson’s Candy Company was extremely happy and honored to receive the award! Bill stated that there are a lot of great businesses on the Hilltop that deserved the award. Brandond Nelson presented Bill the award during the September 21st HAC Virtual Weekly Update (see the link to this video on page 16).

I went by to talk to Bill to ask him what kind of impact the Crawl had on Johnson’s Candy Company. He said, “I think it was really great to have the Crawl because we didn’t have the Street Fair this year. The Crawl definitely had a positive impact on our location in the Hilltop area. In 2019, Love By The Slice secured its very first store front location in Hilltop! They are located at 1122 S 11th street and offer a variety of pound cakes and cupcakes on demand. Curbside pick-up and delivery services are available as well. The company has created two programs which fund necessary store front renovations. The first program is called, “Cake of the Month Club” (annual subscriptions costs apply) through which a variety of pound cakes are distributed monthly to club members. The second program is called, “Site Champions” (one-time subscription applies). The Site Champion offers perks such as personally engraved gold stars permanently placed in the store front on Love By The Slice’s Community Wall and offers other creative perks for people who have a passion for helping small businesses grow to include an honorary membership in the Cake of The Month Club.

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Cassandra wants to tell every small business owner and/or entrepreneur to "HOLD ON TO YOUR DREAM AND NEVER GIVE UP!" She recalls meeting with a business consultant for the first time, telling her plans and being told, “It will never happen!” But TODAY, because of faith and hard work, her dream is manifesting.

She be sure consider “easing your sweet tooth” with Love By The Slice where they are making community sweeter every day.

For more information, reach out to Love by the Slice by calling (253) 588-2855. You can visit their website at https://www.lovebytheslice.com to check out their menu and place your order. Check out Love by the Slice Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/loveybytheslicee and Instagram at @b.lynte222.
The Hilltop Business Crawl Was Just What the Doctor Ordered

It seemed as though the Hilltop Action Coalition had found a creative solution to keep community alive while social distancing: the Hilltop Business Crawl.

By Jenni Prange Boran

It’s a testament to the strength of community on Hilltop that, although I’ve only been here since 2015 and am therefore a relative newbie, I feel more like I’m part of a family than any place I’ve lived before. The annual Hilltop Street Fair is one way Hilltop fosters such camaraderie. Traditionally, neighbors and businesses come together in August to celebrate that spirit through music, shopping, food trucks, dance, hugs, high-fives and other activities that used to be so normal.

Then 2020 happened.

When the COVID-19 crisis hit, everything stopped. By necessity, things were flat-out canceled. I mounted the Hilltop Street Fair as I mourned so many other summer activities my son and I had planned. As a proud member of the 8th and I email list, I get all the insider information, including an announcement that arrived in my inbox early August, bringing music to my ears. It seemed as though the Hilltop Action Coalition had found a creative solution to keep community alive while social distancing: the Hilltop Business Crawl.

I’d forgotten what it was like to leave my living room and venture out into the world. Luckily, the Crawl had my back. Participating businesses were listed in circles on a colorful Hilltop Business Crawl “passport.” The idea was simple – visit the businesses of your choice and get a stamp or an initial to show you were there. If you collected at least four stamps, you would be wise to turn your passport, filled in with all pertinent contact information, to the Hilltop Action Coalition offices, as you are now eligible to win a prize via raffle. And, bonus, you’re already a winner because now you know where the Hilltop Action Coalition offices are.

There was an option to download a PDF and print out the passport from your home computer. I was planned on doing so but thought, well, I need to go to the grocery store on Saturday morning anyway, so I might as well stop by. This is the most important advice I can give for any future Crawl participants. Do not print out your own passport. Definitely, and I can’t stress this enough, definitely go pick up your passport from the offices on the morning of opening day.

That sunny morning of August 22nd I approached the office, visible from blocks away due to a waving bouquet of balloons tethered to a sandwich board on the sidewalk announcing the Crawl headquarters. Three smiling volunteers (yes, they were all wearing masks, but you could just FEEL the smiles) welcomed me, all cooling themselves with red “I’m a fan of HAC” fans. I asked for a passport and was given one, pre-stamped for my visit to the office, along with some brand new masks and a little bottle of hand sanitizer—very thoughtful and necessary swag. In the open doorway of the office, there was a large brightly colored wheel labeled with prizes, Wheel of Fortune style. The women saw me eyeing it and asked if I wanted to spin for a prize. Yes, Yes, I did.

A cheer went up as the tick-tick-tick slowed down and it was finally revealed that I’d won a beautiful HAC tee-shirt. I asked for a large for my son, the other half of the duo. Still asleep. He’s a teenager. I’d like to blame him for the fact that I’ve been starved for human interaction and the Crawl was exactly what the doctor ordered, figuratively and literally. Social distancing measures were in place and so was that Hilltop sense of community. Support local business. Support small business. Hilltop has so much to offer and this was just one way to enjoy it. Look for your outrageously delicious breakfast sandwiches, then return them for future sun-worshippers.

Finishing our coffees, which is more difficult than it sounds while masked, we wandered among the white tents, spaced carefully apart, and took in the music reverberating from two massive speakers on a stage, the modern sounds echoing against the century-old bricks of Hilltop’s surrounding buildings.

From a participant’s point of view, I sincerely hope that this is not a one-time event. Had I not had my son with me that particular weekend, I would have definitely visited some other businesses, such as Peterson Bros. 1111 (full disclosure, I have visited this business many, many times and can vouch for every single sandwich on the menu) or Hilltop newcomer Elm, a popular spot owned by three Tacoma sisters. I chatted with a man on his way to work at Tacoma General Hospital tent out and ready. Although he was in line who also had his Crawl pass-

To sum up: The Hilltop Business Crawl was, without a doubt, the best possible way to encourage neighbors and businesses to come together in celebration of that spirit through music, shopping, food trucks, dance, hugs, high-fives and other activities that used to be so normal.
The Full Crawl Experience: Planning and Participating

"I visited businesses that I had not known about and was able to talk to the employees and owners. Hilltop seems to be a tight-knit community with so many friendly people." - Aaliyah Walton, Hilltop Action Coalition Journalist

The COVID pandemic has brought an assortment of issues to individuals and communities everywhere, however something that Hilltop is great at is resilience by taking the hardships they face and turning them positive. That proved to be true when the first ever Hilltop Business Crawl was created and put into action.

As a summer intern journalist for the Hilltop Action Coalition, I was blessed to be able to experience both sides of the Crawl: its creation and its execution. When I was brought on as an intern, one of the first things we discussed was the Crawl and how HAC felt it was necessary to supply something for the Hilltop Community in place of the canceled Hilltop Street Fair.

The main goal was to help surrounding businesses struggling with COVID repercussions, gain at least a little bit of traction and to connect the community with one another in a time of severe sadness and disengagement. There was a lot of work to do in order to make this possible, but the outcome we believed was going to be worth it.

Myself and my co-interns, Stephon Graves and Jessica Curry were tasked with many different projects and each did part with the help and guidance from our supervisors Brendan Nelson, Kristine Coman and Alyssa Torres. All of us together were like a well-oiled machine as we presented ideas, executed tasks and helped one another.

We overcame several obstacles including language barriers, unanswered emails and other miscommunications that tested us. We still managed to do our best and for our first ever Hilltop Crawl we did an amazing job.

I enjoyed the micro business areas where I could speak with different people about their work in the neighborhood. I enjoyed having a reason to visit more than the businesses I usually visit and feeling part of a community; bought coffee, candy and cider talked with business I hadn’t interacted with before.

Business got a lot more traffic in those 2 days than the months that COVID has been present. Businesses new to the Hilltop like Love by the Slice and already established businesses like Red Elm Cafe got as many customers as they did pre-COVID and more people were aware of LaVonne’s Room. Non-brick and mortar businesses were able to show off their products, services or organizations. And finally, Johnson’s Candy won the People’s Choice Award!

Although Sunday was slower, it still gave people a chance to come through the Business Crawl if they couldn’t on Saturday, the first crawl day December 2020! It still gave people a chance to go explore the Hilltop. The community showed out for each other that weekend and now HAC is excited to put on a Holiday Crawl December 2020!

Jonathan Clark, owner of Bob’s B-B-Q Pit, prepares delicious barbecue Tuesdays and Fridays outside his restaurant located at 911 S 11th Street. This restaurant is a Hilltop Legacy Business, serving residents since 1948. Stop by today and let your taste buds find out why this restaurant has been so successful!
Hilltop Business Crawl - Positivity on the Hilltop

Micro-businesses were located at THA beside People’s Park, and behind Fab-5 (the old Key Bank building).

Girls Hearts on Fire focuses on the empowerment of young women through leadership, life-skills, and entrepreneurship. Visit [http://www.girlsheartsonfire.org](http://www.girlsheartsonfire.org) or contact Cecily Crookley at cecily@girlsheartsonfire.org.

SGT Hart’s BBQ Sauce is available at [https://strongfamilybonds.com](https://strongfamilybonds.com). Reach out at strongfamilybonds@gmail.com.

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“Thank you!” Community Market for partnering with Tacoma Housing Authority and Hilltop Action Coalition to provide Black and Brown micro-vendors, day of event hosting and volunteers, and marketing services.

Become a member of Grit City Co-op at [https://gritcitycoop.com](https://gritcitycoop.com) or reach out to gritcitycoop@gmail.com.

Buddhist Moon’s vegan products are available at [https://www.facebook.com/extraordinarilyimpatientbuddha](https://www.facebook.com/extraordinarilyimpatientbuddha). Contact them at buddhistmoon@yahoo.com.

Visit The Community Market at [https://www.facebook.com/CommunityBuiltByUs](https://www.facebook.com/CommunityBuiltByUs).

Shout out to Downtown on the Go for providing the Crawl Passport Map!

The HILLTOP IS BEAUTIFUL mural was completed by Sean Alexander. It is currently located at Grit City Ciderworks located at 1016 MLK Jr. Way. Photographs on this page are courtesy of Tacoma Housing Authority Intern, Gurjot Kang.
Support Your Local Hilltop Business Owners

Eric Upchurch, Goodfellas Barbers: 1001 S 11th ST
Wille & David Combs, The TSM Shop: 920 MLK Jr. Way

Bridget Demerson, LaVonne’s Room: 1120 S 11th ST

Kenton Dale, Hill-Top Loans Pawn Shop: 1101 S 11th ST
Jonathan Clark, Clarkcomm Wireless & Bob’s Bar-B-Q Pit: 913 & 911 S 11th ST

Justin Peterson, The Eleven Eleven: 1111 S 11th ST
David Horne, Grit City Ciderworks, 1016 MLK Jr. Way

John Kim, Tacoma’s #1 Fried Rice: 1201 S 11th ST
Justin Peterson, The Eleven Eleven: 1111 S 11th ST

Photographs on this page are courtesy of Effie Gurmeza.
MLK Senior Housing will prevent displacement by offering very affordable rents for some of Tacoma’s most vulnerable residents, meeting the City of Tacoma’s goals, and ensuring the Hilltop community remains accessible to people of all ages and incomes.

Outstanding Community and Resident Services
- Resident Services in spacious community room and adjacent outdoor plaza.
- Evidence-based services with emphasis on health & wellness, housing stability, financial stability, and community engagement.

* Anticipated groundbreaking: September 14, 2020
* Anticipated date of completion: September 2021

For more information, contact Obinna Amobi.oamobi@mercyhousing.org or 206-602-3494
City of Tacoma Single-Family Rehabilitation Loan Program

City of Tacoma Single-Family Rehabilitation Loan Program assist homeowners in preserving the quality and safety of their home.

Are you a local homeowner interested in making necessary home repairs? Take a look at our Q&A below to see if you qualify and for more information.

What is the single-family rehabilitation Loan Program? The program is designed to assist low to moderate-income Tacoma homeowner(s) in preserving the quality and health/safety stability of their home.

How much can I borrow? An eligible applicant may borrow from $15,000 to $50,000.

**Loan Details**

The loan carries a one percent (1%) simple interest and depending on the income status of the homeowner; you may qualify for loan deferral up to 20 years. Under the Hardship Rule: If the homeowner(s) household income is at or less than 50% of the area median income, is a senior citizen (62 years-of-age), or is permanently disabled, the homeowner(s) will qualify for a 20 year deferred no interest loan.

How do I qualify? Homeowners must be current on mortgage payments, property taxes, property insurance and be income-qualified. Homeowner(s) must submit a completed application, including all supporting documents requested. Examples of Eligible Home Rehabilitation Activities include roof and window replacement, exterior and interior painting, carpet and flooring replacement, electrical work, heating and air system replacement, sewer repair or installation, termite and pest repair, door and window screen repair or replacement, foundation or structural repairs, and repair or replace concrete that presents a safety concern, such as sidewalks, driveways, and ADA ramps.

For more information, please contact the Program staff directly at: (253) 591-5667 or email: SingleFamilyRehab@cityoftacoma.org

COVID-19 Business Info Series Conference Calls

**Mondays & Wednesdays at 11:00 AM**

Pierce County is open for business. As the COVID-19 outbreak continues to evolve, they’re here to help businesses access the resources and information they need. In partnership with the Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County and the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce, please join them for an in-depth discussion of issues for businesses that are evolving due to the pandemic.

The webinar conference ID: 843 841 095. For past webinars, please visit: http://www.metroparkstacoma.org/covidwebinar .

To find out more or to view past webinars, please visit: https://web.zoom.us/j/843841095?pwd=PzFva21yZ2pJd3NldzFwajNFZ2N1Zz09 .

**COVID-19 Business Info Series Conference Calls**

**City of Tacoma Resiliency Grant NOW OPEN!**

In an effort to mitigate the negative economic impacts of COVID-19 on Tacoma’s micro-businesses of 5 employees or less, the City of Tacoma’s Community and Economic Development Department has established a $10,000 COVID-19 Resiliency Grant. The online application is now open for eligible businesses to apply. The application will close in two weeks on Friday, May 14th, 2021. Businesses will be selected at random via a lottery system. If I am unable to submit the application online, are there other ways I can turn it in? Yes, please reach out via email at: resiliencygrant@cityoftacoma.org.

They will update the FAQ’s and application page as they further our understanding of issues for businesses that are evolving due to the pandemic.

Visit their website, https://www.mapierce.org/covidwebinar , for more information about the In-Reach Business Grant or to find out more about Pacific Codex Business Funding. For more information about the In-Reach Business Grant, visit Comcast’s website at https://www.internetessentials.com . To apply over the phone or speak to a Comcast customer service representative, call (855) 846-8376 from 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM, 7 days a week.

**Comcast Unveils Internet Program to Benefit Low-Income Students**

Internet for households to help close the digital divide.

By Antoinette Alexander, August 21, 2020

Comcast has unveiled a new program across schools and nonprofits in King, Snohomish, and Pierce counties to connect low-income K-12 students to the internet at home as distance learning plans roll out across the state due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The new Internet Essentials Partnership Program is supported by a public/private collaboration that enables entire communities to coordinate internet-connection funding for K-12 students, at no cost to the customer.

The program also includes two months of free internet service for new Internet Essentials customers. The program offers households low-cost, broadband service for $9.95 a month, the option to purchase a heavily subsidized computer, and multiple options for digital literacy training.

Comcast also announced that it is giving all Internet Essentials customers their xFi platform, which enables parents to control and manage their children’s WiFi-connected devices.

For more information about the Internet Essentials Program, visit Comcast’s website at https://www.internetessentials.com . To apply over the phone or speak to a Comcast customer service representative, call (855) 846-8376 from 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM, 7 days a week.
Metro Parks Distance Learning Camps

Partnering with Tacoma Public Schools, Metro Parks keeps kids active and engaged.

The Tacoma School District is providing the education platform and curriculum for Metro Parks Distance Learning Camps. Camp partners provide oversight and enrichment to get kids actively moving and engage them with cultural and arts experiences or outdoor programming between virtual schooling sessions.

Distance Learning Camps began September 8 and run till December 18, 2020. They are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM till 4:00 PM. Camps will be on break October 16, November 11, and November 25-27.

Camps are open to children who are registered to attend Tacoma Public Schools. Participants may choose any location, they do not have to go to camp at the same school where they are enrolled. Children enrolled in Kindergarten through 5th Grade are eligible at all locations. Pre-K is available at Stanley Elementary. Children must be toilet independent.

The cost is $200 per child per week with a 10% discount for siblings. Scholarship pricing may be available for those who are free or reduced lunch eligible, and some sites accept state subsidy. Fee waivers and ability to accept State Subsidies vary between the individual organizations that are providing camps. Please check with each site to find out if and how you qualify for fee waiver assistance. Limitations may apply.


Health and Safety

Your child’s safety is the number one priority. Camps will meet or exceed the Governor’s recommended safety measures, including appropriate social distancing. These additional precautions will be performed:

- All students and staff will be screened for cold and flu-like symptoms before entering Day Camp.
- Classrooms will be limited in size: school age classrooms will have 9 children and 1 teacher, and pre-K classrooms will have 8 children and 2 teachers.
- If you or a member of your household is quarantined, for the safety of others please also quarantine your children and do not bring them to camp.

To Register

Visit Metro Parks Tacoma at https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/distance-learning-camps. Click on the registration information for your child’s school. You will be taken to that site’s registration system. Register for the full week by the Friday prior to the week you wish to select. You may sign up for as many weeks as you like. After registering you will receive a confirmation and welcome letter.

You will need to register each child separately. Pre-K options are currently available at Stanley Elementary; children must be able to use the restroom independently.

For registration questions, please email Metro Parks Tacoma at reg.support@tacomaparks.com. Information provided by Courtney Acott, Metro parks Community Outreach Specialist.

Bravery

By Bethany ‘B.Lyte’ Montgomery

Her courage radiates From every word she speaks She trembles as she reads Her poetry so inspiring But her body language speaks At an even higher volume She is facing her fears And almost in tears Because right now she is choosing To be vulnerable To open herself up To a world who might not love Her back

You see she is haunted by her past She has never been good enough For anyone Not even herself So she is filled with doubt Constantly walking with her head held down Feeling as though She can’t fly above the clouds Instead she is stuck on the ground But right here Right now She stands in front of this crowd And pours her heart out It’s the most courageous thing I’ve ever seen Because I can see That this isn’t easy I can sense the anxiety But she is truly a super (s)hero Because tonight she saved lives Especially mine

She helped me realize That bravery doesn’t always come In the form of fearlessness That true courage Is when you show you are scared That fear isn’t something to be ashamed of It is something to be embraced

I just got to witness The most beautiful thing in the world And that was something being brave enough And willing to be scared I hope one day I can be just like this girl Brave

Power 2 The Poetry

More poems at https://power2thepoetry.com

The Hilltop Business Crawl was absolutely awesome! It really became a spotlight on Lavonne’s Room.

– Bridget Demerson, owner of Lavonne’s Room

Voter Resources

- Register to Vote
- Update Address or Signature
- Ballot Drop Box Locations

The last chance to register to vote is Mon, Oct 26, 2020 for new registrations and voter updates online and by mail. Individuals can register to vote, or update their registration in person through Tue, Nov 3, 2020 at the Pierce County Election Center (2501 S 35th ST Suite C) 253-798-4863 for more information.
Prudential Spirit of Community Awards

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program is the United States' largest youth recognition program based exclusively on volunteer service and honors students in grades 5-12 for making meaningful contributions to their communities through volunteer service.

Initiative: Did the applicant initiate the activity on their own, or demonstrate exceptional leadership or motivation in an existing activity?
Effort: How much time and effort did the activity require? Did the applicant have to overcome significant obstacles?
Impact: How much of a difference was made by the activity? Were a significant number of people affected, or were the lives of specific individuals impacted in a major way?
Personal Growth: Did the applicant acquire insights or skills from the experience? Does the application reflect a sound understanding of the importance of serving others?


By Perry Newell

Are you a middle level or high school student making a difference through volunteering? Apply today for national recognition, a scholarship and an invitation to the program's national recognition program! Applications are now open for 2021 awards. Here’s how it works:

By November 10, 2020, students must submit their completed applications, and signed student/parent agreements, to a certifier. Submit your application to https://applylists.org/Account/LogOn?ReturnUrl=%2fspirit.

By November 20, 2020, certifiers select and certify top applicants for state level judging. Applications are judged on:

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Tacoma Public Library
Empowering its community by bringing people together to thrive.

Tacoma Public Library’s mission is to empower its community by bringing people together to discover, connect, create, learn and thrive. They offer a variety of resources for community members of all ages. In addition to our popular eResources, we have gradually expanded adapted in-person library services in Phase 2:

- Book drops at all locations are now open from Tuesday to Saturday.
- We recently launched a curbside holds pickup service called TPL To Go for patrons who want to place items on hold and then pick them up at their local library.
- To use TPL To Go, place items on hold by logging into your library account and then using the “hold shelf” feature.

Help Now tutors are available daily from 11am to 10pm. They offer test practice for grades 3 and up (including a selection of ELA, GED, ACT, etc), and SkillSurf practice modules for grades elementary-college.

Culturegram SIRS, Gale is a research databases for a variety of subjects.

Kanopy Kids offers unlimited videos for the Kids section of Kanopy and includes books, educational videos, language videos, etc.

Hoopla/OverDrive/Libby has downloadable ebooks.

Novelist Plus K-8 is a resource for finding books to read and can be used to find readalikes, etc.

Raintree offers the first five lessons of various languages are available.

TPL YouTube Channel offers how-to videos, storytimes, Tacoma history, art projects and much more. Check out TPL YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbU9aJdHl1nuPjvbn6CX5zQ.

T.P.U.P.A.C. Virtual Events has so much to offer and marks each event with appropriate age groups. You can also search by event types.

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Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center - T.U.P.A.C.
“Where Classical Ballet Legends Are Trained!”

You’ll want to see a RIVETING BALLET TOLD IN FOUR SEASONS IN THE LIFE OF HARRIET TUBMAN.

Spring Harriet - Childhood Summer Harriet - Older Harriet reflects healing benefits of ballet.

T.UP.A.C. is located on the Hilltop at 1301 MLK Jr. Way and can be contacted by calling (253) 327-1873 or emailing contact@tacomatupac.org. Check out their website at https://tacomatupac.org/home. They have classes for teens and adults. Check out their Ballet for Seniors too! Here is an article link (http://www.healthresources.com/article/10243/13/1/The-24-secrets-of-joy,entertainment,and-the-educational-training-of-harriet-tubman.html) that talks about the healing benefits of ballet.

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Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center - T.U.P.A.C.

Empowering its community by bringing people together to thrive.

Tacoma Public Library

Empowering its community by bringing people together to thrive.
Black Mindfulness Club Little Library Hilltop at Fern and Foster

By Nicole Reed

The Black History Mindfulness Club planted a Black History, culture and Antiracism library in September (1402 S 11th Street). Check out the video below to learn more about the Black History Mindfulness Club, or how to contribute to Little Library Hilltop, contact Nicole Reed at 253yoganicole@gmail.com or visit their website https://www.blackhistorymindfulnessclub.com or Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/BlackHistoryMindfulnessClub/.

We, not only wish to assist our community members in learning, mindset. We mindfully strive to connect growth and learning to mental health and physical wellbeing for all ages. We believe that through the relationship of both education and taking time to center ourselves, leads to positive changes for our families, communities and ourselves. Our current call to Action is to create more diversity in selection of Black African American Literacy in our schools. We want our children and community to have a space to revisit the lack of acknowledgment of changes needed. We hope to bring justice to all the lives lost to racial injustice, as well as creating more diversified selections within our school libraries across districts in Pierce County.

Education is one of those systems that needs attention and dissection of text books and material taught. We have to help grow our communities development of accurate, accountable and progressive Black African American Literacy and Culture. Let’s work together to provide outlets for our schools and our Black African American Communities.


Help Your Child Grow Up Strong

And learn parenting skills and strategies for the journey.

The Positive Parenting Program - Triple P - is one of the world’s best parenting courses. Based on more than 30 years of research. Learn practical strategies to:

• Strengthen family relationships
• Teach your child better coping skills and encourage positive behavior
• Improve how you handle disruptive or challenging behavior
• Take care of yourself!

Sign-up for the parenting course that actually works.

At Triple P Group, you’ll meet other parents in similar situations. Parents who can support you and share their stories. Each group is 8 weeks, 1-2 hours per week. It’s free and open to all families with children birth-12.

Small Changes. Big Differences.

Call (253) 798-473 to register.

*All courses are virtual through Zoom. Learn more at https://www.tripletp.org/healthy-people/family-support-partnership/triplep/

Upcoming Courses

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Write253 Launches Disclaimer Magazine

Disclaimer Magazine accepts submissions of poetry, prose, visual art by writers 13-22 from anywhere in the world.

By Michael Haeflinger

In August 2020, Write253, a literary arts organization that works with teens on creative and academic writing, launched Disclaimer Magazine, a new publishing venture for teens and young adults. The ten-person editorial board is made up of teens from Tacoma and Pierce County, who meet weekly to discuss the magazine’s content and design. They are aided by the help of four professional mentors: three writers and a graphic design artist.

The magazine is currently seeking submissions of poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, and visual art from writers and artists ages 13-22. The board is excited to read work form all different kinds of artists who work in different genres and use their art to express themselves and articulate their place in the world. Editorial board member, Sage Hecht, 16 of Spanaway, said “Knowing that I’m part of an opportunity for teens and young adults to feel accomplished in their creative meditations is really such a cool thing. So many kids don’t ever get that opportunity, and here I am making sure someone, somewhere, does.”

Submissions will be accepted until October 23, and all of the information needed to submit can be found at www.write253.com/disclaimer. Any questions can be directed to disclaimer@write253.com.

Write253 is a literary arts organization whose mission is to provide youth with meaningful and transformative writing opportunities that cross boundaries and create community in greater Tacoma.

Free Flu Vaccine!

Get a flu shot at a pharmacy or clinic near you.

We will not have COVID-19 vaccine this fall, but we do have flu vaccine! Everyone 6 months or older should get a flu shot.

Getting a flu shot is our best protection against the flu. Click here https://www.write253.com/disclaimer to get vaccines by visiting Vaccine Finder at https://vaccinefinder.org/.

For more information about the Black History Mindfulness Club, or how to contribute to Little Library Hilltop, contact Nicole Reed at 253yoganicole@gmail.com or visit their website https://www.blackhistorymindfulnesscommunity.com/ or Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/BlackHistoryMindfulnessClub/.

Facts about the flu: The flu is more than just a bad cold. It’s a serious respiratory illness. Each year, the flu kills hundreds of people in Washington and sends thousands more to the hospital. The best way to prevent flu is to get flu vaccine. It protects you and those around you. For more information, contact Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department at (253) 798-6500 or visit https://www.tpcd.org/healthy-people/flu?source=customer&utm_campaign=p-ber=4704320&utm_medium=email&utm_gofundme.com/f/blm-and-know-my-blackhistorymindfulnesscommunity.com or visit their website https://www.blackhistorymindfulnesscommunity.com/ or Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/BlackHistoryMindfulnessClub/.
Beginning in 2018, the Tacoma Public Library began a city-wide series of town hall meetings, “Libraries Transform Tacoma,” to explore residents’ aspirations for their neighborhoods. Sessions located on the Hilltop took place in the Fall of 2018 at Bates, Associated Ministries and Tacoma Community House. These meetings were followed by Library Partner Forums and Community Forums where the opinions expressed by the many inputs that were solicited (the results of these sessions are reported in the 80-page Appendix) would be a sub-goal (p.19) There are many other elements expected community growth, and facilities based on community needs, that impact development and provision of library services on the Hilltop, including services for children, students, elders, and speakers of other languages.

In additions to the opinions expressed by the many inputs that were solicited (the results of these sessions are reported in the 80-page Appendix), the planners analyzed a great deal of demographic trend information presented in the Appendices is based on the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2006-2010 and 2014-2018 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates. Some of this data and analysis would be useful to other organizations and non-profits in the area, especially interesting are some of the geocoded maps.

The Plan concludes with the statement that “we are fully committed to strengthening our ties with Tacoma’s communities of color and marginalized populations, so that TPL reflects the diversity of the communities we serve.” (p20) It’s worth looking at the Library’s Strategic Plan https://www.tacomalibrary.org/strategic-plan/ to see what the Library Board and Staff have in mind for the future and how we might move into that future with them.

Residents with an interest in library services on the Hilltop can follow the Hilltop Library Planning Committee on their website https://www.tacomaallhilllibrary.org/. They meet monthly on the fourth Thursday, except for October and November, when they plan to join the Foteria/ Fab 5 “Design the Hill” community development sessions (https://www.fab-5.org/designthefab). Meetings of the Tacoma Public Library Board are on the third Wednesday of each month.

For more information about the Library Board of Trustees, please contact Tacoma Public Library’s Administrative Offices at (253) 292-2001 ext. 1111.
The Tacoma Arts Commission’s 2021 Community Arts Projects Funding Application Now Available!

The Community Arts Projects funding program financially supports a variety of arts projects happening throughout Tacoma any time between January 1 – December 31, 2021. This funding can be used for arts presentations, activities, kits, tutorials, workshops, experiences, or projects that are accessible to the general public – either physically (within state and local health regulations) and/or virtually. Admission may be charged to those projects, as long as the application demonstrates public benefit (see definition in ‘About the Money’ section on page 2).

The propose may be for a one-time project or a project that is ongoing or a project that is related to a larger project. Collaborations between organizations and/or artists are encouraged but not required. In alignment with Tacoma City Council Resolution 40622 (https://bit.ly/33JP18T), the Tacoma Arts Commission is committed to sustained and transformational antiracist work, including through the Community Arts Projects funding program. As stated by Mayor Victoria Woodards, “Dismantling more than 400 years of systemic racism will not happen overnight. This must be a sustained effort that invites the whole community to join us in radically reimagining our institutions and the services they provide.”

We invite applicants to consider how their proposed project can build a more compassionate Tacoma (www.cityoftacoma.org/compassionate) with projects that are equitable and inclusive, offer opportunities for connection and relationship building, and contribute to the social, emotional, and physical well-being of our residents.

**FUNDING PRIORITIES**

The Tacoma Arts Commission strongly supports justice, equity, inclusion, and access. We celebrate Tacoma’s diversity of people, places, cultures, and artistic expression. The arts are uniquely positioned to touch every person and every part of Tacoma, and we are committed to supporting the entirety of our community. The Tacoma Arts Commission is committed to investing in communities most impacted by racial, social, and economic inequity. This includes emerging and grassroots groups directly serving their communities. We are committed to addressing historic and structural inequity throughout our funding opportunities as we work toward justice for all.

Community Arts Projects funding will be prioritized for applicants who meet one or more of the following:

- Organizations whose primary intentions, practices, and mission are by, for, and about BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color)/ALAANA (African, Latinx, Asian, Native-American) communities
- Organizations that primarily serve low-income communities
- Organizations that primarily serve LGBTQ+ communities
- Projects/strategies that focus on racial justice and/or social justice
- Organizations that will use Community Arts Projects funding to directly pay BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color)/ALAANA (African, Latinx, Arab, Asian, Native-American) artists to create work that is central to the project’s mission
- Emergent community needs related to the global pandemic

Funded projects must provide a specific public benefit to the residents of Tacoma in exchange for the funding. Examples of public benefit include but are not limited to:

- Ensuring that the artistic project is accessible and either free or low cost
- Providing cultural experiences that are not otherwise available to residents of Tacoma
- Projects that allow for arts experiences and/or creative expression during times of physical distancing
- Allowing the public to access and witness the creation of new artistic work
- Serving traditionally underserved neighborhoods or communities

**DATES TO NOTE**

A Virtual Application Workshop (optional) will take place on Thursday, October 8, 2020, 5:30 - 7 pm, online at https://tinyurl.com/v3yk5y5r. This workshop will be recorded and posted at www.cityoftacoma.org/artsproj. First-time applicants are strongly encouraged to attend the workshop or watch the recording.


**Project Period is from January 1 - December 31, 2022.**

Applications must be submitted through the Community Arts Projects Funding online application form at http://www.tacomacommunityarts.submitable.com/submit by November 9th.

Please review the 2021 Community Arts Projects Funding Guidelines (https://www.cityoftacoma.org/CEDD/ TacomaCulture/Arts/TA-ArtsProjects_2021call.pdf) for additional information about this opportunity. You’ll find out more about funding amounts and distribution, insurance requirements, eligibility, what the Community Arts Projects does not support, how to apply, application criteria and narrative response guidelines, artistic work samples, and budget guidelines.

**ONE-ON-ONE SUPPORT (optional)**

Applicants are encouraged to email or call Naomi Strom-Avila at Naomi-Avila@cityoftacoma.org or (253) 591-5191 with questions about or assistance with any part of this application.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The Tacoma Area Commission also offers the Tacoma Artists Initiative Program (TAIP) that provides funding to individual artists. Find out more at http://www.cityoftacoma.org/funding.
Neighborhood Plant Project

By Jo Davies

Perhaps you’ve seen the frequent posts on Next Door for “The Neighborhood Plant Project.” Blake Mars is the one-woman powerhouse behind this effort to bring a bit of something green into the lives of our neighbors who may need “a little love. The mission of The Neighborhood Plant Project is to distribute plants and greeting cards “to the vulnerable adult members of the community; those who may be experiencing loneliness and isolation during this difficult time.”

Blake, a recent transplant from Texas, was feeling pretty lonely and isolated herself after the pandemic began so she decided she needed something to do to take her out of herself. Her experience as an adult protective services investigator had convinced her that everyone needs something/someone to take care of. Realizing that many folks are not able to have a pet, she decided that almost everyone can take care of a plant. Thus, the idea of gifting plants to people was born.

She posted her idea on Next Door and began soliciting donations of clippings, plants, soil, pots and cards. Support and donations have come from the community; those who may be experiencing loneliness and isolation during this difficult time. “My mission is to collect all of that.”

Blake’s Neighborhood Plant Project is an example of one of the many acts of kindness that are flowering in our community. If you know someone who would benefit from the gift of a plant, if you have plants or can make another donation, please contact Blake through the Neighborhood Plant Project website. You can also visit The Neighborhood Plant Project Facebook page at https://m.facebook.com/109252608887970/posts/113961937083703/?d=n.

To make rounds: picking up donations and supplies from folks who contact her and delivering plants to recipients who have been referred. Each gifted plant is accompanied by a card of cheer and hope. Since she began this project in late May, she has personally delivered about thirty plants. In addition, The Neighborhood Plant Project has teamed up with other community organizations such as Lutheran Meals on Wheels, Santa for Seniors, Circle of Life Farm and Gardens and local churches. To date, about seventy plants have gone to good homes.

Building on a passion for service and she would like to grow The Plant Project into a full-time gig with the help of Aleta Haskins, the founder of Circle of Life Farms and Gardens, Blake is exploring becoming a non-profit organization with the intent of applying for grant funding to expand her work.

Blake is inspired by the response to her efforts and the many cool people she has met as a result. A recent personal experience that confirmed her faith in the good people of Tacoma occurred at a local gas station when her credit card was denied. In a post on Next Door she says “I was very embarrassed and confused. And as I was returning items to the cashier that I could not afford, a gentleman behind me insisted on paying for my items. My total was not cheap, but he insisted on paying... what he did for me made the difference of whether I ate for the next few days.... I was speechless and as I stood there with tears in my eyes, he and the kind lady he was with, simply said “when you can, you do this for the next person.” She hopes they read this and know how grateful she is.

She went on to say “There are such beautiful people in our community and I am so happy to be a part of it. The donations and support I have received from my neighbors has been overwhelming to say the least. This man showed me compassion without judgment and kindness without expectation.”

Blake’s Neighborhood Plant Project is an example of one of the many acts of kindness that are flowering in our community.
Oct 14 – Wed 5:30-7pm – New Tacoma Neighborhood Council Meeting Virtual - Check Facebook for details - https://www.facebook.com/newtacomaneighbors/?ref=br_rs


Oct 19 – Mon 6-7pm – HAC Virtual Weekly Update: Special Guest, Jamie Gilmore, Outreach Librarian - Meet Virtually via Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/pg/HilltopActionCoalition/videos/?ref=page_internal

Oct 21 – Wed 7:30-9pm - Mental Health Strategies with Dr. Ashbaugh - free virtual event - more information at https://www.facebook.com/events/330644241635983/

Oct 24 – Sat 11am-3pm - COVID-19 Free Testing for Drive-up and Walk-Up - Everyone is welcome


Oct 26 – Mon 6-7pm – HAC Virtual - Broadcast live link https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%3Fpwd%3F&l=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%3Fpwd%3F%26zoom. or dial in on Telephone at 253-215-8782 - webinar ID: 879 7229 1570


Oct 30 – Fri 4-7pm - Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat at Tacoma Community House 1314 S L Street - masks required

Oct 31 – Sat 4-7pm - Halloween On The Hill - Cones Trick or Treat at Hilltop Local Businesses

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Visit the HAC Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition/ and click on the ‘Videos’ tab.

Mar 16 Monthly Community Meeting - 1st HAC virtual meeting!

Apr 20 Monthly Community Meeting Special Guests Tim Juniper (Sound Outreach) and Rhoda Ramirez (Catholic Community Services)

Apr 27 Weekly Update Special Guests Patrick Tippy (Horizon Housing Alliance) and Roberta Schur (Tacoma Housing Authority)

May 4 Weekly Update Special Guest Liz Ellis, Sound Transit Community Outreach Specialist

May 11 Weekly Update Special Guests Rebecca Friedman and Sam Mulvey, KTQA-FM Tacoma Radio Station

May 18 Monthly Community Meeting Special Guests Deputy Mayor Keith Blocker and John Gaines, City of Tacoma Public Utilities

June 1 Weekly Update Special Guest Sarah Jodlyn, Red Elm Cafe

June 15 Monthly Community Meeting Special Guest Rep. Derek Kilmer

June 22 Weekly Update Special Guest Dr. Arunga, Evergreen Tacoma

June 29 Weekly Update Special Guest Elvin Baca, Graducent Tacoma

July 6 Weekly Update Special Guest Faren Johnson, Seeds of Peace Summit Director

July 13 Weekly Update Special Guest Bishop White, Church of the Living God

July 20 Community Monthly Meeting Special Guests HAC UWT Interns

July 27 Weekly Update Special Guests David Horne (Grit City Ciderworks) and Cassandra Williams (Love by the Slice)

Aug 3 Weekly Update Special Guests David Comb (The DSM Shop) and Bill Johnson (Johnson Candy Company)

Aug 10 Special Guest Eric Upholcher, Goodfellas Barbers

Aug 17 Community Monthly Meeting - Hilltop Business Crawl

Aug 24 Special Guests: Nikki Korsakas (Catholic Community Services), Jermaine Easterlin and Alyssa Simmons (WorkSource), Courtney Aceff Metso Parks, Rory and Amalia (Multicultural Center)

Aug 31 Weekly Update Special Guests Mike Carey and Ari Lewis, City Tree Trees

Sep 14 Weekly Update Special Guest John Gaines, Tacoma Public Utilities

Sep 21 Weekly Update - Hilltop Business Crawl Raffle & People’s Choice Award

Sep 28 Weekly Update Special Guests Rob Swiger and Laura Lakowske, South Sound 911

Oct 5 Weekly Update Special Guests Obinna Amobi, Mercy Housing Northwest, and Cathy Reines and Rana Qawasmi-Dana with koz Development

Oct 12 Weekly Update Special Guest Jamie Gilmore, Tacoma Public Library

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