

HILLTOP ACTION JOURNAL

Oct-Nov 2020 | Hilltop Action Coalition | Volunteer Organized | www.hilltopactioncoalition.org

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



Photograph courtesy of Kristine Coman

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

Thank You!

for attending the Hilltop Business Crawl



Tacoma Housing Authority, Hilltop Action Coalition, Hilltop businesses and sponsors appreciate your support!

Hilltop resident and Business Crawl Attendee, Jenni Prange Boran, shares her 'Crawl' experience with readers on page 4.

HAC Journalist, and previous UWT Intern, Aaliyah Walton, shares her family's 'Crawl' experience with you on page 5.

Hilltop Business Crawl pictures of participating micro-businesses are on page 6. Meet local Hilltop business owners on page 7.

Positive Impacts for Hilltop

Johnson's Candy Co. wins the People's Choice Award - more on page 3.

Hilltop Action Coalition (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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Stephon Graves
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Community Priorities

- Good Jobs and Local Hires
- 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.

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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 24** Special Guests: Nikki Korsakas (Catholic Community Services), Jermane Easterlin and Alyssa Simmons (WorkSource),Courtney Acoff (Metro Parks), Roxy 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 Lakowske, South Sound 911



Mondays @ 6PM on HAC Facebook Live

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!



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

Johnson's Candy Company Wins the Hilltop Business Crawl People's Choice Award

"With construction going on, its been hard to attract people to the Hilltop. I've saw friends come by that I haven't seen in a long time." ~ Bill Johnson



Johnson's Candy Company - 924 MLK Jr. Way

By Kristine Coman, Photograph courtesy of Stephon 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. Brendan 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 Johnson's Candy Company." He added that it helped with visibility

for the local businesses, especially with 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.

I asked Bill what he thought about having a Hilltop Holiday Crawl right before the holidays. He encouraged it whole heartedly stating that, "It is our big season - getting people out for the holidays to help businesses is a great idea."

We talked about their amazing ice-cream bars wrapped in Johnson's chocolate. I had to wait in line to get mine (best I ever had!) at the Crawl. Bill told me they now have vegan ice-cream bars thanks to one of his employees suggestion. They are looking for vegan candy treats to create too. Any ideas? Stop by Johnson's Candy and let Bill know - they'll see what they can do to satisfy your sweet tooth.



Reparations

By Bethany 'B.Lyte' Montgomery
[Instagram @b.lyte222](#)

I just came to realize
I ain't never picked a piece of cotton
In my life
My existence is way bigger than me
I dedicate this dream to my ancestors
Who gave the ultimate sacrifice
Paid the ultimate price

Gratitude

It's all about perspective
Unlimited projection
Thanks to our people's progression
My people used to be viewed
As not even human
So what are we doing
If it ain't to promote the greater good
They must got us fooled
We are more than what they think
More than athletes
More than welfare babies
Surviving off of government cheese

We are more than the bullets
That we aim at our brothers
Why are we killing each other
When they been killin us
Don't we realize this is what they want
Less hate more love

Less hate more love

We are our own worst enemy
Polluting and poisoning our communities
Just to get some green
It's money over everything
But money ain't the only thing
The opportunity cost
Ain't worth being a boss
If you duckin' the laws
And profiting off your own people's loss

We came over shackled in ships
Our identities stripped
Treated like animals
Forced to obey or be whipped
Our women raped
Pregnant with massa's kid
Treated us like garbage
To prove who the master is

But we are a strong people
We didn't break
We overcame
We revolted and fought for our freedom

To be treated the same

We used to be three-fifths
And now we raise our fists
Used to be lynched
But we ain't stick to the script
Ripped the chains off of our wrists
No longer slaves

We came together
And set the plantations to flames
We rose up
We were brave
Stood up for our race
Everything happens for a reason
There are no mistakes
We control our fate
Destiny manifested
Envisioning us being great

Impossible is not an option
So we gotta do what we gotta do
No excuse
We can't abuse
Our own people anymore
This is a war within
And our only option is to win

Mind over matter
We set our own standard
Bonded forever
Through the blood of our ancestors
So answer this question

Do you take responsibility for your freedom?
Do you realize that this freedom
We have now wasn't free
So it is our responsibility
To live out our dreams

Don't let anything stop you
Conquer every obstacle
And I won't quit
Because if they did
I wouldn't even have the opportunity
To be in this position to even say this

Everyday is a gift
So live life limitless
The truth can not be rewritten
Only hidden
So remember your past
Forgive but
Never forget it

Reparations

Power 2 The Poetry
More poems at [power2thepoetry.com](https://www.power2thepoetry.com)

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

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 and selling cakes since 2002 and has brought her talent to the Hilltop neighborhood where she was raised. Her business started as a fundraiser for the youth department at True Vine COGIC, selling solely pound cake, but as the demand grew at a quick pace, Cassandra decided to take the next step forward to an official business. Her church gave her a great foundation of support; customers began asking for birthday cakes, custom themed cakes and wedding cakes. Cassandra became a self-taught cake decorating machine! She had never intended to decorate cakes, but after a couple classes at Michael's and a healthy number of self-help videos, she learned how to decorate in order to appeal to her customer-base and grow as a business.

With this growth, came a low point

in her career, while Williams was still working full-time in customer service, caring for her family and making cakes, she quickly discovered that two hours of sleep was not enough. The business that was supposed to help free up time was taking too much time and actually becoming harmful and she decided to close the business. A corporate customer caught wind of her decision, then called and convinced her to keep going but to scale back production of master a few things, to which she agreed to. In 2014, after 22 years in the telecommunications industry and 12 years in the non-profit sector, she finally launched Love by the Slice full time. By 2017, the business had grown and re-located to R.A.I.N. (Readiness Acceleration Innovation Network) in downtown Tacoma as the first ever food program participant at the Biotech incubator! "This journey has forced me to make decisions that have led me to where I am right now," says Cassandra. She has dreamed

since 2006 to have her first store front location in the Hilltop area.

In 2019, Love By The Slice secured its very first store front location in Hilltop! They are located at 1112 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 subscription 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 Slices' 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 space 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 curb-side 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 in 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 when quitting was an option, 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, sharing her plans and being told, "It will never happen"! But TODAY, because of faith and hard work, her dream is manifesting.

Be sure consider "curing your sweet tooth" with Love by the Slice where they are making community sweeter – EVERYDAY.

For more information, reach out to Love by the Slice by calling (253) 588-2253. You can visit their website at <https://www.lovebytheslice.com/> to check out their menu and place an order. Check out Love by the Slice Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/lovebytheslice> and Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/lovebytheslice/>



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 mourned 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 had planned on doing so but thought, well, I need to go to the grocery store on Satur-

day 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 swaying 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 teenaged son. "Where is he?" They asked. Still asleep. He's a teenager. The women allowed me to snap a photograph of them for my Instagram account and I headed home to drag him out of bed and into the world of the Hilltop Business Crawl.

I'd like to blame him for the fact that our first official stop was Johnson's Candy but, the truth is, I can't live without their sea foam. Much like the HAC office, the Tacoma staple was operating solely from its front door, just beneath the building's iconic sign. The woman who helped us was wearing a mask. The man and his grand-daughter six-feet behind us were wearing masks. I have to say, I don't recall seeing anyone who wasn't adhering to safety measures in this way. We got our stamp, and our candy, and prayed it wouldn't melt before our Crawl journey was over.

Our next stop was The TSM Shop where Willie and David Combs met us at the front door, gave us a stamp, hung out to chat, and sold us yet ANOTHER tee-shirt, my son's second of the day. We couldn't resist – this one had a tiger on it.

For lunch, we made our way to Red Elm, a popular spot owned by three Tacoma sisters. I chatted with a man in line who also had his Crawl passport out and ready. Although he was on his way to work at Tacoma General, he was hitting some of the spots on the way, hoping to return the following day, his day off. By this point, the sun was out and in full force. My son had the idea to drag a few chairs that had been placed on the sidewalk into the shade long enough to eat our 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 vendor 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 that business many, many times and can vouch for every single sandwich on the menu) or Hilltop newcomer Grit City Ciderworks, which I visited later, had a delightful visit with business owner David Horne, and went home with two growlers. Full.

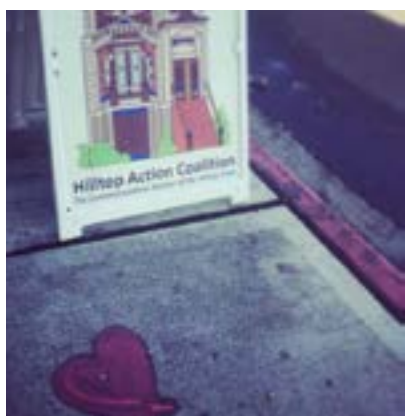
I've been starved for human interaction and the Crawl was exactly what the doctor ordered, figuratively and literally. Social distancing measures were in place and so was that Hilltop sense of community. Support local business. Support small business. Hilltop has so much to offer and this was a great way to showcase that. This participant's opinion? Verdict: success.



Photographs courtesy of Jenni Prange Boran



Jenni Prange Boran took a moment to chat at the HAC office with Board Members Michealea Lemons, Jennifer Schaal, and HAC Office Manager, Kristine Coman. Many attendees began their Crawl at Hilltop Action Coalition to pick up their Crawl Passport and take a spin at the HAC Prize Wheel! If you were lucky, you won a Crawl T-shirt, a HAC coffee mug, or Banana Pudding from The Fish House Cafe!



HILLTOP ACTION COALITION

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.



Tacoma's Mayor Woodards stops by for a chance to spin the HAC Prize Wheel and wins a coffee mug and drumsticks!



HAC Board Member Alyssa Torrez models the Crawl T-shirt and tote bag screen printed by Hilltop's TSM Shop!

The Full Crawl Experience: Planning and Participating



Aaliyah Walton, HAC Summer intern. Photographs on this page courtesy of Stephon Graves.

“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.”

By 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. When I was brought on as an intern, one of the first things we discussed was the Crawl and how HAC felt it 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 our part with the help and guidance from our supervisors Brendan Nelson, Kristine Coman and Alyssa Torrez. 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. Jessica Curry, community engagement intern says, “That was an experience I never realized had so many moving parts. It was something I was proud to be a part of and do something that helped the community. It was a

special experience and brought this community together in a time when that seemed impossible.”

Saturday, the first crawl day started with a super high energy of people anxious to leave their houses in search of a COVID friendly occasion to go to. Or maybe people were anxious to support their community’s local businesses! Either way, so many people came including my family and not only walked around and found out about unknown businesses, they connected with owners and bought their products.

Numerous participants noted gratitude for connectedness and discovery. People that will be Anonymous said these things about the Crawl, “I enjoyed the micro business areas where I could speak with different orgs about their work in the neighborhood. I enjoyed having a reason to visit more than the businesses I usually visit.” and “Seeing people walking around and talking with businesses made me

feel 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, got to get exposure while people thought they were closed; and, Grit City Cider sold so much more product. Red Elm Café got as many customers as they did pre-COVID and more people were aware of LaVonne’s Room. Non-brick and mortar business 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 and it was a beautiful sunny day 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!



Sarah Joslyn, The Red Elm Cafe, serves a hot latte as she talks about the Crawl positively impacted the business she shares with 2 sisters, Adina and Jennifer. Visit Red Elm at 1114 MLK Jr. Way and stop by for a waffle dog and friendly smiles! Waffle picture courtesy of www.northwestmilitary.com/restaurant/reviews.



Jonathan Clark, owner of Bob’s B-B-Q Pit, prepares delicious barbecue Tuesdays and Fridays outside his restaurant located at 911S 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!



The owner of Tacoma’s #1 Fried Rice prepares lunch for HAC Intern, Stephon Graves, as he take pictures and videos with Effie Gurmeza, part of the free social media marketing available to Crawl businesses.



Tacoma's #1 Fried Rice

Mon - Fri 10am - 8pm
Saturday 11am - 7pm
Sunday Closed

(253) 627-6647
1201 S 11TH STREET, TACOMA WA 98405







Delivery with Uber Eats & Door Dash

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/> or contact Cecily Croskley at cecily@girlsheartsonfire.org.



SGT Hart's BBQ Sauce is available at <https://strongfamilybonds.com/>. Reach out at strongfamilybond6@gmail.com.



*The
Community
Market*

"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.

Visit The Community Market at <https://www.facebook.com/CommunityBuiltByUs/>.



Become a member of Grit City Co-op at <https://gritcitycoop.com/> or reach out to gritcitycoop@gmail.com



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



Buddhist Moon's vegan products are available at <https://www.facebook.com/extraordinarilyimpatientbuddha/>. Contact them at buddhistmoon@yahoo.com.



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



Photographs on this page are courtesy of Effie Gurmeza.

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

Adina & Sarah Joslyn & Jennifer Richardson, The Red Elm Cafe: 1114 MLK Jr. Way



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

David Home, Grit City Ciderworks, 1016 MLK Jr. Way

HILLTOP BUSINESS DISTRICT

HALLOWEEN ON THE HILL

Hilltop Action Coalition
The Organizational Backbone of the Hilltop Area

THE TSHIRT MEN
JOHNSON'S CANDY SPUN
1111 RED ELM
PEOPLE'S BARBER
BROKEN SPOKE
HILLTOP LOANS
GODFELLA'S BARBER
2ND CYCLE
LAVONNE'S ROOM
MR. MAC
SAM AND TERRY'S BARBER
1022
...AND MANY MORE!!!!

OCTOBER 31ST 3-6PM
HILLTOP BUSINESS DISTRICT

WEAR A FACE MASK
PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING

COME TRICK OR TREAT
AT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

FREE TREAT TOTE BAGS FOR KIDS

CHECKOUT WWW.HBATACOMA.COM FOR MORE INFO



John Kim, Tacoma's #1 Fried Rice: 1201 S 11th ST



Justin Peterson, The Eleven Eleven: 1111 S 11th ST

Hilltop Housing Development Updates



MLK Senior Housing

- 60 one-bedroom homes for seniors
- Half at 30% AMI, half at 50% AMI
- Universal Design with wheelchair access throughout, walk-in showers, and level-entry
- Sustainable, energy-efficient design



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.

Experienced, Equity-Focused Development Team with Long Ties to Tacoma

- MHNW is committed to Tacoma's Hilltop neighborhood with more than 15 years in the Hilltop and four other properties in the neighborhood.
- MHNW has a long-standing relationship with lenders and investors and has secured over \$500 million in the last 10 years, with all projects completed on budget and on time.
- SMR Architects and Walsh Construction are experienced in the City of Tacoma and have worked with Mercy Housing Northwest on other projects including New Tacoma Senior Housing.
- Walsh Construction has a strong track record exceeding WMBE, Section 3 and local hire goals

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

So very impressed with the Hilltop Business Crawl! The Red Elm Cafe was happy to participate because we support Hilltop Action Coalition. So many people came out - It was exactly what we needed!

*~ Sarah Joslyn,
Owner of Red Elm Cafe*



S. 11th Street & MLK Jr Way

Call for Local Artists was a success!

In the last issue of the Hilltop Action Journal, #Design-TheHill announced a call for Black artists with roots in the Hilltop to apply their creative talents to the transformation of South 11th ST and Martin Luther King Jr. Way (the former Rite Aide site). The Hilltop Call for Artists has closed selections for "Lasting Legacy" will be announced by October 15th with 5 commissions that will engage the community and create art pieces that will be permanent fixtures in the new development.

Artists chosen for "Get Ready" are Dionne Bonner, Adika Bell, Jeremy Gregory, Breyahna Coston, and Gwen Jones. Their art will consist of murals and site activation art that will transform the existing buildings and signal to the community to "Get Ready" for new opportunities. Look for physical changes this month!

Sep. 24th's Design Event was changed based on input from the community. You can watch the recorded video for "How are things at home? Hilltop Virtual Get Together" at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=390199925709873>.

You definitely want to check out this video from #Design-TheHill, "The Hilltop Attainable Housing & Businesses," featuring HAC's Brendan Nelson talking about the Hilltop neighborhood (<https://youtu.be/LzsAPKPVdU>). Brendan is working with Forterra and Fab5 on the Community Investment Council to ensure all voices are heard for this development project.

156 Affordable, High Quality Housing Units Coming to the Hilltop

Rental units are all-inclusive with no additional charges for utilities or Internet.

By Rania Qawasma-Dana,
Project Architect

The COVID pandemic Kōz on MLK Jr. Way is an affordable, high quality housing project located equal distances between Tacoma's two hospital districts and along the free streetcar line which is currently being extended along MLK Jr. Way. The project is also within walking/biking distance of Tacoma's University of Washington Campus. To encourage car-free living, the

project will house electric scooters and bikes parked in the secured garage, that will be available to our residents.

This project provides 156 new Units in the community (75 studios, 51 one Bedrooms, 25 two Bedrooms & 5 three Bedrooms), 30 Onsite Parking Spaces, 2nd floor private roof deck, bike storage, and Ground Floor Retail facing MLK Way. The project's construction timeline is twenty-one months, with an anticipated completion date in the Spring of 2022

Mission statement:

Kōz understands the need to offer affordable rents. We strive to keep our base rent rate at approximately 70% - 75% of a comparable (quality and location) apartments. Kōz also appreciates the simple lifestyle that our residents seek and accordingly our rents are all-inclusive with no additional charges for utilities or Internet - one monthly payment collected electronically.

Kōz micro-housing and student housing projects are

comprised of small apartments that offer a private bathroom, all-inclusive kitchen area including a sink and food preparation area, microwave, 2 burner stove top, and a mid-sized refrigerator, combined with a living space that includes a full/queen sized bed, chairs, table and storage area. The private, fully appointed apartments share common areas for entertaining with friends or neighbors, as well as onsite laundry, and bike units



Resources for Hilltop

City of Tacoma Single-Family Rehabilitation Loan



City of Tacoma Single-Family Rehabilitation Loan Program assist with preserving the quality, health and safety of homes.



By Carrie Wickstrom, Single Family Rehab Program Manager

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

Your Parks, Your Voice!

Development is Underway for Metro Parks 2021-2022 Biennial Budget

Metro Parks Tacoma faces unparalleled budget impacts brought on by COVID-19 as we prepare for development of our 2021-2022 budget. Based on current financial and economic impacts of COVID-19, we are currently forecasting a \$10 million reduction to our upcoming 2-year operating budget.

Your Parks, Your Voice!

This is a two part survey process. At the end of the survey, you'll be directed to

a tool to show how you would allocate funding for different areas of our operations, such as Parks, Recreation and Zoological operations. Visit this link to take the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MPT2021-22Budget>.

To remain engaged in Metro Parks budget development process, they encourage you



to visit their website, <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/> and bookmark the page. They will update the page as they further our community engagement process and develop budget recommendations.

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 discus-

sion of issues for businesses that are evolving due to the pandemic.

The webinar conference calls start at 10:45 AM to allow time for everyone to join with the Webinar beginning at 11:00 AM. Join in to ask your questions with your computer or cell phone by clicking on this link <https://zoom.us/j/843841095#success>.

iPhone one-tap to listen only: +16699006833; or for other telephones (listen only) call (253) 215-8782. Use Webinar ID: 843 841 095.

To find out more or to view past webinars, please visit <https://www.edbtaco-mapierce.org/covidwebinar/>, call (253) 627-2175, or email info@tacomachamber.org.

"The Crawl was brilliant!" ~ Adina Joslyn, Owner of Red Elm Cafe

CITY OF TACOMA

SMALL BUSINESS RESILIENCY GRANT

\$10,000 grants are available to qualifying businesses

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Businesses must be located and licensed in Tacoma
- Majority business owner must be at or below 80% Area Median Income (AMI)
- Business must be a micro-enterprise employing 5 or fewer full-time equivalent employees (including owner)

For complete eligibility requirements and application visit: Makeittacoma.com

Questions? Contact: resiliencygrant@cityoftacoma.org | 253-253-591-5208

City of Tacoma Resiliency Grant NOW OPEN!

\$10,000 Grants are available to qualifying businesses!

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, October 23rd.**

FAQ's

What is the Small Business Resiliency Grant? The Small Business Resiliency Grant is a one time payment of \$10,000 to eligible businesses that are located and licensed in Tacoma.

Businesses are not required to pay the grant back. *How can I use the grant?* The grant can be used for any eligible business operating expense that has not been previously paid for by other federal, state, county, or local programs. *How will businesses be selected?* 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.

View all the FAQ's and application here: <https://makeittacoma.com/resiliency-grant-faqs/>.

Comcast Unveils Internet Program to Benefit Low-Income Students



Internet for households to help close the digital divide. Courtesy of southsoundbiz.com. By Antoinette Alexander, Aug 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. It 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 its 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.

To find out if you qualify for free or reduced lunch, visit <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/IncomeGuidelines19-20.pdf>. For information on State Subsidies, visit <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/getting-help>.

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 Acoff, 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 someone 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 brought 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
- at <https://www.piercecountywa.gov/2883/Voter-Resources>

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). Call (253) 798-8683 for more information.



Recursos de la Biblioteca para Familias Library Resources for Families

By Mariesa Bus, Public Information Officer for Tacoma Public Library

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 using the "hold shelf" feature. When your items are ready, you will receive an email or phone notification with further instructions

Museums and other attractions have begun to reopen in Phase 2, which means that we are now offering Museums and Park Passes at TPL To Go! You can use your library card to check out a pass over the phone by calling our main reference line at (253) 292-2001, and letting them know which attraction you are

interested in visiting, and where you would like to pick up your pass. You can pick up your pass on the same day during TPL To Go service hours which are Tuesday and Wednesday from 5 to 7pm; Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10am to 12pm and 3 - 5pm.

In addition to our in-person services, we have eResources available 24/7 to help with distance learning! You can find all of these tools on our website at <https://www.tacomalibrary.org/resource/>.

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 Skill surfer practice modules for grades elementary-college. There is a writing lab which provides analysis of papers submitted. A language lab offers various vocabulary related 'flashcards'. There is also live FAFSA application help.

Bookflix/Trueflix is where you will find online books on a variety of subjects. Bookflix has read-along capability and is primarily for

preschoolers. Trueflix is nonfiction and is for older children. They both have activities associated with the books.

Teachables is a database created by teachers for caregivers and has assorted downloadable and printable content for children preschool-8th grade. These materials can be filtered by a variety of ways including by common core standards, by grade, subject, etc.

Culturegrams, 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.

Rosetta Stone 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/UC8vnHndxonoPBSr4U4MM0LOQ>.

TPL Virtual Events has so much to offer and marks each event with appropriate age groups. You can also search by event types. See what events are going on today at <https://tacoma.bibliocommons.com/events/search/index>.

We hope you will find inspiration, joy, entertainment, and the educational resources and materials your family needs at Tacoma Public Library! If you have questions or need help, email our Outreach Librarian Jamie Gilmore at jjgilmore@tacomalibrary.org. Thank you for utilizing your local library. We are honored to serve our Tacoma community.

Jamie Gilmore will be a Special Guest at the Oct 19th HAC Virtual Weekly Update. Watch the video and find out more about Tacoma Public Library resources at https://www.facebook.com/pg/HilltopActionCoalition/videos/?ref=page_internal

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 - Young Woman making a change Autumn Harriet - Experienced Woman helping enslaved people - Winter Harriet - Older Harriet reflects

on her life. Click here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqKdL0V76Yo> to watch the teaser or watch the full length production of, *HARRIET - THE BLACK SWAN*, streamed live on September 22, 2020 at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3Ftk5vgDro&t=9s!>



T.U.P.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://tacomaupac.org/home>. They have classes for teens and adults. Check out their Ballet for Seniors too! Here is an article link (<http://www.healthgoesup.com/articles/10254/1/ballet-for-seniors-1.html>) that talks about the healing benefits of ballet.

Prudential Spirit of Community Awards



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

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 events! Each of the National Honorees will receive an additional \$5,000 scholarship, a trophy for his or her school or organization, and a \$5,000 Prudential Foundation grant for a charitable nonprofit organization of their choice. 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://aim.applylists.net/Account/LogOn?ReturnUrl=%2fspirit>

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

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?

On February 9, 2021, The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards announces state-level winners for 2021.

For more information, check out their website at <https://spirit.prudential.com/>, call (888) 651-2951 or email spirit@applylists.com.

Need help with child care costs?

You may qualify for financial assistance to pay for child care if you are a Pierce County resident and...

Your income, work or access to child care has been negatively impacted by COVID-19

You are an essential worker

Completing the application is easy.

Call or text the Child Care Aware of Washington Family Center at 1-800-446-1114

Representatives are available Monday-Friday from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.

Income Guidelines	
Household Size	Max. Gross Monthly Income
2	\$0 - \$5,767
3	\$0 - \$6,492
4	\$0 - \$7,208
5	\$0 - \$7,792
6	\$0 - \$8,367
7	\$0 - \$8,942
8	\$0 - \$9,517

Free Flu Vaccine!



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

We may 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.tpchd.org/home/showdocument?id=7587> or on the picture above for dates and locations near you. You can also find out where to get vaccines by visiting Vaccine Finder at <https://vaccinefinder.org/>.

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.tpchd.org/healthy-people/flu/>.

Black Mindfulness Club Little Library Hilltop at Fern and Foster

This Hilltop Little Library has a theme: Black History, Culture and Antiracism.

By Nicole Reed

The Black History Mindfulness Club planted a Black History, culture and Antiracism library in September behind Safeway at Fern and Foster (1402 S 11th Street). Check out the video below....

<https://www.facebook.com/BlackHistoryMindfulnessClub/videos/646358022687508/?v=646358022687508>

Our Mission at Black History Mindfulness Club stems from a growth mindset. We, not only wish to assist our community members in learning, but for our community members to assist us, in learning as well.

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

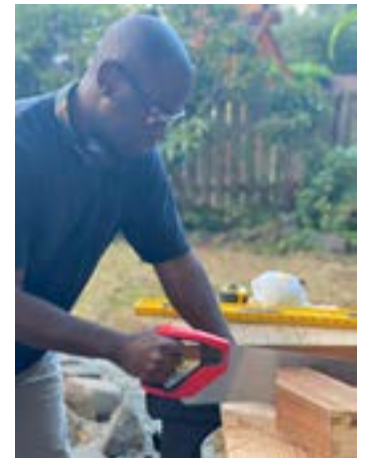
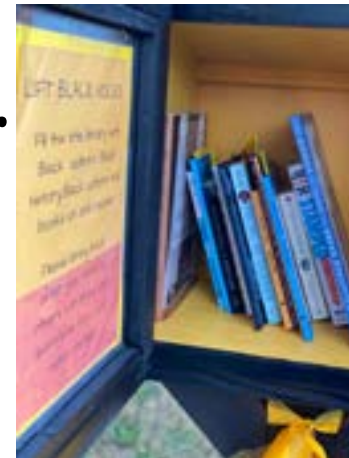
center ourselves, leads to positive changes for our families, communities and ourselves. Our current call to Action is to create more diversity in selection of Black-African American Literacy in our schools. We want our children and community to have a space to rewrite the lack of acknowledgment of changes 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.

Our Little Library Hilltop needs book donations to keep this community resource going. Please consider making a donation to help educate our community at https://www.gofundme.com/f/blm-and-know-my-black-history-book-club?sharetype=teams&member=4704320&utm_medium=email&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=pa+share-sheet&rcid=34e1df61d8f846938ea20062682f8030.

For more information about the Black 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/>.



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.tpchd.org/healthy-people/family-support-partnership/triple-p>.



Upcoming Courses

Wed, 6 PM - 8 PM
Sep 9 - Oct 28

Thu, 10 AM - noon
Sep 24 - Nov 12

Thu, 1 PM - 3 PM
Sep 24 - Nov 12

Thu, 4 PM - 6 PM
Sep 24 - Nov 12

Wed, 10 AM - noon
Nov 12 - Dec 23

Wed, 6 PM - 8 PM
Nov 4 - Dec 23

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 from 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 Heath, 16 of Spanaway, said "Knowing that I'm part of an opportunity for teens and young adults to feel accomplished in their creative mediums 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 literacy arts organization whose mission is to provide youth with meaningful and transformative writing opportunities that cross boundaries and create community in greater Tacoma.



The Tacoma Public Library – The Strategic Plan Implications for the Hilltop

TPL is committed to strengthening their ties with communities of color.

By Jo Davies

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 questions were more closely aligned to library services. One such forum was held at People’s Community Center on October 21, 2019.

As a result of frequent and heartfelt input from many areas of the community, the Strategic Plan clearly acknowledges the significant loss and detriment to the communities of the library closures on the Hilltop and Eastside neighborhoods. Further, equity and social justice are identified as a key strategic priority. The plan avows that “rebuilding trust and the commitment to make library service a priority in these neighborhoods should be given strong consideration”(p.10).

These elements resonate with the goal of the Hilltop Library Planning Committee (HLPC) which is to “return library services to the Hilltop.” Responding to the Strategic Plan,

leaders of HLPC “definitely support these aspects of the Tacoma Public Library’s 2020-2025 Strategic Plan.”

In assessing the community, the Library also solicited input from library users, but the response wasn’t as diverse as had been hoped; a commitment to improving outreach to communities whose voices weren’t heard is another strong element of the Strategic Plan.

Examples of the Library’s commitment are scattered throughout the Plan. In describing goals for “welcoming space,” the Plan states that determining “locations for library facilities based on community needs, expected community growth, and demographics” would be a sub-goal (p.19) There are many other elements 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 data about the Tacoma population and library usage. The demographic trend information presented in the Appendix 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.tacomahilltoplibrary.org/>. They meet monthly on the fourth Thursday, except for October and November, when they plan to join the Forterra/Fab 5 “Design the Hill” community development sessions (<https://www.fab-5.org/designthehill>). 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.



We saw a lot of new faces at the Hilltop Business Crawl. Everyone was in good spirits considering everything that is going on this year. Staff has a good time. The Crawl was worth it!
~ Kent who works at Hill-Top Loans Pawn Shop

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Tacoma Public Power \$50,000 Grant

Grant is to purchase and install a renewable energy project!

Tacoma Public Utilities is giving away one \$50,000 grant through the Evergreen Options Program! Evergreen Options is a voluntary program that allows Tacoma Power customers to buy electricity produced from new renewable sources, like wind and solar, through renewable energy certificates (RECs).

This annual grant program helps recipients generate a portion of their own electricity from renewable sources including wind, solar, geothermal, landfill

gas, wave or tidal, biomass, gas produced during the treatment of wastewater, and qualified hydropower. Recipients may also receive credit for any extra electricity their system provides back to the utility. Grant funding comes from Tacoma Power residential and business customers who participate in the Evergreen Options program.

The \$50,000 grant will be awarded to a local non-profit, school, or government agencies. With the help of their grant, you

could generate your own electricity from renewable sources.

You must submit your application by November 13, 2020. Find grant application materials and FAQs here: <https://www.mytpu.org/community-environment/clean-renewable-energy/evergreen-options-program/evergreen-options-grant-program/grant-application-materials-faqs/>. Email questions to Evergreen@CityofTacoma.org.

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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 anytime between January 1 – December 31, 2021. Deadline for submission is November 9th, at 11:59 pm.



This information was provided by the City of Tacoma Art Commission's 2021 Community Arts Projects Funding Guidelines made

available at https://cms.cityoftacoma.org/CEDD/TacomaCulture/arts/TA_ArtsProjects_2021call.pdf.

The Community Arts Projects funding program financially supports a variety of arts projects happening throughout Tacoma anytime between January 1 – December 31, 2021. This funding can be used for artistic 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 these projects, as long as the application demonstrates public benefit (see definition in 'About the Money' section on page 2).

The proposal may be for a one-time project, a number of projects that are closely related, or an ongoing project. Collaborations between organizations and/or artists are encouraged but not required. In alignment with Tacoma City

Council Resolution 40622 (<https://bit.ly/33JP1BT>), 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 help 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 through 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, Arab, Asian, Native-American) communities
- Organizations that primarily serve low income communities
- Organizations that primarily serve LGBTQIA+ 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
- 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/y3gk5zku>. This workshop will be recorded and posted at www.cityoftacoma.org/artsopps. First time applicants are strongly encouraged to attend the workshop or watch the recording.

The Preliminary Application Feedback Deadline (optional) is available on October 28, 2020. Applications must be received by November 9, 2020, at 11:59 pm. Notification of Funding Decision will be made available by December 18, 2020 with Contracting with Funded Organizations taking place December 2020 – January 2021. The

Project Period is from January 1 - December 31, 2021.

HOW TO APPLY

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

Please review the 2021 Community Arts Projects Funding Guidelines https://cms.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 Project does not support, how to apply, evaluation 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 nstrom-avila@cityoftacoma.org or (253) 591-5191 with questions about or assistance with any part of this application.

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



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

Applicants Sought for the Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities

Tacoma City Council is looking to fill six positions on the Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities, including 5 member positions and one youth position, between the ages of 16 and 18.

The Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities consists of 11 volunteers from Tacoma and Pierce County with a variety of experiences and expertise. The Commission advises City Council in policy making, and partners with the community to bring awareness of issues that affect individuals with disabilities. In addition, Commission members participate on committees, help educate the public about disability issues, and serve as a resource for City staff.

The City of Tacoma's commitment to equity, in-

cluding racial equity, supports Committees, Boards, and Commissions that reflect the diversity of the community. We encourage applicants of all races and ethnicities, to apply for a position on the Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities.

To find additional information on the Commission, please visit their website at <https://www.cityoftacoma.org/cms/one.aspx?objectId=6551>, contact Lucas Smiraldo at LSmiraldo@cityoftacoma.org or call (253) 591-5048.

Applications must be submitted to the City Clerk's Office by end of day Tuesday, Oct 20, 2020. To apply, please visit cityoftacoma.org/cbcapplication. For questions about the application process, to request the application in an alternate format, or to submit additional documents please contact Michelle Emery, City Clerk's Office, at servetacoma@cityoftacoma.org or (253) 591-5505. You can also watch this video at <https://youtu.be/B8xYy9My-fY>. Information provided by Tacoma Art Commission.

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Neighborhood Plant Project

A project to spread love and joy throughout the community.

By Jo Davies

Perhaps you've seen the frequent posts on Next Door for "The Neighborhood Plant Project." Blake Mara 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. "y mission is to collect all t

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 rolling in and now she is surrounded

by plants in her small apartment: plants that are rehabilitating, plants that are taking root, tiny plants that are growing, plants that are being repotted and ready to go to "forever homes."

Blake spends most Saturdays making 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 space to grow plants and work with kids. 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 have 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.

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 <http://theneighborhoodplantproject.com> website. You can also visit The Neighborhood Plant Project Facebook page at <https://m.facebook.com/109252600887970/posts/113961937083703/?d=n>.

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Oct 14 – Wed 5:30-7pm – New Tacoma Neighborhood Council Meeting Virtual - Check Facebook for details - https://www.facebook.com/newtacomanighbors/?ref=br_rs

Oct 14 – Wed 12pm - Sound Outreach: Envisioning Our Financial Future - Broadcast Live link <https://1.facebook.com/1.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.com/join/9171291291570>. zoom. or dial in on Telephone at 253-215-8782 - webinar ID: 879 7229 1570

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 10am-3pm - COVID-19 Free Testing for Drive-up and Walk-Up - Everyone is welcome

Oct 24 – Sat 9am-12:30pm - Sustainability Summit for South Sound Women in Business+ in Business 2020 Online Event - <https://www.facebook.com/events/1434698300059253/>

Oct 26 – Mon 6-7pm - HAC Virtual Weekly Update: Special Guests Marie Verhaar and Hannah Gbenro from Tacoma Public Schools - Meet Virtually via Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/pg/HilltopActionCoalition/videos/?ref=page_internal

Oct 28 – Wed 10am-12pm - Free Workshops for Tacoma Business Owners and Tax Preparers at 747 Market ST, Room 16 - register at 253-591-5252 - more information here <https://www.facebook.com/events/352791522278131/>

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 - Come Trick or Treat at Hilltop Local Businesses

HAC Virtual Meetings Library

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 Jumper (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 Joslyn, 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 Bucu, Graduate Tacoma
- July 6** Weekly Update Special Guest Fahren 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 TSM Shop) and Bill Johnson (Johnson Candy Company)
- Aug 10** Special Guest Eric Upchurch, 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 Acoff (Metro Parks), Roxy and Amalia (Multicultural Center)
- Aug 31** Weekly Update Special Guests Mike Carey and Arin Lewis, Grit City 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 Qawasma-Dana with koz Development
- Oct 12** Weekly Update Special Guest Jamie Gilmore, Tacoma Public Library

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