

*Celebration of Today's Achievements
Is not an indication of being satisfied...
but we know
Our Joy is what sustains us*

*"Leaving behind nights of terror and fear,
I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear"*
[Maya Angelou](#)

theblackcollective.org

The Tacoma- Pierce County Black
Collective
(50 Years of Achievement)



Celebrates

2019

Black History Month

2019

THE BLACK COLLECTIVE-OUR CONTRIBUTION
TO
BLACK HISTORY

Since the very early 70's each week without exception, African Americans from this community have made a choice -A choice to gather and engage and a choice to work with one another and to struggle. We choose to talk, to dream, and to imagine a life where justice and equity prevail. The City Association of Colored Women's Clubhouse is our location. It's a sacred space where the spirits of many soldiers reside like Charles Owens, Bill Givens, Ella Crawford and Carl Brown just to name a few. They live in this space along with the voices of thousands whose bodies are no longer with us but whose spirit continues to whisper in our ear. Their messages tell us that we define ourselves by the choices we make and to keep fighting until the end is in sight. Their whispers tell us to keep fighting to live until there is no reason to fight. So for 2,548 consecutive Saturdays without fail through the time and space of 50 years we have explored the complexities of trust, disagreement, agreement, affection and admiration. We are historians as we intellectually engage Black History. We are witnesses because we have experienced and comprise Black History. The choices that we make each Saturday will continue to play a part in guiding the future of our worlds Black History. We Dare to struggle - Dare to win!

Lyle Quasim, Chair, Tacoma – Pierce County Black Collective

2019 BHM Planning Committee: Alyce McNeil
Lyle Quasim
Wayne Williams

Black History Month Program

Week 1, February 2nd - Social Justice

Keynote: Honorable Judge Frank Cuthbertson, Superior Court

Panel Discussion: T'wina Nobles, President & CEO Tacoma Urban League
Honorable Karl Williams, District Court Judge

Week 2, February 9th - Political Strategies

Keynote: Victoria Woodards, Mayor, City of Tacoma

Panel Discussion: Frank Boykin, Chair, Collective Political Strategies
Committee
Latasha Wortham, Chief of Staff, Lieutenant Gov. Office

Week 3, February 16th - Education

Keynote: Nathan Gibbs-Bowling, Teacher at Lincoln High School
2016 Washington State Teacher of the Year

Panel Discussion: Steve Smith, Director, Black Education Strategy
Roundtable
Andrea Cobb, Tacoma School District, Board Director,
Position 4

Week 4: February 23rd – Economic Development

Keynote: Dona Ponepinto, President and CEO, United Way of Pierce County

Panel Discussion: Korbett Mosesly, United Way of Pierce County, Director
Strong Family Initiatives
Eli Taylor, Key Bank, Vice President, Relationship Manager

Incremental progress is an accountability shared by all of us. Enclosed are just a few African-American achievers contributing to progress and community well-being...

<u>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</u>			
A Diva's Affair	Betty Howse, CAN/Cater/Planner	Metro Parks Tacoma	Wayne Williams, Retired Dir., Business & Operational Services and Assoc. VP, Tacoma Community College - Business & Workforce Development
CBRE	Jason Williams, Facility Manager		
City of Tacoma	James L. Walton, Retired City Manager Interim CEO, Pierce Transit	Non-Profit	James Koroma, Employment Specialist
Columbia Bank	Calvin Pearson, VP, Commercial Banking Officer	Port of Tacoma	Louis Cooper, Sr. Director, Security & Labor Relations
Coldwell Banker Bain	Chevelle, Realtor	Real World EDA	Paul Stewart, Owner, Economic Develop Strategies
Entrepreneurship, Carpet Cleaning Business	David Gray, Owner	Senior Comfort Center	Vesey Whitaker, Aircraft Technician, Kaizen/Culture Team/Boeing Renton
Gittens Architects	Dalton Gittens, Owner	Sound Outreach	Lynn Willis, Employment Coach, Center for Strong Families
Imara Kijana Enterprises	Andrea Harmon, Innovator for Blacks in Ghana	State Department of Enterprise Services	Charles Wilson, State Diversity Manager
Keller Williams	Carlos Watson, Realtor	Strong Int'l Law Group	Keith Armstrong, Business Attorney
Key Bank	I. V. Reeves, Jr. VP, Area Retail Leader	United Way of Pierce County	Donna Ponepinto, President & CEO
	Cassandra Mitchell, VP, Corporate Responsibility Officer for Washington		Korbett Mosesly, Director, Family Stability Initiatives
Key Private Bank	Eli Taylor, VP, Relationship Manager Key Private Bank	WA State Lotto	Merritt Long, Retired Dir. Washington State Lottery
Life Styles Barber Academy	Dennis "Lamont" Styles, Owner		

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, cont'd

Washington State Dept. of Transportation	Yolonda Brooks, 911, Permit Tech, Revenue Agent
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EDUCATION

Bates Technical College	Al Griswold, Executive VP of Instruction/Chief Academic Officer
Black Education Strategy Roundtable	Steve Smith, Director
Clover Park Technical College	Mabel Edmonds, VP of Instruction
Education & Justice Univ. of WA, State of WA, UWT	Woody Hodge, Researcher Investigatory Management, Community Advisory Board-School of Interdisciplinary Studies
Education & Social Justice	Eve Bowen, Educational Policy Development
Group Health	Gail Alexis Ray, Retired Trainer and Organizational Development Consultant
OSPI	Latifah Phillips
Pierce College Puyallup	Darrell L. Cain, Ph.D., President
Pulse Heart Institute	Julia Herring, Registered Nurse, Team Leader
Pacific Lutheran Univ.	Jonathan Johnson, Retired Army, NAACP 1 st VP, Kids at Hope – NW Board
Sam Bruce Chapter Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.	Karen Robinson, President; Retired Human Resources

US Army	Ruebin Lawrence, Retired
Tacoma Community College	Dr. Ivan Harrell, President James Curtis, Board of Trustees President
Tacoma School District	Carla J. Santorno, Superintendent Andrea Cobb, Board of Directors
University Place School District	Ethelda Burke, Board of Directors T'wina Nobles, Board of Directors
University of Puget Sound	Dr. Isiaah Crawford, President
University of WA Tacoma	Linda Ishem, Professor, Dir. of Pierce County Community Services; Sr. VP Seaway National Bank
Vibrant Students	Kimi Irene Ginn, Director
WorkSource	Kathryn "Kat" Green, Career Team

POLITICAL

Black Collective Frank Boykin, Chair, Political Strategies Committee

Beverly Grant Law Firm Bev Grant, Attorney, Retired Judge

City of Lakewood Mary Moss, City Council Member

City of Tacoma Harold G. Moss, Retired Mayor and Chair Pierce County Council

Victoria Woodards, current Mayor
Keith Blocker, City Council Member

Lieutenant Governor's Office Latasha Wortham, Chief of Staff,

Pierce County Young Julius Brooks, WSDOT, Program Coordinator

Democrats

University Place Kent Keel, Mayor

SOCIAL JUSTICE

City of Lacey	Jerry Lee, Interim Human Resource Director	NAACP	Reverend Gregory Christopher, President
Civil Service Commission (Thurston County)	Benjamin Higgins, Retired Chief Examiner		Gail Alexis Ray, Executive Committee
Community Outreach – PCDCC	Cinnamon Brown, Auditor, Chair	Pierce County	Lisa Mansfield, Attorney
DSHS	Lyle Quasim, Retired Director, Department of Social & Health Services, WA State	Pierce County Executive’s Office	Carol C. Mitchell, Director of Justice and Special Projects Services
Health & Human Services Tacoma/Pierce Co./WA State	Tom Hilyard, Public Administrator	Pierce County Housing Authority	Narva Christopher Walton, Commissioner, Vice-Chair, Board of Directors; Realtor
Hilltop Community Services	Larry Norman, Economic Developer	PCTC	Clarissa Fletcher, Probation Officer/Prayze Catering
Judicial Courts	Honorable Dwayne Christopher, Municipal Court Judge	Shiloh Baptist Church	Pastor Gregory Christopher
	Honorable Frank Cuthbertson, Superior Court Judge	Tacoma Ministerial Alliance	Pastor Gregory Christopher, President (Alignment OK?)
	Honorable Karl Williams, District Court Judge	Tacoma Urban League	Thomas Dixon, President Emeritus
		Tacoma Urban League	T’wina Nobles, President & CEO
Metro Parks Tacoma	Aaron Pointer, Commissioner & Community Advocate; NFL; Major League Baseball	The Father’s House Church	Toney Montgomery, Pastor
		Upside Down	Christina Abby, Poet, Published Author
		The King Center	David Boyd, Retired Agency Director

OTHER (Areas of Achievement & Advocacy)

Black Collective	Ruebin Lawrence, Alcohol/Drug Counselor
Black Collective, NAACP, Tacoma Urban League	Gerald Burke
Continuant	Alicia Reed, Project Coordinator
DSHS	Hermenia Jackson, Management Field Instructor UWT & DSHS
Franciscan Health Systems Center for Health Equity	Jamilia Sherls, Director, MultiCare
Metropolitan Development Resources Council	Shirley Payne, retired Human
NACA (Contractor Assoc.)	James Faison, President, Contractor
Pierce County Prosecutors Office	Diane Clarkson, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Chief Misdemeanor Lead
Retired	Hayes Alexander
Seattle City Light	Genie Jefferson, Division Administrator
State of Washington	Alyce McNeil, Communications and Marketing – OSPI, State Farm
Tacoma & Lakewood	Kimana Purches, Healthcare Union Organizer

Tacoma Public Utilities	Bill Dickens, Retired Economist Black Collective Economic Development Committee, Goodwill Board Member
US Army E9	Louis Prince, Retired Sargent Major-
Veterans Affairs Department	Marian Koroma, Veteran Service Representative
Washington State Patrol	John R. Batiste , Chief
YMCA	Phil Carter, Regional Director, Tacoma