

HILLTOP ACTION JOURNAL

April/May 2022 | Hilltop Action Coalition | Volunteer Organized | www.hilltopactioncoalition.org

Hilltop Housing Is Essential



Jeff Dade and Alyssa Torrez lead a walking tour showing new housing and BIPOC business development in the Hilltop. Jeff Dade is the Director of Community Development for Forterra. Alyssa Torrez is a Program Manager for Tacoma Housing Authority and is a Hilltop Action Coalition Board Member. Photographs courtesy of Kristine Coman.

New Federal Funding Will Support Affordable Housing & Jobs on the Hilltop

House Approves \$4.5 Million in Federal Funding for Two Projects

By Jo Davies

On Thursday, March 24th, community members and dignitaries gathered at Forterra to celebrate some good news for the Hilltop: the awarding of new federal funding championed by U.S. Representative Derek Kilmer (WA-06) to support two projects that aim to provide more affordable housing and job opportunities in the Hilltop. The funding will help ensure the residential and business spaces will be attainable to community residents and BIPOC-owned businesses.

The House passed \$3 million for the Tacoma Housing Authority's Hilltop Housing and Commercial project. The Tacoma Housing Authority

owns three parcels within two blocks in the Hilltop neighborhood of Tacoma. They aim to redevelop these sites as part of public private partnership to bring approximately 200 units of affordable housing to households earning up to 60% of the Average Minimum Income (AMI) and approximately 20,000 sq. ft. of commercial space. The \$3 million included in the spending bill will be used to acquire the commercial spaces and provide financial assistance to business owners to do the tenant improvements needed for their spaces. Commercial tenants are expected to include a performing arts center and other BIPOC businesses. The Tacoma Housing Authority has a goal to occupy 80% of the commercial

space with BIPOC businesses to reflect the local neighborhood and honor its culture.

Additionally, the House passed \$1.5 million for the Hilltop Attainable Housing and Businesses Development project, which aims to provide community ownership of a mixed-use hub for culture, community, homes, and businesses on the Hilltop. For nearly two years, Forterra has been working with Hilltop community residents and businesses on a real estate development project – the Hilltop Attainable Housing and Businesses project – which aims to address the community's need for a central cultural hub for the Black community and that will provide a home for small

businesses, community ownership, community gathering space, and attainably-priced homes.

Forterra aims to develop four buildings to include 150-175 rental units and 150-175 limited equity cooperative ownership model units. At least 50% of the total rental and home ownership units will be affordable. According to Forterra, their limited equity cooperative home ownership model aims to significantly lower down payments and mortgage payments for prospective homeowners next to Sound Transit's light rail extension. In addition to the attainable housing, the project will include approximately 50,000 square feet of commercial space for community-owned businesses

and local non-profits. The buildings will be designed with community input, providing space for local, small businesses and community organizations, and helping build wealth for families priced out by gentrification and housing scarcity.

Rep. Kilmer led the effort to secure funding for the projects through the House Appropriations Committee's Community Project Funding process (<https://kilmer.house.gov/community-project-funding-requests>). You can read the full Press Release at <https://kilmer.house.gov/news/press-releases/kilmer-secures-new-federal-funding-to-support-affordable-housing-and-jobs-on-tacomahilltop>.



Alyssa Torrez shares Tacoma Housing Authority's plans for multiple sites along MLK Jr. Way and South L Street that will include affordable housing, commercial space for BIPOC businesses, and 10,000 square feet for performing arts.



Mayor Woodards and Jeff Dade share excitement for the Hilltop Neighborhood. Behind them you can see local artist space located inside the Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center at 1105 MLK Jr. Way.



Congressman Derek Kilmer shares the federal funding goal to revitalize the historic Hilltop Neighborhood and help ensure the residential and business spaces will be attainable to community residents and BIPOC-owned businesses.

Hilltop Action Journal

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

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Community Priorities

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



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Hilltop Action Coalition

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

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

HAC Virtual Weekly Updates

Hey Hilltop! What's happening? Find out each Mondays at 6:00 PM.

Join in on Mondays at 6:00 PM via HAC Facebook Live where you'll receive community updates and information about local events and resources in the Hilltop. If you are not on Facebook, simply Google HAC Virtual Weekly Update at 6PM and click on the Live Video link. You may not have access to the chat log, but you can still watch the video.

Check out the March 21st HAC Virtual Weekly Update to hear from Gerrit Nyland with The Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness. Gerrit shared the 2021 Pierce County Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness. Read more about the Plan on Page 6 in this issue.

Special Guests Sherrilla Bivens and Rosemary Powers spoke about the

Coalition's Race and Equity Committee and how you can join to make a difference in your community.

You can watch the March 21st HAC virtual meeting here https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition/videos/?ref=page_internal along with the entire library of Virtual Weekly Updates.

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.



Message from the Executive Director

By Brendan Nelson

Hilltop family,

The transition from winter to spring is always a positive and welcome change. It is incredible how the time passes so quickly, especially when life is progressing well. Back in the middle of these challenging times, everything and everyone felt so slow, but as our situations are improving, everything moves at such a faster pace. The past month has been a demanding time, but one filled with a sense of progress and excitement.

Now, perhaps more than ever, it's really important that we think about how our actions affect others and the world around us. I am inspired daily by stories of our people continuing to care for loved ones, to help those in need and to strive to do the right thing in their communities and beyond in the face of this better... but continuing global pandemic.

As an organization, we have given great thought to how we can retain that proactive force for good on a far wider scale in our everyday business and strengthen our commitment to the Hilltop community and make sure we are thorough with what is right, not just what is needed.

We still are continuing to adjust to this new normal. We still need to manage new and sometimes conflicting priorities – family, safety, children, work, finances, and social distancing, just to name a few.

While we are seeing a light at the end of the pandemic tunnel, we all still need to continue to keep up with the latest news reports on the pandemic. No matter what position you find yourself in right now, we are all still navigating challenging and unprecedented times.

I continue to be so thankful for your support of the Hilltop Action Coalition.



We have some wonderful events and community engagement opportunities planned this year and look forward to continuing on this journey with you.

God bless you all, and as always, stay safe!

Brendan Nelson
Executive Director

Meet HAC Board Member: Alyssa Torrez

Part of an ongoing series highlighting Hilltop Action Coalition Board Members.

By Jo Davies

Alyssa Torrez is one of those women whose life leaves you breathless. Her eyes sparkle when she talks about her passions of which there are many: housing, youth, animals, and most of all Community with a capital “C”.

She is employed by Tacoma Housing Authority as a Program Manager in Real Estate Development. In that capacity, she works with the community and various stakeholders on planning, design, and development of the Hilltop area, her take on the outreach effort “housing and community go hand in hand.” This interest in community and housing is also at play in her three-year term on the Tacoma Planning Commission, a position to which she hopes to be reappointed. “It was a steep learning curve,” she said, “and I’m eager to get started on Phase 2 of the Home-In-Tacoma project. It’s complicated, but people are beginning to understand it better.”

Concern for providing affordable housing also plays out in Alyssa’s personal life. For several years, she has been a Shared Housing Host

Home Provider for youth 18 – 24 “It’s been a wonderful experience,” she enthuses. “One of housemates was a gardener and kept us in veggies all summer and I don’t worry about home security because there’s always someone home. It’s a micro-community.” In addition, three cats, three dogs, three chickens and some fish are also part of Alyssa’s community.

Her first job in Tacoma was as Outreach Director for KBTC Public Television, and through her contacts in that position she became a volunteer with Write 253. It was her first board experience – she’s now been a board member for six years and board president for the last two years. Write 253 is a unique organization that encourages youth to explore writing and printmaking and creates community for youth.

Alyssa came to HAC in 2018, when a former board member met her at a KBTC outreach event. Impressed by her experience with youth outreach and communications, he invited her to explore HAC Board membership and a role working with the Hilltop Action Journal.

Alyssa feels that HAC’s achievements are related to its ability to meet changing needs in the community. “HAC is flexible, we have a “roll with it” response and are committed to find solutions and ways to make something work. The response to COVID is a case in point. Less than a month into the pandemic shut-down, HAC moved from monthly in-person community meetings to the virtual weekly Update on FB <https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition/>. That was in March of 2020 and with few exceptions, the Weekly Update continues. We are looking forward to resuming monthly in-person meetings, but we are more connected to the Hilltop community now than we were before the pandemic.” HAC recognized that Hilltop businesses were struggling, there was no one on the street so in cooperation with THA we developed the concept of a socially - distanced cooperative business crawl with elements of pop-up vendors, contests, and swag. This expanded into the Summer Splash last summer “it brought tears to my eyes to see so many folks out

exploring and enjoying MLK Jr. Way. It’s an event we plan to repeat this year – watch for it!” That HAC can be creative and flexible in our approaches to community issues is due to the commitment of the Board members and limited staff (1 unpaid director and 1 PT program manager) – they are all workers, no shirkers.

She admits that owning a truck increases her popularity/usefulness to community events, “it’s the key to my success; there’s always stuff to haul.”

It’s Alyssa’s vision that HAC will be the “go to” place for information and action about all things Hilltop, “whether you are looking for information about a resource or event, have a concern or problem, or have an idea to share. HAC can be the entity that connects and shares the various aspects of community.”

Alyssa sees the development and retention of affordable/attainable housing for displaced and those at risk of being displaced as the primary challenge facing Hilltop today. She hopes that folks who have had to leave the Hilltop for less expensive housing and who would like to return are able to do just that. She sees the



HAC Board Member Alyssa Torrez sees the Hilltop as a community with space for everyone: a place of diversity, heritage, art, color and light, bustling and lively.

Hilltop as a community with space for everyone: a place of diversity, heritage, art, color and light, bustling and lively – sort of a 21st century version of the mural on Johnson’s Candy building facing People’s Park: a tram, thriving and varied businesses, and pedestrians of all kinds.

BUILD, By Matanofu Porter

Located At Second Cycle’s Storefront - 1205 MLK Jr. Way



“In honor of where you come from, where you’re going, and the gifts you’re leaving behind to guide and fuel others. You don’t need to save the world, you don’t even have to lead. Just know that building blocks are beautiful and valuable things. Use them when you can find them, create them when you can’t.” ~ Matanofu Porter.

By Matanofu Porter, Local Artist

Every leader starts from somewhere. They push through what seems like inexhaustible resistance, and even when the body and spirit are tired they find a way to bring their communities into a brighter day. It’s hard work and not everyone can do it. I for one can’t claim to be a strong leader. The courage, confidence and stamina required to lead or spearhead big tasks often escape me. But there is one thing I’ve learned from working with and watching other artists and

leaders in the Hilltop neighborhood, and that is integrity is everything. Working through your personal stuff and still making space to do work in the community is a beautiful thing, but it has to be done responsibly. It’s a subtle but powerful move to give what you can when you can, and make it count.

This project has taught me that talent, while magical in the eyes of others, isn’t always something you feel you can really trust to show up and be there throughout the entire journey. That it’s natural to second

guess your abilities part way through, and feel insecure about what little contributions you feel you can make. I learned that however long it takes for you and your gifts to build a relationship of trust, what you’re doing is beautiful and everything is fine.

This “BUILD” mural is here to honor you, where you come from, and where you’re going. It is a thank you for all the gifts you’re leaving behind to guide and fuel others who follow. You don’t need to save the world, you don’t have to lead. Just know

that building blocks are beautiful and valuable things. Use them when you can find them, create them when you can’t.

Painted in the sky above, left to right: Malcolm X, Janet McCloud, Alberta J. Canada, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In the letter, left to right: Saiyare Rafaei local artist, activist and overall wonderful human being. DerRon Jr. McCoy & Darrell McCoy, two young men growing up together with Tacoma as their hometown. Nicci Montgomery, local artist, writer,

community minded creator and beloved aunty.

Organizational Acknowledgment

This art display is organized in part by Spaceworks Tacoma, and paid for by Sound Transit through their “Loyal to the Local” program. Special thanks to 2nd Cycle for hosting the mural on their storefront.

Find out more about the Artist, Matanofu Porter, online at: [IG @itsjust_nofu](https://www.instagram.com/itsjust_nofu)



TAM Presents GATHER: 27 Years of Hilltop Artists

Featuring primarily artists of color, GATHER highlights the outcomes and reach of the Hilltop Artists program.

By Phyllis McElroy and Jackie Zils, on behalf of the Tacoma Art Museum

TACOMA, WA (March 14, 2022) – Opening March 26, GATHER: 27 Years of Hilltop Artists presents the works of 21 alumni whose work challenges the status quo in questioning who is an authentic artist and who has value in museum spaces. Featuring primarily artists of color, GATHER highlights the outcomes and reach of the Hilltop Artists program while shining a light on opportunity gaps faced by these artists, many of whom have not yet been included in exhibitions on this scale.

The exhibition includes over 30 pieces in a variety of mediums ranging from blown glass and neon to paintings and mixed media. GATHER: 27 Years of Hilltop Artists was curated by Trenton Quioco, Hilltop Artists Alum (2008) and current Teaching Artist and Hot Shop Manager, with contributions by Dr. Kimberly Keith, Hilltop Artists Executive Director. The works on view in GATHER represent only a fraction of the diverse artists who have emerged from the Hilltop Artists Program. Co-founded by Dale Chihuly and Kathy Kaperick in 1994, Hilltop Artists was developed

as a community organization that provided a creative space for “at risk” youth from the Hilltop neighborhood to assist well-known artists in producing their works. Over time the program evolved from Hilltop Artists in Residence, where professional artists were in residence on the Hilltop, to Hilltop Artists, where young people from the Hilltop learn to become artists in their own right. Today, students ages 12 to 26 learn the art of glassmaking in daytime elective classes, after school enrichment programs, and Arts Connectcohorts for court-involved teens.

“This show is about representation,” said Dr. Kimberly Keith, Executive Director, Hilltop Artists. “Glass is expensive and exclusive, yet local BIPOC artists are having a breakthrough moment where they get to show what they can do and finally have a say in the narrative that has too often left them out.”

“One of the guiding principles of our mission, and the reason why it is such a thrill to be a part of TAM, is the museum’s commitment to the Tacoma community,” said David Setford, Executive Director, Tacoma Art Museum. “By ushering in artists

whose roots are just up the hill from TAM, we help encourage today’s youth to create art and appreciate that art is everywhere and for everyone.”

GATHER: 27 Years of Hilltop Artists is presented in collaboration with Tacoma Art Museum. The exhibition is made possible through the generous support of Leadership Sponsors including ArtsFund and Tacoma Creates. We give special thanks to additional supporters of Hilltop Artists including the Dale & Leslie Chihuly Foundation, Marie Lamfrom Foundation, and Tacoma Public Schools.

To find out more about the GATHER exhibit, contact Phyllis McElroy at pmcelroy@jayray.com, or visit <https://www.tacomartmuseum.org/>. You can visit the exhibit until September 4, 2022, Wednesday and Sunday from 10am to 5pm; Thursday through Saturday from 10am till 8pm; Admission is \$18 for an Adult and \$15 for a Senior (65+). TAM Members, children 18 and under, active duty military, reservists, veterans, and their families are always free. TAM is also free on the third Thursday of each month from 5pm to 8pm for everyone.



GATHER’s Curator, Trenton Quioco, and Hilltop Artists Executive Director Dr. Kimberly Keith, stand in front of *Trapped*, a piece by Trenton that represents Filipino traditional fishing baskets.

Local Artists Represented At TAM

GATHER WOWS attendees at the Press Release held on March 24, 2022. A Must See Exhibit!

By Jo Davies. Photographs courtesy of the Tacoma Art Museum.

Prepare to be amazed as you walk through TAM’s GATHER exhibit which displays the work of the 21 artists, all alums of the Hilltop Artists program at Heritage Middle School. The works are variously spiritual, whimsical, threatening, and thought-provoking. Working with glass is

technically, and often physically, demanding. The virtuosity and creativity of these young artists (all of them are under 40) demonstrates both talent and skill.

I was able to attend a Press Release of the exhibit which began with words from TAM’s Executive Director, David Setford, Dr. Kimberly Keith, Executive Director of Hilltop Artists, and Trenton Quioco, Curator of

GATHER and alum of Hilltop Artists. This was truly a special opportunity. As I walked around the exhibit I was able to meet many of the Artists and who shared a conversation about their art - what inspired them - using glass as a medium - techniques they used - and what they hope the public takes away from experiencing their art.

This exhibit is an example of the importance of providing art-making

opportunities in the community. All of the Artists I spoke with talked about the positive impact that participating in the Hilltop Artists Program had in their lives. It was great to connect and hear about the direct impacts art programs have for our youth.

Hilltop Artists have done us proud and TAM has provided a first, but let’s hope not the last, exhibition of up-and-coming artists of Hilltop and

Tacoma. I urge you to GATHER up your family and friends and go see for yourself what these Hilltop Artists have to show you.

You can meet Dr. Kimberly Keith and some of the Hilltop Artists at the Mon, April 11ty HAC Virtual Weekly Update at 6 PM on Facebook Live. Find out more about the Hilltop Artists Program at <https://hilltopartists.org/Programs/>.



Douglas Jan Burgess II

Douglas Jan Burgess II (born Ketchikan, Alaska, 1997)
Nancy Burgess (born Seattle, Washington, 1965)
Mindfulness Totem Pole Park II, 2022, Blown, enameled and engraved glass, redwood plank, woven cedar, Woven spruce root, abalone shell, fur, and dentalia shell
Courtesy of the artist. Hilltop Artists participant, 2009 to 2015. Hilltop Artists staff, 2021 to present.



Mindfulness Totem Pole

Artist Douglas Jan Burgess II calls this recent piece “Mindfulness Totem Pole.” A Ketchikan native, this work represents aspects of the Native culture. Facial expressions are what you show to the world, while true feelings are expressed (repressed) in the belly. The figures are blown, enameled, and engraved glass and the ornaments were fashioned by Doug’s mother.



Shayne Nutter

Shayne Nutter (born Yakima, Washington, 1982) *Learning Curves*, 2010, Blown glass, Collection of Patrick Cahill. Hilltop Artists participant, 1997 to 2000.



“*Learning Curves*” is one of the more classical pieces in the show, drawing on the tradition of Italian glass artists such as Lino Tagliapietra. The vase is blown glass and the hatching is accomplished with glass rods.

GATHER Local Artists Have The Spotlight

Local Alum Artists share the stories behind their art and the positive impacts the Hilltop Artists Program had in their lives.



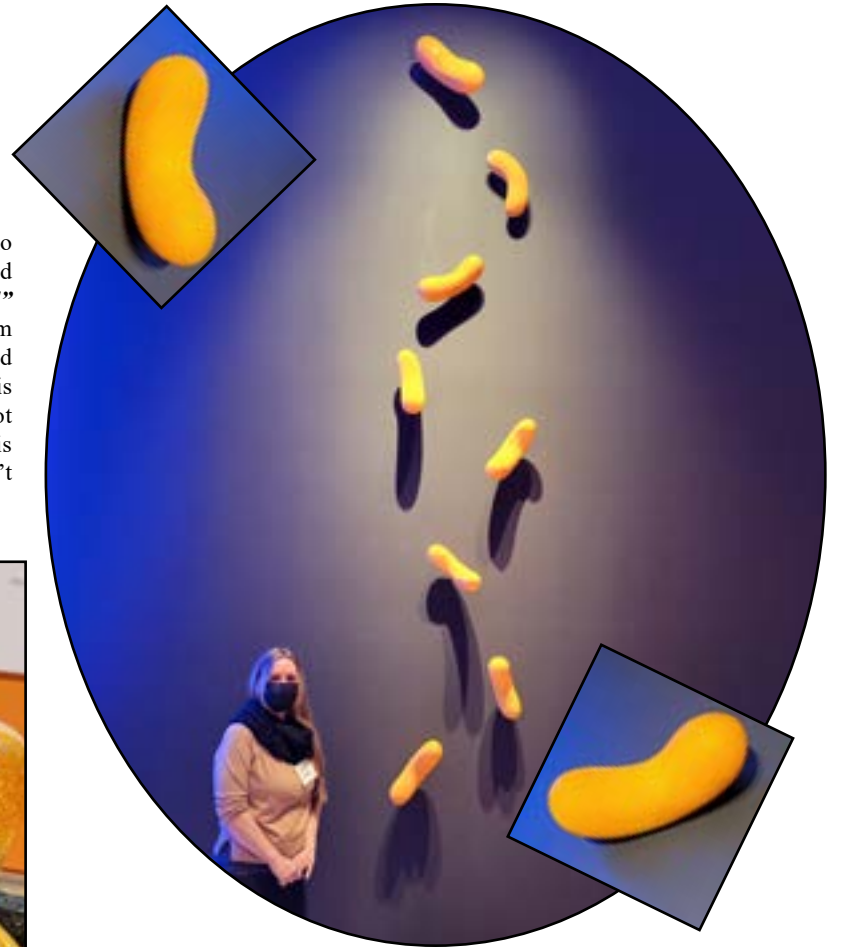
Trenton Quioco

Trenton Quioco (born Tacoma, Washington, 1990). *Trapped*, 2021, Blown glass. Courtesy of the artist. Hilltop Artists participant, 2006 to 2010. Hilltop Artists staff, 2013 to present.



Trapped

A Tacoma original, Trenton Quioco produced this assemblage of 5 related blown glass pieces titled "*Trapped*" in 2021. Trenton was a program participant from 2006 – 2010 and joined the staff in 2013 where he is currently a teaching artist and hot shop manager. Trenton curated this show, his first, but it probably won't be his last.



Jessica Hogan

Chitoe

Jessica Hogan (born Tacoma, Washington, 1982). *Chitoe*, 2021, Blown and sculpted glass. Courtesy of the artist. Hilltop Artists participant, 1996 to 2001. Hilltop Artists staff, 2005 to present.

Hilltop Artists staffer Jessica Hogan was inspired by the snack wrappers that she finds herself picking up after students have left the studio. The blown sculpted glass pieces were fabricated a few at a time over the course of a year or so.



Emily Martin

Emily Martin (born Tacoma, Washington, 1992). *Lola's Rosary*, 2021, Flame worked and blown glass beads, dentalia shells, seashells, fused glass photographs, rope, sand, and paint. Courtesy of the artist. Hilltop Artists participant, 2003 to 2007.

Lola's Rosary

Emily Martin's "*Lola's Rosary*" pays homage to her grandmother. Flameworked and blown glass beads, sea shells, dentalia shells (used as currency by indigenous peoples), and fused glass photographs, depict a spiritual life that includes aspects of nature and Catholicism.



Artist Emily Martin shares the story behind *Lola's Rosary* with Jo Davies, Hilltop Action Journalist and former HAC Board Member.

HILLTOP 2022 STREET FAIR

BE INVOLVED

INFORMATION MEETING

RECOVERY CAFE | 813 MLK JR WAY

APRIL 12TH

6 PM

contact Mario 253-921-1718
info@hilltopBA.org

The 2022 - 7th Annual Hilltop Street Fair Saturday, August 27th

Let's get together to plan the Hilltop Street Fair which is scheduled for August 27th, the last Saturday in August. On April 12th at the Recovery Café, (813 MLK Jr Way) we will have a planning meeting for those that are available for leading or supporting committee development for the festival. The intention is to have 2 meetings in April, the second one being April 26, and then on May 10th

- after that once a month until August. Whether you have been with us in the past or are joining for the first time, thank you for taking time to consider being involved with the Hilltop Street Fair Production Team. For more information, please contact Mario Lorenz, 2022 Hilltop Street Fair Producer/Coordinator, mariolorenz@gmail.com, 253-921-1718.

GATHER Artists

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Douglas Jan Burgess II | David Rios |
| Nancy Burgess | Luis Sanchez |
| Candida Delgadillo | Samantha Scalise |
| Edelmira Jimenez Gallegos | Evan Schauss |
| Daria Hembree | Zane Scott |
| Jessica Hogan | Ellye Sevier |
| Dani Kaes | Jesse Sorgenfrei |
| Cassandra Kuring | Tony Sorgenfrei |
| Emily Martin | Jack Spitzer |
| Jason McDonald | Edgar Valentine |
| Shayne Nutter | Keiko Wesley |
| Trenton Quioco | Jacob Willcox |

Pierce County Adopts A Comprehensive Plan To End Homelessness

We are on the way to making significant change through historic funding investments in housing and homelessness.

By Gerrit Nyland, with the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

This month, Pierce County officially adopted a Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness. Over the years, county government, local jurisdictions, services providers, and community advocates have developed other plans to address this problem, but this new plan goes further by documenting the scale of the need and designing a system to end homelessness in Pierce County.

So how do we end homelessness? We know that increased funding for services and more affordable housing units are needed to drive real sustainable solutions. Pierce County does not have enough housing for all its residents, and much of its housing is not accessible to our lowest earners, but we are on the way to making significant change through historic funding investments in housing and homelessness -- over \$250 million

was budgeted by the County Council to be invested over the next two years.

This plan aims to achieve “functional zero” – a state where any person starting a new episode of homelessness has immediate access to shelter and a permanent housing intervention. The plan outlines the following six goals:

1. Create a unified homeless response system, including a unified regional approach with central decision-making authority of funding and services.
2. Ensure programs are truly effective for all populations.
3. Prevent homelessness.
4. Ensure adjacent systems address needs of people experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness.
5. Meet immediate needs of people experiencing homelessness where they are becoming homeless – not requiring them to leave the support networks in their communities to

access services.

6. Expand the permanent housing system to meet the need.

“Targeted universalism” is a methodology underlying much of this work. Targeted universalism sets a single target for everyone – in this case, stable housing. However, different groups need different supports to reach that goal. For example, a seventeen-year-old will have a different pathway to permanent housing than a seventy-seven-year-old. Similarly, an African American family may have a different pathway than a single adult with mental health challenges. Programs must be designed to meet the unique need of everyone entering homelessness.

Pierce County Human Services is currently developing the plan implementation framework and finding partners to align strategies and make a big impact in the community. We’ve already begun efforts to improve the homeless response

system, including creating over 300 new shelter beds, funding additional case management services and developing a bus pass pilot program to begin later this year.

Transparency and accountability are an important part of this new plan. While we plan to post and share details and regularly updated metrics over the coming months, the core of the plan has just one statistic that matters – how many people are homeless in Pierce County right now. With this plan, we are hopeful we can bring that number to zero.

Read the full 2021 Comprehensive Plan To End Homelessness at www.piercecountywa.gov/homelessplan. More details are available at <https://www.piercecountywa.gov/2021plan>.

Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness information can be found at <http://pchomeless.org/>. The Coalition is a network of individuals, non-profit agencies, government agencies, and community

businesses working together to serve people experiencing homelessness. Their end goal is to help folks establish safe housing as quickly as possible and help them to retain that housing so their homeless episode is short and never repeated. They also work to address many of the factors that drive homelessness.

Their website has upcoming meetings listed, committees you can join to get involved, as well as information and resources to share with those experiencing homelessness (overnight shelters, showers and day centers, coordinated entry locations, etc.).

Reach out to Gerrit Nyland at gnyland@pchomeless.org. Watch Gerrit share the 2021 Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness on the March 21st HAC Virtual Weekly Update on Hilltop Action Coalition’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/116095881827916/videos/337124995110980>.

Preventing Eviction

“I just got a 14-day notice to pay or vacate from my landlord, what does that mean and what should I do?”

What to do if you receive an eviction notice from your landlord, and how to get help.



Lady Justice watches over the Housing Justice Project Right to Counsel Offices in downtown Tacoma

By Laurie Davenport, Director of Development & Outreach with Tacomaprobono Community Lawyers

Tacomaprobono Community Lawyers’ Housing Justice Project (HJP) has heard that question hundreds of times in the past few months. It can be frightening and confusing to receive a legal notice from your landlord, especially a notice telling you to pay up or leave when you are behind on rent.

If you’ve received this notice, here are some very important things HJP wants you to know:

- The notice DOES NOT mean you must leave your home in 14 days. Stay in your home. If you can pay the amount owing, pay it within 14 days.
- It DOES mean that you have 14 days to respond – you have options, choices and legal rights, but if you do not respond and communicate with your landlord, you can be evicted. You don’t need to accept the proposed payment plan in order to respond.
- There are a few legal requirements for the 14-day notice. It must include a statement of the amount owing, a proposed reasonable payment plan and contact information for the Center for Dialog & Resolution (CDR) and the Housing Justice Project (HJP).
- If the 14-day notice doesn’t include all these things, if you receive some other type of notice for a different number of days, or if your landlord is pressuring or threatening you -- contact HJP through the online intake form at www.tacomaprobono.org.
- If you can’t pay the full amount owing and the landlord’s proposed plan is not reasonable for you, you can contact the CDR to start the Eviction Resolution Pilot Program (ERPP). The ERPP is free and provides an opportunity to engage in mediation with your landlord and a neutral party to arrive at a payment plan. It is a good idea to apply for rental assistance at the same time you contact CDR.



Engaging in the ERPP is mandatory before your landlord can evict you for the amount you owe.

If you and your landlord can’t agree on a payment plan through the ERPP, the CDR will issue a certificate to let the court know and the landlord can proceed with an eviction if they decide to do so.

“I just got an Eviction Summons & Complaint from my landlord, what does that mean and what should I do?”

Contact HJP’s Right to Counsel program as soon as possible. Low-income people facing eviction have a right to an attorney.

Fill out the online intake at <https://tacomaprobono.org/> and be sure to indicate that you have received an Eviction Summons.

If your Eviction Summons was filed with the court and it was served with an ‘Order to Show Cause’ which has a hearing date, be sure to show up to your hearing on that date so HJP attorneys will have an opportunity to represent you; if you are eligible your hearing will be continued so you can work with your attorney.

REMEMBER – respond to an Eviction Summons by the date listed on the summons, whether an attorney has been appointed for you or not. If you do not respond your landlord could evict you with no further notice or hearing. If you need help to respond, fill out the HJP online intake and be sure to include the response deadline.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Center for Dialog & Resolution
Online Intake
<https://centerforresolution.org/>

Phone (253) 572-3657
Email solvelt@centerforresolution.org

Pierce County Rental Assistance Online Application
<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/7142/Rental-Assistance>
Phone call 211 to apply
Email hsrent@tacomaprobono.org

Housing Justice Project Online Intake
<https://tacomaprobono.org/>
Phone (253) 572-5134
Email hjp@tacomaprobono.org

“My landlord just notified me of an outrageous rent increase, there’s no way I can afford to stay in my place – I don’t want to leave -- what can I do?”

Housing Justice Project wants to hear from you. Although there is theoretically no set limit on the amount a landlord can raise your rent, this is a big issue in our community (and throughout the country) which will only become more serious. HJP would like to have an opportunity to challenge the enormous rent increases some people are receiving in court. Stay in your home and use the contact information above to let us know what’s going on.



Shiloh Men’s Retreat: Where Love Is!

The people of Shiloh know the true meaning of LOVE, and have invested both time and money to make the Hilltop a better place.

By Harlan Shoop, Faith Columnist

One of the things the Tacoma community has struggled with is the unsheltered living among us. In working to solve the ongoing problem, we seem to take two steps forward and one step back, never really tackling the problem, but rather just throwing money at it with the hope it will go away. As such, the problem never goes away, it just moves around. In looking for a more sustainable solution, Associated Ministries of Pierce County, in partnership with Shiloh Baptist Church, has been pulling stakeholders together and mulling over the challenges, and has come up with a partial solution.

There is a New Testament scripture in Matthew’s Gospel that spells out very specifically what love looks like.

Love is an action, such as feeding the hungry, giving water to the thirsty, inviting a stranger or refugee to your home, giving clothing to the unclothed, caring for someone who is sick, or visiting someone in prison or jail.

Many of the unsheltered living on the street need one or all the above. So, what does love look like in Tacoma. The deep, unrelenting love that never gives up. Not the feel-good surface kind. The kind that hopes all things, endures all things.

Six months ago, Shiloh Baptist Church under the leadership of Dr. Gregory Christopher and his staff, decided to do something about homelessness. Using the personnel resources provided by Valeo Vocation of Tacoma, Shiloh was able to staff the Shiloh Men’s Retreat Center. Ms. Marsha Hopkins, the Retreat

Center Director, and about 20 people are working to make a difference in Tacoma. Using the lower level of Shiloh’s educational/fellowship building they set up bunks for sleeping while the main level provides food, clothing, and resources for all their guests.

Along with Valeo, Shiloh partners with Associated Ministries, SeaMar, Pierce County and the City of Tacoma to help cover the costs of running a 24/7 facility.

Due to theft, many of the guests have lost their social security cards, birth certificates or IDs. As a result, they aren’t able to get a job, apply for housing, or perform a myriad of other daily tasks that require an ID. Approximately 32 guests are sheltered at the retreat center each day, with the goal to help each one transition to something more permanent. Many of them are working – but do not earn enough to cover the rent of an apartment. With the help of Shiloh and its partners, one guest, a veteran, was able to transition to the Soldiers Home in Orting.

At the Shiloh Retreat “Everybody is Somebody.” As such, everyone is treated with kindness and respect, regardless of their situation or appearance. This is a place where the guests have time and space to reflect on their lives and circumstances while receiving some guidance and counseling to move forward.

Shiloh has applied for grant funding from County, the city and state to build a \$23-25 million low income housing facility on its properties. This would provide several individual units, common rooms, comfortable apartments, and rooftop gardens. The hope is to have this facility constructed in the next year and the Men’s Retreat Center can be used for other purposes as the needs arise.

As you can see, Shiloh has deep roots in the community around them. The people of Shiloh know the true meaning of LOVE, and have invested both time and money to make the Hilltop a better place.

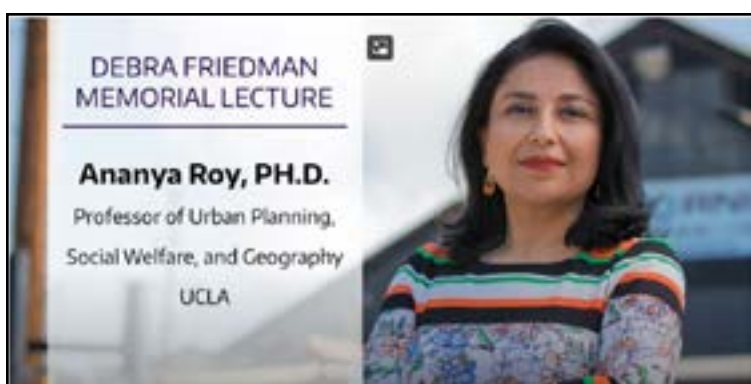
Shiloh Baptist Church is located at 1211 S I Street, Tacoma, WA 98405. Give them a call at (253) 272-4949 Tuesday through Friday from 10 am till 3:45 pm. Visit their website at <https://shilohoftacoma.org/>.



Dr. Christopher and Ms. Hopkins



Ms. Barbara is one of the staff kitchen crew who cooks for the guests at the retreat center. She and 5 other staff serve 3 meals a day. Photographs courtesy of Harlan Shoop.



Emergency Urbanism By Ananya Roy, Ph.D.

University of Washington Tacoma’s Debra Friedman Memorial Lecture Series

Dr. Roy shares her research about Emergency Urbanism and the connection between rent, the unhoused and the “dispossession of personhood”. She explains how, “Emergency Urbanism requires of all of us an abolitionist framework of critical thinking and practice....and it requires us all to think critically about our relationship to property.”

Watch the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBgnl-5w4zOM>. Courtesy of University of Washington Tacoma.

Addressing The Humanitarian Crisis

The success of the Plan to End Homelessness clearly depends on county-wide support.

By Rosemary Powers, on the Race & Equity Committee with the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

Homelessness has been at the top of almost everyone’s list of social problems for some time. The city of Tacoma declared a “state of emergency for health” in 2017. On March 15 of this year, The Pierce County Council formally approved an ambitious Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness. The plan commits to significant and ongoing financial investments by the county to address this humanitarian crisis. The success of this plan clearly depends on county-wide support.

For nearly 40 years, the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness has focused on reducing the inhumane effects of homelessness. The Coalition has continued to advocate for attainable

housing options for low-income residents. Early organizing efforts waned over the years, but service providers and others continued meeting, sharing resources, and collaborating on mutual efforts.

Since the City of Tacoma emergency declaration in 2017, the Coalition has brought a stronger voice to the conversation. We held two public Summits in 2020 to build commitment by local agencies, businesses, faith communities, civic organizations and government entities. We called for an end to street homelessness by Nov. 1, 2021 (We didn’t meet this goal, but we believe our challenge helped the County prioritize work on its just-approved comprehensive plan).

The Coalition provides current information about shelter availability and a variety of homelessness/housing resources on our webpage at <http://www.pchomeless.org>. We maintain

a listserv with over 700 subscribers, where people share resources they have to offer and seek resources they need. We are currently an all-volunteer network, so responses to requests reflect that reality. We gather at an open meeting every Friday from 9am -11am, drawing 50-80 participants (currently on Zoom, with link available at our homepage upon registration).

We welcome everyone committed to ending homelessness and to respectful dialogue about differing strategies. We especially welcome those with lived experience of homelessness or unstable housing, and seek opportunities for collaboration with other groups offering supportive services for those living homeless. For more information, contact Rosemary Powers at rpowers@cou.edu or Sherrilla Bivens at sherrillabivens45@gmail.com.



Photo of Fall 2019 graduate Chelsia Berry presenting her business Crys_a_lis

Applications Open for the Spaceworks Summer Launch Cohort!

Now is the time to apply to become part of the large network of Spaceworks alumni and support that help make Tacoma culturally vibrant and economically strong.

By Jennifer English, Business Training Coordinator for Spaceworks Tacoma

The Launch Cohort focuses on those business that have tested their product or service and have a clear understanding of what they are providing to the customer. At the end of this 12-week cohort, you will have gained the knowledge to successfully run your business, a completed business plan that has been reviewed by business professionals, and will have

presented your business at Graduation.

As a Spaceworks participant, you will have access to a \$500 microgrant to use towards a professional service, 6-month trial membership with the Chamber of Commerce, continued support for the life of your business, and opportunities to stay connected with our large network of small business alumni and community partners. Spaceworks' Incubator offers a variety of services to help creative entrepreneurs and business owners gain training and knowledge in business

basics, strategy, and skills.

Our two core programs are the Business Launch Cohort, a 36-hour course over 12 weeks; and, the Business Foundations Cohort, a 12-hour course over 4 weeks. We work with a fantastic roster of business owners, experts, and professionals, from our coaches and resource providers to our alumni.

For more information about the Incubator, like start date, meeting times, and application link:

<https://www.spaceworkstacoma.com/new-to-spaceworks/>.

Volunteer With Spaceworks

Spaceworks Values Entrepreneurial Spirit, Innovation and Creativity, Diversity and Equity, and Collaboration



Spaceworks could use your input and hands-on support. Here are a few upcoming volunteer opportunities.

- Join a stakeholder meeting to inform our new 3-year strategic plan.

- Plan for our gala fundraiser, CACHET (e.g., procure auction items, recruit attendees, create decorations).
- Volunteer at CACHET, Friday, June 10 (e.g., set-up, registration, auction spotters).

Please fill out our brief Volunteer Form at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeYipCRO4IjrvcYjchCtAlZ91gXQ4d02Gcg-vM-mK4-zhe93A/viewform>.

Thank you tremendously for supporting Spaceworks! Visit our website at <https://www.spaceworkstacoma.com/visit-us/>.

Save The Date

*Friday, June 10th, 2022
Tickets Coming Soon*

CACHET is a vibrant dinner fundraiser, 21+. Cocktail attire (especially gold, black, and white) is always encouraged.

For 12 years, Spaceworks has been a pillar of support for artists and creative entrepreneurs in Tacoma. What began as a downtown window filled with art has turned into a suite of programs that empower creatives to grow as professionals. This summer, join the Spaceworks community and reaffirm that creativity is indeed a shared value that defines our city.

Find out more about the event at <https://www.spaceworkstacoma.com/cachet/>. Want to know more about what we do at Spaceworks?

Check out our 2021 Impact Report at <https://www.spaceworkstacoma.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Spaceworks-FY21-Impact-Report.pdf>.



You'll find out about KIVA Microloans, the Black Business Accelerator Program, and the STAR Bazaar. Read about Spaceworks changes, challenges and what to expect in 2022. This is a great way to explore what Spaceworks is all about: making Tacoma culturally vibrant and economically strong through training and support for artists and creative entrepreneurs.

Homeless Connect Event Provides Access to Essential Services

Around 80 community volunteers are recruited for this event.

By Michele Cotton, Development Coordinator with AM Associated Ministries

The purpose of Project Homeless Connect (PHC) is to provide easy access to essential resources for those who are unhoused, with the ultimate goal of helping participants move beyond homelessness. Associated Ministries works to organize three one-day events each year where dozens of providers come together to offer services and respect to those living in vehicles, encampments or shelters.

The next PHC will take place here in the Hilltop on Wednesday, April 6. St. Leo's Parish (710 S. 13th St.) in the Bix hall and will host the event between 11:00 am and 3:00 pm that day. Future events are being planned around Pierce County in the months of June and October.

Resources available on-site include

medical and wellness exams and vaccines, career and job information, income tax preparation, enrollment in health insurance and the homeless response system (Coordinated Entry) as well as many other resources. We will also have giveaways.

Around 80 community volunteers are recruited for each PHC event. This opportunity to serve our neighbors in need provides a meaningful personal experience and can translate into a deeper understanding of the issue of homelessness and compassion towards those impacted; find out how you can help on the AM website: <https://associatedministries.org/event/project-homeless-connect/>

Associated Ministries has managed key aspects of Pierce County's homeless response system for many years, including Coordinated Entry, Rapid Rehousing, Rental Assistance, Eviction Prevention, Homeless Mail

and Payee Services, and more. The PHC events, which bring our community together to meet a wide variety of essential needs, enables AM to continue living out their longtime role of convening and deploying people of faith and good will to serve the vulnerable.

We are looking forward to serving those who are experiencing homelessness during this event and will continue to post updates on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/homelessconnect> and website <https://associatedministries.org/event/project-homeless-connect/>.



PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT

Wednesday
April 6, 2022

11am - 3pm

St. Leo Parish (Bix Hall)
710 S 13th St
Tacoma, WA 98405

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are crucial to the success of Project Homeless Connect. We need volunteers for various roles such as check-in, hospitality and more. If you would like to volunteer, please visit our website for more information and to complete the volunteer sign-up form. We hope you will be part of our goal to provide essential services to our community members experiencing homelessness, meeting them with respect, integrity, and caring.

REGISTER AS A VOLUNTEER AT:
associatedministries.org/PHCvolunteer

For more information visit associatedministries.org/PHC

or contact:
Michele at 253-426-1507 or michelec@associatedministries.org

PRESENTED BY
am ASSOCIATED MINISTRIES

901 South 13th Street, Tacoma, WA 98405 • 253-363-3056 • associatedministries.org





Keep up to date on what's going on so you can let the City know your opinions.

By City of Tacoma

Planning Commission Public Hearing

Tacoma's Planning Commission is inviting community input on the proposed process, timeline and engagement strategies for Home In Tacoma – Phase 2. The effort will implement the City's new housing growth strategy through zoning, standards, affordability actions, and actions to support housing growth.

Everyone has a stake in housing and neighborhoods, and there is high interest in participating in Home In Tacoma – Phase 2. In recognition of the significance of the effort, the Planning Commission is requesting your ideas about how to make the project successful.

Review the draft Home In Tacoma – Phase 2 Scoping and Assessment Report at <https://www.cityoftacoma.org/cms/one.aspx?pageId=180033> (scroll down the page till you see the link Home In Tacoma Scoping and Assessment - March 16, 2022). The report summarizes the project background, schedule, outcomes and engagement strategies.

To provide your input, write to homeintacoma@cityoftacoma.org through April 31, 2022 April 30, 2022.

You can also provide oral comments to the Commission at the Public Hearing on April 20, 2022. To attend the virtual Planning Commission meeting on April 20, 2022, at 5:00 p.m., (including a public hearing on the Home In Tacoma Phase 2 Scope of Work at approximately 5:30 p.m.) please use the following link or dial-in information:

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/81358095104>

Dial: +1 253 215 8782

Webinar ID: 813 5809 5104

After gathering this early input, the Planning Commission will finalize the project scope of work and we will get to work on community engagement and analysis.

Home In Tacoma – Phase 1

On December 7, 2021 the City Council adopted Ordinance 28793 approving the Home In Tacoma Project – Phase 1 package.

The Council's action establishes a new housing growth vision for Tacoma supporting Missing Middle Housing options, designates Low-scale and Mid-scale Residential areas, and strengthens policies on infill design, affordability, anti-displacement and other goals. The complete package is available at <https://www.cityoftacoma.org/cms/one.aspx?pageId=180033>.

Home In Tacoma – Phase 2 Project Overview

Home In Tacoma – Phase 2 will be a high-profile public process to implement the new policies through changes to residential zoning and standards, along with actions to promote affordability and ensure that housing supports multiple community goals.

Because housing and neighborhoods are important to all of us, there is strong interest in participating as Tacoma crafts new housing rules. The City is now working on engagement strategies to support broad community participation.

The Phase 2 scope of work will include:

1. Zoning changes for Low-scale and Mid-scale Residential designations
2. Strengthened design standards
3. Development of an anti-displacement strategy
4. Enhancement and expansion of regulatory affordability tools
5. Actions to ensure that infrastructure and services are adequate to support growth
6. Actions to address the potential demolition of older structures
7. Actions to create green, sustainable and climate-resilient housing
8. Actions to promote physical accessibility
9. Review of City of Tacoma permitting and processes
10. Education and technical support for developers and the public

Tentative 2022 to 2023 Process

- Project Initiation (February to April 2022)
- Information gathering and engagement
- Preliminary alternatives
- Planning Commission public hearing
- City Council review process

How to Learn More

The Home In Tacoma webpage will continue to be the place to learn more – visit and share www.cityoftacoma.org/homeintacoma.

You can also send an email to homeintacoma@cityoftacoma.org, or call (253) 591-5030 (Option 4).

Goodwill Connect: Digital Literacy Help

Let's Get Digital - Free help is just a quick phone call away at 1844-492-6663.

By Kelly Blucher, Manager of Community Engagement & Outreach for Goodwill of the Olympics and Ranier Region

Goodwill is excited to announce our launch of Goodwill Connect. This program is a statewide collaboration with all Goodwill locations to promote the new Connect Hotline. Anyone can call 1-844-GWCONNECT (1-844-492-6663) to access free assistance with all digital technology needs.

A Digital Navigator is standing by to assist our communities in:

- Getting personal help using a computer or digital device
- Finding affordable and quali-

- ty internet service
- Get tech support for devices
- Find a computer or device
- Building your computer skills

This service is available in multiple languages: English, Punjabi, Cantonese, Mandarin, Spanish, Russian, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Amharic.

Goodwill Connect is a statewide collaboration of all the independent Goodwills in Washington to increase digital equity to individuals furthest from opportunity by offering free digital skills training, devices, and broadband connectivity, in partnership with the Washington State Broadband Office. Across the state we have many locations with free ac-

cess to computer skills classes to help our communities thrive in this digital world. We can assist those struggling to fill out job applications, basic internet navigation, creating an email and so much more.

Goodwill offers other resources you may need to thrive in all aspects of your life, such as basic food employment and training, career bridge, free learning platform, legal assistance, Northstar digital literacy, volunteer tax assistance, Washington 2-1-1, Washington Connection, Washington State Library and WorksourceWA. Find out more by calling (206) 492-6663, or visit our website at <https://goodwillconnect.com/>.

Small Business Development Center Webinars

Visit Make It Tacoma <https://makeittacoma.com/> for more resources.

Check out all the Small Business Development Center Webinars at <https://wsbdc.eccenterdirect.com/events>.

Are You Ready to Start a Business
April 7, 2022: 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
<https://wsbdc.eccenterdirect.com/events/99271800>

Tax Readiness Workshops
April 13, 2022: 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
<https://wsbdc.eccenterdirect.com/events/99271787>

Trademark Protection
April 19, 2022: 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
<https://communities-rise.org/event/trademarks-what-you-need-to-know-for-your-small-business/>

Ecommerce 101
April 28, 2022: 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
<https://wsbdc.eccenterdirect.com/events/99271810>

Contact the Small Business Development Center at (253) 591-2012 or email makeittacoma@cityoftacoma.org.



Are You Struggling Financially and Feeling Underemployed? We can help.

Located at 1106 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Tacoma WA 98405, the Hilltop Financial Opportunity Center can help you learn about money management, discover your financial goals through engaging sessions designed to pair finance and employment coaching with career exploration.

Clients of our Bundled Coaching Services improved their financial well-being.

\$20/hr

Average starting hourly wage

64%

Improved their FICO credit score

41%

Decreased their debt

Bundled Services

The Center for Strong Families offers free bundled coaching services to help you EARN IT • KEEP IT • GROW IT

- Financial Coaching: Credit report review, budgeting, goal-setting
- Employment Coaching: Resume, cover letter, reference support, interview techniques, job search
- Income Support: Benefits screening

Book an Appointment



Brandon Lang, Financial Counselor
(253) 331-5608
brandon@soundoutreach.org
brandonlangso.youcanbook.me



Arceto Clark, Employment Coach
(253) 720-7074
arceto@soundoutreach.org
soundoutreach-communityservice.youcanbook.me

LEARN MORE: SOUNDOUTREACH.ORG/CSF/



Keep Up-To-Date with Hilltop Tacoma Link Construction

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

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

After-hours Construction Hotline 888-298-2395

Reclaiming The Legacy Of Nettie J. Asberry



This event provided an opportunity to fully realize the importance of Hilltop's Black Heritage.

Photograph Courtesy of Kristine Coman

Reclaiming the Legacy of Nettie J. Asberry took community engagement to the highest level by capturing folks attention with art up close and personal. The Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center (T.U.P.A.C.) proved their undeniable worth to this historically Black community. The T.U.P.A.C. dancers expressions were vibrant, happy and joyful. The beat of the drums was intoxicating - you were unable to ignore the impulse to move with the rhythm.

T.U.P.A.C. used dance to interact with the audience and it worked - everyone was fully engaged and expressing themselves through body movement creating an experience shared by all - bonding in community, which is sorely needed.

Hearing about the many positive impacts Nettie Asberry had on her neighborhood, city and region, made you realize that one person can make a mighty difference. Folks came away from this event with a new determination to support Black Culture and History on the Hilltop.

Nettie Asberry: Artist, Activist, Organizer, Influencer

Nettie was asked in her later years, "Why do you continue to do activism work?" She replied, "To create harmony between the races."

By Jennifer Schaal

On a sunny Saturday at the beginning of April, with spring flowers in bloom, the Hilltop community was treated to a very special event. The Tacoma Colored Women's Club sponsored "Reclaiming the Legacy of Nettie Asberry" hosted by the Tacoma Community House.

Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center (T.U.P.A.C.) dancers in beautiful colorful costumes opened the joyful celebration and were kept in motion by two spirited drummers. In a demonstration of true "community engagement" the dancers pulled many members of the audience into the dance movements, and eventually managed to get all audience members on their feet and moving to the rhythm.

The City of Tacoma's Vice Chair of the Human Rights Commission Andre Jimenez emceed the proceed-

ings, thanking the Tacoma Colored Women's Club, Tacoma Creates, Forterra, and Tacoma Community House for supporting the event. The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation was also recognized as a supporter, and catering for the event was provided by Campfire Coffee, Love By The Slice, Garden's Gourmet, and Hamhock Jones' Soul Shack.

Nettie the Artist

Kim Davenport, a well-known local artist, musician, teacher and historian related to Nettie Asberry as a fellow artist, musician, teacher and historian. Davenport displayed a portrait of Nettie Asberry by Dionne Bonner who was in the audience at the event.

Nettie Asberry, the child of a slave, was an educated woman in a time when it was rare for women to have college degrees. She started the first NAACP chapter west of the

Mississippi. She was a musician in her church and a music teacher who used music to teach about equity and social justice. She played the piano every day and was a performer at the highest level. She was an equally fine artist, although unfortunately not much remains in the way of artifacts from her period.

Davenport spoke of Nettie Asberry's performance of "Pilgrim's Sing" at a memorial honoring Samuel Coleridge Taylor, a mixed-race classical composer, conductor, and violinist known nationally for incorporating African American music into his compositions. Taylor died young but in his brief time set twenty-four different African American spirituals to classical treatment, known as the "24 Negro Melodies." Many people came together for the Tacoma concert in honor of his passing. Davenport played a recorded version of "Pilgrim's Sing" to give the audience a

feel for this beautiful music.

Through her artistry and teaching Nettie Asberry was a true role model for understanding the connection between teaching and social activism.

Reclaiming Nettie Asberry's Legacy

Community superstars Antonio McLemore, Linda Ishem and Jeff Dade spoke in a panel discussion of what Nettie Asberry's legacy means in current times. Each was asked for their "superpower." McLemore, whose wife is African and grew up in a community without libraries, learned from his wife's culture to be a storyteller. Linda Ishem is a self-described community builder and musician. Jeff Dade brings disparate parts of a community together through his work.

Panelists discussed the need to invest in our communities, looking at what has changed and what hasn't changed about Black wealth, polic-

ing, and what we need in order to perpetuate our history and culture. One thing that has changed, noted Dade, is that every City of Tacoma program now requires a diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) plan in order to receive funding. "We're allowed in the room now" noted McLemore, "but we still have so much work to do to be included in decisions that affect us." Linda Ishem added that Black history needing reclamation doesn't just represent a separate history, "it's U.S., it's regional, it's local"...it's history that belongs to all of us.

For more information of how to reclaim the stories of those who have been silenced, or are missing, hidden, or absent, the Community Archives Center at Tacoma Public Library can help. Anna Trammell and Dindria barrow can be reached by phone at (253) 280-2824 and at by email at communityarchives@tacomalibrary.org.

THE NEGRO MOTORIST GREEN BOOK

FREE ADMISSION!

Hilltop Happenings:
GREEN BOOK EXHIBITION TOUR
Thursday, May 19
Washington State History Museum
1911 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma

Join HAC to explore the Smithsonian exhibition *The Negro Motorist Green Book* right here in Tacoma. FREE admission! Light refreshments and conversation until 7 PM, galleries open for free from 3-8 PM.

Smithsonian ExonMobil

The Negro Motorist Green Book was created by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in collaboration with Candacy Taylor and made possible through the generous support of Exxon Mobil Corporation.

This exhibition has been locally supported by ArtsFund, Humanities Washington and KXEX Public Radio.

Image: Four young African American women standing beside a convertible Packard, ca. 1938. WAZPN Radio Station Records, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution.

Dr. Maxine Mimms Endowment Scholarship

Celebrate Evergreen-Tacoma founder Dr. Maxine Mimms by donating to the endowment scholarship in her name.



Dr. Maxine Mimms made a positive impact on the Hilltop Community.

Mimms had a goal of making education accessible to everyone - especially those who are traditionally underserved. Her kitchen-table teachings became what is now known as the Tacoma campus for The Evergreen State College.

The Evergreen State College's Tacoma Campus offers a curriculum that is focused on community, flexibility and convenience. Adult learners are offered rich, interdisciplinary programs that emphasize on the whole student, focusing on change-making and transformative leadership.

Those who would like to help honor Dr. Mimms and her legacy may consider contributing to the Dr. Maxine Mimms Scholarship Endowment with The Evergreen State College Foundation (<https://www.evergreen.edu/give/drmimms>). This endowment goes to ensure the educational future of adult urban learners at The Evergreen State College in Tacoma.

Visit the campus online at <https://www.evergreen.edu/tacoma> or stop by at 1210 6th Ave, Tacoma. Reach out to hear more about the Tacoma campus at 253- 680-3000.

By Evergreen State College Tacoma

Fifty years ago, Dr. Maxine Mimms opened her home and began teaching college-level courses from her kitchen table to her neighbors living in Tacoma's historic Hilltop Neighborhood.





GREEN BOOK



On view through June 12 at the Washington State History Museum

From 1936 to 1967, Harlem postman Victor Green's "Green Book" made travel safer for African Americans, and supported a growing network of Black-owned businesses and communities. Find out more—see this world-class traveling exhibition right here in Tacoma.



WASHINGTON STATE HISTORY MUSEUM
1911 PACIFIC AVENUE, DOWNTOWN TACOMA
253-272-3500 or (toll-free) 1-888-BE-THERE

   #GreenBookWA



www.WashingtonHistory.org/the-green-book

The Negro Motorist Green Book was created by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in collaboration with Candacy Taylor and made possible through the generous support of Exxon Mobil Corporation. Exxon-Mobil's predecessor, Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, distributed "The Green Book" through its U.S. network of Esso stations, helping to provide motorists and their families opportunities for safer and more comfortable travel.



This exhibition has been locally supported by Artsfund, Humanities Washington and KNKX Public Radio.

Image: Four young African American women standing beside a convertible automobile, ca. 1958. WANN Radio Station Records, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution.

Hilltop Tacoma Link Construction Update

Liz Ellis keeps you up to date with information and fantastic photographs so you know what to expect when driving through the Hilltop.

Photographs By Liz Ellis, Community Outreach Specialist with Sound Transit

Liz Ellis keeps the neighborhood updated with Hilltop Tacoma Link construction. She is on the Hilltop frequently checking in with local

businesses. Here are some photographs that she took on April 1, 2022, showing the crosswalk installation on the west side of Martin Luther King Jr. Way at S. 10th Street, Earnest S. Brazill Street and S. 13th Street. Another photograph shows crews inspecting overhead wires near Ta-

coma General Hospital. If you have any questions or concerns about the Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension, send an email to liz.ellis@soundtransit.org or call her at (253) 208-0586.

On March 23, 2022, the first new light rail vehicle for the Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension arrived at the

Operations Maintenance Facility in Tacoma Dome District. Train safety runs should begin in the near future.

You can get the latest news and updates online at <https://www.soundtransit.org/system-expansion/hilltop-tacoma-link-extension/news-updates>. Updates are

also available at the Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/505066506854906> where you can also post questions. You can also call the 24-hour construction hotline at 888-298-2395.



This is a great photograph showing the construction crews adding the crosswalk installation at S. 10th Street and MLK Jr. Way.



Here is photograph showing crews inspecting overhead wires near Tacoma General Hospital.



Here is a view of MLK Jr. Way and Earnest S. Brazill St. The building in construction is owned by Tacoma Housing Authority and will have commercial businesses on the first floor and affordable housing above. Mr. MAC and Sam & Terry's Barbershop will be back at this location once the building is complete.



This photograph shows the first new light rail vehicle at Sound Transit's expanded operations and maintenance facility in the Dome District last week. All photographs courtesy of Liz Ellis.

Tacoma Awarded \$2.5M Grant To Construct The J Street Bike Blvd

Jon Kulju keeps you informed about Hilltop's Links To Opportunity Projects which kick in once Sound Transit's construction ends.

By Jon Kulju, PMP, Project Manager for City of Tacoma, Public Works Engineering

The City of Tacoma was awarded \$2.5M Grant from the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) to construct the J Street Bicycle Boulevard project. This project will construct a two-mile bicycle boulevard on J Street from N 3rd Street to S 27th Street, along with improved east/west bicycle connections via 6th Avenue, S 11th Street, Earnest S Brazill Street,

S 17th Street, and S 18th Street, to facilitate access to Sound Transit's Tacoma Link light rail (Link) and the Hilltop Business District. The Links To Opportunity Side Street Project - J Street Bicycle Boulevard Improvement Map is on the following page.

This project reflects community desires to decrease speeding, improve safety, increase bicycle connectivity through Hilltop, and will fill a critical gap in Tacoma's bike network. Associated traffic calming elements will help slow speeds and reduce cut-through traffic by including traffic di-

verters that will limit through traffic at key intersections while maintaining access for pedestrians, bicyclists, and emergency vehicles (J Street is a key emergency access route: the corridor links Tacoma's two hospitals and there are three fire stations within a half-mile).

A mix of concrete and painted/low-profile curb bulbouts and center medians, along with improved pedestrian crossings, ADA-accessible signals, bicycle detection at signals, and ADA ramps, will further increase active transportation safety and ac-

cessibility, while calming traffic. Five east/west connections ranging from one to three blocks in length will provide access to Link stops and key neighborhood destinations including the Hilltop Business District and People's Community Center. The selected treatment type varies based on each roadway's characteristics and range from shared lane markings to protected bike lanes. These connections will incorporate intersection improvements to facilitate crossings.

The J Street Bicycle Boulevard will integrate art into project ele-

ments to reflect and celebrate the Hilltop community. Wayfinding will also be incorporated to help facilitate connectivity. This project will help increase active transportation access to transit and key community destinations, address critical safety concerns, and create a more equitable transportation system.

For more information on this project contact Jon Kulju, PMP, Project Manager, City of Tacoma, Public Works Engineering by emailing jkulju@cityoftacoma.org; or call 253-591-5204.



- LINK EXTENSION**
- LINK STOPS
 - LINK EXTENSION ALIGNMENT
 - - - J STREET BICYCLE BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENTS
- RECOMMENDATIONS**
- DIVERTER, TYP.
 - CURB BULB-OUTS
 - ARTERIAL INTERSECTION TREATMENT
 - RAISED CROSSWALK
 - MEDIAN
 - BUFFERED BIKE LANE



LINKS TO OPPORTUNITY SIDE STREET PROJECT
12/02/2021
J STREET BICYCLE BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENTS

EX-01

Building Space for Teens at People's Center

Partner volunteers from veterans to foster youth help create a new teen hangout at People's Community Center.

By Rosemary Ponnekanti, Communications Media Administrator and Photographer for Metro Parks Tacoma

Kitted out in safety glasses and rubber gloves, Jess Moore watched attentively as Kathy Moorehead demonstrated how to use a circular saw. "So this is a speed square, that's how you measure it off," explained Moorehead. "And now, hold the wood in place, but stay out of the way of the blade." As Moore made her first successful cut, she grinned with delight in the bitter wind whipping along Tacoma's Martin Luther King Jr. Way. It was work party day at Metro Parks Tacoma's People's Community Center, and volunteers from veterans to foster teens were helping build furniture for the center's brand-new Teen Space – just in time for Teen Late Night in February. "Teens were not really well served during the pandemic," explains Christina West, assistant supervisor for the community center. "More than any group, maybe, they need a space to gather, to be safe and be themselves. So when we got a grant to build our new fitness/weights room, we decided to convert the old one into a teen hangout area."

Trouble was, the space wasn't very inviting. Dark, with low-slung ceilings, it definitely needed some love before any teen would want to hang out there. So West teamed up with The Mission Continues (TMC), a national nonprofit that recruits mili-

tary veterans to community volunteer service in underrepresented communities. "We focus on projects that can impact the success of future operations," says Linh Thai, a regional operations manager for TMC and a former Army captain. "Often that means making and building things that the community told us would improve their physical spaces and work. That's why it's important that veterans, as leaders, are well-versed in asset-based community development." Practically, for People's Community Center, that meant a Saturday morning of painting the new Teen Space. It's now bright and clean, with a big screen in each room and two floor-to-ceiling murals handpicked by the center's teen group: a teen in a hoodie under a full, purple-sky moon; and a joyful graffiti design in pink, lime and aqua. Community groups are donating a ping-pong and pool table, there will be laptops for use and programming from the Tacoma Public Library and others. The space backs onto both the gym and a kitchen area, with lots of possibilities.

All it needed was some furniture. "We're making eight picnic benches and two farmhouse tables," explained Brian Lacelle, loading 2x4s onto sawhorses at a second workstation out on the chilly sidewalk. A community volunteer, Lacelle isn't with TMC, but came along with his friend Jamie Suderman when he heard about the opportunity. "I'm a big fan of helping out in the community," says Lacelle, who's also a car-

penter – a bonus. "It's a really good cause."

Meanwhile, Moore and Moorhead were making good progress on their own 2x4s. For Moorhead, a veteran who likes to build things, today and the second furniture session on Saturday were the ideal volunteer opportunity. But for Jess Moore, there was a whole other layer. An intern at The Coffee Oasis, a nonprofit serving foster and homeless teens, Moore had brought a few of her charges with her to help build the benches and tables that would allow them and other local teenagers to socialize, do homework and connect to Metro Parks resources. "I like to support kids in shelters," Moore said. "If houseless teens are interacting with their community, that can bring good futures and a sense of connection. I think this teen space will be good for a lot of our kids. It's really cool."

Inside the space, West and Thai were stacking up the remaining 2x4s while Tiffany Cavin chatted to a couple of the Coffee Oasis teens. A former combat nurse in Iraq and Afghanistan, the TMC Tacoma chapter leader sparkled with energy, a lanky teen nodding with interest and respect. "Helping support community systems is so important," explains Cavin. "For instance, in March TMC will help rebuild the raised garden beds in Rogers Playfield, increasing their accessibility and food security for the community. As a single mom and veteran, I often don't have the access to community resources, so when

I volunteer with TMC I get to access those things myself. I'm helping create this space for my own kids and everyone's kids, to keep community systems healthy. I love that so much."

The Coffee Oasis will also keep partnering with Metro Parks, working to provide programming and mentoring for teens. "This Teen Space is going to make a big difference in the lives of local teens, and to be able to partner with so many community groups to do that is fantastic."

VOLUNTEER: Looking to volunteer? Interested veterans can learn

more about The Mission Continues at <https://www.missioncontinues.org/get-involved/>. Find out how to volunteer with Metro Parks at <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/volunteers/>.

TEEN LATE NIGHT: Teen Late Night happens at People's Community Center, 1602 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Tacoma from 8-11pm on the fourth Friday of every month. It's free, and includes open gym, sports and pool activities. Learn more at <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/event/teen-late-night-peoples-center-2/>.

The Hilltop Gets More Trees!

"Branch Out" was Tacoma Tree Foundation's first event that offered tree planting in a addition to the free trees.

By Jennifer Schaal

Hilltop neighborhoods got a little greener in February when the Tacoma Tree Foundation held its first "Branch Out" event, an opportunity for residents to receive free trees and help with planting them. Increasing tree canopy is important for many reasons, especially in neighborhoods like Hilltop, one of Tacoma's least treed communities. Tacoma Tree Foundation has been working to improve this tree equity issue.

On Saturday, February 19th, forty volunteers gathered in the yard of the Homeownership Center Tacoma Northwest to watch a tree planting demonstration and then load up trees, shovels, TAGRO planting soil, wood chip mulch, stakes and ties into their vehicles. Eight volunteer teams headed out to deliver and plant ninety-nine out of the 266 trees provided free to the community.

"Branch Out" was Tacoma Tree Foundation's first event that offered tree planting in a addition to the free trees. Some neighbors participated in the digging and planting while others were happy to have their new trees installed for them. Many residents had pre-ordered their trees, choosing from nine different species, by signing up via the Tacoma Tree Foundation website, or filling out a form at other outdoor community events where Tacoma Tree Foundation had a booth.

Tacoma Tree Foundation held another tree giveaway on March 26th at the Pierce County AIDS Foundation parking lot. Tacoma Tree Foundation is working to increase tree coverage as an environmental justice issue. Using data and maps from the City and from the *Tacoma Equity Index (<https://www.treecquityscore.org/>), they are working with partners in Hilltop, Eastside, South End, and South Tacoma, to bring trees to communities where they will have the greatest benefit. *The Equity Score evaluates data from each neighborhood's existing tree canopy, population density, income, employment, surface temperature, race, age and health.

Residents looking for free trees can check for upcoming tree giveaway events in the monthly Tacoma Tree Foundation Newsletter. Sign up for the email newsletter at the website: <https://www.tacomatreefoundation.org/contact-us>.

To help Tacoma communities understand more about why trees are so important to help fight the effects of climate change, Tacoma Tree Foundation will hold a "State of the Urban Forest" event on Wednesday, May 18th. Find out more about this virtual event and scheduled speakers by checking the Tacoma Tree Foundation website and newsletter.

Co-Create to Recreate at People's Center: Making Changes Together

Metro Parks Tacoma reaches out to those who call People's Community Center home – tell us what you want and let's make these changes together.

By Kristine Coman

In case you haven't heard, Metro Parks Tacoma and People's Community Center have launched a full-out campaign to re-imagine how they engage with the community. They realize that they can no longer offer services to the community without the intentional efforts of co-creating with the community. They understand that relationships have to be centerpieces to healing, restoring, and building hope for the future.

The goal of these Co Create to Recreate Engagement quarterly events will be to create intentional space to build community with those who call the People's Center home... or Eastside, Norpoint or STAR. The plan is to provide dinner to feed families with representation from local food trucks, offer a space to meet Center Staff, and provide an opportunity for everyone to provide in-put about what is working well,

what needs to be fixed or changed, and possible solutions.

The first Co Create to Recreate was held on Wed, March 23rd at People's Community Center. There will be 3 more quarterly Co Create to Recreate events: June 22nd, Sept 28th and Nov 30th. All of these events are scheduled for a Wed evening from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at the People's Community Center (1602 MLK Jr. Way). I was excited to attend and had a fantastic time. People's Community Center delivered on the local food truck and WOW what a great free hearty meal: BBQ chicken and sausage, collard greens, mashed potatoes, beans and a delicious fresh roll. We were definitely fed well!

Antonio McLemore, People's Community Center Supervisor, had great energy as he led us into getting to know one another. His light jokes and quick quips kept me laughing throughout the meeting. I finally got to see some of the smiling faces

from the folks who I've connected with online. Metro Parks Tacoma and People's Center Employees introduced themselves, so you knew who to reach out to for fitness, nature programs, pool activities, etc. I found out that there are a lot of positions opening at Metro Parks Tacoma. I also found out that the Metro Parks Tacoma Advisory Council is looking for community members.

Once we finished our meal and got to know our neighbors at the table, Ralph Thomas, Recreation Manager who oversees the community centers and aquatics, took a moment to truly thank everyone for attending.

"We really want to make a difference with face-to-face interactions. We are hoping COVID goes away. We have an amazing team at Metro Parks Tacoma and People's Community Center, and we are trying to build strong communities. It's been a struggle to find out what people want – it's like

throwing darts at a dart board. Let's put the darts in community members hands."

Antonio shared how People's Center cares about our youth. That's how free youth membership came about. Since that policy began, they've had a 312% increase in youth membership. Antonio emphasized that, *"This is our work to do. Gang membership is the highest since the 1990's. Youth need alternatives. 4, 522 youth are visiting the center. When I see a youth at the Center, I always tried to connect with them."* He wanted to create intentional space at the event where we could hear wins, challenges and solutions. As problems and barriers are identified, Metro Parks Tacoma is trying to find solutions.

I walked out of the event feeling energized, and full. Did I mention the meal was huge? I made new connections and shared a lot of smiles. The folks at my table frequented People's

Center often and called it their home away from home. This is Hilltop space. It's refreshing to be actively taking part in what happens in that space.

Learn more about why they are having Co Create to Recreate Events here: <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/activities-and-sports/category/annual-events-festivals/co-create-to-recreate/>. For more information about the next Co Create to Recreate, please visit <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/co-create-to-recreate-at-centers/> or reach out to People's Community Center at 253-404-3915. Visit the People's Community Center Facebook Page to keep up-to-date with events at <https://www.facebook.com/People'sCommunityCenter>.

Connect with Antonio McLemore, MBA, Community Center Supervisor for Parks and Recreation at 253-304 – 7724 or antonio.mclemore@tacomaparks.com.

Spring Break At People's Center

People's Community Center: Focusing on Hilltop

By Christina West, Community Center Assistant Supervisor, People's Community Center

As a reminder, a People's Community Center Pass is FREE for kids 18 and under. Find out more here <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/pass/> or call (253) 404-3915.

We are having a job fair on April 13th from 2-5pm and will have over 50 Tacoma Employers looking to hire young people in high school or young adults. Participants are encouraged to bring their resume!

During Spring Break we will have some School Age programs being offered throughout the week by our community partners. These programs will be free of charge. Find out more at <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/>

[activities-and-sports/category/camps/spring-break-camp/](https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/activities-and-sports/category/camps/spring-break-camp/).

Our Tournament Style Open Gym will run 1-5pm during Spring Break, and we will have a family session of Open Gym from 5-6pm where families can bring in their youth and run the gym.

Our Teen Center will be open during Spring Break from 1-6pm during Spring Break, where teens can play pool, ping pong, Xbox, or any of the other assorted activities being offered by staff.

Our pool has started offering Stroke Development, Aquatics Club, and Adult Swim lessons for Teens/Middle School/Adults starting at 3pm. You must register for these classes either online or call the center at (253) 404-3915.

Gathering The Untold Stories of Tacoma

TPL changes the way local history is recorded.

By Dindria Barrow and Anna Trammell, Tacoma Public Library

The Community Archives Center at Tacoma Public Library wants to reshape the historical record. *"We acknowledge that recorded history at large, and Tacoma's local history archives specifically, do not contain the stories and perspectives of the entire community, and we are working to change that,"* stated Northwest Room Librarian Anna Trammell. *"We hope that the Community Archives Center will ensure that, going forward, the way local history is recorded will be more inclusive and representative of our entire community."*

We aim to partner with communities whose contributions to Tacoma have been under-represented or under-investigated and work with them to find ways to preserve and provide access to materials that help reveal

their stories. We hope to collect materials such as: audio recordings, video recordings, oral histories, interviews, photographs, diaries, written reflections, journals, zines, family trees, scrapbooks, ephemera, podcasts, letters, documents, organizational records and even social media posts.

The Community Archives Center will be a national model for institutions in small- and mid-sized urban areas seeking to build collaborative partnerships with diverse groups to produce more equitable archives. Our goal is to make sure we are working to preserve these stories now, so they are available for future generations. By sharing your unique story with us, your voice you will become a part of Tacoma's collective memory. Please contact us to share your story. Reach out to the Community Archives Center at 253-280-2824 or at communityarchives@tacomalibrary.org.

Join HAC's mailing list and keep on top of the HAction!
Email hacoffice15@gmail.com today and start receiving HAC eNewsletters along with the digital Hilltop Action Journal.

COVID-19 Guidance Allows For Smiles

*Rules Changed Again - Be Safe Hilltoppers
Please respect those who continue to mask up and social distance when you can.*

By Make It Tacoma Business Resources Newsletter

Governor Inslee announced that face masks are no longer required in many indoor settings including K-12 schools, restaurants, gyms, grocery stores and retail locations. However, local governments and private businesses may still require masks. Masks are still required in some settings, such as medical facilities, long-term care facilities and public transit.

As of March 12, 2022, the City of Tacoma made facial coverings optional in public spaces and on work sites. Staff and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, are no longer

required to wear a facial covering in its buildings. Anyone who wishes to continue wearing a facial covering is welcome to do so, and their preference should be respected. These changes are in line with guidance from the local health jurisdiction (Tacoma Pierce County Health Department) and WA Department of Labor and Industries.

This decision follows recent changes in guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and a decision by Governor Jay Inslee that lifted the mask mandate on March 12, 2022. Guidance documents are posted on the Governor's website at <https://www.governor.wa.gov/issues/issues/covid-19-resources>.

The Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department offers guidance and information to assist businesses, non-profits, service providers, health providers and others. Learn more at <https://www.tpchd.org/> or call (253) 798-6576.

You can still order Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests through the United States Postal Service (USPS), which are anticipated to ship free in approximately 7-12 days. USPS will send one set of four (4) free tests to valid residential addresses. Order at <https://www.covid.gov/tests> or call 1-800-232-0233.

TPCHD Vaccine Information

Tacoma Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD) continues to lead the way for a safe Hilltop.

Vaccines are the most effective tools to limit the spread of COVID-19. Everyone in Washington 5 years or older is eligible to get a free COVID-19 vaccine or booster. It's simple too - you do not need health insurance or an identification card. People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised should get a third dose of Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. If you're not sure if you're eligible, talk to your healthcare provider. You can get a third dose from a healthcare provider, pharmacy or at one of TPCHD clinics.

Everyone 12 years or older should get a booster shot too. The Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends everyone 12 years or older get a booster dose: - 5 months after their second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. - 2 months after their single dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

To find a vaccine near you, call 1800-525-0127, then press #; or visit <https://vaccinelocator.doh.wa.gov/?language=en>.

If you can't easily leave home and need help getting vaccinated, TPCHD can help! Call them at (253) 649-1412 from 8 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. Monday through Friday. TPCHD is also happy to answer and questions you may have.

Leaders in Women's Health Invitation

Fighting Health Disparities for Black/African American Women

By Michealea Lemons, Secretary for the Leaders in Women's Health

Leaders in Women's Health (LIWH) is an organization that exists to fight health disparities, particularly those affecting Black/African American women. The work of LIWH is embedded in the Black/African American community by partnering with churches and Black-serving organizations as anchor institutions. We envision a world where all people have access to all aspects of health, no matter the color of their skin, socio-economic status, or gender.

Join the Leaders In Women's Health (LIWH) general monthly meeting on the second Wednesday of each month from 9-10:30AM. Every month

we review the work of our various committees, share announcements and community updates as well as invite guests to educate our members of resources or opportunities available in the community. You are most welcome to attend!

Monthly Meeting Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89415884987?pwd=b0pPbFJaTkQwdThzM2FLa0laMnBmZz09>

Meeting ID: 894 1588 4987
Passcode: 276858
One tap mobile
+12532158782 (Tacoma)

LIWH is hosting a Colon Cancer Awareness virtual event on Facebook on Wednesday, April 13th, from 10:45 am to 12 pm. Special Guest Dr.

Bai has a special interest in digestive health and nutrition. Her presentation will include current statistics on colon cancer with a focus on disparities among African Americans. She will define what is good colon health care including nutrition and colonoscopy guidelines. Event Link:

https://www.facebook.com/events/1476885026011378?context=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A%7B%22sur-

Find out more by visiting our website at <https://thetacomaurbanleague.org/leaders-in-womens-health> or Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/TacomaBreastHealth>. Send us an email at leadersinwomenshealth@gmail.com. We would love to connect

QR CODE Vaccine Record

Keep your vaccine card safe at home.

Going to a public gathering and need proof of COVID vaccination? Get your Digital COVID-19 Verification Record and QR code to use for entry when required at <https://waverify.doh.wa.gov/?fbclid=IwAR0-egwBDgSfeag8NmEmn0G-mQShIRdFABZi1a6TYPB5w2s->

The process is easy, fast and secure. You can keep your immunization record at home and flash the QR code on your phone for entry. Check it out today and be prepared in case of a spontaneous social gathering pop-in. Jr. Way.

COVID-19 Vaccine Access In Your Neighborhood

Hilltop Regional Health Center - 1202 MLK Jr. Way - Appointments are recommended. Call (253) 722-1855 or register here <https://hipaa.jotform.com/211816150936151>. Walk in appointments may be available.


Sea Mar Community Health Center - 1112 S Cushman - Appointments are recommended. Call (1-855) 289-4503 to register. Walk in appointments may be available. More information is available at <https://www.seamar.org/covid-vaccine.html>.

Dementia Services

Build Community, Get Involved

Help Us Build a Dementia Friendly Pierce County

"The Dementia Friends information session was helpful to us because it has allowed us to view people with dementia as some of the most precious, sensitive, and valuable human beings. We have a new and profound appreciation for them! Thank you Lutheran Community Services for helping us become Dementia Friends."




~ Janet Brown
Beacon Senior Center
Activity Coordinator


Three ways you will make a difference:

- 1) **Listen and Advocate** - Invite us to present our one-hour virtual or in-person information session to your organization, business or community group.
- 2) **Volunteer** - We will find the right role for you to help create a Dementia Friendly Pierce County.
- 3) **Recommend** - Share our information about Dementia Services with others.

To learn more about Dementia Services and our programs, please contact us at:

Phone: 253-272-8433
Email: dementiaservices@lcsnw.org
dementiafriendlypc.org






Parent & Family Partners in Education

VIRTUAL GATHERING

Tuesday
April 12th
6:30 PM




Daryllyn Harris-Waller
MSW, LICSW, PhD Candidate

Recognizing and Addressing signs of Depression in Children & Adolescents and Tips and Strategies on Cultivating Joy and Choice during Multiple Pandemics!


Daryllyn is a licensed Clinical Social Worker with her own private practice, Renewed Essence Counseling and Therapeutic Services. Renewed Essence is committed to providing therapeutic interventions and training to communities and specializes in providing effective, culturally responsive mental health counseling. Ms. Harris believes in the importance of attending to one's individual mental health needs in order to truly recognize who you are and what you can contribute to those around you.

Register in advance for the meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrf-yqqjwHtH48AxGPHp_5fnjxi_xbs0v

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



Amanda Scott-Thomas
Director, Community Partnership Office
Tacoma Public Schools



George E. Pete, M.Ed.
Title I/LAP Program Specialist
Tacoma Public Schools

Eastside Remembers: A Memorial Mural for Fallen Youth by Dionne Bonner

Art expressing community sorrow and celebration was dedicated Feb. 26 at Eastside Community Center.



*In Loving Memory,
A Mural by Dionne Bonner*

By Rosemary Ponnekanti, Communications Media Administrator and Photographer for Metro Parks Tacoma

It's one of the hardest things to do: to lose someone special yet celebrate their life even through the grief. And if it's a child, that's especially difficult. But when Dionne Bonner's new mural "In Loving Memory" was dedicated at Eastside Community Center that intertwining of mourning and celebration for Eastside youth lost to gun violence is what the Tacoma artist hopes her art will express – especially for the community folks who helped shape that art.

"This mural is about joy and sorrow," said Bonner. "It's about how you grieve, but also how you celebrate a life. I tried to combine the two, respectfully, and in a way that helps people heal."

Bonner came to the project through a public art training she took with the City of Tacoma's Office of Arts &

Cultural Vitality. As a studio artist known for portraiture, she wanted to expand her expertise in fabrication, bidding and other aspects of the public art process, while bringing her personal calling of representing youth and marginalized communities to change public awareness.

As part of Metro Parks Tacoma's 1% for public art budget set aside from all capital construction projects, the mural was commissioned following recommendations from the Eastside Community Center Art Brief (an art strategy developed by artists from community and City feedback). During 2019, Bonner held many conversations with community members who had lost a young person to gun violence. Mothers, fathers, family friends – Bonner sat quietly with them all, asking open questions about what they wanted to share. She also asked them what they found special about the Eastside neighborhood, gleaned more information from community surveys and meetings.

"I grew up on the Eastside in the '80s and '90s, and lost many friends to gun violence," said Silong Chhun, a local photographer and videographer. "Other than the Boys & Girls Club, there was no other outlet for youth, like sports or music. That led to a lot of the violence, I think. Now it's so much better, with the Eastside Community Center."

Finally, Bonner collaborated on a partner event including Boys & Girls Club, Salishan Association and the Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center, watching and photographing their young dancers.

"I tried to capture their joy, their natural way of expressing themselves, which inspired the images and natural movement of the mural," Bonner explains. "As I talked and watched and thought, the content of the piece just bubbled up."

Bonner painted the mural on the community center's lower level just as Covid-19 hit. She spent hours painting alone in the center, which

was closed to the public, juggling it around her full-time job as a graphic designer.

Now, the mural stretches exuberantly around a corner near the entrance to the pool. A girl arches her back, eyes closed in bliss and arm gracefully curved. A boy stands proudly, dressed for a graduation. Another boy gazes toward the sky, past a girl in a yellow sports jersey that blends down into a mesh of streets, ladders, paths. Red, green and blue ribbons of color weave in and out of tree branches, porches and raindrops. And between the joyful, living bodies are black silhouettes, stenciled white as if with bones, walking to school, to home, to the graduation they never got to have.

"It's about our journey through life, and the different paths people can take," says Bonner. "One decision can turn people around."

"This mural is really representative of the life we live," says Chhun. "We celebrate and we mourn, often

in the same breath, and especially in these pandemic times. And the colors are vibrant, very representative of the resilience of this community."

Finally, the mural will be completed. A screen on the adjacent wall will display names of local youth lost to gun violence; currently there are 52. More can be added: Community members are invited to submit names on the Metro Parks mural web page.

Metro Parks is looking into holding a community memorial event later in the year. Suggestions and comments are welcome as we begin to explore opportunities: send to rebecca.solverson@cityoftacoma.org at the Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality.

"To have these names present was extremely important for the community," said Bonner. "This mural is for the families and loved ones of these youth that have died. I hope that they see something in here that's personal, that they can relate to. And I hope it helps them in some way to heal and get to a better place."



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- 5x7 in. quarter page \$50
- 10x7 in. half page \$100
- 10x15 in. full page \$200

For more details, call 253-301-3299 or email hacoffice15@gmail.com.



From Graphic Artist to Abstract Art

Opening Minds Through Art

By Wendy Morris

Over months of participation in Opening Minds through Art (OMA), a program of Dementia Services at Lutheran Community Services Northwest, Gene Hochwalt has begun to work in a new style of art. Gene, who is 90 years old, was diagnosed with dementia about 10 years ago. His son Joe participates in the art sessions alongside his dad. He also helps fill in the colorful details of his father's life journey.



Gene joined the United States Air Force in 1949 and served a total of 23 years. One of his talents was for graphic design, which he made a career of, both in and out of uniform. In the military, Gene lettered aircraft, designed squadron patches and made posters used in briefings – long before PowerPoint was invented.

Gene, his wife Phyllis and their family moved several times in his career. While based in the Northwest, he left active duty for three years and served in the Air Force Reserves while working for The Bon Marche.

But the draw of the military lifestyle was strong, so Gene returned to active duty before retiring in 1972 in the Hampton, Virginia area.

There, he worked for a small sign shop that served several real estate agencies and developers. In 1972, he seized an opportunity to move back to the Northwest and work for The Bon. Gene lettered windows at the downtown store; he also designed and produced silk-screened signs used in all the company's stores.

When Gene finally retired for good, he didn't stay idle. He continued to pursue graphic art on computers. In his 60s, he began to lose his vision and hearing and eventually his short-term memory – but that hardly slowed him down.

Gene and Phyllis moved to an Adult Family Home near their son Joe in the Tacoma area. Phyllis died in March 2021, after 70 years of marriage. Before long, Joe saw a Facebook post about OMA and felt it would be a good activity for his dad.

At first it was difficult for Gene to accept the concept of

abstract art, but as time went on, he became more engaged. "Nudges were needed to get dad to participate fully," Joe said, "but OMA challenges him to think." Now Gene is able to make the association between his past artistic work and the different weekly OMA activities.

Joe enjoys participating in OMA with his dad and has noticed Gene is always in a better mood after a session. They have even painted together outside of the sessions. One of the many things Joe says his dad enjoys is the art show that happens after each six-week session. It showcases the work of all participants – people living with dementia or other cognitive challenges. Family and friends are invited to view the artwork.

When asked what he wants others to know about the value of OMA for a person living with dementia, Joe says: "if you can fit it in, do it." For him, it's an activity that bonds father and son without struggling to find talking points during their visit. The return to something that reminds Gene of his past, including his childhood art, has enriched both their lives. As Joe says, this is "a slice of normal" and gives them positive interaction with other artists. And conversations are much more comfortable.

Gene and Joe are excited to continue participating in Opening Minds through Art. The six-week virtual sessions are free, and materials are provided. For more information, contact Dementia Services at Lutheran Community Services Northwest at 253-272-8433 or dementia-services@lcsnw.org.



LF253 continues to grow each year. Please gather friends, family, & neighbors to make 2022 bigger and better than 2021. Register for LF253 at this link at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe8oNCK->

[m5zlwpu-yoMk1Pi-bBMWQwU-HaNPHE_EwUHOxrd9fww/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe8oNCK-m5zlwpu-yoMk1Pi-bBMWQwU-HaNPHE_EwUHOxrd9fww/viewform)

You can also volunteer with HAC for this event - it's easy! Just email hacoffice15@gmail.com to let us know you are coming by to help.

Tacoma Public Schools High School Student Job Fair

Wednesday, April 13, 2 - 5 pm

People's Community Center

1602 MLK Jr Way, Tacoma, WA 98405

Are you a 15 to 24-year-old looking for a job? This hiring fair at People's Community Center is meant to connect young job seekers with employers offering entry-level and family-wage jobs in our community.

Bring your best smile and handshake! Organizations are looking to fill many positions this summer. All ages and experience levels are welcome. Find out more at <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/event/hiring-fair/>.

If you are unable to attend, but would still like to share job opportunities with students, please contact Chris Sieg CSieg@Tacoma.k12.wa.us.

HEALTH

BUSINESS

LOGISTICS

EDUCATION

TECHNOLOGY

Adult High School
Diploma/GED

TCCC

TRAINING diverse talents to access
Pierce County's **in demand jobs**



The full HAC Calendar is available on our website at <http://www.hilltopactioncoalition.org/>.

Apr 6 - Wednesday, 10am – 3pm Project Homeless Connect. St. Leo's Parish at 710 S 13th ST. Provides services and resources such as housing assistance, medical services, vendor resources, give-a-ways, snacks, etc. <https://associatedministries.org/event/project-homeless-connect/>

Apr 7, 14, 21, 28 – Thursday, 5-8pm Neighborhood Nights at TAM - free entry for GATHER Hilltop Artists Exhibit at 1701 Pacific Ave, Tacoma

Apr 7 – Thursday, 7pm Tacoma Central Neighborhood Council meets virtually on Facebook. Check their Facebook page for Zoom information. <https://www.facebook.com/CNCtacoma>

Apr 9 – Saturday, 10am-2pm Furniture Collection Event: Donate Your Worn Furniture at 3510 S. Mullen Street - registration required at https://www.cognitofirms.com/ZeroWaste-Washington/CollectionEventFurnitureDonationInterestFormFurniture-FixIt?fbclid=IwAR3G5x3lW53_fB-cjyuvMXqVmqGqZUGDUqJFp-9wpt-dCTO8t7dk9DcHwIxP8

Apr 9 – Saturday, 6-7pm BIPOC Market at Annie Wright Schools (827 N. Tacoma Ave)

Apr 11 – Monday – 6-7pm HAC Virtual Weekly Update on HAC Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition/> Special Guests include Dr. Keith, Executive Director with Hilltop Artists.

Apr 12 – Tuesday, 5-7pm Tacoma City Council Meeting at 747 Market ST, First Floor, City Council Chambers or attend via Zoom at <https://www.zoom.us/j/84834233126#success> with Passcode 349099

Apr 12 – Tuesday, 6pm Hilltop Street Fair Information Meeting at Recovery Café, 813 MLK Jr. Way.

Apr 13 – Wednesday, 5:30 – 7pm. New Tacoma Neighborhood Council Meeting is on Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/newtacomaneighbors>

Apr 13 – Wednesday, 9-10:30am Leaders in Women's Health Meeting The Leaders in Women's Health exists to fight health disparities in the African American community <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89415884987?pwd=b0pPbFJaTkQwdThzM-2FLa0laMnBmZz09#success>

Apr 13 – Wednesday, 2:30 – 5:30 pm. Tacoma Public Schools High School Job Fair. People's Center, 1602 MLK Jr. Way <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/event/hiring-fair/>

Apr 14 – Thursday, 5-8pm Neighborhood Nights at TAM - free entry for T.U.P.A.C Dance in the Museum free class at 6:30pm at 1701 Pacific Ave, Tacoma

Apr 16 – Saturday, 9 – 11am Litter Free 253 HAC Volunteer Event - Meet at People's Park

Apr 16 – Saturday, 9 – 11am Litter Free 253. Litter Free 253 is a city-wide, litter clean-up initiative sup-

ported by Tacoma's 8 Neighborhood Councils, the City of Tacoma, and you, volunteer Litter Picker Upper Participants! <https://www.facebook.com/events/302106548577258>

Apr 16 – Saturday, 10am – 3pm-South Sound Sustainability Expo. Discover local resources to help make your life more sustainable. <https://southsoundsustainabilityexpo.org/>

Apr 18 – Monday, 6-7pm HAC Virtual Weekly Update on HAC Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition/> Special Guests Rep. Derek Kilmer will join us and share the good news about federal funding to support affordable housing and jobs on the Hilltop.

Apr 19 – Tuesday, 5-6:30pm People's Steering Committee Meeting at People's Community Center 1602 MLK Jr. Way. For more info, call (253) 592-5418

Apr 21 – Thursday, 8am Hilltop Business Association Meeting (<https://www.hilltopba.org/>) 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>

Apr 21 – Thursday, 6pm to 7:30 pm Hilltop Library Planning Committee meets via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81960342310#success> Meeting ID 819 6034 2310

Apr 21 – Thursday, 10 AM Don't Judge Just Serve Virtual Fundraiser Join Tacoma Community House for their third annual fundraiser at <https://www.facebook.com/events/4748165281979466/>

Apr 22 – Friday, 8–11pm Teen Late Nite at People's Center. FREE event for grades 9 – 12. Open gym, activities, sports, and more. <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/event/teen-late-night-peoples-center-2/>

Apr 23 - Saturday, 1–3pm Home in Tacoma for All - Community Forum. Grassroots gathering to discuss real policy solutions to the housing affordability crisis, and to build a movement to win. Hear from housing justice organizers, people experiencing housing insecurity, community leaders, and your neighbors. <https://tinyurl.com/TacomaForAll>

Apr 23 - Saturday, 1pm Online Story Time with the Northwest African American Museum. Read along with the story *Ruth and The Green Book*. <https://www.washingtonhistory.org/event/online-story-time-with-the-northwest-african-american-museum/>

Apr 25 – Monday, 6-7:30PM. HAC Monthly Community Meeting at Tacoma Community House (1314 South L Street, Tacoma, WA). HAC is excited to bring back community meetings IN-PERSON! Join us for community updates, networking, and more. COVID precautions in place. We hope to see you there!

HAC Volunteer Opportunity
2022 Litter Free 253
Saturday, April 16th, 9 AM to 11 AM
Meet at People's Park
Email hacoffice15@gmail.com for Details
Bags & Litter Grabbers Provided

HAC Monthly Community Meeting & Celebration
Mon, April 25th, 6 PM - 7:30 PM
Tacoma Community House
1314 S L Street

HAC is excited to bring back monthly in-person meetings!
Join us for updates, resources and community time.
- Light Refreshments Include Cookies from Love by the Slice
- Kid zone

COVID precautions in place.

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EVERY FRIDAY IN MARCH AND APRIL

1202 MLK JR. WAY, TACOMA WA 98405

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at 1116 Earnest S Brazill ST, Tacoma WA 98405
or via https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=2FP36QYKYK33Q

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

Learn more at www.commhealth.org