

HILLTOP ACTION JOURNAL

June-July 2021 | Hilltop Action Coalition | Volunteer Organized | www.hilltopactioncoalition.org



Hilltop rendering by Mithun Architecture shows what could exist along the Martin Luther King Jr. Way Commercial Corridor.

BIPOC-Owned Business Destination

*Help shape the future
and preserve the culture of the Hilltop!*

Take this short, 10-minute survey to let us know how you envision the future for the MLK Commercial Corridor at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HilltopRetail2>. Your feedback will help shape this corridor as a Black and BIPOC-owned business destination while celebrating the cultural history of the area. You will be asked questions about how you currently shop and what additions/improvements you would like to see in the area.

Background

This survey is part of a Market Retail Study conducted by Forterra and the Tacoma Housing Authority that will inform commercial/retail development along Martin Luther King Jr Way. Both organizations have done extensive community engagement with residents and business owners to gather input about their new developments along MLK (ex. #DesignTheHill). The feedback from community members has stressed the importance of maintaining the diversity in the Hilltop and honoring its historic African American roots.

Based on this feedback, both THA and Forterra have committed to prioritizing Black and BIPOC owned businesses for their commercial/retail spaces. We want to make sure the commercial district along Martin Luther King Jr Way provides the types of goods and services desired by the community and results in a thriving

and financially sustainable district.

For You By You

Your feedback will influence the types of businesses we will seek to become tenants in the commercial & retail spaces. Imagine seeing diverse retail options that celebrate local history while creating a vibrant cultural destination. The goal is to first preserve existing businesses while strategically attracting new and "homegrown" ones that align WITH community desires. That's why the demographics section is so critical. We know completing this information has been awkward or questionable in the past. However, our sincere desire is to realize spaces that value race and local perspectives. We can do that best by establishing a BIPOC source of opinions.

Speak & Win

When answering the questions, think about the entire Hilltop neighborhood. All questions are optional, and your answers will only be reported when combined with others. All individual responses are strictly confidential.

At the end of the survey, you can choose to enter a drawing to win 1 of 5 \$50 Visa gift cards. Entry in the drawing is voluntary, and information provided for the drawing will be kept separate from your survey response to maintain privacy. Thank you for your time and consideration



Help shape the future of the Hilltop!

Let us know how you envision the future for the MLK Corridor!

Answer questions about how you currently shop and what additions or improvements you would like to see in the area. Your feedback will help shape this corridor as a Black and BIPOC-owned business destination while celebrating the Hilltop's cultural history.

Respond by June 11th and be entered to win a \$50 gift card

Take the survey right on your
mobile phone!

Go to <https://bit.ly/HilltopSurvey>

or scan below



Hilltop Action Journal

Award-Winning Publication!
Journals are viewable online at
www.hilltopactioncoalition.org/!

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Jane Trancho
Lihuang Wung

Community Priorities

- Good Jobs and Local Hires
- Affordable & Obtainable Housing
- Pathways to Home Ownership
- Programs for Youth and Seniors
- Create a Hilltop Neighborhood Library



**YOUR AD
HERE**

Advertise with us
Email hacoffice15@gmail.com

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 Weekly Updates

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



Find out what's going on in the Hilltop Neighborhood! Each Monday at 6:00 PM on HAC Facebook Live you'll receive community updates and information about local events and resources in the Hilltop. HAC

took a break during May to support Mayor Woodards 2021 State of the City Address. You can watch all the meeting videos in the 4 part series on City of Tacoma's website at https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_council/office_of_mayor_victoria_woodards/state_of_the_city_address

On the June 21st HAC Virtual Weekly Update, you'll meet new HAC Board Member Hunter Henderson. Hunter is passionate about the environment and will join the HAC Host Team with Brendan Nelson, Alyssa Torrez and Michealea Lemons.

HAC Virtual Weekly Updates have Special Guests each week that share empowering information we hope will improve your quality of life. Each speaker will have a

Q&A time where your questions from the chat log will be answered. We'll also share guest contact information and important resource links.

Can't make a meeting? No worries! All virtual meetings are recorded and available to view on the HAC Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition> by clicking on the Videos tab.

Please support HAC's Virtual Weekly Updates by taking the 1 Question Attendee Survey. This takes the place of the meeting sign in sheet and you only have to take the survey once per quarter. Thank you! Attendee Survey Link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1RcooiDRbUhmH29WE-ly7J1bsDvi8ulUNzfClhUA2VQ/edit>.

Join Us

Hilltop Action Coalition Virtual Weekly Updates Mondays @ 6PM

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



President's Message

By Brendan Nelson

Hello Hilltop Family,

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped us reach new heights as we continue to serve the community. It was very exciting to host our third Business Crawl in the spring. We have been able to support nearly 40 small businesses and BIPOC vendors. Residents and other organizations are checking in every day to inquire about both our programs and how to participate this summer.

It's almost hard to remember that it was just 6 years ago that I stepped into the role of President for the Hilltop Action Coalition and was told that our doors would have to close. Today, the Coalition now has over 2500 members and we are operating with a positive cash flow and budget for the first time in 30 years.

Hilltop Action Coalition (HAC) has experienced a time of significant growth these past two years and has also met the challenge of increasing program efficacy and meeting quality program metrics. We are extremely proud to be such an impactful part of the lives of so many residents, businesses, and stakeholders, but realize there is still much to be done.

HAC has made a commitment to continue providing the community with a high-quality for all experience for events and programs that we produce. We will also strive to continue to learn and develop practices and program models with demonstrated impact, ultimately leading to an even stronger Hilltop community.

We can't do this alone and hope you are inspired to continue with us on our journey. To see what we are doing this summer please check out our website and social media pages.



In partnership,

Brendan Nelson
President, Hilltop Action Coalition

Meet New HAC Board Member: Hunter Henderson

Meet Hilltop Action Coalition Board Members! A Board Member will be highlighted in each edition of the Journal. Next month, you'll hear from Michealea Lemons.

By Aaliyah Walton

New addition to the Hilltop Action Coalition board, Hunter Henderson is a loyal and promising advocate for the community. A Hilltop native, Mr. Henderson graduated from Foss High School in 2007 and upon receiving the Achievers Scholarship, was able to attend college afterwards. He has always wanted to be a HAC board member and wants to be active in the community by improving community health. Hunter added that, "I want to use my education and passion for the environment to influence people's behaviors on how we live our daily lives".

According to Hunter, Tacoma is rated more than a 6 in most of the categories on the Washington Environmental Health Disparity Map. This map is a tool used to compare health disparities across communities by measuring environmental exposures, environmental effects, sensitive populations and socioeconomic factors according to the Washington State Department of Health website.

Henderson aims to lower Tacoma's high ratings. He graduated from the University

of Washington, Tacoma with a Bachelors in Environmental Studies and a minor in restoration ecology and Hispanic studies that he wants to put to use on the HAC board as well as future endeavors in the political field. He has hopes of becoming Mayor of Tacoma and pursuing higher positions in administrative offices to offer his own fresh perspective.

As a member of the Hilltop Action Coalition Board, Mr. Henderson will bring to the table a perspective centered on diversity and providing opportunities that inspire personal enrichment. "I am honored to serve the community I grew up in. I promise to do the best I can to enhance our community and protect the vibrant legacy of the Hilltop community." Welcome to the board Mr. Henderson, the community is excited to meet you and your new ideas. If you would like to reach out to Hunter Henderson, email him at grifoth134@hotmail.com.

To find out more about the Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map, visit [https://www.doh.wa.gov/DataandStatisticalReports/WashingtonTrackingNetworkWTN/](https://www.doh.wa.gov/DataandStatisticalReports/WashingtonTrackingNetworkWTN/InformationbyLocation/)



[InformationbyLocation/](https://www.doh.wa.gov/DataandStatisticalReports/WashingtonTrackingNetworkWTN/InformationbyLocation/). Access the map at <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtn/WTNIBL/> then select "Environmental Health Disparities" on the menu to the left of the map.

"All In"

By B.Lyte of Power 2 The Poetry

Have you ever been discriminated against
Because of the color of your skin
Have you been told you are less than
Because you are a woman
Have you been berated with insults
Due to your sexual preference
Can you answer yes to any one of these questions

Have you ever been excluded
Because you are different
Have you ever tried to speak up
But no one will listen
Do you feel like to society
Your triumphs are hidden
That no matter how hard you work
You remain in the same position

You ever get the feeling
A strong disposition
Continuously met with resistance
Based on biased opinions

Are we not all human
Do we not have the same needs
Do we not thrive from love
And strive to follow our dreams

We all dream
And for some our dreams become reality

If you dream it
You can achieve it

But only if you believe it
And every goal seems so much more achievable
When you can actually see it

When those before you
Have paved the way
Affirming it is truly possible
For any and all to be great

When barriers are broken
And new heights are reached
It gives us the confidence
To truly be free
To spread our wings
And soar towards our dreams

Because we can be anything
We can do anything

We will not be denied of our destiny
We do this for the future
This is our legacy

We will no longer tolerate
Hate, injustice or exclusion
Love and respect for everyone
Defines our movement

We can go further together
We all offer meaningful contributions
Unity is the solution
Really the only viable conclusion

Diversity and inclusion is the only way we all win
So I have one last question
Hilltop are we all in?

Bethany Montgomery aka B.Lyte
Founder & President of Power 2 The Poetry LLC

TedX Spokane - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pR99bPNJyDk>

Website <https://power2thepoetry.com/>

HAPPY HOUR

RAISE A GLASS
OR 2
GRIT CITY CIDERWORKS

June 28 - 6-7pm

Cider & Conversation

1st Cider is on HAC

Join HAC & Liz Ellis from Sound Transit for Cider & Conversation

Grit City Ciderworks - 1016 MLK Jr. Way
Please wear a face mask.

"I am honored to serve the community I grew up in. I promise to do the best I can to enhance our community and protect the vibrant legacy of the Hilltop community."

~ Hunter Henderson, HAC Board Member, Environmental Advocate

Hilltop Is Beautiful



Forterra has contracted with local Hilltop Artists to provide murals on the Rite Aid building as a sign of space activation. This mural, "To Shine a Light on Our Colorful Past, Present and Future," was created by Adika Bell.



"Maiden Flight of the Phoenix," by Jeremy Gregory.

The NEW HBA

*Why join the Hilltop Business Association?
You'll become better informed about the value of HBA
and the concerns facing our business district.*

By Jennifer English, Hilltop Business Association (HBA) Vice-President

We're back! The Hilltop Business Association has fallen by the wayside during the pandemic - when our business district required our support and resources the most. Thankfully, organizations like Hilltop Action Coalition remained focused on community engagement and our Hilltop businesses. With the help of HAC and the City of Tacoma, we were able to reinstate the HBA before complete dissolution. We paid our license dues to preserve our Business District status and completed the City invoicing, enabling the HBA to continue receiving funding so we may support our business community.

With a new board (there are some familiar faces still), we have refocused our mission, vision, and values to reflect the community of Hilltop. We recognize that, as a member, there needs to be real VALUE to you and your business. We hope to bring value to your membership by asking questions about your needs and offering programming from local professionals. This can be in the form of presentations at the membership meetings or separate workshops throughout the year.

We will continue to hold member meetings at 8 AM on the third Thursday of every month via Zoom. The first meeting for 2021 was held in May and we encourage everyone, business owners and community members, to join in. You do not need to be a member to attend the member meetings, you do need to be a member to vote on matters. The zoom link for meetings and membership info can be found at <https://www.hilltopba.org/>.

Why join? By attending meetings and getting to know the business and community members, you will become better informed about the value of HBA and the concerns facing our business district. You will have an opportunity to not only ask questions, but understand the concerns of others, including their hopes and dreams. A portion of your membership fee goes to support the Broken Window Fund. You will become part of a revitalized Hilltop!

Please know that you are welcome to visit any meeting and become part of this active and growing district. None of us is as strong as all of us. Together we will accomplish more.

Feel free to reach out to HBA by emailing info@hilltopba.org.

Meet the HBA Board

David Combs, *President*
Jennifer English, *Vice-President*
Michelle Marconi, *Secretary*
Jennifer Richardson, *Treasurer*
Coretta Scott, *At Large*
Timothy Marlowe, *At Large*
Anne Artman, *At Large*
Jo Davies, *At Large & HAC Representative*

Living In A Litter Free World

Litter Free 253 wants to help make on-going litter cleanups easy for Hilltoppers.

By Jo Davies

At least 600 volunteers citywide filled to overflowing the 300 gallon dumpsters that were located at 28 sites around Tacoma including six locations on the Hilltop. It's estimated that well over 12,000 gallons of litter was removed from Tacoma streets and public land! Tacoma was definitely a #PrettyGrittyCity after the Litter Free 253 event on Saturday, April 17th.

The West End Neighborhood Council, with the support of other Neighborhood Councils, spearheaded Litter Free 253. Austin Goble, a member of the Central Neighborhood Council which encompasses most of the Hilltop was "thrilled to see the how many people turned out for Litter Free 253. I think Tacoma has a reputation for having a strong community, and events like this prove that to be true."

If you were one of the Hilltop volunteers, you know how satisfying it was to participate, to work alongside others for a common purpose, to meet new and old neighbors, to connect with your kids in a community service event. It was a proud day!

Now we know how easy it is to help keep our neighborhoods looking spiffy. Litter Free 253 wants to help make on-going litter cleanups easy for Hilltoppers. They have donated a supply of litter-grabbers to the HAC office for Hilltoppers to borrow for litter pickup events. Just call the HAC office at 253-442-8848 or email hacoffice16@gmail.com to reserve up to 12 grabbers.

The Neighborhood and Community Services Department of the City sponsors two litter clean-up programs: Adopt-A-Spot, which involves a commitment to clean up an area twice a year for a two-year period and Neighborhood Litter

Patrol for one-time or sporadic clean-ups. For information about either program, contact 311. In addition, several Neighborhood Councils sponsor regular clean-ups, and @oscarsenemies, @trashtaktacoma, @citizensforahealthybay and Safe Streets have regularly scheduled clean ups! Don't have a regular clean-up in your neighborhood? They are easy to organize – help is at hand, call HAC.

Everyone can set a good example and inspire others to take up a litter-grabber or bend over and pick up trash (wearing gloves, of course). Be sure to take pictures of your work and results and post them to the HAC Facebook page or submit them to the Hilltop Action Journal.

It doesn't matter how long your route or how much time you spend at it: all litter hurts, every little bit picked up helps. LET'S GET UP, GO OUT AND GRAB THAT LITTER!

Hilltop Star Award

Friendly competition during Litter Free 253.

By Kristine Coman

Hilltop Action Coalition (HAC) signed up Team HAC to help out with Litter Free 253. Coalition Volunteers joined us at People's Park to show their support for their neighborhood. Volunteers worked alongside HAC Board Members and Staff - Brendan Nelson, Jennifer Schaal, Michealea Lemons, Alyssa Torrez and Kristine Coman. Another Board Member, Jo Davies was working down the street at 8th and I. HAC reached out to HBA for some friendly competition to add some fun to litter pick up. It was pretty simple, which ever team turns in the most bags of trash will win a Hilltop STAR trophy.

As you can see by the photograph, Team HBA won the trophy! Come join us next year for Litter Free 253 - your organization or group can join in the fun and maybe...walk away with a Hilltop STAR!



Jennifer English, Hilltop Business Association Vice-President, accepts the Hilltop STAR Award.



Thank you to everyone that pitched in to keep Hilltop Beautiful!



Team HBA: Tim Marlow, Michelle Marconi, David Combs, Jennifer English and Jennifer Richardson.




We want to hear from you.
Tacoma Link fare options

Now is your chance to weigh in on new fares that will begin when the Hilltop Extension opens in 2022.

Tell us what you think by July 25, 2021.
Learn more today and take the survey starting June 23.

 soundtransit.org/TFares

Email us: fares@soundtransit.org
Call us: 800-201-4900

 **SOUNDTRANSIT** / Powering progress

Hilltop Library Planning Committee Progress Update: Keeping You Informed

Established in 2013 by Bil Moss and Al Nurse, the 'HLPC' goal is aimed at restoring a full functioning library on the Hilltop.

By Mary Cogger

Hilltop Library Planning Committee, also known as HLPC, was established in 2013 when Bil Moss and Al Nurse began work to restore the original Hilltop Library which closed in 2011. Since then, the committee has worked tirelessly to bring a state-of-the-art library to the Hilltop. You might have seen them represented at the Hilltop Street Fair, Ethnic Fest, or even at a Tacoma City Council meeting.

Three members presented a power point and answered questions at a Hilltop Action Coalition virtual meeting April 19th. It gives deeper information than space allows in this article. You can view the slide show at: <https://www.tacomahilltoplibrary.org/>. It has background information about the committee along with many suggestions and links to help you pursue personal action supporting the committee.

Working with the Tacoma Public Library, Tacoma Housing Authority,

City of Tacoma and many others including Mayor Woodards, the status is still unsure but getting closer to reality. City Council approved the budget for a feasibility study for the 2021-2022 budget, but funds were pulled due to the pandemic and resulting economic crisis. Now HLPC is working to have the study restored. When complete, the study will lay the groundwork and establish strong data to restore library services to the underserved communities of Hilltop and The Eastside.

Currently there is momentum with the mayor and city council. At a joint meeting of the City Council and Library Board of Trustees on April 6th, Mayor Woodards stated that the city may be able to use federal America Rescue Plan funds to restore feasibility study funds. That will make it possible to conduct and complete the study. Councilmembers Lillian Hunter and Keith Hunter both spoke in favor of restoring the funds.

Good progress is being made from the library side too. Library director,

Kate Larson is working hard to bring more funds to the library. She wrote an editorial published in the News Tribune May 8, 2021 supporting the Build America's Libraries Act – H.R.1581 and S.127. The article ended with information about how you can support the Build America's Libraries Act: go online to <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/buildlibraries>.

In addition, the Tacoma Public Library Foundation is reactivated after a ten-year hiatus. Committee members are hopeful that this additional body of passionate library supporters with a fundraising focus will help us move toward and ultimately accomplish our vision of re-establishing full library services on the Hilltop

Hilltop is currently experiencing huge growth with Forterra developing the old Rite Aid Building, Tacoma Housing Authority developments, and the light rail moving closer to completion. Residents of the underserved Hilltop community seek a library and we need to ensure that a library is part of the changes.

We need to look at the example set by Fletcher Jenkins and those who worked with him to have a pool on the Hilltop. It took years, community support, and hard work, but Peoples' Center has become a community gathering place. Now we need a library.



WHY WE NEED A LIBRARY ON THE HILLTOP

IT IS AN ISSUE OF EQUITY. IT IS RIGHTING A WRONG

Your support will make a difference in bringing equity to the Hilltop.

Send an email to our Tacoma City Council by clicking on this link: https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_council.

Send a letter to the Tacoma City Council and Mayor Woodards: Tacoma Municipal Bldg. 747 Market ST 12th Floor, Tacoma 98402. Spread the word to friends, family, and community. You can even contact the

Hilltop Library Planning Committee with opportunities to address community groups, churches. To find out more, visit <https://www.tacomahilltoplibrary.org>.

View other ideas from the HAC presentation available at <https://www.tacomahilltoplibrary.org/>.

How to Connect with HLPC

You can reach out to the Hilltop Library Planning Committee by calling (253) 353-2447 or emailing contact@tacomahilltoplibrary.org. HLPC meets

monthly. Please join them at their June 17th, 2021 Zoom Meeting from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. The Zoom Link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81960342310> with Meeting ID 819 6034 2310. One tap mobile (253) 215-8782 with Meeting ID 819 6034 2310.

Bezos Academy Montessori Preschool To Open At McCarver Elementary This Fall

“The program goal is to enable every child to become a creative leader, original thinker, and lifelong learner.”

By Jane Trancho, Hilltop Resident

In 2018, Jeff Bezos created the Day One Fund, a \$2 billion initiative to combat homelessness and support early childhood education. The Bezos Academy was formed as an outgrowth of that fund on a model of working with organizations that can host space for their programs. It has a goal of reaching children and families across the nation. Last year the first Bezos Academy opened in Des Moines, WA. This fall they will bring 3 more schools online including a Bezos Academy Montessori Preschool located within McCarver Elementary School here on the Hilltop.

Tacoma schools currently provides free preschool for 1077 preschoolers at 32 sites. Montessori programs at Bryant and Geiger Elementary are the only school-district sponsored preschools that have a fee. All the others are free. The Head Start (federal) and ECAEP (state) preschools have differing requirements for family income to participate. Other preschools that are defined as “peer inclusion,” which

means that there is a mix of students with and without disabilities and no income requirements. In addition, the school district leases space at the Hoyt Early Learning Center in Proctor to the folks at Greentrike to operate its own fee-based preschool there (this organization also runs the Children’s Museum).

According to Katie Ford, the Bezos Academy Head of Communications,

“Tacoma was on our radar early as we dug into the data about unmet preschool need in Washington. There are great schools and programs in the area, but there is a clear gap between the raw number of low-income preschool aged children living in Tacoma and the number of ‘seats’ available in existing early learning programs. We were compelled to try to help address this gap. We met the team at Greentrike who introduced us to some of the TPS leadership team, and we also met some of the teachers and administrators responsible for the wonderful Montessori programs at Geiger and Bryant schools. These connections led to a conversation with district administrators about

how we could collaborate to support more kids in the community.”

Except for Greentrike, no local non-governmental agencies were contacted prior to the Academy’s commitment to the McCarver site.

In this case the model of working with host organizations appears to be limited to only a strict lease relationship in Tacoma. According to Dan Voepel, Executive Director for Communications with the Tacoma School District,

“The preschools operated by Bezos Academy are separate and distinct from our schools, which have no oversight or relationship. Tacoma Public Schools simply leases space to Bezos Academy, which operates its own preschools independently of TPS.”

When asked about the extent of community engagement in the placement of the Bezos Academy in the Hilltop, Mr. Voepel noted,

“There was no community engagement about the lease of space

in the McCarver Primary building. Similarly, we don’t have community engagement when we decide to add or subtract TPS preschools from our elementary schools.”

Principal Stephany Wright at McCarver declined to comment for this article.

The McCarver facility will be able to serve 80 students in four classrooms. The program goal is “to enable every child to become a creative leader, original thinker, and lifelong learner.” It will provide a year-round education that is tuition free, full day, and five days a week. All teachers will be state licensed and trained as early child educators, and classroom ratios will be at least 1 staff member for every 10 children. Multiple meals and snacks will be provided for all students throughout each day. The Academy will be fully equipped with all the materials and supplies necessary to meet the needs of every child and will work collaboratively with families and the community.

The school’s curriculum has four main areas. It is **Child Centered**;

the needs of the child come before anything else, and the school will integrate support for diverse and multilingual learners to provide an equitable experience for all children. It will be **Culturally Responsive**; each child’s culture and strengths are identified and nurtured. The school uses a **Montessori-Inspired Approach** with trained educators and materials yet can borrow from other methods to best meet the needs of the students and to support each child’s development. Their **Standards-Based Approach** allows teachers to track developmental milestones and inform individual instruction.

Children 3-5 years of age are eligible. Household income must be less than 400% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and half the seats will be reserved for students coming from families that are below 250% of the FPL. Online applications for McCarver will be open from June through August and can be found at <https://www.bezosacademy.org/eligibility/>.

For more information go to <https://www.bezosacademy.org/>.

New Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital To Bring Kid-Centric Care To Tacoma

Mary Bridge Children’s is the only Level II Pediatric Trauma hospital in Western Washington.

By Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital

For more than 60 years, Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital & Health Network (<https://www.marybridge.org/>) has provided the pediatric services the South Sound community needs — working to continually advance pediatric specialties such as surgery, orthopedics and cancer care.

We’re excited to grow and introduce a new era of children’s health care to Tacoma with the opening of a new Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital building. MultiCare Health System announced this project last July and construction is scheduled to begin in early 2022. (View the press release at <https://www.multicare.org/press-releases/new-era-of-child-focused-care/>) We anticipate the hospital will open its doors for care by the end of 2024.

Mary Bridge Children’s is the only Level II Pediatric Trauma hospital in Western Washington. Maintaining this designation and opening a new state-of-the-art facility is an incredible development in pediatric medicine for our region and is a critical step forward as we continue to provide the best health care to children in our communities.

Expanding access to care.

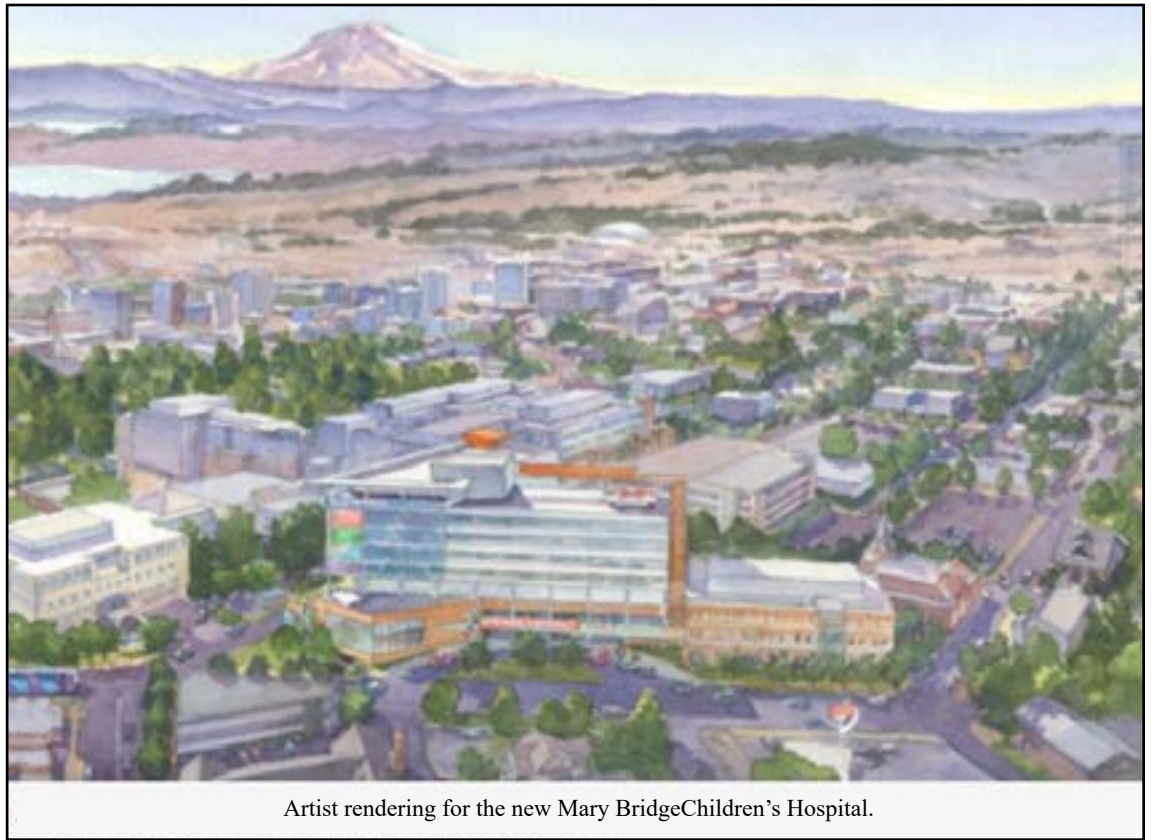
Today, nearly 500,000 children live in the South Sound, and the population is expected to increase by 25,000 by 2023. A standalone pediatric hos-

pital not only provides opportunities for closer collaboration and coordination between care teams, but also improves access to specialty care services for patients — from premature infants all the way up to young adults.

Currently, Mary Bridge Children’s is embedded within MultiCare Tacoma General Hospital, one of the busiest adult hospitals in the region. Giving Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital its own space will allow us to deliver services that are fully designed for our pediatric patients.

The new Mary Bridge Children’s will have a clear presence from the corner of Division Avenue and Martin Luther King Junior Way. It will feature architecture and design elements that nod to our Pacific Northwest roots and home in Tacoma.

Every facet of care, from all stages of the patient experience, is being designed exclusively with the unique needs of children in mind. The new hospital will include 82 private patient rooms with space to meet future expansion needs, as well as eight operating rooms, a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), a hybrid cardiology-radiology suit, dedicated MRI, CT and ultrasound imaging, a state-of-the-art infusion center, endoscopy, and pharmacy services. The new hospital will also have a helipad for airlift transport needs in partnership with Airlift Northwest. The pediatric Emergency Department will include 38 treatment rooms and a pediatric mental health crisis stabilization unit.



Artist rendering for the new Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital.

Patients and their families will have easy access to both inpatient and outpatient services located in one place. A new parking structure will connect directly to the hospital, providing convenience for families and visits alike.

How we’ll get there.

Building a new hospital from the ground up is a large undertaking and one that takes not only community buy-in but also community support. It is a once in a generation opportunity to create one of the best and safest children’s hospitals in the nation.

The new hospital campus will be built across the street on sites currently occupied by Jackson Hall, the Jackson Hall parking garage, the east wing of Mary Bridge Children’s Outpatient Center, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

The LDS Church, located at South Fourth Street and South L Street, will be demolishing its structure. MultiCare is purchasing the vacant land and incorporating it into the plans for the new hospital campus.

Jackson Hall does not meet code for hospital occupancy and cannot be zoned for a modern hospital facility due to structural, fire, mechanical and seismic requirements, and was not

incorporated into the new hospital’s design. This building will also be demolished to make way for the new campus. It is MultiCare’s intent to honor the legacy and history of Jackson Hall, which originally housed Tacoma General School of Nursing until 1975, within the construction of the new Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital campus.

Relocation of specialty clinics currently located in Jackson Hall and the east wing of the Outpatient Center is currently in progress, with demolition of these buildings scheduled for early 2022. We anticipate construction of the new hospital building to begin in spring 2022.

The role of the community.

The vision and support of community members more than 100 years ago is what brought Mary Bridge Children’s to Tacoma in 1955, and with that same community-driven mindset and support, we’ll soon bring expanded pediatric health care to our community with the opening of the new hospital. (<https://www.marybridge.org/blog/mary-bridge-bridge-celebrates-100/>)

Thank you to the Mary Bridge Brigade (<https://www.marybridgebrigade.org/>) for donating \$10 million

to the hospital for the new Emergency Department, and to the following Pierce County family foundations that have each made historic gifts to Mary Bridge Children’s for the new hospital: Korum for Kids Foundation, Woodworth Family Foundation, Tom and Meg Names Family Foundation, Ben B. Cheney Foundation, Bamford Foundation, the William and Joyce Edwards Family Foundation, and one foundation that wishes to remain anonymous. Mary Bridge Children’s Foundation is in the early planning stages for a community fundraising campaign in support of the new hospital.

To learn more, you can visit the new hospital page of Mary Bridge Children’s website (www.marybridge.org/our-new-hospital). Please note that picture above is an artist rendering - the design is not finalized.

For information about upcoming community meetings, you can contact Colemon & Associates (www.colemonassociates.org) the consulting firm managing community engagement for the project. For project-specific questions, you can contact David Stokes, senior director and project manager with CBRE (david.stokes@cbre.com).

Visit Tacoma Urban League’s Black Owned Business Directory at <https://www.tulmembers.com/business>

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Our current PACE cohort on a site visit!

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FOLLOW ANEW ON

Home In Tacoma: A New Housing Growth Vision

Utilize housing growth to create neighborhoods that are inclusive, welcoming to our diverse community, resilient, thriving, distinctive and walkable, with robust community amenities and a range of housing choices and costs.

Information Provided By Elliott Barnett, Senior Planner for City of Tacoma

Action is necessary as Tacoma faces a housing crisis with people finding it harder to find housing that is affordable, particularly if they have fixed or lower incomes. Housing provides basic human needs and connects us with family, friends, community, transportation, employment and more, which matters to the health, wellbeing and prosperity of our community members.

As directed by the City Council, Tacoma's Planning Commission developed policy recommendations to help meet Tacoma's housing needs. Over the past year, Tacoma's Planning Commission engaged with the community in a discussion about housing needs, development trends, and neighborhood change. The planning process included two public hearings, an online survey, housing café discussion series, an interactive housing growth scenarios map, about 50 stakeholder meetings, and citywide notice. The Commission received about 900 comments on their preliminary recommendations, and made multiple changes to reflect community ideas, questions and concerns. On May 19, 2021, the Commission forwarded its recommendations to the City Council.

The recommendations are to adopt a new housing growth vision, to update housing policies, to enable Missing Middle Housing in Tacoma's neighborhoods, to strengthen tools to ensure Tacoma gets housing growth right, and to take actions to make housing more affordable. If adopted, these policies would initiate a second phase of policy work and public engagement to develop zoning, standards, programs and other



The illustration below shows the transition from Low-scale to Mid-scale housing, with taller structures only near dense centers. Design Standards will ensure new housing compliments existing neighborhoods.

implementation steps.

Recommendations are summarized below—for more information, visit <https://www.cityoftacoma.org/cms/one.aspx?pageId=180033>.

To support the new housing growth vision, the proposals include updates to City policies, including:

- Increasing housing options throughout the City.
- Ensure that new housing is well designed and compliments Tacoma's distinctive neighborhoods.
- Evolue our housing vision to be more inclusive of all members of our community
- Recognize that housing is a fundamental building block of community that affects multiple goals.

This new housing vision will use design standards to ensure that infill complements neighborhood scale and patterns. It will provide smooth transitions from low-scale to higher

scale areas and protect the character of historic districts by promoting reuse of existing structures. Recommended changes would shift Tacoma's housing rules from an emphasis on housing types (such as single-family) to building form, design and scale. The objective is to provide more housing options, support affordability, diversity, walkability and thriving neighborhood businesses while ensuring that new housing complements the overall scale and residential patterns of existing neighborhoods.

The recommendations call for enabling diverse housing types, often called Missing Middle Housing, throughout Tacoma's neighborhoods. The term "Missing Middle Housing" describes a long-term trend in many American cities of reserving the majority of neighborhoods exclusively for single-family houses, while limiting areas where smaller, attached or clustered housing types are allowed. This limits housing

supply and choice, and drives up housing costs.

The Commission finds that allowing diverse housing types is an essential step toward meeting housing affordability goals. However, by itself the for-profit housing market is not likely to produce housing affordable to moderate and lower income Tacoma residents. To address this need, the recommendations call for expansion of regulatory affordable housing incentives and requirements and anti-displacement actions. These tools, in combination with increased public investment and other actions called for by the Affordable Housing Action Strategy, allow the City to partner with developers in affordable housing creation.

Next Steps

At the June 8th study session, the City Council will begin their discussion of the recommendations, with additional dates to be scheduled soon. In support of the upcoming

City Council public hearing, staff are preparing additional public notice and engagement opportunities.

If the City Council directs, the City will begin a second project phase to work on zoning, standards and other implementation steps, in collaboration with the community. Stay tuned...We hope that you will continue to participate!

For more information, visit www.cityoftacoma.org/homeintacoma. Check out the Home In Tacoma Project at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/63476315c3f54736b846e477126959f1> or the interactive Recommended Housing Growth Scenario Map at <https://tacoma.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9da8f8dbbf684f02ab40f0c3a406903e>

Feel free to reach out to Elliott Barnett at EBarnett@cityoftacoma.org.



The Kinsey

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31

Organized by The Bernard & Shirley Kinsey Foundation for Arts & Education and KBK Enterprises, Incorporated. Curated by Khalil B. Kinsey. The exhibition is generously sponsored by Propel Insurance and JP Morgan Chase.

The Cultivators, Samuel L. Dunson, Jr. Courtesy of The Kinsey African American Art & History Collection

AT

TACOMA

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Applicants Sought For The Planning Commission

The Tacoma City Council is looking to fill two positions on the Planning Commission, the District Nos. 3 and 5 positions.



By Lihuang Wung, Staff Liaison for City of Tacoma

Applicants seeking a district position must reside in that district and will serve a term of three years from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2024. The Planning Commission develops and updates the Comprehensive Plan and its elements; and formulates effective and efficient land use and development regulations and processes that imple-

ment the Comprehensive Plan. (View the Comprehensive Plan at <https://www.cityoftacoma.org/cms/one.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=15801>) This Commission reviews various planning issues, such as area-wide zoning reclassifications, moratoria, interim zoning, pre-annexation planning, historic district designation, urban design, and transportation and capital facilities programs. Meetings occur the first and third Wednesday of each month beginning at 5:00 p.m. The City is committed to creating an equitable and anti-racist community and wants our committees, boards, and commissions to reflect our diverse community. For these vacancies, Black and Indigenous community members, people of color, LGBTQ individuals, individuals with

disabilities, seniors, immigrants, and refugees are especially encouraged to apply. Additional information on the Planning Commission can be found at https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/committees_boards_commissions/planning_commission. Applications must be submitted to the City Clerk's Office by the end of day Friday, June 18, 2021. To apply, please visit <https://www.cityoftacoma.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=143822>. For questions about the application process, to request the application in an alternate format, or to submit additional documents please contact Katie Foster in the City Clerk's Office at servetacoma@cityoftacoma.org or (253) 591-5505.

Evergreen Options Program

Apply for a \$50,000 Grant for renewable energy projects.

By Lis Saunders, Grant Manager

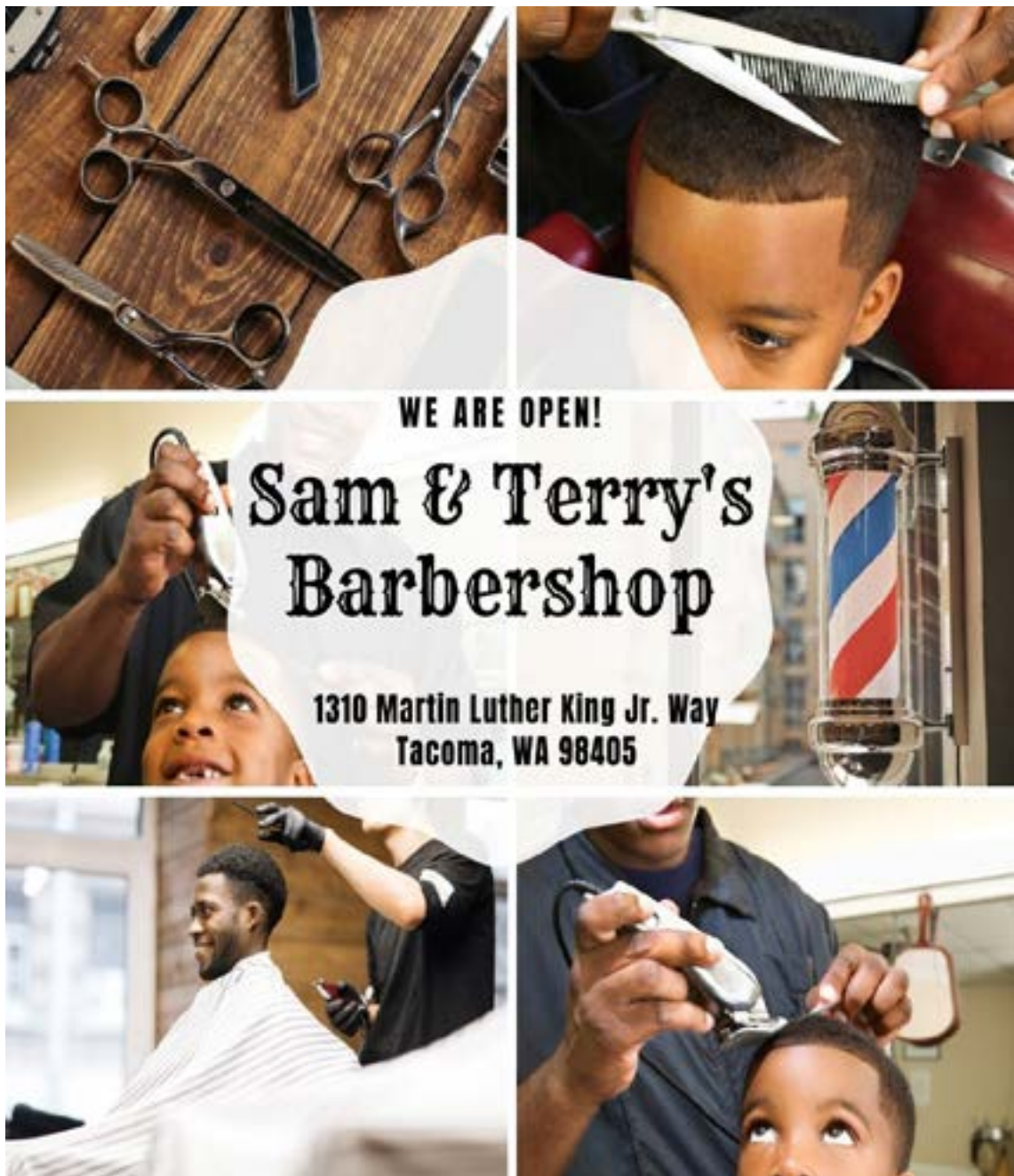
Local schools, nonprofits and government agencies are eligible to apply for a grant of up to \$50,000 from the Evergreen Options program to help with the purchase and installation of on-site renewable energy projects located in Tacoma Power's service territory. Applications accepted through August 20.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

If your organization is interested

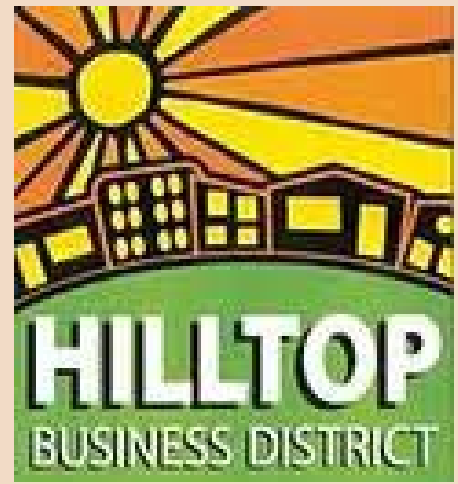
but not sure where to start, Spark Northwest offers free consultation to black, indigenous or people of color-led organizations to help with group visioning, general education for organizers and members, talking through decision points, follow up research, cash flow estimates, connecting with installers, drafting an application. To allow enough time and capacity, please reach out to Mikhaila Gonzales, Project Manager, by mid-June at (917) 519-1442 or send an email to mikhaila@sparknorthwest.org. Read on page 18 how Shiloh Baptist Church, a past recipient of the Evergreen Options Program Grant, is using their grant for a community solar



project. Read more about Shiloh in the Feb-Mar ch Hilltop Action Journal, page 10. Click below on the link to read the article: <http://nebula.wsimg.com/f0cd13559f3b63aa9a9dcaafe117eec8?AccessKeyId=020C487B9A6046A543BB&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>



Join The HBA Today!



With a variety of options available, there is a membership for you. From Hilltop Resident, Business Owner, or Community Partner... we've got you covered and will keep you up to date with local issues and business resources.

This has been a tough year for everyone, especially businesses. This is why the HBA is offering all memberships at the 'new member' price of \$25.

Visit <https://www.hilltopba.org/memberships> and take advantage of this amazing Hilltop Business Association membership offer!

COVID-19 Business Info Series Conference Calls: Wednesdays 11AM

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. You can log in with Zoom at 10:45am - Webinar begins at 11:00. The next episode will be June 9th with Kierra Phifer presenting from Puget Sound Energy.

On Your Computer or Cell Phone with Internet Capability click the link below to join the webinar and ask questions:

Click here to join on your computer: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_ZG_Kjf-hT5WyNveLmUGpiQ?x_zm_rtaid=yL-CqG2gXTViJqZfwIN_bw.1617821134283.94eedadb8639f7b-834895747972f79a7&x_zm_rhtaid=908.

iPhone one-tap to listen only: US: +16699006833,,843841095# or +19292056099, 843841095#
Other Telephone to listen only 1 (253) 215-8782 Use Webinar ID: 843 841 095

Business Info Series Details are at <https://www.tacomachamber.org/business-info-series.html> where you can watch past webinars.

The Tacoma Urban League is looking forward to once again hosting The State of Black Tacoma. This year's event will be held virtually on Wednesday, June 9th at 11 AM. They invite you to join them at this important townhall exploring the state of our community and issues unique to the African American community. Speakers will address topics such as education, transit, employment, housing, healthcare, criminal justice and policing and more. Please register at <https://tacomaurbanleague.maxgiving.bid/about-us>

Despite Challenges, The Tacoma Boxing Club Doesn't Throw In The Towel

It's a discipline. "Some people have a stigma with boxing that it's brutal and that type of stuff but basically it's not, it's a learning process for the kids." ~ Emmett Linton

By Jenni Prange Boran

Early April of 2021, far from home in Shreveport, Louisiana, Tacoma's Dedrick Crocklem, 17, won the 2020 USA Boxing National Championships' 132-pound title bout. He beat title-holder Emilio Garcia in a split decision. You can view the match on YouTube, and watch the moment where, amid a din of on-lookers' cheers and the final verdict of the judges echoing over a PA system, Crocklem joyfully embraces his opponent. Garcia returns the gesture, and both athletes place medals around each other's necks as the audience quiets down and wanders out of the gym behind them, the fight over.

"He's one of the more serious kids. He knew what he wanted when he started. He really listened and did the things he needed to do to get where he wanted. Straight-A student, too." This is Tacoma Boxing Club's Head Coach Tom Mustin talking about Crocklem, an upper classman at Lincoln High School. "When did I get him, when he was like 9-years-old?" Tom turns to Emmett Linton, Assistant Coach and Program Director, who responds: "Yeah. He's one of those that works hard in the gym and he works hard in school."

It turns out boxing isn't always fists flying and missing teeth and black

eyes like you see in the movies. Sometimes there are hugs. Always, if you're doing it right, there is discipline. Even in the face of challenges, such as the pandemic which shut down gyms and prohibited contact sports of any kind.

Despite the setback, young athlete Crocklem and others like him in the club persevered. "He stayed in shape," says Mustin. "Like a lot of the kids, they worked out in their garages, they know what our training program is, so they'd be out in their garage, they have the bags set up and stuff and they jump rope, and they knew the road work so they would do the running on their own."

Linton continues, "The workout that Tom has them doing, the stations, when you learn to work those stations, you can go into anybody's gym and work out. That's what Tom's teaching also. Flexibility." Mustin learned a lot of these training programs in his decades of coaching athletics of all sorts. All over the world. In the year 2000 he took the US team to the Olympics in Sydney, Australia. "I learned a lot of things there, things about training and setting up programs."

Mustin and Linton have been heading the Tacoma Boxing Club since 1974. So how long have they been boxing themselves? "Never boxed

a day in my life," Linton says. Neither has Mustin. "I'm just the coach," Mustin smirks. But having a coach who has never boxed comes with its own benefits. "Sometimes if you have a coach who's never played the sport, the coach can teach the basics, but the athlete is going to give it his own style. A good analogy of this is the military. Everyone coaching in the military has come up in the military boxing, and so they all are training that same style. If you know your opponent's style, it's easier to beat them."

Mustin was a newspaper man for a living, a manager at The News Tribune for decades. Linton worked in Human Resources at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. All of the time the men have dedicated to the club has been a labor of love, volunteer time and volunteer funds that often ended up in personal debt. "Lots of money. Him," Linton nods at Mustin, "he bought two or three vans to haul the kids around to meets. I maxed out credit cards to make sure we were able to do what we intended on doing. "We want to make sure the program we worked for and worked at is doing well. I like the kids. I want to make sure the kids are okay. They ain't my kids, but they are my kids."

The Boxing Club has been an important part of the community for 47



In keeping with these strange times, Tom Mustin and Emmett Linton lean in for a Zoom portrait.

years. From the early years at the old Boys & Girls club downtown on 25th to the 36 years at the Al Davies Club to (after they were displaced from that location by a remodel and repurposing of the gym – that's the short story) the Edison Annex at the location of the old Gray Middle School... to basements and garages during the pandemic. Some of the young athletes describe the club as having turned their lives around.

Says Mustin, "It's something to do, it's something to keep them out of trouble. Sometimes, you know, some of the kids find themselves in trouble and so their parents will put them in boxing so they'll have something to do with their life to keep them out of trouble." Linton jokes, "We're the cheapest babysitters in town."

He's not kidding. A membership to The Tacoma Boxing Club is currently at \$20 a month. Even at double the \$10 a month it has been for years, that's a bargain. Last time I checked, most babysitters charge \$10 an hour, and teach far fewer life lessons than the club.

Says Mustin, "Boxing helps the kids in their life choices because if you're

going to be a boxer, even a fairly good boxer, you're gonna have to be on time for the runs. You're going to have to learn and listen. It helps you later on in life. If you're going to get a job, you're going to have to be there, be on time, you have to be a good worker. It's a discipline. "Some people have a stigma with boxing that it's brutal and that type of stuff but basically it's not, it's a learning process for the kids."

Linton continues, "If you're disciplined enough like, say, Dedrick, the kid who just won the Nationals. For him, it's a no-nonsense approach when he comes in the gym. He gets to work. He puts in the work. Come fight time, he's ready to perform. That's why he gets the results."

The club gets results too. Over the years, the club has produced over 50 amateur National Champions, 8 World Champions, 5 Olympians, and numerous professional boxers. Dedrick Crocklem is in good company and will be joining fellow Tacoma Club boxer Jermaine Jj Carrillo at the upcoming Nationals in Lubbock, Texas, in a matter of weeks. Good luck! Tacoma is proud of you.

JULY 12 – 22 **JULY 26 – AUG 5**

ENROLL TODAY!

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TACOMA URBAN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
1105 MARTIN LUTHER KING WAY, TACOMA, WA 98405

BOYS & GIRLS 4-7 YEARS

SIBLING DISCOUNT & DISCOUNT FOR THOSE WHO QUALIFY FOR FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH.

10 AM – 4 PM

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE GAMES, SONGS, BALLET AND AFRICAN DANCE, ARTS & CRAFTS. AND MORE. *LUNCH & SNACKS PROVIDED!

Visit T.U.P.A.C. Online at <https://tacomaupac.org/summer-programs>

Pierce Transit

SUMMER YOUTH PASS

Only \$36 For summertime savings, Pierce Transit offers a Summer Youth Pass for ages 6-18. It's valid for unlimited rides on local Pierce Transit service June 1 through August 31. Call (253) 581-8000 or visit <https://www.pierce-transit.org/PT-fares/> for more information.

Learning Opportunities For All Ages

Tacoma Learns database is full of out of school and summer youth programming.

Tacoma Learns is an online directory connecting families and youth to Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) in Tacoma and Pierce County. Discover out of school and summer learning programs, free meal sites, COVID-19 relief, and more. Visit their website <https://www.tacomalearns.org/> to find out more.

They have interactive maps for each category: ELO Programs, COVID Resources, Student Meals and Internet Access. The map below is an ex-

ample of ELO Programs.

You'll find a helpful Tacoma Public Schools Sites map for Student Meals. Students 18 or younger can get free breakfast and lunch packs 5 days a week through June 30, 2021, thanks to an update from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Meal packs can be picked up at elementary schools from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm and at middle schools from 10 am to 12:00 pm. Students, parents or guardians can pick up meals.



Breakthrough Junior Challenge

Breakthrough Challenge winners encourage you to take the 2021 Challenge!

By Perry Newell

The Breakthrough Prize Foundation sponsors a \$250,000 post secondary scholarship, a \$50,000 prize for your teacher and \$1000,000 for a Breakthrough Science Lab. The closing date to apply is June 25, 2021. The competition is open to students be-

tween the ages of 13 and 18 years of age. Applicant must explain a big scientific idea in fundamental physics, life sciences or mathematics with a short video (three minutes maximum). For more information, please visit <https://breakthroughjuniorchallenge.org/>.

Enroll Now for Summer Day Camp at Al Davies Boys & Girls Club

No child is ever turned away for economic reasons. Financial assistance is available at all Clubs for fee-based programs.

Welcome to the Al Davies Branch of the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound, located at 1620 S 17th Street. Summer Day Camp registration is now open and begins June 23rd. An in-person Teen Program

will be available this summer. Contact (253) 502-4631 for more information or check out their website at <https://www.bgcpsps.org/join-a-club/al-davies>. Register on line here <https://online.traxsolutions.com/bgc->

sps/aldavies#/dashboard. Distance Learning Day Camp is also available for 5 years to 5th grade. Please call for details - space is limited.

Virtual Village

Drop-in Hours: Tuesdays 3:00-5:00pm
Wednesdays 6:00-8:00pm

Join Enhanced Prep tutors and staff for drop in support hours. During this time we will have staff available for Homework Help, SAT/ACT preparation, as well as Post-High School projects like the Common App.

We will have support for

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Homework Help</p> <p>AP Courses/Exams</p> <p>SAT Prep</p> <p>ACT Prep</p> <p>Math</p> <p>Sciences</p> <p>History</p> <p>English</p> | <p>Personal Statements</p> <p>Reviewing Financial Offer/COA Letters</p> <p>Preparing for CC Placement Tests</p> <p>Completing the Common App</p> <p>Scholarship Searches and Applications</p> <p>Resume Writing</p> <p>Preparing for College and Job Interviews</p> <p>Welghing Factors on Choosing a Best Fit College</p> <p>FAFSA and WAFSA Completion</p> |
|---|---|

Directions:

Open up web browser and go to zoomus
click "join meeting"
enter meeting ID: 999 668 0575
There is also a free zoom app for mobile phones and tablets

SCAN ME

For information and questions please visit enhancedprep.com or email advisor@enhancedprep.com

Kids Need To Play: Summer Camp Financial Assistance

Kids Need to Play is providing 60 to 90% discounts for kid's summer camps across Pierce County and is automatically applied at registration.

By Emily Buck, Pierce County Public Information Specialist



Pierce County Parks has created a program named Kids Need to Play! (KNP!) funded through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal funding allocations to provide discounts for kids' summer camps and programs. Several public and private recreation providers are collaborating on the initiative to bring kids accessible opportunities to learn, create, explore and compete.

can return to camp this summer and benefit from the enrichment of camp activities and safe social interactions. For this reason, discounts are going directly to the families at the time of registration with no wait, coupon or reimbursement needed. If a family has already registered for a camp that is participating in the KNP! program, they can request a refund and re-enrollment by June 28 to take advantage of the discounted price.

While remaining safety-conscious, many camps and programs for preschool (ages 3-4) and school-age (ages 5-18) kids will be deeply discounted at 60-90% off for all youth this summer across Pierce County. The discount will be automatically applied at time of registration. Participating camps will include the Kids Need to Play! symbol.

Over 15,000 youth are expected to benefit from \$1.5 million in funding available this summer. There is no limit to the number of KNP! camps or experiences a family can sign up for from June 28-Sept. 3 in Pierce County. However, each camp is subject to the capacity specified by the camp provider.

Lakewood Parks, Metro Parks Tacoma, Pen Met Parks, Puyallup Parks and the Town of Steilacoom have partnered with Pierce County Parks to offer this opportunity. Participant discounts will not affect the quality, allotted time or format of programming offerings. Camp providers will still receive the revenue they require to produce safe, high-quality camps through ARPA resources.

For more information on the Kids Need to Play! promotion, visit www.piercecountywa.gov/play. Families inquiring about participation may contact Pierce County Parks and Recreation representative Emily Smith at 253-798-4199 or via email at emmi.buck@piercecountywa.gov.

The goal of this program is to ensure that kids

Vaccine Information for COVID-19

Hilltop Family Medical Center Has Our Neighborhood Covered

Walk-up or Drop-in Vaccine Clinic for the Moderna Vaccine & COVID-19 Testing

Hey Hilltop, you don't need a special vaccination event to get your COVID-19 shot. Community Health Care's Hilltop Family Medical Clinic has you covered! Located at 1202 Martin Luther King Jr. Way and Earnest S. Brazill Street, the clinic is conveniently located for Hilltop residents.

You can register in advance at <https://form.jotform.com/210915553333148>, which is very helpful for Staff...or, just stop by between 9:00 AM and 3:30 PM every Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Anyone 18 or older can get the Moderna Vaccine.

If you need a ride to your vaccination or are volunteering at a vaccina-

tion site, Pierce Transit will provide free bus rides to passengers traveling to or from COVID-19 sites along local bus routes. The free rides include travel to mass vaccination sites as well as other immunization locations, such as pharmacies.

For help with trip planning, contact Pierce Transit's Customer Service office at 253.581.8000 (option 1, then option 1 again), use Pierce Transit's online Trip Planner at <https://tripplanner.piercetransit.org/#/app/tripplanning> or download the Transit app at <https://www.piercetransit.org/transit/>.

Around the Sound provides transportation for people with limited mobility, including those who use

wheelchairs or scooters. Call (253) 858-7088 or visit <https://atstrans.org/>.

Community Health Care offers testing for COVID-19 even if you are not a Community Health Care patient. Testing is offered as a Drive Thru service, by appointment only. You need to call (253) 722-2161 for a Tele-Health screening appointment. If the screening appointment/visit indicates you need a test, a Drive Thru Test will be scheduled (do not come into the clinic). The most common reasons to get a test are that you have symptoms, you have been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19, or you require a test before a medical or dental procedure.

Sign Up For Community Vaccination News Today!

The quickest way to find out about COVID-19 community vaccination clinics.

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept



Sign-up for health department notifications and you'll receive an email on what's new with COVID-19 community vaccination clinics. This is the quickest way to learn about COVID-19 community vaccination clinics. Sign up at <https://www.tpchd.org/i-want-to/about-the-health-department/sign-up-for-notifications>.

Looking for COVID-19 FAQs? Check out Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department Frequently Asked Questions to get some answers - available at <https://www.tpchd.org/healthy-people/diseases/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions>. You can also call (253) 649-1500.

Trying to figure out how many people in your area have been vaccinated? View the COVID-10 Case Metrics at <https://www.tpchd.org/healthy-people/diseases/covid-19/>

[covid-vaccine-data](#). They update the site weekly and have a map with geographic information - for example, about 35% of the Hilltop has been vaccinated with at least one dose (40.6% in Census Tract 061300 and 30.7 in 061400). You can also find out case counts, hospitalizations, testing and other metrics.

For more information, please visit the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department website at <https://www.tpchd.org/?splash=http%3a%2f%2ffind-yourphasewa.org&isexternal=true>.

Roadmap to Recovery

Let's work together to stay healthy during every phase.

A lot of us have already received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. If you're fully vaccinated, you may feel like you can ditch the face mask - but wait - we are not done with COVID yet and still need to take precautions. It is more important than ever that you:

- Maintain physical distance of six feet from others.
- Wear a multilayer face covering that fits snugly over your mouth and nose when in public spaces.
- Practice good hygiene.

- Stay home when you're sick.

At the time this article was written, we were in Phase 3. What does that mean for you and your family? Click on this link for up to date guidance in specific industries, like fitness and training, or social gatherings: <https://www.tpchd.org/healthy-people/diseases/covid-19/pierce-county-s-safe-start>.

To find out how this impacts schools and childcare, click here <https://www.tpchd.org/healthy-people/diseases/covid-19-information-for-schools>. If

you plan to visit a playground or park with your family, continue to practice safe distancing for you and your children. Encourage them to play but to stay 6 feet away from other people. Also, try to avoid standing in groups.

If you are planning an event, like a birthday celebration, limit indoor social gatherings to maximum 10 people who don't live in your household. Outdoor gatherings are allowed but limited to 50 or fewer people.

Let's work together to be safe so we can fully reopen by June 30th.

WOW!
TPCHD now offers
COVID-19 vaccines in homes...
Call (253) 649 - 1412
8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Vax to the Future
You're on your way!

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
Healthy People in Healthy Communities

Now that you are fully vaccinated:

You can gather indoors without masks or physical distancing with people who are:



Fully vaccinated.



From a single household and at low risk for severe COVID-19.

For most people, you do not need to quarantine or get a test after a close contact if you have no symptoms.

You still need to take precautions.



Wear a mask and stay 6 feet from other people if you:

- Are in public.
- Visit unvaccinated people who are or live with someone at high risk for severe COVID-19.
- Visit unvaccinated people from more than 1 household.



Avoid medium and large in-person gatherings.



Get tested if you have COVID-19 symptoms.



Follow guidance from your work.

When you're fully vaccinated, you can enjoy more activities, mask-free!







We got this, Pierce county!

Rev. 3/18/2021

Learn more at tpchd.org/vaxtothefuture.

Lost your COVID-19 Vaccine Card?

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Pierce County Coordinated
Transportation Coalition



Pierce County
Human Services

Guaranteed Income: Growing Resilience In Tacoma (GRIT)

Growing Resilience In Tacoma is a first-of-its-kind guaranteed income demonstration in Tacoma. Participants receive \$500 a month for 12 months as a supplement to their income and other benefits.

By Bryan Flint, Executive Director for Sound Outreach

In Pierce County, the average cost of healthcare, utilities, transportation, and other essential living expenses is over \$72,000 a year – yet half of our residents make less than that. The looming end to the eviction moratorium, decreases in unemployment payments, and skyrocketing housing costs are exacerbating this statistic.

Having a job often isn't enough. Many in the Hilltop need more than one job to attempt to make ends meet. And that's not accounting for unexpected costs, such as car repairs or doctor bills. Even before the pandemic, nearly 40% of Americans reported they couldn't afford a \$400 unexpected expense.

"Prior to the pandemic, there was already a lack of local affordable housing options and a national chronic shortage of affordable, high-quality childcare. These factors have been further exacerbated over the past year, putting even more residents on the brink of poverty, particularly those of color," said City of Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards.

Nowhere is this felt more acutely than in the Hilltop. Facing the pressures of gentrification, many long times residents risk losing not only their homes, but their neighborhood. The vibrant cultural fabric of the Hilltop could be torn to shreds if families of color can no longer afford to live here.

Tacoma leadership is looking for ways to help.

Under the leadership of Mayor Woodards, a founding member of Mayors for a Guaranteed Income (MGI), and through a partnership with United Way Pierce County, Tacoma is planning a guaranteed income

demonstration that will launch in late Summer 2021. Guaranteed income is focused on serving populations that are disproportionately affected by economic challenges. It is not a replacement for wages but a supplement to families who need a financial safety net.

Unrestricted cash programs - such as guaranteed income - have been implemented around the world, in Kenya, South Korea, Brazil and the Netherlands. Several efforts in the United States provide encouraging outcomes. In MGI's Stockton, California demonstration recipients who received the guaranteed income found full-time employment at more than twice the rate of non-recipients. A program implemented in Jackson, Mississippi saw 80% of participants able to pay all bills without additional support, and the number of participants with a completed high school education increased from 63% to 85%.

Dona Ponepinto, President and CEO, United Way of Pierce County points to the guaranteed income demonstration in Tacoma as a natural evolution of work already being undertaken in the community to dismantle poverty. "This economic crisis is not news to us," notes Ponepinto. "We've been working collaboratively for years to alleviate the pain of economic hardship and respond to the problem of persistent poverty, financial instability and low-wage stagnation. COVID-19 has created further strain on already economically fragile households. People need more and different help, and they need it right now."

Tacoma's demonstration, called Growing Resilience In Tacoma (GRIT), is a first-of-its-kind guaranteed income demonstration in Tacoma. Participants will receive

\$500 a month for 12 months as a supplement to their income and other benefits. Funding will not utilize local tax dollars but will come from MGI and local contributions. Planning is being coordinated by a Steering Committee with representatives from the City, United Way of Pierce County, Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, Sound Outreach, Tacoma Urban League and Tacoma Housing Authority.

Qualified individuals must be Tacoma residents, single heads of household, and meet United Way's ALICE criteria (Asset Limited, Income Constrained while Employed). ALICE includes individuals above the federal poverty level and below 200% of poverty. One hundred participants will be chosen at random from a pool of qualified individuals by independent researchers. Applications will open later this summer. Check the United Way website for updates <https://www.uwpc.org/guaranteed-income-initiative> or sign up to be notified of the application release by emailing GRIT@uwpc.org.

The GRIT demonstration is part of a national movement to advocate for the creation of an income floor as a policy antidote to poverty and wealth and income inequality. In addition to demonstrations like GRIT, MGI also advocates for cash-based policies at the federal level.

Registration For National Night Out Is Now Open!

Howdy neighbor! We're so glad you're here.

By Connor Schultz with Safe Streets

The past year has certainly been one for the ages, and not in a way that we would like. We've been through a lot of stress and uncertainty, and Safe Streets hopes that you and your family have been able to cope as best as you can. We're hoping that this year's National Night Out (NNO) will be a celebration not just of our neighborhoods and the bonds we share, but of our ability to endure hard times and the end that appears to be coming into view.

While we do expect that circumstances will be much more accommodating to block parties by August, we know that nothing is certain. Public safety will be first and foremost in our minds as we make preparations, but we also want to be aware of the current situation and be ready to

adapt as restrictions lessen.

For the moment, we advise you to think of ways to hold safe NNO events, utilizing PPE, social distancing, handwashing, and other methods. We hope you will take advantage of any activities that will make your event both safe and fun. As always, with your permission, we will make your events known to police, fire, and other partners, but be aware that their ability to attend events will be governed by the current state of the pandemic in August.

Together, we are making communities safer, more caring places to live and work. If you would like to hold a National Night Out event of your own, you can register at <https://safest.org/NNO2021/>. Safe Streets will connect with HAC for additional SWAG for your Goody Bag.

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Contact Habitat for Humanity Director of Homeowner Services Deena Giesen at (253) 627-5626 ext. 106, Mon through Fri, from 9AM to 4PM; or, email dgiesen@tpc-habitat.org for more information or assistance with the application.

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Our online store can be found at www.etsy.com/shop/ajmerbyjodi



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- Proof of COVID-19 impact (loss of wages, unexpected increase in household costs, etc.)
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This project is being supported in part by federal award number ERA0377 awarded to Pierce County by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.



Apply online at PierceCountyWA.gov/HousingHelp

Taking Bold Solutions To Abolish Poverty

Now, this Grit City has a chance to experiment with bold solutions in the struggle to abolish poverty.

By Nikki Snowking

You can't walk too far in any direction of the Hilltop without seeing the convergence of two realities. As summer nears, families emerge from their aging homes tending to their yards, escaping from the winter gloom, like the bloom of a Rhododendron. Kids ride their bikes together, and neighbors wave to each other over fences. You hear music traveling from open windows; you see different faces and hear different languages as people gather together on their front stoops. It is a neighborhood with a church seemingly on every corner. There is a new shadow cast from a skyline being constructed as apartments are built. New tracks are laid at the community's heart- connecting coffee shops, boutique- booze operations, vegan, barbeque, seafood, and Asian shops. There are bakeries, ice cream and candy stores. Unique spaces are being carved out for the community's youth that showcases their talents and artistic creations. As you head down the hill- you are met with the recently constructed wing of the technical college devoted entirely to students entering the healthcare field. A new building suited for the neighborhood positioned within the "Medical Mile," the center of a multi-institutional healthcare cluster.

Walking back up the hill, turning the opposite direction- there is another higher education institution, the Tacoma branch of a state university. This campus has been converted into the 21st century Hooverville. More than a dozen tents of varying colors and tarps line the streets. Tires,

grills, propane tanks, garbage, broken-down cars, tires, lawn chairs, water jugs, and bicycles line the sidewalk. The 600th block of South M Street contrasts vastly to the homes and gardens that face the tent city. A tale of two Americas captured on opposite sides of one block.

It has been reported that in the Hilltop, over 45% percent of households pay over 30% of their income to rent. Faced with these unyielding budget constraints, the Hilltop has seen an exodus of its black residents. The tents dotting the city streets serve as a striking visualization of the human beings who have been left behind. Of course, this is not a problem limited to Tacoma; this is a problem seen across many regions in this country. With the rising cost of housing coupled with the consequences of a global pandemic and unparalleled household debt, it makes one consider how many Americans are one unforeseen emergency away from being unable to tread water?

Yet through all of the turbulence, isolation, and loss of life incurred through the pandemic, during a time of unprecedented numbers in people participating in protests and unemployment claims, Wall Street has continued on an upward trend- illustrating the continued stanch divide between corporate profits and the rest of us. This divide and the projected economic shifts that will come with technological innovation has led to consideration and experimentation in the idea of Universal Basic Income (UBI) projects spanning the globe and will soon begin here in the City of

Tacoma.

A report by the World Economic Forum predicts that by the mid-2030s, 44% of workers with jobs that require less skill will be at risk of losing their employment to automated processes. The report also concludes that half of all workers will require some upskilling or reskilling in the next five years to prepare for the new realities in the labor market. Could Universal Basic Income help absorb the shocks anticipated for the working class?

UBI is defined and understood differently through place and context, but a simple definition for the concept is: A periodic cash allowance is given to citizens in regular intervals without the need to qualify or work for it. Kenya, Germany, Spain, Brazil, Finland, Canada and Japan are an example of some of the countries that have experimented with UBI projects, and each case has had varying results.

In America, the latest results of a guaranteed income (GI) experiment conducted in Stockton, California, have shown that these payments can keep people living above the poverty line. In this project founded by the Stockton's former mayor, Michael Tubbs, 125 people living in neighborhoods in or below Stockton's median household income were given a monthly stipend of \$500 for two years. Although this program was not universal, it is a testament to the principles in the idea. A study led by independent researchers determined that full-time employment rose among those who received the GI payments by 12%. Additionally, the GI recipients showed a measurable reduction in their feelings of anxiety and depression compared to those in the experiment's control group. Of the 500 dollars that participants received monthly, 40% of the income was reported as going toward food. Participants



also used the money to pay for their child's summer camp, diapers, shoes, and car repairs.

Former Mayor Michael Tubbs went on to create a group called, Mayors for a Guaranteed Income. The coalition now includes 40 mayors from cities coast-to-coast who work to advance GI policy. The coalition includes the Mayor of Tacoma, Victoria R. Woodards.

This summer, 100 Tacoma residents will become a part of the GI experiment, made possible by a donation of \$18 million to the Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, by Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, and through local partnerships with the United Way of Pierce County, the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, Sound Outreach, the Tacoma Urban League and the Tacoma Housing Authority. Tacoma's guaranteed income program, Growing Resilience In Tacoma (Grit), is set to assist BIPOC and single-heads-of-household, working families that cannot afford the basic necessities of housing, food, child care, health care, and transportation. Participants will receive a monthly stipend of \$500 for

1 year.

The Hilltop neighborhood is being redefined in a nation that has been forced to examine the ugly foundation on which it was built. We have shifted into a new economy where so many people have struggled to keep pace in the face of a global pandemic. Now, this Grit City has a chance to experiment with bold solutions in the struggle to abolish poverty.

For more information about UBI, check out this video called, *Universal basic income vs. guaranteed minimum income: What's the difference?*

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=universal+basic+income&&view=detail&mid=561669B0665E-509B4A39561669B0665E-509B4A39&&FORM=VRDGAR&ru=%2Fvideos%2Fsearch%3Fq%3Duniversal%2Bbasic%2Bincome%26docid%3D608032739176101586%26mid%3D561669B0665>

Visit the Mayors For A Guaranteed Income website at <https://www.mayorsforagi.org/>

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Fletcher Jenkins: Creating Connections & Collaborations In The Hilltop

His activism began early as he heard his parents' words: "Stand up for what you believe in unless you find out it was wrong. Then change."

By Mary Cogger

An unimaginable number of dedicated people have given their lives to make Hilltop the place it is today. Some have grown up on the Hill. Some have migrated here from far away. Some chose Tacoma as their home after being stationed nearby in the military.

Mr. Fletcher Jenkins chose to stay in Tacoma after four years in the Air Force, McChord Air Force Base in 1955. He moved to Hilltop fifty years ago finding the area affordable and the variety of residents attractive. Jenkins stated that, "Hilltop is important because it offers a variety of different situations-poor, rich, past, future, all color groups and phases in life."



Mr. Fletcher Jenkins

Over many years Fletcher has had a variety of roles including contractor, Director of the Downtown Boys Club, working in Tacoma Public Schools, and as Chair of People's Center Steering Committee. He also served as President of the Metro Parks Board. Currently he is looking forward to retiring from his position helping with placement monitoring, and mentoring of those doing community service.

When asked, Jenkins agreed that his passion and main focus is kids. They are our future. When asked about his

life, Fletcher spoke first of his time at Downtown Boys Club Downtown Boy's Club, a precursor to the current Boys and Girls Club. Fletcher was not the man upstairs who sat behind a desk. He actively welcomed and got to know the boys in the club as well as helping enforce the strict discipline. During his tenure, the program welcomed boys into a family, a home away from home. It fostered discipline, confidence, goals, respect, and social development as the Boys and Girls Club does today. Gang members were included as long as they followed the rules. Nobody was considered better than anyone else; no bullying was accepted. Fletcher told some, "Change your ways or you're out."

At that time the successful Tacoma Boxing Team was part of the Boys Club. Internationally known, it mentored members who became Golden Glove winners and one, Sugar Ray Seales who won gold in the 1972 Olympics. In a 2018 Seattle Times newspaper article, Seales stated, "All the fighters at the Boys Club, we all became something." Jenkins feels that boxing brought out what was inside the person. With discipline and skill, boxers didn't need to prove themselves by bragging or bullying; they knew what they could do.

On Hilltop, he worked with others to find a way to fight the hatred. Using knowledge from his childhood, Mr. Jenkins went into the streets to talk to gang members one on one. Originally from South Philadelphia, he learned self-survival on the streets. Although pressures to join a gang were great when he was young, Fletcher never did. He also worked with the police department including holding meetings with gang members to encourage better communication and understanding of each other.

Many know of Fletcher Jenkins through his work to replace the old pool and rec center which were closed in 2008 due to structural problems. Metro Parks held a meeting about how to replace them. Basketball courts were being favorably considered. Fletcher listened to the kids. "It was going kind of back and forth, and one of the young children at that time stood up and said, 'We

don't need another basketball court. We need to know how to swim. When we fall in the water, we need to know how to get out.' And that set a spark throughout the community and the people who were at the meeting. And it just took off like a wildfire. Kids ignited that," said Jenkins. The "new" People's Center did not come easily. It took eight years of active support (2008-2016) by Jenkins organizing collaboration among individuals, businesses, and the community. In the end, many agencies came together to make the current People's Center possible.

After the People's Center opened, Jenkins did not consider the work done. Trevor Kagochi, a Tacoma teacher and youth mentor considers Fletcher's work instrumental in establishing the Friday Middle School program. Kagochi described how Fletcher worked to achieve his goals. Fletcher told the hard truth, drawing you in with a laugh. His manner draws people in rather than pushing them away. Metro Parks changed their minds about the Friday program after Fletcher "made a stink about it." Jenkins has also served as People's Center Steering Committee president.

Brendan Nelson, current president of Hilltop Action Coalition, used the word instrumental as well when describing Jenkin's work for the People's Center. In the same conversation Nelson said, "It's like he's the older gentleman sitting on the stoop-motivating and supportive." Nelson considers Fletcher Jenkins an unsung hero, a silent force helping to move things forward through his vision and action.

Jenkins came from a loving family who tutored him how to follow the right road and be a man. His activism began early as he heard his parents' words: "Stand up for what you believe in unless you find out it was wrong. Then change." As an adult he stated his views and stuck with them. But, his power comes only partly from his words. Fletcher works to bring people together. He wants children to grow up successfully in a supportive world and does what he can to help. "If what I'm doing in the world makes it a better place, then I'm doing okay."



Over the years, Fletcher has worked behind the scenes to bring community together. Jenkins is a man who does not seek fame or recognition. "It's not about what I can give; not about me." He says that his recognition comes from God. He prefers to work behind the scenes; "If it was on the Hilltop, I joined to help push it along. I always tried to be part of anything and pushed it from behind."

In his attempts to improve the Hilltop, Jenkins has worked to create connection and collaboration in Hilltop. He spoke to the Black Collective as a guest to ask for their support. He has shared information with the Black Panthers. Harold Moss and Tom Dixon inspired Fletcher to run for the Metro Park Board where he served as president. He has also been a key member of the Hilltop Action Coalition.

Christianity plays a major role in Fletcher Jenkin's life. He is Head Deacon at Edwards Temple located within walking distance of his home. He thanks God for permitting him to share with the community and states that God is there to help the situation. Jenkins refers to the Church as a stabilizer which helps keep his feet on the ground. When he faced setbacks, Fletcher turned it over to Jesus. "You can do great things through Him"

Another important part of Fletcher's life is family. He brought two

grandchildren into his home when they started to stray. With the help of his wife, church, Tacoma School District, and Peace Community Center, the kids got the support and structure they needed to become successful adults.

Jenkins is a warm, thankful person with a big smile. He says, "I had a good life." Along the way there were some dark times. One came when he entered the Air Force and was shipped to Florida he encountered overt racism as compared to the hidden racism in the North. He was forced to move to the back of the train and the bus, something new to a Northern Black. It was a time of growth in his life, a time to deal with new situations. Fletcher had a good friend who happened to be a Southern White. Their two worlds were thrown into each other, and over time, the friend stated that he disagreed with his parents' racist views. Fletcher says, "Love from church helped me to grow above racism."

Mr. Fletcher Jenkins has lived a long life and seen many changes in the world. He's watched an influx of new neighbors as the years went by. He worked hard to be a part of the changes he saw necessary. Jenkins told me that he still sees a need for people to come together and looks to the young people of today to continue the Hilltop tradition.

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Courtesy of Tacoma News Tribune, Sep 6, 2016 <https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article100305637.html>. Fletcher Jenkins, 80, stands proudly Wednesday beside the community pool he helped build at the People's Community Center in Tacoma. The pool is a result of the community's push for something it thinks adds value to the neighborhood, Jenkins said. The idea came from a young student eight years ago who said the Hilltop needed a pool more than another basketball court. DAVID MONTESINO dmontesino@thenewstribune.com

Sounds of Our City: 21 Musical Tales From Tacoma History, Chapter 12 - Joe Jordan

This book excerpt is from Sounds of Our City: 21 Musical Tales From Tacoma History, published recently by Tacoma Historical Society Press. It is available at their museum, located at 406 Tacoma Ave S or at www.tacomahistory.org/th-s-press.

By Kim Davenport

As with Meltarrus Washington and Art Mineo, it was military service that brought Joe Jordan to Tacoma. But as Jordan was nearly 60 when World War II began, there was never a suggestion he'd be facing combat; he was recruited for his expertise as a musician. His service to the military was to organize musical entertainment for African-American troops on still-segregated bases.

Joseph Zachariah Taylor "Joe" Jordan was born in 1882 in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was a composer, arranger, and pianist who made substantial contributions to ragtime. His long and diverse musical career is full of fascinating stories. His work took him to Chicago, New York, and throughout Europe. He performed with and composed music for some of the biggest names of the early Jazz era, including Louis Armstrong, Jelly Roll Morton, Fanny Brice, Ginger Rogers, and Ethel Merman.

By the 1940s, with ragtime largely out of style, Jordan found a new purpose for his musical life during wartime. After he went through

officer training, Captain Joe Jordan was posted at Fort Huachuca in Arizona, and in 1944, transferred to Fort Lewis. His work included composing and arranging music, organizing and conducting bands, and programming shows. Although Jordan had seen much of the world by this point in his life, when he first saw Mount Rainier, he said, "I'm not going back to New York." He would settle in Tacoma for the remainder of his life.

As a young man, Jordan often couldn't enter the venues where his music was being performed; he found the postwar Pacific Northwest much more welcoming. In 1947, he became the first African American to be bonded as a real estate agent in Tacoma. In 1950, he was the first African-American to serve in the state attorney general's office.

His drive to compose music, however, never waned. Having no previous connection to Lincoln High School, he decided in 1949 to write Dear Lincoln, a new school song. All proceeds from selling copies of the sheet music were donated by Jordan to purchase a new piano for

the school's music program. He wrote Go, Giants, Go when the Tacoma Giants began their first season of baseball in Tacoma in 1960. One Hundred Years of Progress was his musical contribution to Tacoma's Centennial celebrations in 1969. On Jordan's 87th birthday, he was honored by the City of Tacoma for his many community contributions.

Late in his life, Jordan enjoyed a renewed interest in his work as a ragtime composer. In 1962, local Tacoma press eagerly covered his trip to the East Coast to record a new album of ragtime with two other musicians of his era, Charley Thompson and Eubie Blake. He also had the opportunity to mentor a Tacoma pianist, Lois Delano, who released a recording of his works in 1968. The album received positive reviews from critics at a time when scholars, composers, and performers alike were exploring and celebrating the history of ragtime.

Jordan died in Tacoma on September 11, 1971, leaving behind a substantial legacy of musical contributions and having impacted many lives in his adopted hometown.



Photograph of Joe Jordan is courtesy of 21 Musical Tales From Tacoma History, published by Tacoma Historical Society Press.



Family Fun Time At The Spring Crawl

Family fun while supporting local businesses!



The weather was rainy and windy for the April Spring Crawl, but that didn't stop Hilltop families from coming out to support local businesses. HAC, THA and HBA partnered together to bring a COVID safe opportunity for everyone to get out and about on the Hilltop. This family stopped by HAC and picked up a Spring Crawl Tote. We saw this family helping out with Litter Free 253 - it is always encouraging to see parents teaching their children about how to be good neighbors and be in community.

The Spring Crawl kicked off with a Happy Hour at Grit City Ciderworks, offered a Virtual Hilltop Marketplace, and encouraged community members

to complete a Passport to enter into the Business Raffle Drawing. Please tune in to the June 1th HAC Virtual Weekly Update to find out which businesses won the People's Choice Award and who won the Crawl Grand Prize! There is still time to enter to win the Grand Prize - a Cinemark Theatre 12 Month Movie Pass - visit <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/13U0nGOCiaBeVTenSeCoQjpOiwHr8HqTaRZK7venTn0/edit#responses> to enter and win.

A **HUGE** shout out to Sound Transit for their sponsorship.

Stay tuned for more Crawl fun in the near future as we amp up the activities with a Summer Splash!

Shiloh Baptist Church Hosts A Solar Energy 101 Community Workshop

Sharing their green solar project and career opportunities in renewable energy with Hilltop adults and youth.

By Kristine Coman

As you may know, Shiloh Baptist Church won a \$50,000 Grant from the Evergreen Options Program to help with the purchase and installation of on-site renewable energy projects. Shiloh chose Sphere Solar Energy the only minority-owned solar contractor in the region to lead the project and construct a 19.78-kilowatt solar photo-voltaic installation on the church roof that will reduce the church's electricity spent for power and warmth. Shiloh sees this as a grassroots solution to reduce carbon emissions. Are you wondering what this solar installation will achieve for the building and environment? It will cover over 50% of the church's electrical use and is the equivalent to growing 4,012 tree seedlings for 10 years.

I heard that Shiloh was hosting a Solar Energy 101 Workshop outdoors at the Church and decided to find out more about this grassroots project. I spoke with Sedonia Young, a member of Shiloh, who asked if we could provide outreach to get youth to attend to learn about solar career ex-

ploration. HAC provided community outreach and offered \$25 VISA gift cards for youth in attendance.

It was a perfect evening for an outdoor workshop: partly sunny and breezy. Community members met Edwin Wanji, CEO of Sphere Solar Energy and watched a demonstration on how sunlight turns into electricity. Edwin explained out Washington weather is actually perfect for solar panels because of our cool, sunny days, vs. say hot sunny days in Texas where extreme heat reduces the effectiveness of the panels. Shiloh will have 46 panels on their roof - on a sunny day they will produce 5 times the energy they need for that day. Shiloh will have a 10 year maintenance package for the solar energy system. Edwin said the panels will last until the roof needs replaced - plus they will not need to be cleaned due to rainy weather (does it rain that much here? - yes, it does...in Eastern WA they need to clean the dust off the panels regularly).

Extra energy produced by the panels goes to TPU as will appear as 'credits' on Shiloh's energy bill that the church can use in the winter to offset

their energy use. If Shiloh decides to install back up batteries, the power would stay on during a power outage. Edwin talked about other measures Shiloh can take to further reduce their energy consumption, like switching lights to LED, or putting a timer on motion sensors.

We talked about how Edwin switched his home systems to all electric to take advantage of cheap energy. He mentioned that Tacoma is phasing out new commercial construction with natural gas within the next 5 years and urging new construction to install green energy. Edwin said the 2 big pictures for Tacoma are that green energy career and apprenticeship opportunities are really opening up now; and, that neighbors can form a collective for solar energy power. It's still pretty expensive for a single home to convert - about \$15,000 to 30,000 before tax credits.

Shiloh contracted with Front and Centered to help the congregation understand the impacts of environmental justice and health solutions in the community. They held two workshops and determined that the community is not aware of opportunities and resources available; and, that we need to get involved to know what is out there and how we can benefit from what is available. Shiloh Baptist members appreciate Front and Centered for coming into the community and encouraging them to step outside the box and aim high. I spoke to Aurora Martin about how their are still grants available for green energy projects - reach out to her at auroralynmartin@gmail.com to find out more.

Shiloh's Solar Energy 101 Workshop was great. I learned a lot about solar energy and was surprised that Western Washington's cool sunny days were perfect for solar panels. I was not surprised that solar energy system's high cost keeps it out of range for most home owners which is why organizations like Shiloh need to lead the way to a healthier future for everyone. Thank you, Shiloh!

Feel free to reach out to Shiloh Baptist Church about their solar project at (253) 272-4749. They are located on the Hilltop at 1211 S. I Street. Visit their website at <https://shilohbaptist.org/>.

Edwin Wanji, Founder and CEO of Sphere Solar Energy, can be contacted at (206) 371-5809 or at edwin@spheresolarenergy.com. Find out



more about Sphere Solar Energy at <https://spheresolarenergy.com/>. Reach out to Front And Centered at

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

https://www.facebook.com/groups/505066506854906/?notif_id=1616800420039653¬if_t=page_linked_group_activity&ref=notif

**After-hours Construction Hotline
888-298-2395**

2021 DIVERSITY & INCLUSION SUMMIT

BLUEPRINT TO IMPLEMENTATION

Web series

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS:
• June 3rd • June 17th
• June 10th • June 24th

Main Event!

TACOMA CONVENTION CENTER
JULY 22ND, 2021 | 1 - 4:30PM
SOCIAL HOUR 4:45 - 6PM

Safety First

COVID-19 REGULATIONS
tacomaconventioncenter.org/the-greater-way-forward

Here's What's Happening!

Until July 1 – People's Community Center is FREE - The Center and the Pool are open at 1602 ML Jr. Way. <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/place/peoples-community-center> Call for details 253-404-3915.

June 9 – Wednesday – The State of Black Tacoma 11:00am brought to you by the Tacoma Urban League – https://www.facebook.com/events/123652516388925?context=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A%7B%22surface%22%3A%22page%22%7D%7D

June 9 – Wednesday – New Tacoma Neighborhood Council Meeting Virtual 5:30pm-7pm on Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/newtacoma-neighbors> For more information, please contact NCNTBoard@gmail.com.

June 12 – Saturday - Artist on The Hill, 2:30 pm Hilltop Indoor Market: Pop-up Shop. Tacoma Arts Community Center, 1102 S 11th St. https://www.facebook.com/events/299270498425447?context=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A%7B%22surface%22%3A%22page%22%7D%7D

June 14 – Monday - HAC Virtual Weekly Update 6:00-7pm on HAC Facebook Live <https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition> Join HAC Board members Alyssa & Michealea with guests John Gaines and Hollie Coates-Seamster from TPU and Jim Jumper & James Taylor from Sound Outreach, and Cassandra Bell of "Love by the Slice."

June 17 – Thursday – Hilltop Business Association Meeting 8:00am Open to the Public – Zoom Meeting ID 823 7351 3090, Passcode 157990, One tap mobile 253-215-8782, Zoom Link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82373513090?pwd=RGMxNUtVMGxocTNib0I4RE5pdkhLUT09>

June 17 – Summer Learning Academy Enrollment. Peace Community Center. <https://peacecommunitycenter.org/programs/summer-learning-academy>

June 19 – Saturday – **Juneteenth** - People's Center will be open

June 20 - Sunday - **Father's Day**

June 21 – Monday - HAC Virtual Weekly Update 6:00-7pm on HAC Facebook Live <https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition>. Join HAC Board members Brendan and Michealea with guests Valerie Knight with Pierce County Human Services, Marissa Lyons, Ascent Fitness, and Hunter Henderson, newest HAC Board member.

June 24 – Thursday – Hilltop Library Planning Committee 6-7:00pm Zoom Meeting ID 819 6034 2310 Dial by location 253-215-8782 Zoom Link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81960342310#success>

June 27th - Sunday - Sundaes on Sunday 1:30-2:30pm at People's Park - Free Ice-Cream with HAC

June 28 – Monday – Happy Hour with Cider & Conversation 6:00 – 7:30 pm. Grit City Ciderworks, 1016 MLK Jr. Way. Join HAC & Liz Ellis for a glass of cider and chat.

July 1– Thursday – Central Tacoma Neighborhood Council Meeting Virtual 5:30pm-7pm on Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/CNCtacoma>. For more information, please contact chair@cnc-tacoma.com.

July 4 - Sunday - **Independence Day**

July 5 – Monday - HAC Virtual Weekly Update 6:00-7pm on HAC Facebook Live <https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition>. Join HAC Board members Brendan and Michealea with guests Patricia Coleman – Coleman & Associates, Mary Bridge Children's Hospital, and Makieda Hart of Sgt. Hart's BBQ Sauce.

July 12 – Monday - Virtual Weekly Update 6:00-7pm on HAC Facebook Live <https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition>. Join HAC as they chat with Rebecca Rosado, Mr. Mac and Sam & Terry's Barber Shop.

July 14 – Wednesday – New Tacoma Neighborhood Council Meeting Virtual 5:30pm-7pm on Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/newtacoma-neighbors> For more information, please contact NCNTBoard@gmail.com.

July 15 – Thursday – Hilltop Business Association Meeting 8:00am Open to the Public – Zoom Meeting ID 823 7351 3090, Passcode 157990, One tap mobile 253-215-8782, Zoom Link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82373513090?pwd=RGMxNUtVMGxocTNib0I4RE5pdkhLUT09>

July 17 - Saturday - Memorial for Kris Bannon "Sonics Guy" 11:00 am OUR Church 5000 67th Ave W, University Place <https://www.facebook.com/events/ourchurch/kristopher-brannon-sonics-guy-memorial-service/957974844942912/>

July 26 – Monday – Happy Hour with Cider & Conversation - 6:00 to 7:30pm at Grit City Ciderworks, 1016 MLK Jr. Way. Join HAC and HBA Board Members for a glass of cider and chat.

July 22 – Thursday – Hilltop Library Planning Committee 6-7:00pm Zoom Meeting ID 819 6034 2310 Dial by location 253-215-8782 Zoom Link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81960342310#success>

1:30-2:30PM

HILLTOP ACTION COALITION
Sundaes on Sunday

JUNE 27TH
PEOPLE'S PARK

FREE ICE-CREAM

SMILES

YOUR 1ST CIDER IS ON HAC!

RAISE A GLASS
OR 2
GRIT CITY CIDERWORKS
TACOMA | WASHINGTON

HAPPY HOUR
CIDER & CONVERSATION
JOIN US FROM 6-7:30PM
JUNE 28, JULY 26 & AUG 23
PLEASE WEAR A FACE MASK

HILLTOP ACTION JOURNAL

HILLTOP ACTION COALITION

Hey! Did you know?

HAC is looking for a Contract Journalist
3 Editions in 2021 for \$375
- 2 articles per Journal
Email hacoffice15@gmail.com for details.

Free COVID-19
VACCINE at
Hilltop Regional
Health Center
No Appointment
Required

COMMUNITY
HEALTH
Care
MEDICAL • DENTAL • PHARMACY

Free COVID-19
TESTING at
Hilltop Regional
Health Center
Appt. Required
(253) 722-2161

Are You Expecting?

Community Health Care has the full range of maternity services.

- **FREE pregnancy tests!
No appointment needed!**
- **Obstetrics & Gynecology**
- **Have your delivery at a local hospital.**
- **Specialized maternity program to help you prepare for your baby.**
- **You can choose your doctor from a staff of 12 physicians.**



Hilltop Regional Health Center
1202 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Tacoma
(253) 441-4742

Learn more at www.commhealth.org