

# HILLTOP ACTION JOURNAL

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## Looking Back To Move Forward

Always the educator, Dr. Mimms speaks at The Evergreen State College in 2016. TESC



### “Touchable”

*In a discussion about local Black History, Karen Vargas emphasized how Dr. Mimms is a “Touchable - Maxine Mimms is still with us, still educating, leaving no one behind.”*

By Karen Vargas, from her Maxine Mimms, “My Life is Education” story featured in 1968: The Year That Rocked Washington

As you enter The Evergreen State College building in Tacoma’s Hilltop neighborhood you are greeted by a bold, bright African mural. Just inside the door

there’s a framed portrait of Dr. Mimms, donning a mortarboard, as founder and former executive director of the Tacoma program. She calls her Ph.D. a “Ph.WE” because her career has been dedicated to helping under-served, marginalized populations rise through education.

The events of 1968, often characterized as “The year

that changed the world,” significantly impacted Mimms’ outlook on her role as a leader. “The murdering of a Martin Luther King and the Kennedys was very painful. But you have to re-image, ‘What does that mean in terms of you, Maxine?’ ” she says, framing the question rhetorically. “Well, I had to increase my studies. I had

to look at theology. I had to absolutely say, ‘What does liberation theology mean to me? What does it mean for me to have met Martin?’ What privilege I had. I had to rise with confidence and do something about it. So in me, their farewells forced me to do a capital Hello. And in that, that’s why you have the Tacoma campus.”

“SHE’S A MENTOR, not a mother,” says Dawn Mason, a former Washington State Representative for the 37th District, who considers herself a protégé (p. 16). African Americans of all ages—girls and young women in particular—arrive at her home to absorb her wisdom. Maxine Mimms isn’t baking pies; she’s fostering knowledge

and an understanding of their history and their culture. She gets a kick out of watching children from the city search for shells on her beach, learning there is nothing to fear in an unfamiliar environment. She wants history to remember her as the old black lady who lived in the woods and “wasn’t afraid of no bears.”

Continued on page 5

## Connecting with Community

*Dr. Hardiman began actively supporting her community when she was twelve; today, Evergreen Students lovingly call her “Dr. J.”*

By Mary Cogger

Tacoma’s Hilltop district has seen many changes over the years. Dr. Joye Hardiman, a Hilltop resident and historian told me history of the area, a vibrant community where residents worked together to thrive. Hardiman stated that, (Black people) “always had strong land ownership on the hill.” Tacoma was incorporated in 1875 and soon after competed to be selected as the western terminus of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Speculators from Portland, Oregon bought a huge block of the Hilltop from its historic landowners. Over the years an economically diverse community became solid blue-collar. Many different immigrant groups as well as Black and Brown people migrated in and out. In

the 1980’s Hilltop earned an unwarranted, one-sided negative reputation according to Hardiman. When people reported about gangs and violence, they did not tell how residents banded together to rid the area of violent groups.

Dr. Hardiman began her interest in helping build a strong community when she was twelve. Her parents both served as mentors and actively supported the community. When Robert Moses’ design for urban renewal came to Buffalo, New York, Hardiman’s hometown, it ruined the community. An expressway replaced the inviting tree-lined parkway and divided the community. There was no community input in the plan. Violence increased exponentially. The young Joye Hardiman watched as her vibrant community was

destroyed.

Years and careers later, Dr. Hardiman was teaching at Evergreen State College Olympia. She felt she needed a more diverse than Olympia. In 1980 after living in Olympia, Shelton, Seattle, and other Washington areas Dr. Joye Hardiman very carefully chose the Tacoma Hilltop area as home. She transferred from the Olympia campus to Tacoma’s branch Evergreen State College. She chose to reside on The Hilltop and bring her positive energy, passion, and actions to our community. Students lovingly renamed her “Dr. J.”

Hilltop reminded Hardiman of Buffalo where she grew up in a loving two parent family. She saw a strong African American community where the leaders lived in the community.

Continued on Page 7

## Going to the Root of Who We Are

*Dr. Tate Arunga is a grassroots person, the root appeals to her. “The idea of what do we have and do with the power within us, and how to use this capacity to heal people and the communities we live in.”*

Interview by Kristine Coman

I had the honor to interview Dr. Marcia Tate Arunga, Dean of Evergreen State College Tacoma, about her personal journey to understand how we are linked to our cultural heritage and how embracing this knowledge can motivate us to make a positive difference in our community. She told me that, “It is such an honor to be placed in the Hilltop which is a charming place of its own. I recognize the beauty, brilliance, grace and elegance of the Hilltop, and of Tacoma too. It’s an honor to do what I do in this community.”

Marcia Tate Arunga, Ph.D., is a 2017 graduate of the PhD Program in Leadership and Change at Antioch University. I read her Dissertation

Conclusion, *Back to Africa in the 21st Century: The Cultural Reconnection Experiences of African American Women* (<https://aura.antioch.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1349&context>) and wanted to start the interview here.

Kristine: Does connecting to the root of your culture help one step out of their personal vision and transform it into a ‘we’ vision and encourage involvement in a social movement?

Dr. Tate Arunga: Yes, because the root and being familiar with the root of yourself is the universal – so everyone can connect with everything and everyone from that place. I think in our culture we are encouraged to be really superficial and stay at the ‘hi how are you I’m

fine’ level of communication - we don’t really get to know more depth like what we have been through or achieved. One of the things that drives me in the scholarly work is noticing how we react to what is omitted or never knew. We live in real confined ways, but can still find how to live in real meaningful ways. We have no idea of what is really available to us.

Evergreen takes what is going on right now around us and studies that: the here and now. It’s a gift to be in an urban center where there is so much life to be examined. It’s time we examine it ourselves instead of letting someone else examine us like a specimen in a jar. It’s time we examine ourselves... it’s time for us.

Continued on Page 9

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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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## The Sankofa Bird: Looking Back To Move Forward

*Courtesy of Evergreen-Tacoma Sankofa News  
Winter Quarter, Issue 1*

By Ashley Jones, Evergreen Student

Evergreen Tacoma is a sacred community that refers to a mythical bird from the Twi language of Ghana, Africa. The Sankofa Bird flies with its feet faced forward and its head turned backwards to secure an egg in its mouth or placed on its back. The word 'Sankofa' represents past, present, and future and is defined as, "Go back for that which you

have forgotten." In specific reference to your education, think of it in this way: your past serves as a guide for planning your future.

By entering the Sankofa community, you must nourish and protect your egg as you prosper through your educational journey. As we continue to navigate a global pandemic, be mindful of this personal process, create moments of reflection and meditation. Close your eyes, take a few breaths, and recite this

mantra: Enter to Learn, Depart to Serve. It will resonate long after graduation.

Watch this Embodying Sankofa TEDxNCState Talks video on YouTube and hear Kamal Bell as he relates his expression of the African word 'Sankofa' (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-RRGDpWVKQ&feature=youtu.be>).

## Join Us

## Hilltop Action Coalition Virtual Weekly Updates Mondays @ 6PM

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



## President's Message

By Brendan Nelson

Hilltop Family,

I am extremely grateful for my ancestors' optimistic attitudes, which were difficult to maintain during extremely challenging times in our history. Optimism and believing that things were going to be better have enabled us to move forward toward change. Our ability to believe in ourselves to overcome adversity has been a strength and testament to our will.

Black History is not just about learning about the challenges we as a people have been through. It is about our ability to have integrity, leadership, and determination in the face of our struggles. Crisis does not necessarily make the character, but it certainly helps to reveal it. Adversity creates strength in character and determination. A lesson to learn and

celebrate as we chart our continued progress.

Black History month provides us with a moment to celebrate and rejoice in the tremendous changes we have experienced. At the same time, we must recommit and learn from our past as to what has worked successfully so we can clearly identify what we still need to do. We want to take our rich history and reach beyond to inspire the next generations to continue to create and sustain positive change.

As the President of a non-profit that serves such a diverse community, I am wholeheartedly determined to effect positive change. We must demand equity for all – regardless of race, ethnicity, different abilities, sexual orientation, or family composition. Hilltop Action Coalition is deeply committed to helping sustain a resilient community with socially just housing, jobs, commerce, and quality of life. I look forward to working with

residents, partners and other leaders to help us fulfill our mission.



Love and Light,

Brendan Nelson  
President, Hilltop Action Coalition

## HAC Collaborates With Evergreen Tacoma

*Purposeful collaboration to provide information, opportunities and resources for empowering Hilltop community members.*

You may have noticed in the past, HAC and Evergreen-Tacoma collaborating together to provide meaningful events and opportunities for families on the Hilltop. We've had our Hilltop Neighborhood Clean Up events in the Evergreen-Tacoma parking lot for years. In October 2019, Brendan Nelson and Dr. Tate Arunga, Dean of Evergreen, took it a step further. Dean Tate Arunga opened the doors for HAC to use their auditorium for a Hilltop District 3 Candidate Debate. A lot of folks were unsure of who to vote for (Councilman Keith Blocker and David Combs) so this opportunity ensured community members got their questions answered in an open forum prior to the election.

Last year in 2020, the Hilltop Clean Up had curbside pickups due to COVID-19 restrictions. Evergreen

and HAC saw the need for community COVID-19 testing and partnered with Pierce County Health Department to bring free drive-thru style COVID testing in August and October. The use of Evergreen-Tacoma's parking lot for community space is not new to the Hilltop College. They have many community events open to the public; however, due to COVID restrictions, events and activities have gone virtual.

Evergreen-Tacoma is a community serving school that strives to provide students with an education and mind set to go out into your neighborhood and make a positive change. HAC and Evergreen-Tacoma share the same mission: empower Hilltop residents. Brendan and Dr. Tate Arunga both agree that their is strength in partnerships that benefit everyone in the community. They also agree

that you have to look back in order to move forward.

Taking a look at local, Tacoma Black History makers makes us look back and reflect at where we were, who moved us forward, what actions brought about our current conditions, and how to engage in a positive, uplifting plan that leaves no one behind. Instead of a one day Black History event, Black History on the Hill was envisioned as creating a month long series where we can explore and talk to local history makers and Black folks making a difference in our community today.

Each Monday at 6PM in Feb during the HAC Virtual Weekly Updates via Facebook Live, Special Guests from Evergreen-Tacoma share Black History and inspiration. Look for more collaboration between HAC and Evergreen in 2021!



## HAC Virtual Weekly Updates

*Community Updates & Special Guests!*

*A casual, fun, community centered meeting space.*

Meet Brendan Nelson, Alyssa Torrez, and Michealea Lemons, HAC Board Members and your Hosts for HAC Virtual Weekly Updates! Join us each Monday at 6:00 PM via Facebook Live during the COVID-19 pandemic. HAC Monthly Community Meetings will return once we can meet in person again.

Your Hosts will share community updates and local events for the

Hilltop Neighborhood. They also have Special Guests each week that will provide you with empowering information that we hope will improve your quality of life.

All virtual meetings are recorded and available to view on the HAC Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition> and click on the Videos tab.

HILLTOP ACTION COALITION EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE TACOMA

# BLACK HISTORY ON THE HILL



**Karen Vargas**  
Evergreen Student  
Founder and Director of  
Living Life Leadership  
Living Arts Cultural Heritage Center



**Dionne Bonner**  
Evergreen Student  
Community Artist



**JOIN US!**  
**HAC VIRTUAL WEEKLY UPDATE**  
**FACEBOOK LIVE**  
**MON, FEB 22ND AT 6PM**



## Evergreen State College, Tacoma Now A 4 Year Institution!

*Enter to Learn, Depart to Serve.*

By TaRessa Stovall

Great news! The Evergreen State College Tacoma Program has grown from a two-year to a four-year institution. This means that students who are high school graduates or have completed GEDs and have less than 90 credits may qualify for admission and earn their BA degrees. Our program is a full-time course of study that combines group work and independent projects for 16 credits a quarter.

From its beginning in 1972, Evergreen State College, Tacoma has been a nexus for community activists playing a key role in the Hilltop's resurgence. Our Program founders longtime Tacoma resident and Evergreen faculty member Dr. Maxine where Evergreen, Tacoma has grown from a handful of students meeting in the founder's home in the Hilltop Neighborhood to more than 100 students and a permanent building on 6th Avenue.

At Evergreen Tacoma, our motto Enter to learn and depart to serve reflects our social justice theme and our roles as both scholars and practitioners. Our students—who we like to call learners—are coached and grounded in a practice of community building through dialogue, listening and participant observation. And they actively contribute to the spirit, growth and direction of the program as it evolves.

Our learners are diverse: the average age is 37, 74 percent are women, 64 percent are People of Color, and a third of those are African American. They have gone on to a variety of graduate schools and careers. And many Tacoma residents have taken their places as leaders in the region and continue to influence the growth of 21st-century Tacoma.

Evergreen Tacoma is very accessible. Our online application

process is free, and at around \$8,500 per year (tuition, books and fees), it is affordable, with financial aid available to qualified applicants. To apply, be prepared to submit past transcripts, current FAFSA information and resumes, and application.

At Evergreen Tacoma, we have an annual theme and common readings for all students. These are planned during our Lyceum, a weekly gathering of the student body and faculty. Lyceum sessions are followed by seminars where our stellar faculty lead students who work in small groups to discuss and deliberate relevant topics. Students also select courses related to the learning community's annual theme, which cover a variety of academic interests such as biology, sociology, cultural and media studies, environmental studies, government and public health, literature and mathematics.

When I studied at the University of Washington, I experienced and noticed the stress of many students wondering how to apply their academic studies to the world around them in creative and meaningful ways. At Evergreen Tacoma, we are committed to helping our students make that vital connection at every point in their educational experience. And our alumni are a constant source of inspiration in the creative ways that they contribute to and improve the world around them.

We are seeking students who are ready to attain their BA degrees through meaningful studies and a relevant program that meets the needs of our society and helps move us towards a better and brighter future. Are you read to join us?



<https://www.evergreen.edu/tacoma>

## Earnest S. Brazill: Living In A Future He Helped Create

*He was the Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church for nearly years.*



Earnest S. Brazill as depicted in the "Get Going" mural by Bob Henry at So 11th ST & MLK Jr. Way.

The following biography is excerpted by Jo Davies from the Tacoma Historical Society publication: **Speaking Out**.

The chapter, "From Crisis to Collective" (14) in *Speaking Out* includes biographies of four leaders of the Hilltop. They came together and managed to calm down the community and avert violence when anger in the Hilltop community came to a head in what came to be known as the Mother's Day Riot in 1969. Subsequently, "they formed the Tacoma Black Collective as a regular opportunity to address the concerns and issues of the Black community. Since 1970, they have met every Saturday, every week of the year. Any Black person may attend to listen and to be heard" (15).

Reverend Dr. Earnest S. Brazil (1910-2000) was one of these leaders. "As pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church for nearly 45 years, he not only saw many changes come to Tacoma,

he made many of them happen. ... He fought for businesses to hire Black people, equal opportunity in housing, better treatment from police, and an end to discrimination.

Rev. Brazill set an example of limitless love and generosity for his community. Around 300 people filled his church every Sunday, but he cared for all he met, no matter their faith or color. He mentored young people, tended to the sick, and kept a wallet full of one-dollar bills to hand out to anyone in need. ...He received numerous community service awards and in 2003 the City Council voted unanimously to rename thirteen blocks of South 12th Street, which passes by Shiloh Baptist, in his honor.

Rev. Brazil believed in the Hilltop and Tacoma and never left. He said, 'I never get tired of reaching out. Sometimes, I get tired in the work, but never tired of the work.' He always knew the future held great things for his community."

We are now living in that better future that Reverend Earnest S. Brazil helped create. Rev. Brazil continues to look over those of us on the Hilltop from his place on the mural on the corner of MLK and 11th. The mural by Bob Henry, titled "Get Going" also depicts Alberta Canada, Virginia Taylor and Frank Russel, Hilltop heroes all.

**Speaking Out** and other titles are available from the Tacoma Historical Society for \$7.99. Copies are available at the Tacoma Historical Society Museum, 704 Tacoma Ave. S or to order by mail. Please contact: 21tales@tacomahistory.org. Tacoma Historical Society PO Box 1865 Tacoma, WA 98401

## Nettie Craig Asberry: A Life Of Courage

*Her life is the topic of "A Life of Courage" in Speaking Out (p. 10 - 11).*



"Nettie Asberry in front of her home, 1219 South 13th." <https://tacomahistory.live/2020/09/25/asberry-v-wilson>

The following biography is excerpted by Jo Davies from the Tacoma Historical Society publication: **Speaking Out**.

One of the Hilltop's most notable women was Dr. Nettie Craig Asberry (1865 - 1968). "Dr. Nettie Asberry taught piano to generations of students. ...She earned a Ph.D. in music when few African Americans could attend college due to discrimination, and she worked her whole life against racial inequality. One of her early actions was to challenge a measure against interracial marriage that legislators were trying to pass at the state capitol. As she described her method: 'We had an 'underground' worker there who let us know and, overnight, we got together a caravan of several cars of people of several races - white, colored, Filipinos, and others. We descended on the powerful Rules Committee as a surprise and defeated the measure', ...Dr. Asberry fought against segregation at Fort Lewis and in Tacoma theaters, protested mistreatment by store and restaurant workers, and wrote

many letters to the newspaper to argue against discrimination" (Dorr 10-11).

Her letter of protest against the film "Birth of a Nation," published on August 13, 1916, is "one of the most important documents in Tacoma's civil rights history. It reflects the sharp mind and social conscience of a woman very much in tune with her own time and place but with a forward gaze that reaches us today" (Asberry vs. Wilson). Read more about this particular incident on the Tacoma Historical Society website: [tacomahistory.live/2020/09/25/asberry-v-wilson/](https://tacomahistory.live/2020/09/25/asberry-v-wilson/).

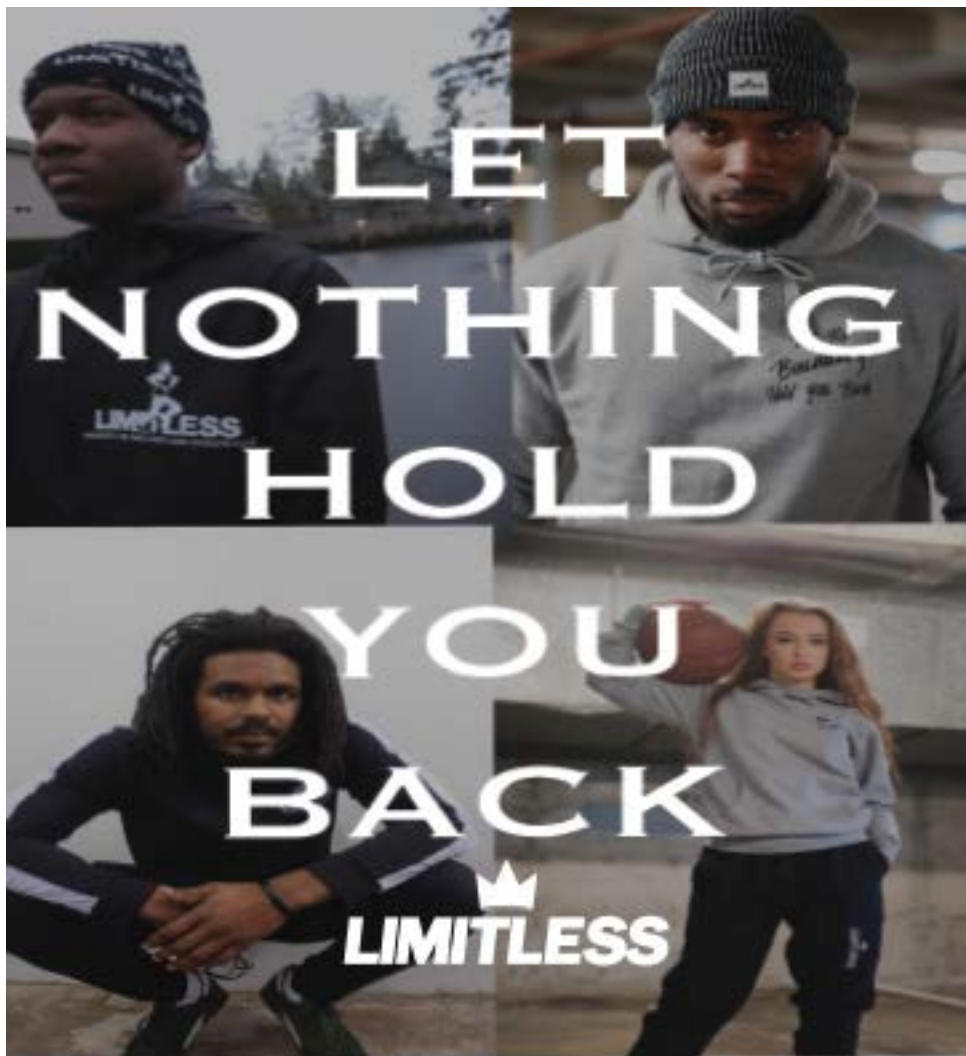
The *Speaking Out* biography concludes: "She knew solving the problems of our society would take longer than her lifetime, but she never gave up. When interviewed at age 96 she insisted that, 'courage is the saving grace in this tense world racial situation'.

Dr. Nettie Asberry's courage to fight for what she believed in should inspire every generation of Tacoma citizens."

To insure that she will continue to inspire Hilltoppers, Historic Tacoma, Forterra NW, and the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation have joined with the Tacoma City Association of Colored Women's Club to preserve the Asberry house at 1219 S 13th St. In a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion the equity policy initiative in Governor Insee's proposed budget will include funding for the acquisition of her home. For more information about the preservation project, please contact the Tacoma City Association of Colored Women's Club, <http://tcacwc.org/>. There's a great deal more to know about this remarkable woman: the essay by Mary T. Henry on [Historylink.org](https://www.historylink.org/File/8632) <https://www.historylink.org/File/8632> is a good place to start.

\*Dorr, Katherine. *Speaking Out: Twenty One of Tacoma's Social Justice and Civil Rights Champions*. Tacoma WA, Tacoma Historical Society Press, 2018.

**Speaking Out** and other titles are available from the Tacoma Historical Society for \$7.99. Copies are available at the Tacoma Historical Society Museum, 704 Tacoma Ave. S or to order by mail. Please contact: 21tales@tacomahistory.org. Tacoma Historical Society PO Box 1865 Tacoma, WA 98401



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Dr. Nettie J. Asberry is an African American pioneer of Tacoma painted by Dionne Bonner and is part of the "A Pioneering Spirit: A Fight for Liberty and Freedom" exhibit currently on display. See page 6 for more details.



## Maxine Mimms, “My Life is Education.”

*Touchable, by Karen Vargas, continued from Page 1.*

The anticipation is palpable as the crowd rises to catch a glimpse of her. The P.A. system throbs with booming beats to introduce the guest of honor at her 90th birthday party.

Dr. Maxine Mimms descends the stairs, surrounded by an entourage, and advances regally with a sparkling cane. She wears a huge white-brimmed hat decorated with cowrie shells. With a proud smile and grand wave, she meanders through the crowd, greeting old friends, touching children. Smartphones held high capture her charisma.

Widely known in African American circles, Maxine Buie Mimms is an educator and counselor who works with schools all over the United States—globally, too, including her friend Oprah Winfrey’s Leadership Academy for Girls in South Africa. She is best known, however, for her work as founder of The Evergreen State College’s Tacoma campus. “Mimms is a feisty and outspoken academic whose unorthodox style has often ruffled feathers in the placid Pacific Northwest,” *Essence* magazine wrote in 1997. “Yet her provocative educational philosophy has also produced results.” When a visiting historian read her that line, she smiled and chuckled: “Put that in there. I would like that for my tombstone, too!”

In a cottage at water’s edge in rural Mason County, she often receives visitors. She is a teacher, a preacher and a healer. Her one-bedroom home serves as both classroom and sanctuary. It’s filled with African art, artifacts and photos. A slew of awards hide in the bathroom, perhaps so they won’t intimidate visitors. She may

be flamboyant, but she is humble. Dr. Mimms has been on a mission to serve her whole life. She sees no reason why 90 should slow her down. “This phone rings 24/7,” says Isa Nichols, her confidant and dear friend. “She is solving the problems

of the world sitting in that chair.”

Maxine Mimms joined the faculty of the fledgling Evergreen State College in Olympia in 1972. The innovative liberal arts school had opened the previous year, just four years after Governor Dan Evans and legislators signed off on legislation that recognized a need for a state college in the South Sound area. A huge cohort of Baby Boomers were departing high schools. Leaving tradition behind, Evergreen caused a stir by not giving traditional grades, gauging achievement instead with in-depth narrative evaluations. It prides itself on interdisciplinary courses that combine academic departments. Clearly, it was born out of the 1960s. The students it attracted proved it.

“When I got down here it blew me away it was so white,” Mimms remembers. “I had just left Washington, D.C., and I almost had a heart attack. I couldn’t believe I had participated in that much whiteness and that much clear blackness—and then come down here. They had green hair. They had on robes. They had dogs. I had never seen anything like that in my life. It’s the best thing that ever happened to me because Evergreen helped me to grow up and mature and not be so judgmental. When you’re confined you can be judgmental about stuff you don’t even know about.”

Mimms was commuting to the college’s sprawling Cooper Point campus from Tacoma, which at the time had two respected private colleges but no public institutions with affordable tuition other than community colleges and trade schools. “Every bone in me would resist,” she remembers. “My soul was crying and sad because I was not able to work with people whose skin color looked like mine.” There she was, a self-described “middle-class African American woman, Southern-bred,” bringing her skills and body to “a



*Dr. Maxine Mimms, Dr. Joye Hardiman, Dr. Gilda Sheppard and Dr. Marcia Take Arunga at Evergreen State College Tacoma. Photograph courtesy of Evergreen State College Tacoma.*

European model” college. “I couldn’t do it.”

While eating at Browne’s Star Grill on MLK Way in Tacoma, she overheard two women talking about “a horrible woman” who left to teach in Olympia when she should be teaching her own community. Mimms approached them. “They were two black women. One had a child with sickle cell anemia, and she was wondering how she would ever be able to go back to school with all the responsibilities she had. These women had been saying there was no one in Tacoma in the four-year education system who would help people like them.”

She knew what she had to do. Starting in 1972, Dr. Mimms and her neighbor, Dr. Betsy Diffendal, began teaching in their homes. Mimms would start her instruction in Tacoma at 5 a.m., leave for Evergreen at 8 and work in Olympia until 5. She kept up that schedule until 1984 when she started teaching full-time in Tacoma.

Mimms would instruct students any way she could, anywhere she could, with whatever resources were available. Students registered for school in Olympia but she held classes in Tacoma. “That’s how I hid the students, because if I had gone and asked permission and worked with committees to start a campus it would have never happened. I’d still be meeting committees. They came to my house every day. They brought their husbands and their children, their books and supplies. We filled up every chair and sofa in the living room. Sometimes there were 15 around the dining room table.”

In 1972, Maxine Mimms joined the faculty at The Evergreen State College. She remembers the educational climate like this:

The State of

Washington wanted a new school, but it wanted a site-based satellite of the University of Washington. And at that time you certainly were not going to be able to do the traditional departments—the traditional academic disciplines. A lot of people don’t understand one of the reasons it’s such a great school is that it was able...to look at social justice as a part of the curriculum, no matter what discipline. And it gave an expansive image to the way you can change problem solving. So you had art teachers in the physics department, or you had physics people in the sociology. You’re trained in education to be separate. That’s why you have departments, and you have a whole language of those departments. So you’re not able to talk other than at some cocktail party and pretend that you are interested in that person’s project. Evergreen stopped all of that. We had to talk—not because of, in spite of. And you had to begin to learn as grownups how to model collaboration and not competition. And that’s why Evergreen is suffering now because we’re back in the world of competition, and “How will we win?” And the aggression is huge. Students of color are beginning to be caught up in “it’s better to win and be competitive rather than be collaborative with shared dialogue and move social justice and liberation along.” It’s a challenging time in the world right now. It’s a good time to be alive.

By 1983, Evergreen Tacoma was seeking formal status. It boasted 150 graduates with bachelor’s degrees from its informal campus. Dr. Mimms’ philosophy has remained steady throughout: “If we could just understand we are all different, but we are all geniuses. The need to recognize that within our own community there are people who think like Plato, paint like Picasso and meditate like Buddha.”

Evergreen’s Tacoma campus has awarded 2,706 degrees since its inception, a number Mimms had never heard until a historian for the Office of the Secretary of State mentioned it. She paused to savor the statistic. “Almost 3,000 and I have lived to see it!” she declared with a grin. “I never asked for a number because I never wanted to know. You must remember what white people do with statistics. They use it as data, and then they can be against something else. I can start competing with this entity and that institute and lose sight of where I am. When you start working with data you can begin thinking data and statistics are evidence versus the content of the

human character.”

The Tacoma campus’ motto remains: “Enter to Learn, Depart to Serve”. In 2018, the average age of Evergreen Tacoma students was 38. graduating. Though working adults, they are still required to attend school full time. “I don’t like part time,” says Dr. Mimms. “I don’t encourage it. I’m from the generation where I like to stretch myself—stretch cognitively as well as physically. When we reduce our philosophy to part time, we produce a bunch of lazy people.”

She had an awakening in her mid-70s when she traveled to Kenya for two weeks on a Cultural Reconnection mission. She went back six more times. Dr. Mimms had been to Africa as a tourist, but this trip was designed to immerse her in Kenyan culture. “It wasn’t a trip. It was an experience. It changed my life,” she says emphatically. The mission’s goal is to forge friendships through deep conversation with Kenyan colleagues. The African American participants encounter “a piece of their ancestral homeland” and come away with “stronger sense of self.”

Watching the elders in Africa impacted Dr. Mimms’ own ideas around aging. “In Kenya, elders are not accommodated when they board a bus or walk long distances. Yet they don’t complain. In fact, many live with joy.” She says elders are “inconveniently independent,” suggesting that this might be a better model for aging here as well.

Dr. Mimms’ message for educators today is this: “Have joy in the design to make people continue with hope.” She believes the future of education is in field trips and getting children out of the classroom, interacting with one another. There has been talk about renaming Evergreen Tacoma in honor of Dr. Mimms. She is reluctant, saying she doesn’t need the recognition. Her legacy is carried on by keeping the campus funded. She’s nervous that adding her name would dilute the mission. “This is in our hearts,” she said. “A building could go and close up forever, but a Tacoma campus will always be here. No one will ever take it away. And even when I die I’m coming back to make sure of it.”

Read the full story on *Maxine Mimms, “My Life is Education,”* by Karen Vargas, at <https://www.sos.wa.gov/assets/legacy/sixty-eight/maxine-mimms-profile.pdf>.

Read the other remarkable stories from Legacy Washington and 1968 The Year That Rocked Washington at <https://www.sos.wa.gov/legacy/sixty-eight/>.



**EVERGREEN TACOMA ALUMNI PRESENTS:**

**Dr. Maxine Mimms  
Founder's Day  
Virtual Birthday  
Social**



**MAR 2ND 2021, 7:00PM-8:30PM**

[HTTPS://EVERGREEN.ZOOM.US/MY/LYCEUM](https://evergreen.zoom.us/my/lyceum)

**Come join us to celebrate and get social with the founder of Evergreen Tacoma Dr. Maxine Mimms, Tacoma Alumni Chapter President Donna Griffin, Evergreen Tacoma Dean Dr. Tate Arunga and of course fellow alumni.**



**For more info please contact Jasmin De'Armond at [jasmin.d@evergreen.edu](mailto:jasmin.d@evergreen.edu) please fill out the form at <https://bit.ly/SankofaAlumni>**

# Dr. Dolores Silas, 1st Black Woman on Tacoma City Council

The following biography is excerpted by Jo Davies from the Tacoma Historical Society publication: *\*Speaking Out*.



Perine, Drew. "Dolores Silas is seen here in 2002." News Tribune file photo, 2002. The News Tribune, 1 Feb. , 2021, A1.

By Jo Davies

The **Speaking Out** chapter titled *"Bringing a Neighborhood Back to Life"* features Dr. Dolores Silas.

"When Dr. Dolores Silas moved to the Hilltop in 1953 from Seattle, Tacoma gained a woman who would become one of its first Black teachers, its first Black school principal (DeLong Elementary) and the first Black woman on the City Council in 1991. She worked with the NAACP, which elected her its president in 1978, the Hilltop Multi-Service Center, the Urban League, the Black Collective, and the Human Rights

Commission.

Dr. Silas had a vision for the rebirth of Hilltop as a model of people with different income levels living side-by-side, reclaiming the streets, and encouraging local businesses. Reflecting on her service as the first Black woman on the council when she retired, Dr Silas noted, "It was important for the citizens of Tacoma to see me sitting up there. ...I'm someone for the youth to see and say, *If she can do it, so can I.*"

...The benefits Dr. Dolores Silas brought to the Hilltop that have made the neighborhood better have made the city better for

everyone" (Dorr,33).

Tacoma continues to recognize the contributions of this remarkable Hilltop elder. In 2019, she was recognized with a Lifetime Service Award and now it has been recommended that Wilson High School be renamed Dolores Silas High School. The School Board will be voting on the name change at its meeting on February 11th. Stay tuned!

\*Dorr, Katherine. *Speaking Out: Twenty One of Tacoma's Social Justice and Civil Rights Champions*. Tacoma WA, Tacoma Historical Society Press, 2018.

Freedman, Deb, and Michael Ann Konek. *Leading Ladies: Twenty-One of Tacoma's Women of Destiny*. Tacoma WA, Tacoma Historical Society Press, 2019.

**Speaking Out** and other titles are available from the Tacoma Historical Society for \$7.99. Copies are available at the Tacoma Historical Society Museum, 704 Tacoma Ave. S or to order by mail. Please contact: 21tales@tacomahistory.org. Tacoma Historical Society PO Box 1865 Tacoma, WA 98401

THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE-TACOMA

Celebrate

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Shining a Light on History in the Making

COVID-19

FRIDAY, FEB 19<sup>TH</sup>, 12 - 1:00 PM

Leah Ford

Health Promotion Coordinator  
Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept

<https://evergreen.zoom.us/my/lyceum>

sponsored by The Evergreen State College Office of Inclusive Excellence & Student Success

# The Glory of Tacoma: Music in the Northwest

Explore Tacoma's diverse musical history with the Tacoma Historical Society and find out about two new exhibits.

By Tacoma Historical Society

The Tacoma Historical Society is delighted to announce the opening of our latest exhibit, "The Glory of Tacoma: Music in the Northwest" which explores the many facets of Tacoma's diverse musical history. Building on research conducted by Kim Davenport for the latest in our 21 Tales book series, which will be released in conjunction with the exhibit, THS Curator Elizabeth Korsmo has pulled together a broad range of artifacts which shed light on Tacoma history through the lens of music. This exhibit is generously sponsored by Ted Brown Music.

We also have two other exhibits on display in our new, larger museum space at 406 Tacoma Avenue South. "A Pioneering Spirit: A Fight for Liberty and Freedom" explores little-known facts about local history through written biographies and a series of larger-than-life oil portraits of African American pioneers by Tacoma-based artist Dionne Bonner. We are proud to also display our "Dreams That Matter" exhibit, which honors people from throughout Tacoma's history who have worked for social justice and civil rights.

Pandemic restrictions are currently such that we must require you to make an appointment to schedule your visit - but we have made it easy to do so! Visit our website at <https://www.tacomahistory.org/current-exhibit> to learn more about the current exhibits, and then visit <https://calendly.com/tacomahistory> to sign up for a time for your masked visit to explore Tacoma history!

Hours for museum tour appointments are Wednesday-Saturday, 11am-3pm. For questions, please email [communications@tacomahistory.org](mailto:communications@tacomahistory.org), or call (253) 472-3738.



Local Hilltop Artist  
Dionne Bonner



John Conna is an African American pioneer of Tacoma painted by Dionne Bonner and is part of the "A Pioneering Spirit: A Fight for Liberty and Freedom" exhibit currently on display.

# Black Voices

from Tacoma's Musical Past

BLACK HISTORY Month

## Black Voices from Tacoma's Musical Past

Thursday, Feb 18, 2021 from 6-7:30PM

In this presentation, Tacoma music historian Kim Davenport will share stories of black musicians from Tacoma's past who left an important legacy in our city. Some made Tacoma home while others were merely guests for a time, but all added to the artistic vitality of our community while confronting the realities of discrimination. The presentation will include historic photographs, as well as both historic and new audio.

Registration for this virtual event is now open! Visit <https://tacoma.bibliocommons.com/events/60199ce41679542f00c09e64> to reserve your spot.

Once registered you will receive a link to the ZOOM via email room approximately one hour before the event.

Presented in partnership between the Tacoma Public Library and Tacoma Historical Society, with support from Tacoma Creates.

# Dr. Joye Hardiman Embraces Lifelong Learning

Connecting with Community, by Mary Cogger, continued from Page 1.



Dr. Joye Hardiman

A place “where when you walked down the street you were everybody’s child... a family place.” “The Hill reminded me of home. It felt like home.” She found an activist community in the Black Collective and the Nation of Islam, and veterans who had seen other places, had global connections, and were “more open”. And, Dr. Hardiman found a college dedicated to working to connect with the community.

When she came to Tacoma, Dr. Hardiman wanted to work in “my

own community. I have to return my skills to work with people who look and think like me.” In Olympia Hardiman taught theatre. Dr. Maxine Mimms, founder of the school to become Evergreen Tacoma was a mentor and friend of Dr. Hardiman. Mimms who had co-founded Evergreen Tacoma advised Hardiman to change disciplines. Theatre would continue the stereotype that African Americans only know how to sing and dance. Undeterred, Ms. Hardiman went back to school to earn her doctorate in Ancient Egyptian Literature.

Dr. Mimm’s vision for the first public university in Tacoma in 1973 was to provide education to adults who thought college wasn’t for them. She envisioned a place on the Hilltop where the college was closely connected to educating and serving the community. A place where staff and students worked closely together. The motto of Evergreen Tacoma became “Enter to Learn, Depart to Serve.” The mission of the college attracted Dr. Joye Hardiman who worked tirelessly with Dr. Mimms and other faculty members to realize the vision.

Dr. Hardiman set goals for her time at Evergreen. In the beginning the Evergreen Tacoma campus moved

many times. Dr. Hardiman worked with others to design a permanent building which was completed in 2001. Dr. Virginia Taylor from the college insisted that a solid campus be built to serve as a beacon on the hill. Dr. J envisioned a project to connect students and the community. She designed a project and procured grants from The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation and The Paul Allen Foundation to design and paint a mural following the Ndebele tradition. With Dr. Hardiman’s support, students and faculty researched what connected topics and issues would best symbolize the positive attributes of Hilltop. The Ndebele artists and Evergreen students then transformed information into artwork. “The Ndebele Wall painting Project is dedicated to inclusivity and to the diverse cultural groups that contributed symbols, reflecting the values we all hold in common.” (<http://archives.evergreen.edu/webpages/projects/wallpainting/ndebele.htm>)

Besides establishing the physical identity of Evergreen Tacoma, Dr. Hardiman helped develop a strong infrastructure which was not driven by one personality. She collaborated on developing the Evergreen’s values system, its branding, and rituals. It

was of primary importance that those with disabilities, women, and Black and Brown people not only be included, but thrive and graduate. She aimed for 500 success stories, but accomplished many more. Hardiman saw a strong curriculum to prepare students for graduate school. One thing she would ask students is “What will you do after you graduate?” Further education was highly recommended.

During her time at Evergreen Dr. Hardiman was a Faculty member and acted as Executive Director for 18 years.

Dr. Marcia Tate Arunga, current Academic Dean of ET spoke highly of Dr. Hardiman. Arunga called Hardiman an “icon”. Hardiman went far beyond her job description. “She knew how to advise and support students, not only teach.” She used all her resources to empower Evergreen students. One time a student wanted to wear Afro-centric clothing to a job interview. She was invited to Dr. J’s house and loaned the clothing. That young woman is now a lawyer. Dr. Hardiman worked with many Evergreen staff to make the college more than a school; students and staff collaborated to become a strong community.

Dr. Hardiman wrote that she has “retired” and begun new careers four times during her seventy-five years. She is a passionate, energetic lifelong learner. After retiring from Evergreen Tacoma in 2018 Hardiman has not slowed down. She took a year off to adjust and decide on her focus for the next years. Currently she is writing another book, *The resurrection of Truth From the Chains of Slavery*, scheduled to be released next fall. Dr. Hardiman envisioned a project name Hardiman House. She saw a place with evening soirees and conversation. A place of learning and community. A place to share her African artwork and artifacts. Hardiman House is designed as an urban sanctuary to expand the mind, feed the spirit, and restore the soul. When COVID restricted meeting in person, she began the YouTube channel “Let the Ancestors Speak.”

(Watch here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRIno4IL8XM>).

When Dr. Hardiman speaks of herself she says she is appreciated by many for her listening, synthesizing, and energizing skills. On the YouTube production Reflections: My 2020 I Am Statement, she says, “I take as my sacred duty to restore that which is in ruins and make it more beautiful than before, to resurrect truth from the chains of falsehood, and to applaud the sunrises that come after sunsets.”

Hilltop is changing again. Facing gentrification and displacement of low-income residents. Many including Dr. Hardiman are concerned. How can the best parts of the Hilltop culture survive? Forterra bought the Rite Aid property in Hilltop and is working with community members to collaboratively design a mixed-use building as a chance to preserve Hilltop for the community that has long called it home. Design the Hill and fab 5 have been meeting with Forterra and Tacoma Housing Authority. The goal is “A community development initiative through which historic Hilltop residents reclaim physical, economic, civic and cultural space to abolish displacement, transform vacancy and waste into agency and opportunity, and redistribute power in community development and city planning.” (<https://www.facebook.com/events/259382655807195/>) Dr. Hardiman is currently working with this project. She sees her role as support for the next generation of artists and activists. The Dr. told me of the importance of elders. She stated, “Step out of the way and train someone to take your place.”

Dr. Hardiman has been and invaluable asset and advocate for in the Hilltop over 40 years. She has shared her passion, deep knowledge and activism in developing community. Hardiman continues to be an active pillar of the Hilltop community. This brief article only scratches the surface. If you want to know more, search the internet and YouTube.

THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE-TACOMA

BLACK

HISTORY

MONTH

Shining a Light on History in the Making

BLACK CULTURE

FRIDAY, FEB 26<sup>TH</sup>, 12 – 1:00 PM

**Charlie Parker, M.A.**  
Executive Officer  
of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion  
Pierce College

**Dr. Valerie Hunt**  
Associate Vice President  
for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion  
Seattle Central College

introduced by **Dr. Therese Saliba**  
Interim Vice President  
Inclusive Excellence and Student Success  
The Evergreen State College

<https://evergreen.zoom.us/my/lyceum>

sponsored by The Evergreen State College Office of Inclusive Excellence & Student Success

## Wheedle's Groove

SEATTLE'S SACRED SOUL OF THE 1960S AND '70S



THE BOARD THAT BECAME A LIFE BY STANLEY WALKER. PRODUCED BY STANLEY WALKER, MARY HOLLAND, AND MICHELLE WATSON. COMMUNITY BY STANLEY WALKER, MARY HOLLAND, AND MICHELLE WATSON. STYLING BY MICHELLE WATSON. THANKS TO STANLEY WALKER.



FEBRUARY 10 & FEBRUARY 17 | 5-7PM  
THE PATIO AT ALMA MATER  
1322 S FAWCETT AVE

# Black History During February And Beyond

*The Washington State Historical Society presents From Migration to Mark Making: George Bush, Jacob Lawrence, and the Impact of Black Pioneers in Washington State - free in a Facebook Live program on February 23 at 6:00 PM.*

By Julianna Verboort, Marketing & Communications Director for the Washington State Historical Society

Washington State Historical Society (WSHS) is featuring two free online lectures to celebrate February's Black History Month, and is also working with an advisory committee to implement Washington Black History Project initiatives that will educate and enlighten throughout every month of the year. (Find more information about the Washington Black History Project initiatives at <https://www.washingtonhistory.org/heritage-resources/washington-black-history-project/>.)

From Migration to Mark Making: George Bush, Jacob Lawrence, and the Impact of Black Pioneers in Washington State will be presented free in a Facebook Live program on February 23 at 6:00 PM (<https://www.washingtonhistory.org/event/black-history-is-washington-history/>). Tune in for lively and informative conversations between Jason Turner, museum educator at the Northwest African American Museum; Gwen Whiting, lead exhibitions curator at WSHS; Leslie King-Hammond, a Jacob Lawrence scholar and founding director of the Center for Race and Culture at the Maryland Institute College of Art; and Beth Turner, author of Jacob Lawrence: The American Struggle. One of the first nationally recognized Black artists, Jacob Lawrence taught at the University of Washington and lived much of his life in Seattle. His works are held in prestigious museums

across the U.S. and internationally. George Bush was the first Black pioneer to settle in what is now Washington, and his migration is the subject of a series of paintings by Lawrence (commissioned by the State of Washington and held in the Washington State Historical Society's collections). This program is presented in partnership with the Northwest African American Museum and sponsored by KNKX.

"African American history in the state of Washington is extensive, abundant, and empowering," said LaNesha DeBardelaben, executive director the Northwest African American Museum in Seattle and advisory committee member for the WSHS Washington Black History Project. "The remarkable legacies of Black luminaries George Bush and Jacob Lawrence, in particular, are full of inspiration. Their achievements and creativity have made our state a better and more beautiful place for all."

Beyond these two lectures in February, Washingtonians can look forward to additional Black history projects coming online through WSHS.

"As twenty-first century thinkers, we recognize that Black history is Washington history. It's not something to be relegated to a one-month focus, but rather is and has always been all around us," said Mary Mikel Stump, audience engagement director at WSHS. "Our Washington Black History projects will bring additional focus to this important history in our state."

In 2020, WSHS received state funding to research, explore, share and celebrate the history of Black Washingtonians. WSHS convened an advisory committee to lead the process, and together they have developed a scope of work and objectives for the Washington Black History Project. As a result of the committee's guidance, a new monument will soon be placed on the Capitol Campus in Olympia to recognize and honor pioneer George Bush and his son Owen Bush who became the first Black legislator in Washington.

A Washington Black History App is also in progress. The app will be free, accessible to anyone via the internet, and downloadable to smartphones. WSHS and the advisory committee are working with Dr. Maurice Dolberry, an educational consultant who earned a PhD in education from the University of Washington, to create content for the app. Dolberry's vision for the app is that it will focus not just on famous Black people and notable sites in Washington, but rather educate about actions and impacts, and ripple effects across generations. Each person, place, or moment explored on the app will open the door to additional stories, and those will branch even further. Educational curriculum for grades 4, 7, and high school will be developed in connection with the new app.

To keep up with the Historical Society's programs and future exhibitions, explore [www.WashingtonHistory.org](http://www.WashingtonHistory.org).



**From Migration to Mark Making: George Bush, Jacob Lawrence, and the Impact of Black Pioneers in Washington State - A free virtual vent on February 23rd at 6PM on Facebook Live @HistoryMuseum (<https://www.washingtonhistory.org/event/black-history-is-washington-history/>).**

Celebrated artist Jacob Lawrence is one of the first nationally recognized Black artists. Lawrence painted George Bush, the first Black pioneer to settle in what is now Washington, and his migration in a series of paintings held in the Washington State Historical Society's collection. This program is presented in partnership with the Northwest African American Museum (<https://www.naamnw.org/>). Courtesy of Washington State Historical Society.

**Litter Free 253**

**Celebrate Earth Day by Cleaning Up Litter in Tacoma!**  
Register Now! [bit.ly/LitterFree253](http://bit.ly/LitterFree253)

**City Wide Clean Up Event** ● **Sat. APRIL 17 2021 | 9AM- Noon**

Register now to find a litter clean up site in your community and sign up to pick up litter! Gloves, bags, hand sanitizer will be provided. Facial coverings and social distancing measures are required.

More info: [www.WashingtonHistory.org](http://www.WashingtonHistory.org) REGISTER AT [bit.ly/LitterFree253](http://bit.ly/LitterFree253) | [facebook.com/LITTERFREE253](https://www.facebook.com/LITTERFREE253)

## Litter Free 253 Making Clean Fun On April 17

*It's time for Spring Cleaning on the Hilltop!*

By Jo Davies

Litter Free 253 (LF253) is coming to our Hilltop Neighborhoods on April 17th, 2021, and you, your family and your affiliates will want to be part of the HAction. LF253 is a city-wide event sponsored by the City and your Neighborhood Councils (Central Tacoma and New Tacoma). On April 17th folks will gather at designated sites at 9 o'clock and be issued gloves and trash bags to go forth to collect litterbug litter (fast food trash, chip bags, candy wrappers, drink containers, etc.) that accumulate on our streets, curbs, and sidewalks. Impromptu encampment debris and garbage is not part of this cleanup effort.

It's easy to join in, either with a team or as an individual. Register on-line at <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/71702598621235001/false#/invitation>.

Litter Free 253 shopping bags will be provided for the first thousand participants - each Council District will have a limited number of free litter-grabbers to distribute (it would be great if you could bring your own). So gather up your family, your friends and neighbors, your club members and church groups, your work buddies and service club. Make a date and sign up today to be a part of the second annual Litter Free 253 event on Saturday, April 17th.

Check out Litter Free 253@Litter-Free253 Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/LitterFree253>. For more information, please email [litterfree253@gmail.com](mailto:litterfree253@gmail.com).

### LF253 Press Release

Welcome to the second CITY-WIDE Tacoma litter pickup event\*, made possible by a grant to the West End Neighborhood Council. Form a workplace, community group, school, or neighborhood team (& give your team a fun name!) - OR sign up as an individual or family.

Who can fill up the most trash bags with community litter? Prizes and giveaways will be awarded to the City's top litter-picker-upper, so we welcome a competitive spirit at this fun outdoor community event. We hope you will participate to make this city-wide litter pick-up event a tremendous success. We all win with a beautiful, clean Tacoma! Register today at <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/71702598621235001/false#/invitation>.

\*LitterFree253 will follow all COVID-19 public health guidelines as an outdoor event with social distancing & facial coverings required. Stay on top of all the latest details by going to <https://www.facebook.com/LitterFree253>.



## Dr. Tate Arunga: Going to the Root of Who We Are

*An interview with Dr. Marcia Tate Arunga, continued from Page 1.*

**Kristine:** Do you think White people should also look at their heritage and culture to find out their own personal roots and truth?

**Dr. Tate Arunga:** Absolutely! All Americans are from 1st 2nd, 3rd, 4th or more generation immigrants.... unless you are Indigenous American Indian, your family heritage came from somewhere else. Everyone that came to the United States traded in their heritage and experienced a cultural immersion that turned us into becoming American. Yes, everyone, even white people, should find their cultural roots. It's not about black and white, but, who do we come from? Where are our people? Your heroes and villains come out of your own family's history. Even as a black woman, I have light skin. I would ask my mom, "Why do we have light skin?" I was told it was 'native blood'. I checked out the history of enslavement and the mixing of racial blood. Apparently, you could fetch a better price for the lighter skin. These were actually grades based on the color of your skin where lighter skinned people worked inside the house and the darker skin people in the fields. Fast forward to 2021, we are reeked with colorism ... eventually everyone will be mixed with something. So, if we knew about our blood history, we would be more patient with one another. Right now, we are stuck in black and white binaries.

Dr. Tate Arunga's research was a longitudinal study started in 2000 that centered around the questions, What part of African American women is African? Because she lived in Africa for 11 years and was immersed in an African society, she thought it would be interesting to take people back to their ancestral homeland so they can look in a mirror and learn from the experience. She said we need, "to find our culture and strengthen it, for our children and grandchildren will be clear about where their roots are."

**Kristine:** What were some of the key changes and new capacities you experienced after coming back to America?

**Dr. Tate Arunga:** I think the first thing is how living in Kenya was a beautiful experience, people were in admiration of African Americans – it was very affirming as an African American Woman. I had a lot of beautiful things to focus on: as an artistic director, a teacher, a business woman and as part of a family I found that people shared more widely because of my African American status. After coming back to the states, I was starkly made aware of

racism....this is the box that is made for you. The construct was immediate, and it was harsh the way people related to me compared with my lived experience in Kenya. Coming back was not about economic change but about a caste system – I saw that everyone was in it - unspoken rules – it was interesting to see it with a returning set of eyes. I was making African clothing as my business and teaching people about the culture I learned about before I started teaching in classrooms.

**Kristine:** We discussed Cultural Reconnection AAKEWO, which is an organized delegation of women of African ancestry who went back to Africa to get reconnected to their African ancestry (<https://sites.google.com/site/culturalreconnection/vision-and-planning-team>). Dr. Tate Arunga organized each trip. We talked about how they learned from one another during this cross cultural experience. She told me there were many women groups and that they had a national network for sending messages throughout the country: it only took 3 hours without phones or technology for everyone to have the message (2 million women in this group). So, how did they do it?

**Dr. Tate Arunga:** In Africa, they used the African drum or some unspoken medium of culturally intimate communication. The African drum is analogous to our Chitterling or Chitlin Circuit in the USA, which is a means to relay information from one to another without technology. The Chitlin Circuit is how we shared information about our Black entertainers and athletes before it reached mainstream media when I was a child because this information was not available to mainstream news. Black people would talk after church or other gatherings to catch up and hear the latest. Another example of cultural intimate communication is how the African drum which is used to send messages (drum messages were not allowed in America). If you don't have technology, our senses are open to be tuned to other things we were not aware of.... that's what going to the root of who we are is about. We have so many parallels in our African American culture.

**Kristine:** In 2010, Dr. Tate Arunga published a book, *The Stolen Ones and How They Were Missed*, available on Amazon (<https://www.amazon.com/Stolen-Ones-They-Were-Missed/dp/B005Z7DU9Q%3FSubscriptionId%3D0JRA4J6WAV0R-TAZVS6R2%26tag%3Dworldcat-20%26linkCode%3Dxm2%26camp%3D2025%26creative%3D165953%26creativeASIN%3DB005Z7DU9Q>).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFyJLKhltU>). You can watch her tell about when she first heard about *The Stolen Ones* in a short video called, *Marcia Tate Arunga - Cultural Reconnection 2009*, (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFyJLKhltU>). While you were in Kenya, did people discuss stolen family members?

**Dr. Tate Arunga:** Yes, it happens on many fronts. The book describes one where an elder was trying to piece together who they were. One example is when I first arrived to Kenya. I attended a funeral for a relative. The man who had just lost his wife was crying and sobbing when he saw me and asked who I was. Hearing that I was from the African American people, he stopped crying and smiled saying, "Welcome back you know this is your home."

Maxine Mimms and Dr. Joye Hardiman were mentors to Dr. Tate Arunga and helped her with her research. In 1979, Tate Arunga met Hardiman who introduced her to Mimms. Then, she moved to Africa and lived there for 11 years and had 4 children. Her husband is from Kenya – they met at UW Seattle. When she came back to the U.S., she reconnected with Hardiman and Mimms. Mimms had started Evergreen State College Tacoma in her kitchen beginning with 6 people. Dr. Hardiman was recruited to work at Evergreen Tacoma in 1972. Evergreen began in a Puyallup Indian House; then moved to a space with The Urban League; was moved again to MLK Jr. Way in Hilltop; and then to its current location at 1210 6th Ave. On July 15, 2019, Dr. Tate Arunga became the first Dean of Evergreen's Tacoma program (<https://www.evergreen.edu/magazine/post/evergreen-names-new-dean-for-tacoma-program>).

Dr. Tate Arunga holds her BA degree in Sociology, her MA degree in human development and her PhD in organizational leadership and development. Recently, she described how she began her human development lesson by discussing the American life span from childhood to adulthood. "Being an adult in America is 18 (so kids can go to war); in Ethiopia, the Oromo people practice the ancient Gadaa culture where a child is a child until age 24. The reasoning behind this is that the brains cranium closes at age 24 and you can make decisions that are more rational. The Ethiopians have had this tradition for thousands of years."

She mentions, "what's beautiful about Evergreen Tacoma is the diversity. The voices of people get strong when they go back to their



Photograph of Dr. Marcia Tate Arunga courtesy of Evergreen State College Tacoma.

community. It's a humanitarian issue...while we are living on this earth. Being forced to meet with people who are different than us, we learn that we have similarities, and it breaks down personal bias so we can connect and work together for better solutions. It removes systemic barriers too." We both agreed that diversity should be a part of early childhood education. If we have diverse friends at an early age, we learn to appreciate the differences and embrace one another as human beings, rather than with a colorist lens.

Evergreen serves non-traditional students with an average age of 38 with some college background. They ask their students to ask themselves, "How are you growing your

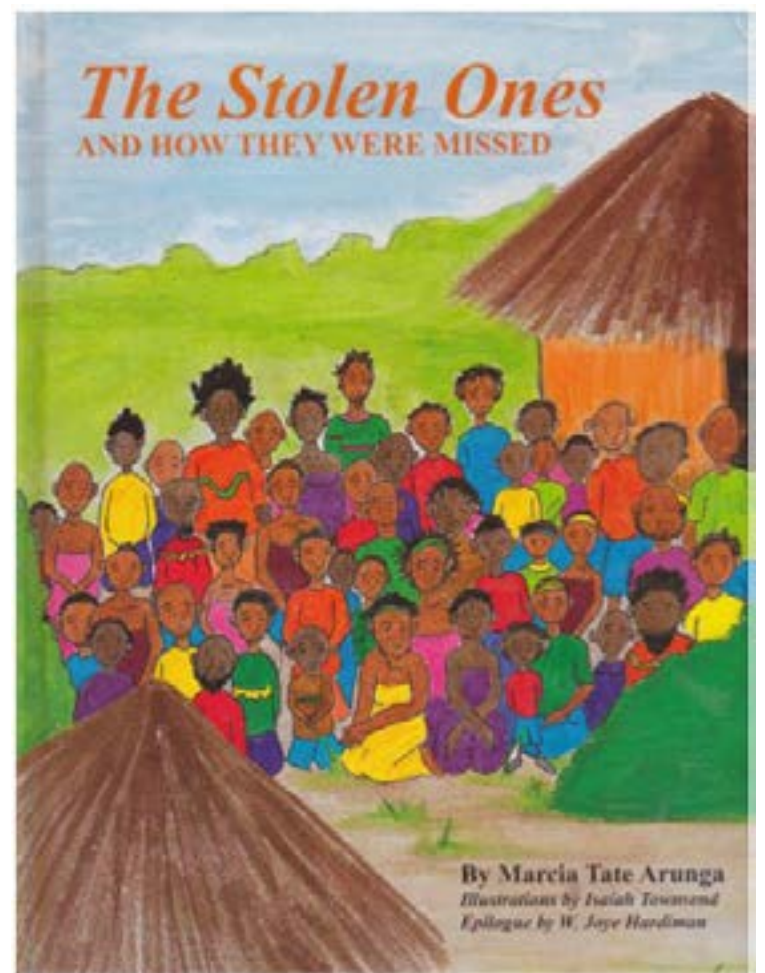
community? What skills can you take from your Evergreen educational back to your community to really make a difference?" Evergreen's liberating education is more than employment - it offers a self-determined liberating aspect towards life. Students are known for being trouble shooters, creative thinkers, team players and problem solvers. They know how to move projects from beginning to their final conclusion. A Student leaving Evergreen Tacoma will have a network already built, interacted with, and studied. "That's the goal," said Dr. Tate Arunga, "to see this as a runway to take off and you intend to make a difference when you go back to your community, and return with a game plan."

### *The Stolen Ones and How They Were Missed*

By Marcia Tate Arunga, Author & Isaiah Townsend Illustrator

An allegorical tale about a girl who was stolen from her African home to serve the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and was missed by her family and village. Order your copy on Amazon at:

<https://www.amazon.com/Stolen-Ones-They-Were-Missed/dp/B005Z7DU9Q%3FSubscriptionId%3D0JRA4J6WAV0R-TAZVS6R2%26tag%3Dworldcat-20%26linkCode%3Dxm2%26camp%3D2025%26creative%3D165953%26creativeASIN%3DB005Z7DU9Q>.



**HILLTOP ACTION COALITION**

**HAC VIRTUAL WEEKLY UPDATE**

**Mondays at 6:00 PM on Facebook Live**

**HAC will be holding Virtual Weekly Updates each Monday at 6PM until COVID-19 precautions are lifted.**

**HAC Monthly Community Meetings will return when in person meetings are available.**

# Shiloh Baptist Church Wins \$50,000 Evergreen Options Grant For Solar Project

*On a grassroots level, Shiloh wants to inspire other churches and community organizations to go Green and use collaborative planning to positively impact their future. "Installing solar in this way is a grassroots solution to the impacts of climate change, while investing in local facilities that are the backbone of this neighborhood." ~ Pastor Gregory Christopher*

By Julie Sallenbach

Shiloh Baptist Church is leading the charge toward a renewable energy future for Hilltop. The church was awarded a \$50,000 grant from Tacoma Power's Evergreen Options program to build a solar project that will cover more than half of the church building's electricity use.

The Hilltop community will soon get to experience and learn about solar energy firsthand.

"For many of our members, investing in solar at their own homes is unrealistic," said Gregory Christopher, the pastor of Shiloh Baptist, Tacoma's most widely attended African-American church. "Installing solar in this way is a grassroots solution to the impacts of climate change, while investing in local facilities that are the backbone of this neighborhood."

Funding for the project comes from Tacoma Power customers who voluntarily elect to pay as little as \$3 on their bill each month to buy electricity produced from renewable sources like wind and solar. Funds from the elective Evergreen Options program are also used to offer local non-profits grant money to build a custom renewable energy project that allows the organization to generate a

portion of their own electricity.

Each year, the grant awardees are chosen by Tacoma Power customers who participate in the Evergreen Options program. Most recently, those voting customers chose Shiloh Baptist as the 2020 winner of the Evergreen Options grant.

"We love this program," said Steve Bicker, Director of Customer Energy Programs at Tacoma Power. "The Evergreen Options grant provides a platform for collaboration among customers, the community, non-profit service providers, and the utility that results in a cleaner and healthier environment for generations to come."

Sphere Solar Energy, the only minority-owned solar contractor in the region - was chosen by Shiloh Baptist to lead the project. A start date is not yet known, as project details are still being decided upon.

To watch the progress of Shiloh Baptist's solar project, see how you can support renewable energy development through Evergreen Options, or learn about how other organizations can apply for the 2021 Evergreen Options grant, check out <https://www.mytpu.org/community-environment/clean-renewable-energy/evergreen-options-program/>.

By Sedonia Young & Kristine Coman

Shiloh Baptist Church is the recipient of Tacoma Power's Evergreen Options Grant. It will use \$50,000 to construct a 19.78-kilowatt solar photovoltaic installation that will reduce one of the church's largest expenses: electricity for power and warmth. I had a chance to speak with Sedonia Young and Marsha Hopkins to find out how Shiloh plans to showcase their actions and how it relates to climate change impacts on their community.

For Shiloh Baptist, the electric bill is one of their major expenses. It was easy to see the benefit of installing solar energy; After the first year, it would generate enough solar power to reduce the bill by \$950, offsetting 90% of the building's electricity used, pre-covid. If electric rates rise in the future, so would the amount of savings. But Sedonia explained that it was not just the reduction in the utility bill that got their attention but also using this as an educational opportunity. They have arranged for the builders and contractors to provide educational classes and training so youth and the community can get involved. This is where we are at and where we need to go - educating youth to go into the new energy field, which is our future. "The goal is really to increase meaningful and inclusive engagement that removes barriers to participation that may arise due to race,

color, ethnicity, religion, income or educational level. Communities of color need to get involved with determining our destiny."

On a grassroots level, Shiloh also wants to inspire other churches and community organizations to go Green. Pastor Gregory Christopher is the Tacoma Ministerial Alliance president, so Shiloh tries to lead area churches with new ways of addressing community needs. Especially regarding environmental equity - testifying and letting the state know what our needs are paramount. If you look at the \*Environmental Health Disparities Map, we need resources and money to help us deal with these issues. Solar energy used to good-paying in-state jobs strengthens our communities and expands a clean energy industry. In Tacoma, solar may act as a hedge against hydropower supplies, which may become more unpredictable as our planet warms and snowpacks feed less water into our rivers.

Shiloh Baptist Church contracted with Front and Centered to help the congregation understand the impacts of environmental justice and health solutions in the community. They held two workshops, and one of the main things that came up was that we, as a community, do not receive information on what is going on and the opportunities available. There are more resources out there, and we need to get involved to know what is out there and how we can benefit from what is available. Shiloh Baptist members appreciate Front and Centered for coming into the community and encouraging them to step outside the box and aim high. Sometimes you need someone outside of your network to objectively tell you, "Yes, you can do

this." Front and Centered organized great environmental workshops and were good with virtual meetings too. Sedonia shared that, "We thank them and Spark Northwest for their work assisting us with our grant application's many technical details."

Even though Shiloh Baptist Church won the Tacoma Power's Evergreen Options Grant, they are still looking at other ways collaborative planning can positively impact their future. They just had a session last month about transportation regarding equity in access and public participation in permitting decisions. The train is going in on Martin Luther King Jr. Way, but they were not involved in the planning process. How will it displace homeowners in that area? Will people in the neighborhood be able to afford to ride the train? Transportation and how it benefits our community need more focus. They will keep the conversation going on this at Shiloh Baptist Church.

For more information on Shiloh Baptist Church, or to find out about the upcoming educational classes and training, visit their website: <https://shilohoftacoma.org>.

\*Environmental Health Disparities Map made available at Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map at <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtn/WTNIBL/>.

You can also take a look at Tacoma's New Equity Index at <https://caimaps.info/tacomaequitymap>. City staff and other decision makers use this tool "to ensure that they are making data-informed decisions that address these indicators and improve access to opportunity for all Tacoma residents." It helps one identify disparity and make sure resources are directed to the appropriate locations.

*"The goal is really to increase meaningful and inclusive engagement that removes barriers to participation that may arise due to race, color, ethnicity, religion, income or educational level. Communities of color need to get involved with determining our destiny." ~Sedonia Young, Shiloh Baptist Church*

## Tacoma Creates 2021-22 Funding Now Available

*Applications are now open for supporting cultural organizations between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.*

*Applications are due in March 2021 - read more to find out how to apply!*

Tacoma Creates is in their second year of funding to support local organizations that work to advance or preserve art, culture, heritage and science. They have two funding categories: Comprehensive Organizational Support and Impact Funding.

The application process is competitive so they are offering application support through free virtual workshops that can aid you in creating a strong proposal. You need to register in advance to attend and will receive a Zoom link by email. You are encouraged to read the complete guidelines before attending so you can have questions to ask and get the most out of the workshop. Each workshop has a presentation with Q&A time at the end.

### Funding Categories

**Comprehensive Organizational Support Funding** can support up to 15% of an annual budget up to \$400,000. Organizations must be a 501(c)(3) non-profit located in Tacoma and provide cultural programs for the public or youth education programs. The deadline to apply is 11:59pm on March 15, 2021. For more information, visit <https://www.tacomacreates.org/comprehensive-organizational-support>.

**Impact Funding** can support organizations with \$3,000 to \$50,000 for a single program or multiple programs. Organizations must be a 501(c)(3) non-profit or

have a fiscal sponsor for funding to support public programs or youth educational programs. Business District Associations and Tacoma Neighborhood Councils are encouraged to apply. To find out more about who can apply for Impact Funding, visit <https://www.tacomacreates.org/impact-funding>.

### Application Workshop Schedule

Tue, Feb 16th from 12-1pm  
Topic: Comprehensive Organizational Support- register in advance at [https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tZcsf-irrjwrE9ONqbQco\\_XGvodJW-ghmbNv](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tZcsf-irrjwrE9ONqbQco_XGvodJW-ghmbNv).

Sat, Feb 20th from 11am-12:30pm  
Topic: Impact Funding for annual

budgets under \$50,000 and/or a plan for a one time program or event- register in advance at

Mon, Feb 22nd from 5:30-7pm  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tZApfuCrpjsqHNYIbO5Cus-FAUjfrYFiv-Iz6%C2%A0>

### Topic:

Impact Funding for all budget and programs- register in advance at

The Tacoma Creates January 2021  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tZwpcumgrTsiHNfD43M-DetJYeL\\_nsPfODpe](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tZwpcumgrTsiHNfD43M-DetJYeL_nsPfODpe)

Newsletter talks about how this funding positively impacts cultural organizations:

*"In our current inaugural year of Tacoma Creates funding, cultural*

*organizations in Tacoma have demonstrated their resilience, creativity, and ability to serve the community in new ways,"* said Lisa Jaret, Tacoma Creates Program Manager. Davon White, Chair of the Tacoma Creates Advisory Board, added, *"Tacoma Creates funds are helping cultural organizations in their efforts to strengthen and empower our underserved communities, and we're looking forward to supporting more vibrant, accessible, and diverse events and education programs throughout our city."*

Visit Tacoma Creates website at <https://www.tacomacreates.org/> for more information about these opportunities.



### 2021 applications are open!

Apply **January 1- March 31** for up to **\$5000** to improve Tacoma's environment and promote sustainability.

### About the Sustainability Small Grant

- Individuals and organizations with Tacoma-based environmental and sustainability projects are encouraged to apply
- Up to \$5,000 of reimbursed funding is available per project
- Projects can be awarded once per year
- Grants are reviewed and awarded quarterly by the Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability and the Sustainable Tacoma Commission

### Project Ideas

- Expand Tacoma's tree canopy by hosting tree planting events
- Create a community garden, food forest or pollination pathway
- Increase environment and sustainability awareness through workshops, conferences, videography, art projects, etc.

### Past grant recipients include

Tacoma Ocean Fest, Rebuilding Together South Sound, Center for Food Preservation Arts, South Sound Green Tour, St. Leo Food Connection - Food Rescue Program, Ferry Street Community Garden, Tacoma Urban League



Center for Food Preservation Arts



Rebuilding Together South Sound



Tacoma Ocean Fest

## City of Tacoma Seeks Proposals for Youth & Young Adult Programs

*Investing in our Youth ensures a better future for everyone.*

The City of Tacoma recognizes that investing in our youth and young adults helps them to become successful contributors to the community. Today, January 29, 2021, the City issued two requests for proposal for programs serving youth and young adults.

The City is looking for community organizations to provide shelter operations for young adults (ages 18-24) and a daytime drop-in services for youth and young adults (ages 12-24), as well as culturally responsive and innovative programs to work with youth and young adults (ages 12-30) on violence prevention.

This is an opportunity to partner with the City to provide foundational support to young adults so they may gain stability and mentorship to become productive community leaders.

For more information about these opportunities, or to attend an upcoming informational webinar, visit the Neighborhood and Community Services website at [https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city\\_departments/neighborhood\\_and\\_community\\_services](https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/neighborhood_and_community_services). To submit a proposal, please visit the contracting and purchasing site. The City will accept proposals for the shelter RFP now through March 2, 2021 and the for the violence reduction RFP now through March 9, 2021.

For more information about the City's Neighborhood and Community Services department visit [cityoftacoma.org/ncs](https://www.cityoftacoma.org/ncs).

### MEDIA CONTACTS

Tanisha Jumper, Media and Communications, [tjumper@ci.tacoma.wa.us](mailto:tjumper@ci.tacoma.wa.us), (253) 591-5152

Megan Snow, Media and Communications, [msnow@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:msnow@cityoftacoma.org), (253) 591-5051

Learn more at:  
[cityoftacoma.org/esgrants](https://cityoftacoma.org/esgrants)

Questions? Contact us at:  
[sustainability@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:sustainability@cityoftacoma.org)



## Metro Parks Tacoma

*Check out Metro Parks activities - from outdoor recreation to online virtual classes - there is something for everyone!*

By Courtney Acoff, Community Outreach & Engagement Specialist for Metro Parks

Metro Parks Tacoma has virtual and in person events for you and your family to enjoy.

### Metro Arts

On Demand Art Classes available for purchase for \$6 so you can enjoy art at home at your own pace and time! Videos may be viewed on any device and will be available after purchase to view 3 times in 30 days. Visit <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/art-video-on-demand>. You can also sign up for virtual Ballet Classes, Hip Hop and Jazz Classes (\$20 for 4 classes) at <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/activities-and-sports/category/metro-arts/dance/>.

### Culinary

Virtual Cooking class: New Year's Resolution Healthy Cooking - sign up at <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/activities-and-sports/category/culinary-cooking1/cooking-virtual/>. Join us for virtual cooking classes, held via Zoom from the Mobile Teaching Kitchen, sponsored by Regence BlueShield. The Mobile Teaching Kitchen is a custom-built, 26-foot trailer featuring room for a group of people to prepare and cook a variety of foods. It was dedicated in March last year and is now used to host virtual cooking classes. Sponsoring the Mobile Teaching Kitchen is part of Regence BlueShield's long legacy of giving back to the communities of Tacoma and Pierce County.

### Outdoor Recreation

Family sledding and snowshoe trips are open for registration. They also have an Urban Hiking Club and Outdoor Adventure Leadership Club. Find our more at <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/activities-and-sports/category/outdoor-adventures/>.

### Camps

Day camps offered at Baker Middle School for kids from Birney, Fern Hill, Larchmont and Stafford. \$200/child, financial assistance available. Day camps offered at Jason Lee Middle School for kids from Bryant, Grant and Lowell. \$200/child, financial assistance available. Visit here for more information <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/distance-learning-camps/>. To find out about financial assistance opportunities, visit <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/distance-learning-camps/> and click on 'Can I apply for a scholarship to participate?'

McKinney-Vento Camps being operated at STAR and People's Center can be checked out at <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/making-a-difference-every-day-for-kids-experiencing-homelessness/>.

### Chip-In Volunteer

Ongoing Saturday volunteer work parties at various parks. Register on MPT website at <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/volunteers/chip-in/>.

For more information about Metro Parks activities and parks, visit <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/>. Feel free to email Courtney at [courtneya@tacomaparks.com](mailto:courtneya@tacomaparks.com).

### Keep Up-To-Date with Hilltop Light Rail Link Construction

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

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



## Keep Safe with Vaccine Information for COVID-19

*Sign up for community vaccination clinic news today!*

By Marcy Boulet, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Do you want to get notified on COVID-19 community vaccination clinic news? Sign-up for health department notifications, and you'll receive an email on what's new with COVID-19 community vaccination clinics! Just fill out our notification form on our webpage and select the topics you want to be notified of. This is the quickest way to learn what's new with COVID-19 community vaccination clinics. Sign up at <https://www.tpchd.org/i-want-to/about-the-health-department/sign-up-for-notifications>.

We're currently in Tier 1 of Phase 1B of Washington's COVID-19 Vaccine Plan (<https://www.tpchd.org/?splash=http%3a%2f%2ffindyourphaseswa.org&isexternal=true>). This means that you can get a vaccine if you are:

- 65 years or older.
- 50 years or older and live in a multigenerational household.

Those eligible in Phase 1A can still get vaccine, too:

- People who work in healthcare and can't work remotely.
- Medical first responders.
- People who live or work in long-term care facilities.

Phase Finder is the best way to learn if you're eligible to receive the vaccine (<https://www.tpchd.org/?splash=http%3a%2f%2ffindyourphaseswa.org&isexternal=true>). If you register with Phase Finder, you will be notified when you can get your vaccine. Please share this information with your networks. If you have any questions or want more information around the vaccine, please reach out to me.

For more information, please visit the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department website at <https://www.tpchd.org/?splash=http%3a%2f%2ffindyourphaseswa.org&isexternal=true>. Read their Flu News and Resources information at <https://www.tpchd.org/healthy-people/flu>.

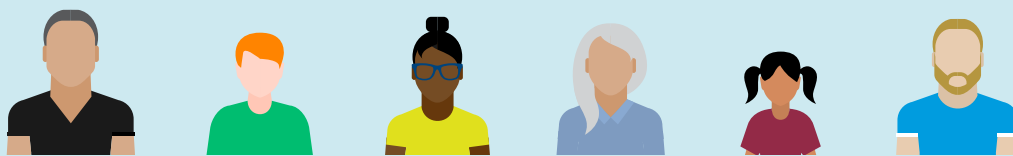
## COVID-19 Vaccine



Our next step to end the pandemic.

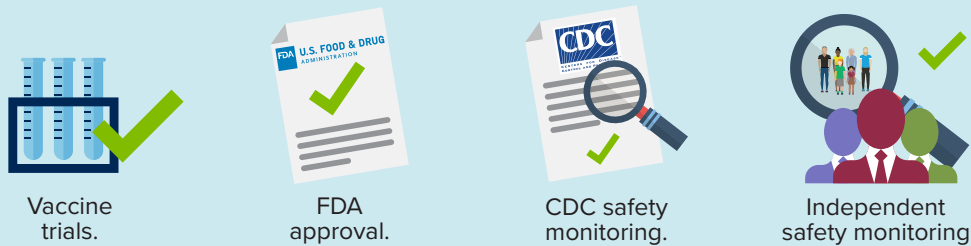
### Why are vaccines important?

Vaccines protect us from diseases like measles, mumps, and seasonal flu. They helped stop the spread of other diseases like smallpox and polio.



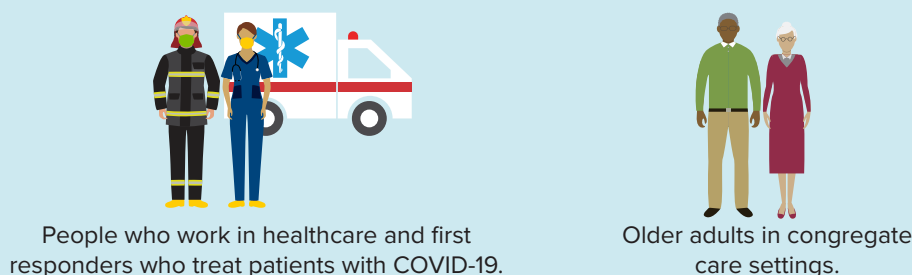
### How do I know a COVID-19 vaccine is safe?

Vaccines must pass tough safety measures before they become available like:



### What happens when a vaccine becomes available?

Initially, supplies will be limited. People at highest risk will receive the vaccine first, like:



People who work in healthcare and first responders who treat patients with COVID-19.

Older adults in congregate care settings.

Learn more about COVID-19 vaccine planning, development and safety standards at [tpchd.org/covid19vaccine](https://www.tpchd.org/covid19vaccine).

## Joy Wilde Selected to Mariners Hometown Nine

.... and will receive a Five-Year Award and scholarship from the Seattle Mariners.

By Perry Newell

The On BASE Hometown Nine is a five-year commitment to nine (9) incoming eighth-graders designed to combat disparate baseball and softball playing experiences for youth of color in our region. Joy is a 12-year old honor student from Tacoma, Washington with a 4.0 GPA. She enjoys playing soccer and basketball, but softball had the greatest impact on her life. Joy was selected to the Mariners Hometown Nine and will receive a five-year Award and scholarship from the Seattle Mariners.

At the age of seven, Joy suffered a traumatic experience that left her with post-traumatic stress disorder. At the age of nine, she started playing softball, which she says gave her strength and courage. "When I play softball all the pain and anger just go away and

it's just me, the ball, and my team," says Joy.

This spring, when the COVID -19 pandemic shut down sports, Joy says she was "devastated and scared" without softball. But she continued to work out and practice her skills to maintain her athletic abilities.

Joy is in the process of publishing an anthology of "stories for change." She created a website so she could get contributors. Please check it out at: <https://www.storiesforequality.com/>.

Joy's thought process was that if her teammates knew how much some of their comments hurt her, they wouldn't say them. "I want to make a place where BIPOC voices are strong and loud." This will educate non-BIPOC teammates so they help create a culture where everyone can shine. "I wanted to publish a collection of 'stories for change' from female athletes

who've battled racism in the sports world."

I know it's not our job as people of color to educate White people about our culture, especially when it hurts so much to recount these experiences, but in participating in this project you will be taking down a piece of the barrier that is shielding racism on sports teams. What if we came together and made something so that future powerful girls of color could fully participate? What if your story made another person think before speaking? It will take too long for White people to figure it all out on their own, and I want to make a difference now. Don't you?

Joy was recently recognized at the City of Tacoma 2021 Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Awards celebration and received the Emerging Leader Award.



Photographs courtesy of Perry Newell.

**"In a racist society it is not enough to be non-racist.**

**We must be anti-racist."**

~ Joy Wilde



## Doodle for Google

\$30,000 Award for Students K-12

By Perry Newell

Doodle 4 Google Competition - Award Amount: \$30,000 – Students in grades K-12 are invited to take part in the contest. From crayons to clay, graphic design, or even food, young artists can utilize any materials to bring their creation to life. Like all Google Doodles, each doodle must incorporate the letters G-o-o-g-l-e. One national winner will also receive a \$30,000 college scholarship.

Use your imagination to create a Google Doodle based on what kindness means to you. Students can work with any materials they want, but all doodles must be entered using the entry form. Parents and teachers can mail us the completed entry form or submit it online as a .png, or .jpg.

The National Winner's artwork will be displayed on Google.com for one day. He or she will also receive a \$30,000 college scholarship; a \$50,000 technology package for their school/non-profit organization; a trip to Google headquarters in California; Google hardware, and fun Googley swag. The four National Finalists, who do not become the National Winner, will have their doodles featured on the Doodle for Google gallery. Each National Finalist will receive a \$5,000 scholarship, a trip to Google headquarters in California, Google hardware, and fun Googley swag. For more information or to apply, please visit the scholarship provider's website at [https://doodles.google.com/intl/en\\_us/d4g/how-it-works/](https://doodles.google.com/intl/en_us/d4g/how-it-works/).

## Interview with a Local Girl Scout

Thoughts and insights from a Girl Scout - speaking truth from the heart about role models, stereotypes and her future.

By Elyse McWilson from Girl Scout Troop 44380

What work have I done with the homeless?

First for my bronze award when I was a junior (5-6 year) in girl scouts we worked with an organization called Birthday Dreams that creates birthday parties for homeless children. Then we worked with the Adams family shelter and the men's shelter in Tacoma, and we made meals for them, and donated girl scout cookies. Also for a summer my mother, sister, and I would buy a full takeout meal from a restaurant and find someone on the street to give a meal to. The summer of 2020 I worked with my church Peace Lutheran and we Visited Hilltop Urban Gardens and they focused on growing healthy food for the local community. And finally I focused my take action project on homelessness and made packages with food, socks, and hygiene products.

Why did I decide to join girl scouts?

In kindergarten one of my friends asked me if I wanted to buy cookies and I said yeah even though I didn't have any money (what little kid doesn't want cookies). Then I asked her why she was selling them and she explained Girl Scouts to me and said that all of our friends were in it. So me feeling left out (and slightly jealous) joined, and I'm glad I did. It gives me so many different opportunities that wouldn't have given it I hadn't joined.

What are your experiences as a leader among your peers?

My first experience was being a Program Aide at camp OH AH LAY LAY and the girls that I was leading in my unit were either my age or one year younger so even though it was slightly intimidating I still had fun. Then a year later I became a Program Aide at Mountain valley community camp and that was the most fun I've ever had. We lead songs and activi-

ties. And all of the girls who were program aides with me were so nice, and the girls that I was leading were nice and fun to be around.

What are my plans for the future?

My plans are to get through high school and move on to college, particularly a historically black college. I have a lot of ideas of what I want to be, but for now I just want to focus on the challenges in front of me, and to do my very best.

Who are your role models?

Mostly my parents, I feel like lots of people have role models that are characters in books and movies and tv shows. but since my family doesn't really focus on being LIKE someone, that helped me figure out my own personality. and in that creating my OWN character.

What was your reaction seeing Kamala Harris run for vice president? And then when she and Biden won?

I was very excited to see a woman and not only a woman but a woman of color. It was very inspiring to see that play out. And then when she WON it was like, "Wow, women are powerful." It was nice to see that people around the United States agreed with me.

Are there any models in popular culture that you, as a young woman of color, have been able to look to?

Definitely Rihanna. She's strong, and her personality shows through all of her work so it's inspiring to see a woman of color who loves to express their opinions, and show their character and personality with no apology.

How has your identity impacted your work?

Some people in the school's administration underestimate my abilities to succeed in my work, but I like when people underestimate me because I love to see the shock on their face when I prove them wrong.



What stereotypes do you have to contend with as a woman of color in your work?

In school I am very outgoing and I love to talk to everyone, but lots of people also stereotype me as the loud, funny black girl. when in reality I'm not an entertainment show. A lot of the time people have stereotyped black people as entertainment (you know, the funny black guy in your favorite t.v. show), but we're more than that, we are smart and strong and we fight for what's right even though it may be a struggle.

## JAMES WALTON: TACOMA'S 1ST BLACK CITY MANAGER

*Today, at the age of 81, Walton continues to inspire change, break predominantly White barriers, and serve his community by joining the News Tribune Editorial Board and other community boards to add ethnic diversity.*



Photograph of James L. Walton courtesy of The News Tribune article: *Tacoma's Jim Walton joins News Tribune Editorial Board* <https://www.thenewstribune.com/opinion/editorials/article245848240.html>

By Aaliyah Walton

James L. Walton is an important and highly involved figure for the Hilltop community. He has a number of great accomplishments, one is, becoming Tacoma, Washington's first Black City Manager. Walton believed that at the local level, change would be better initiated. In his experience, he hated and distrusted government because national legislation, like the Civil Rights Act, didn't change much for him and fellow African Americans.

Walton's mindset for activism completely shifted after he heard of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He began taking community activism seriously and gained a higher platform for his work as a student at Tacoma Community College. There, he was the President of the Obi Society, or the Black Student Union ([https://www.tacomacc.edu/tcc-life/ose/club\\_stories/bsu\\_connects\\_communities](https://www.tacomacc.edu/tcc-life/ose/club_stories/bsu_connects_communities)). His leadership only grew from there.

He was present during the Mother's Day Disturbance in Hilltop, which involved unrest between Tacoma Police and a Black driver and passengers who were stopped on a traffic violation. As tensions rose with community members becoming angry with Tacoma Police Department, Walton de-escalated the situation with the assistance of community leaders. Walton inspired the community to not make the mistake of going on a suicide mission by engaging angrily with the police; but instead, live to fight another day.

After that, Walton helped win concessions from the City Council as the youngest of several other Black leaders in the area. Walton and the other leaders grew to be the Black Collective that still resides in Tacoma today and is led by volunteers (<https://theblackcollective.org/>).

The city government took an interest in Walton and he began to involve himself in the government he once despised in order to help the Tacoma community. Walton went from director of Human Relations in 1970, to Assistant City Manager, then Deputy City Manager, and finally the first Black City Manager in 2003.

Retiring in 2005, Walton continued to bless the Hilltop Community by being one of the six founders of the Community Healthcare Center (<https://www.commhealth.org/>) and being a co-chair of the Hilltop Regional Health Center Capital Campaign. CHC honored him in 2018 with the Humanitarian award.

Today, at the age of 81, Walton continues to inspire change, break predominantly White barriers, and serve his community by joining the News Tribune Editorial Board which lacks ethnic diversity. Walton is also on several community boards, like United Way of Pierce County and Elizabeth Wesley Youth Merit Incentive Award Program.

## OUR SISTERS HOUSE



### About us

Our Sisters' House was founded in 1995 to fill a gap in services for girls of color who were adjudicated in the juvenile system. Today the organization continues to fill in a gap in services for African American women and children who have been impacted and victimized by domestic violence. OSH has 5 programs that address juvenile family violence, children who have witnessed violence, a support group for African American women who are survivors of domestic violence, and advocacy programs that assist women fleeing their abusers. In Pierce County, there are several mainstream domestic violence agencies, but only OSH is able to provide culturally specific advocacy and services to African American women and their families. Our programs New Directions and Stepping Stones are the only programs in Pierce County that address juvenile family violence and children exposed to violence using a holistic approach that involves the entire family with a parenting support group component.

"Black women only make up 8% of the population, however 22% of all homicides that result from domestic violence/ Interpersonal violence happen to Black women, making it the leading cause of death for Black women between the ages of 15 to 35."



### Programs

#### Domestic Violence Advocacy

Onsite family violence advocates are able to assist survivors of domestic violence by providing supportive services and helping individuals navigate community resources in such a way that maintains confidentiality and keeps the family or individual safe. Advocates are able to provide clients with DV education, safety planning, access to resources such as shelter, housing, healthcare, food/clothing, rental & utility bill assistance, or anything that may impede the safety and success of each individual. Gas and food vouchers may be provided based on current availability.

#### Legal Advocacy

Onsite legal advocates can help clients navigate the legal system by offering help with protection orders, parenting plans, divorce/legal separation, assistance with the Address Confidentiality Program, paternity, and court accompaniment. Legal advocates are not lawyers and cannot give legal advice.

#### Confabulation

Confabulation is an online podcast where advocates and guest speakers express their views on current events and topics. We discuss a wide range of issues that deal with politics, social justice, domestic violence, and much more! Check us out on iTunes or Spotify @ Confabulation - OSH. We would love to hear your comments and ideas for topics that you would like to see us discuss.



#### Contact Us

To receive services or access to more information contact us

(253)383-4275



[oursistershouse.com](http://oursistershouse.com)

Our Sisters' House

Our\_Sisters\_House

Follow us for updates on our services & programs

Hilltop Action Coalition & Evergreen State College Tacoma present

## BLACK HISTORY ON THE HILL



Leah Ford is a lifelong Tacoma resident and mother of two. In her work, she puts the needs of those pregnant and parenting at the forefront of her focus, particularly those of color. Leah is a supporter and advocate for those who have been pushed aside and is passionate about creating a better world.



HAC Special Guest: Leah Ford, Evergreen Tacoma Alumni Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dpt. Health Promotion Coordinator II

JOIN US!  
HAC VIRTUAL WEEKLY UPDATE  
FACEBOOK LIVE  
MON, FEB 15TH AT 6PM



# Is This Pandemic Impacting Gentrification On Hilltop Tacoma?

*“It’s not so affordable to the people living there ... because it’s surrounded by this costly real estate, and ... a new sound transit line.” ~ Rebecca Schwartzman*

By Chantel Ross, UWT Student & Reporter

A neighborhood shrouded in a history of racial redlining, violence, gentrification, and now a pandemic. The Hilltop area community has been through quite a bit these past decades. Originally a low-income neighborhood of color, Hilltop residents have developed into a mix of classes and demographics in recent years. However, many Hilltop residences, predominantly minority communities, have felt the impacts of both this pandemic and the growing gentrification that has disproportionately impacted them.

Rebecca Schwartzman, project manager of local Hilltop nonprofit Forterra (<https://forterra.org/>), is working to help combat the increasing number of displaced Hilltop residences. The organization recently bought a parcel of land, in a project to create attainable housing for those in the community who have been displaced. They plan to have around 300 housing units, half designated for renters, the other for aspiring homeowners. Another 50,000 square feet will be allocated for local businesses, to which Forterra hopes there will be a high percentage of businesses owned by people of color.

“We own a city block ... right there in the heart of the hilltop business district,” Schwartzman said. “It was an abandoned Rite Aid building, and one of the city council members, Keith Blocker, came to us back in 2017 and actually asked

us to purchase that land to preserve it from being developed by market reasonable housing ... that would be unaffordable to the community.”

Segregation in Hilltop has not only fueled the racist practice of redlining, but current issues of gentrification. \*Looking at segregation in the Hilltop area over the past 70 years, there appears to be more diversity in different neighborhoods, but neighborhoods specifically in Hilltop have experienced a decline in the Black population, which impacts culture and whose many changes can be felt within the community. (\*<https://depts.washington.edu/labhist/maps-race-tacoma.shtml>)

Historically, neighborhoods within Hilltop were predominantly Black and low income, often more affordable too. But, starting from the 1970s to 90s, Hilltop was known for drugs and violence. Developers avoided this area and focused on other parts of town, those that were seen as “more desirable.”

Once the early 2000s arrived, violence slowed and more developers started to buy up properties. Eventually, longtime residences and local businesses couldn’t afford the increasing costs — 21 years later, and residents are still struggling, but this time through a pandemic.

“At first glance, you think, ‘Oh, well, still affordable,’” Schwartzman said. “But there’s two reasons why that’s not true. It’s not so affordable to the people living there ... because it’s surrounded by this costly real estate, and then this doughnut hole where it’s an ideal location on a new sound

transit line.”

With Hilltop now becoming a desirable place for developers, buyers, and renters, but there are consequences —longtime Hilltop residences are at higher risk of displacement due to the flock of buyers and renters moving in for its slight affordability compared to North Tacoma.

The question now during this pandemic, regarding the fight for attainable housing, is how will gentrification evolve after this pandemic? In all honesty, no one is entirely sure.

“I do think the pandemic is aiding in, not necessarily gentrification, but continued displacement,” Brendan Nelson, the president of the Hilltop Action Coalition, said. We will see individuals and families with nowhere to go because they aren’t able to afford their rent.”

According to Alyssa Torrez, a long time community organizer, believes that this pandemic has undoubtedly let the community to think on where they call home and how to preserve that home. “The pandemic has shifted our focus in a lot of ways and allowed us to think about what we want our neighborhoods to be. And that includes looking at ways to support current residents and keep them here through the pandemic.”

Nelson, also a formerly displaced resident of Hilltop, expressed the importance to listening to the community and building new partnerships. Since the start of this pandemic, the Hilltop Action Coalition has connected with the



Graphic of Downtown Tacoma edited by Chantel Ross.

community through social media and monthly Zoom meetings. “Just because the pandemic is here, things don’t stop,” Nelson said. “You know, there are still families in need, there are still individuals in need. Things will continue to happen, and in fact, it was a challenge for us right when the pandemic first hit pretty much a year ago. We were operating in one way, and we were [so] fine that we were doing great.”

As community organizations push through, state and city officials have been preparing aid for families to assist them through the financial damages of the pandemic. Many are worried about what will happen to those who haven’t been able to pay rent or utilities, and the threat of evictions has definitely been looming over lower income communities.

Washington state Democrats recently proposed a \$2.2 billion \*COVID-19-relief fund allocating at least \$365 million for rental assistance and housing. Also in the plan is \$325 million that will go to rental and utility assistance programs to help local housing providers, and a special \$30 million for an eviction assistance program. (\*<https://depts.washington.edu/labhist/maps-race-tacoma.shtml>)

With the many conversations around assistance for those struggling with housing, Nelson conceptualized the importance of more information than guidance for minority communities regarding access to potential assistance programs.

Looking to the future, it’s hard to tell if this pandemic has sped up the progression of gentrification in Hilltop. What is known, though, is that families are struggling and displaced due to the pandemic and gentrification within their community.

“It’s always been my home,” Nelson said. “It’s always been a very vibrant community, a very culturally centered community ... there was much work being done to make sure we could continue to preserve those things. And of course this pandemic has shaken it up a ton ... [but] we’ve strengthened partnerships during this pandemic, we’ve made new connections. Even though this is a tough time, we have found some bright spots to be able to ensure that our community is still able to thrive.”

Reach Reporter Chantel Ross at [cyr3@uw.edu](mailto:cyr3@uw.edu), Follow Instagram @Rusty\_Ross

**Modern Margins:  
An Exploration  
on Gender**

**Exhibit Apr 2021  
@ Alma Mater, curated by  
Handmade PNW**

Modern Margins (formerly Modern Womxn) is in its 3rd year at Alma Mater’s Milk gallery in downtown Tacoma, as well as online. New and seasoned artists are all welcome! Artists that identify as a marginalized gender (transgender women, cisgender women, transgender men, non-binary folx, Two Spirit and other gender identities facing oppression. Definition via Women for Political Change) are welcome to apply. Supported by a Tacoma Arts Commission grant, there is a modest stipend given to all participating artists. Please contact [handmadepnw@gmail.com](mailto:handmadepnw@gmail.com) with any questions and/or if accommodation is needed to complete the application. Applications are rolling - so apply today! <https://forms.gle/aioSbiaAnPmcu5wL7>

## Green Remodeling

*Green building and sustainable living involves premium building materials and products that create a healthier, more energy-efficient and water-efficient home.*

By Beth Jarot, Resilient & Green Building Specialist, City of Tacoma

So, you’re thinking about remodeling your home or business and want to make sure you’re making the right choices for your health, the environment and your pocketbook. Green or sustainable remodeling is a way to achieve all your goals.

By incorporating green building and sustainable living practices, you’ll provide for your needs now and the needs of future generations.

Choosing green design and construction can increase resale value of your property, save you money through lower operating and maintenance costs, make a healthier home through improved air quality, and it reduces environmental impact by being resource-efficient and minimizing waste.

Green building and sustainable living involves using premium building materials and products that create a healthier, more energy-efficient and water-efficient home. A green home or building uses natural resources efficiently, is high quality, improves human health, uses smart design, and reduces energy and water use.

What should I consider when choosing green? You can incorporate re-used or recycled content into your

project. We have two architectural salvage companies right here in Tacoma – Second Use (<https://www.seconduse.com/>) and Earthwise Salvage (<https://ewsalvage.com/>). You also want to use natural content and/or low toxicity components, and durable and low maintenance products (a product that lasts longer or requires less maintenance saves energy because manufacturing is very energy intensive; no need for re-treatment, painting, etc.; contribute less to solid waste issues). Choosing Green means it is easily reused or recycled, uses energy and water efficient products (including appliances, heating/cooling equipment and windows and doors), and is locally manufactured.

What if I’m not planning a major remodel or building project? You can still have a positive impact by using low- or no-volatile organic compounds (VOC) paint, adhesives and finishes. Using LED bulbs and installing water-saving devices (such as low-flow faucet and shower heads) will also make a positive impact. Try selecting Energy Star® appliances and choosing building materials with renewable and recycled content.

For more information, contact Beth Jarot, Green Building Specialist at [bjarot@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:bjarot@cityoftacoma.org) or 253-208-4351.

## F E B R U A R Y

ALMAMATERTACOMA.COM

**IN THE GALLERY**  
ABOLITION:  
IMAGINING HOW  
WE GET FREE

**ONGOING**  
SWEET NOTES DIY  
CRAFT KITS FROM  
TINKERTOPIA

**SCREENINGS**  
THE PEACE BUS  
FEB 3-4 | 3:30PM

**WHEELLE'S GROOVE**  
FEB 10, 17 | 5-7PM

**THROWBACK  
THURSDAYS**  
FEB 11, 18, 25 | 5-7PM

ALMAMATERTACOMA.COM

## AT THE PATIO

## At The Patio: Art Exhibits & Installations, Screenings, & DIY Crafts To Uplift Tacoma

*Alma Mater continues to operate entirely outside with its outdoor eatery, The Patio. With fully heated and tented seating, Alma Mater is hosting several free events throughout February in its continued effort to bolster the local community.*

With help from Tinkertopia, The Patio is providing free DIY make-and-take craft kits at every table until the end of February, with all the supplies necessary to craft sweet notes and heartwarming letters of love. Free and all ages, people can take these notes home or hang them up at The Patio for the public to enjoy throughout the month.

Several screenings will also be taking place at The Patio: new and locally-produced children's show "The Peace Bus", regional treasure and documentary "Wheedle's Groove", and Throwback Thursdays - a series of weekly screenings to relive past live music performances from Alma Mater's Fawcett Hall.

Additionally, Alma Mater's Milk Gallery will be hosting a month-long exhibit featuring artwork and poetry from youth and young adults in Tacoma, curated by The People's Assembly. "Abolition: Imagining How We Get Free" will be available to view virtually on Alma Mater's website and in-person by appointment (contingent on the state's COVID-19 guidance and mandates).

Month-Long Programs:

- 'Abolition: Imagining How

We Get Free' Exhibition at the Milk Gallery • Tinkertopia Sweet Notes

DIY Crafts at The Patio

Screenings at The Patio:

- Feb 10, 17: Wheedle's Groove
- Feb 11, 18, 25: Throwback Thursdays: Live Music Performances

from Alma Mater

The Patio is open Wednesday through Sunday, from 9am to 8pm. Visit [almamatertacoma.com](http://almamatertacoma.com) for more information on hours, menus, and FAQ.



## Tree Coupon Program

*Want to improve your community and environment? Easy - plant a tree!*

By Arin Lewis, Urban Forestry

Well-placed and well-tended trees can improve community health while enhancing energy savings by moderating air-temperature and filtering pollution out of the air and water. To improve the health of our community, the City of Tacoma adopted a goal of increasing tree canopy cover from 20% to 30% by 2030. The Tree Coupon Program is one way we partner with residential homeowners to achieve this goal. In fact, single family residential properties make up 57% of the land area available to plant within the City of Tacoma. We need more trees throughout our community for the numerous benefits they provide!

Tree Coupons are available October 1 through March 31, 2021 from City of Tacoma at [cityoftacoma.org/treecoupons](http://cityoftacoma.org/treecoupons). Coupons are valid for \$30 off each tree purchased, up to three trees per coupon, at select local nurseries. Trees can be planted on private residential property and/or the right-of-way, such as the planting strips abutting your property. The City mails coupons to residents after they apply through an online request form at the website linked above.

To help reach our tree canopy goal, The City of Tacoma established the annual Tree Coupon Program for Tacoma residents in 2012, which expanded to Pierce County residents in 2014 through funding provided by the Puyallup Watershed Initiative. Funding and support for this program today comes from City of Tacoma Surface Water Utility fees, Tacoma Power Renewable and Outreach program funding, and the Puyallup Watershed Initiative.

At the end of each season, the program is evaluated to reflect on the goals and outcomes of the season. The 2019-20 program made it possible for Pierce County residents to plant

1,421 new trees at 574 households across the County.

Last season, we took the opportunity to survey program participants, whether they redeemed a coupon or not, to learn how we can improve the program in the future. We also aimed to understand barriers that may prevent people from using the Tree Coupon Program to its full value. Summarized survey results are included with our annual report which can be found at [cityoftacoma.org/treecoupons](http://cityoftacoma.org/treecoupons).

This past season, we also took a deep look into the survey and available data to evaluate the equity outcomes of the Tree Coupon Program. Since its first year in 2012, more than half (53 percent) of all coupons requested in Tacoma are from low opportunity neighborhoods (based on the City's Equity Index), however, only 31 percent of trees bought in Tacoma (and presumably planted) were located in these low opportunity neighborhoods. This suggests people in lower opportunity neighborhoods have significant interest in the program, but barriers exist to redeeming the coupon as well as maximizing the number of trees purchased.

One key strategy we've identified to improve access to trees is improving and expanding translation services. If you or someone you know could benefit from language translation services to access information regarding this program, use the translation tool on the City webpage by clicking "Languages" in the top left corner of the webpage and select your preference. Residents can also contact our office for additional translation or language access requests.

The Tree Coupon Program may not be right for everyone, and does not exist as the sole incentive program for planting trees in Tacoma and

Pierce County. You may want to learn more about other programs, such as Tacoma's Grit City Trees free street tree program, the Pierce Conservation District's Urban Tree Sale, and the work of the Tacoma Tree Foundation. For instance, Grit City Trees prioritizes applicants from lower-opportunity areas, provides trees, TAGRO, and other supporting material at no charge. In the case of neighborhood group applications, Grit City Trees even delivers trees and materials directly to the applicant's property.

The City's Urban Forestry program is about connecting people, trees, and community. Improving the wellbeing of our community and environment includes finding ways to make tree planting accessible for as many people as possible. Planting and caring for trees makes a difference, and there are many ways to get involved with urban and community forestry. From applying to incentive programs, to simply having a conversation with your family or neighbors about the benefits of trees - even how you appreciate their tree - our goal is to build connections between people and trees, even before they are in the ground.

\*Tree Coupon Request Form: [https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city\\_departments/environmentalservices/urban\\_forestry](https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/environmentalservices/urban_forestry), click on Tree Coupon Program

\*\*City of Tacoma Equity Index: [https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city\\_departments/equity\\_and\\_human\\_rights/equity\\_index](https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/equity_and_human_rights/equity_index)

Grit City Trees: [https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city\\_departments/environmentalservices/urban\\_forestry](https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/environmentalservices/urban_forestry), click on Grit City Trees  
PCD Urban Tree Sale: <https://www.piercecd.org/409/Urban-Tree-Sale>

Tacoma Tree Foundation: <https://www.tacomatreefoundation.org/>

Reach out to Arin Lewis at [ALewis@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:ALewis@cityoftacoma.org) or call (253) 502-2138.



Photographs courtesy of Arin Lewis, City of Tacoma Office of Sustainability, Urban Forestry.





## Talking With Your Doctor

*Going to the doctor isn't what it used to be. The "good old days" are gone now and there's a whole new way of thinking surrounding the doctor-patient relationship.*



By Bob Riler, Pierce County Aging & Disability Resources, Community Outreach & Education Specialist

It used to be that a patient visited their health care provider and were told their diagnosis, what course of action was needed and what prescriptions to take. That's not happening any longer. Today patients (or their caregivers) are expected to be active participants in the conversation.

"Talking with your Doctor" is an opportunity to learn about the philosophy guiding the medical community today, the expectations that providers have for their patients, and how preparing for medical appointments is more important than ever. The presentation is a collaborative effort with Pierce County Aging and Disability Resources and the National Institute on Aging.

"Most clinicians are under a significant time crunch," said Aaron Van Valkenburg, manager of Pierce County Aging and Disability

Resources. "They can only spend a limited amount of time with each patient. If a patient has not prepared adequately for their visit it could be time wasted for everyone. Knowing exactly how to describe symptoms, the context for an issue and preparing with questions makes a world of difference."

With all that goes on at a visit to a health care provider, it is often recommended to have a second person with you. So much happens so quickly that it's easy for one person to miss important parts of the conversation. In many cases, having a second set of eyes and ears can be crucial to good follow-through. Things to do and not do, things to eat and not eat, prescriptions to take and not take – all this can be confusing, misunderstood or misinterpreted after the fact.

Pierce County Aging & Disability Resources has a free information event, "Talking with Your Doctor" to help you learn to communicate effectively with doctors and other providers. Attendees will receive information about special tools that can help make the most of their

health care visits. The information in the presentation has been provided by the National Institute on Aging, a Federal agency that is part of the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Health and Human Services and the Pierce County Aging & Disability Resource Center.

The presentation is free and open to the public. RSVP is required. A Zoom link will be provided at registration.

The presentation will be offered online twice in February:

**February 18** at 6:30 p.m. Register in advance online at:

[https://piercecountywa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_4X0Y-UzCfQOKMvWPckxfKiw](https://piercecountywa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4X0Y-UzCfQOKMvWPckxfKiw)

Telephone option available at 253-215-8782 or 888-788-0099 – Webinar ID: 913 2484 5538

**February 20** at 10:00 a.m. Register in advance online at:

[https://piercecountywa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_T79F-DkrGTRK6p9nSdGLKg](https://piercecountywa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_T79F-DkrGTRK6p9nSdGLKg)

Telephone option available at 253-215-8782 or 888-788-0099 – Webinar ID: 942 7025 442



## A Proactive Approach to Scams

*An Ounce of Prevention: learn about successful tools that we can all use to remain safe from predatory scams.*

By Bob Riler, Pierce County Aging & Disability Resources



Some days you just want to scream at your telephone or your computer. "How stupid do they think I am?" That's one reaction to scams. But more often than not consumers may not even recognize the truly effective scams. They are that good.

"An Ounce of Prevention: A Positive Approach to Scams" will provide participants the tools and techniques to recognize and prevent scams. The free for all ages online workshop will answer key questions. What are the most prevalent scams today? What can people do to prevent being scammed? What are the best tools to use – both high tech and low tech? How can victims recover from scams?

"It is no secret that we are all being approached more frequently with scams," said Aaron Van Valkenburg, Manager of Pierce County Aging & Disability Resources. "Everyone seems to be receiving more robocalls, e-mail appeals, text messages, social media, voice messages from the IRS, Medicare, Social Security, courts, police and the like. We get them because they are successful. We get them because they work for the scammers."

Scammers are smart. They use the best psychology to appeal to our worries, fears, hopes and aspirations. Hardly a day goes by for a scammer that they aren't successful. They approach people in their teens and

20s because they can be easy prey. They approach seniors because they often have savings. It is essential that people know what's coming and have the tools to prevent becoming victims.

"An Ounce of Prevention: A Positive Approach to Scams" will be presented by Lyn Peters, Director of Communications, Financial Education & Outreach for the Washington State Department of Financial Institutions. Advance registration is required either online or by calling the ADRC at (253) 798-4600.

**March 11** at 6:30 p.m. Register online at:

[https://piercecountywa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_XJTckf6JrmGd1fL247Uig](https://piercecountywa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XJTckf6JrmGd1fL247Uig)

Join by phone at 253-215-8782 or 888-788-0099 – Webinar ID: 944 4755 9156.

**March 13** at 9:30 a.m. Register online at:

[https://piercecountywa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ikeAam9RkS09WVJUQ1XIA](https://piercecountywa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ikeAam9RkS09WVJUQ1XIA)

Join by phone at 253-215-8782 or 888-788-0099 – Webinar ID: 936 6787 6353tJKz5JlvMSQvtQI0xJZusun

Music is universal. Styles may change with time and place, but human beings have always created music for personal expression, communication, and entertainment. Music, therefore, can serve as a lens through which to explore history. What type of music did people make when, and why?

The twenty-one stories in this book do not necessarily represent the most famous or successful musicians ever to create music in Tacoma. They do not give us a comprehensive understanding of any particular musical genre. Rather, they teach us more about the history of the city we live in, through exploring the lives of musicians who were in one way or another shaped by Tacoma.

SOUNDS OF OUR CITY

TWENTY-ONE MUSICAL TALES FROM TACOMA HISTORY

KIM DAVENPORT

PUBLISHED BY  
TACOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESS  
TACOMA, WASHINGTON

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## Tacoma Police & 311

*The 311 system also helps CLOs identify immediate issues that have garnered a large amount of community concern.*



By Captain Shawn Stringer, Community Policing Division, Tacoma Police Department

The Tacoma Police Department recognizes the importance of partnering with the community. TPD's Community Policing Division is one of the largest in the state. The division is currently organized into four policing sectors. Each sector is assigned one Lieutenant and several Community Liaison Officers (CLOs). The mission of the Community Policing Division is to partner with community organizations like HAC, as well as individual community members, to make neighborhoods safer for all residents.

In the past, community members would directly contact a Sector CLO to report neighborhood concerns. As routine personnel changes occurred, it became difficult for the department to provide the most current contact information on a consistent basis. The department also had no way to track how all concerns came in, the status of each concern and final resolutions.

In 2013, the City launched the TacomaFIRST 311 online resource to provide a "one-stop shop" for City services. TPD partners with TacomaFIRST 311 to track all community concerns that come

into the department from outside the South Sound 911 dispatch center. This allows the department to provide the community with one phone number, 311, to reach their area CLO. This has helped CLOs and supervisors track concerns from initial submission through final resolution. The 311 system also helps CLOs identify immediate issues that have garnered a large amount of community concern. In 2019, there were 4,666 community concerns submitted to the TPD Community Policing Division. In 2020, that number increased to 5,281. The 311 system has been instrumental in helping the department track and respond to crime in Tacoma.

TacomaFIRST 311 allows the department to track all concerns that are sent to the CLOs. The system provides department commanders with weekly reports on the status of 311 submissions. Community members with neighborhood concerns, or requests for TPD to attend community engagement events, are encouraged to contact their area CLO through TacomaFIRST 311 by either calling 311 or visiting [www.cityoftacoma.org/tacomafirst311](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/tacomafirst311) online.



CITY OF TACOMA

### RESURGENCE BUSINESS LOAN

UP TO \$25,000

LAUNCHING JANUARY 2021

*In order to help businesses overcome the effects of COVID-19 and thrive, the City of Tacoma will be offering low-interest loans that require no repayment for a year.*



TO REVIEW REQUIREMENTS AND APPLY PLEASE VISIT:

[MAKEITTACOMA.COM](http://MAKEITTACOMA.COM)

Questions? Contact:

**Will Suarez**  
253-591-5590  
[resurgence@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:resurgence@cityoftacoma.org)



The following Community Navigators can provide additional assistance:

- Tacoma Urban League
- Asia Pacific Cultural Center
- Latinx Unidos of the South Sound
- Whitney M. Dixon
- Latino Community Fund



### Community Service Project: Disaster Relief Buckets

Constance Goeke is an AmeriCorps member. As part of her service project, she hopes to create and distribute 80 disaster preparedness buckets to homeowners with an average monthly income of \$1,414. Providing these Disaster Relief Buckets for our neighbors will strengthen our community's resiliency and preparedness.



Still needed:

- solar lights
- first aid kits
- Ziplock bags
- 5-gallon buckets & lids

If you can make a donation by the 3rd week of March 2021, contact Constance at [cgoeke@rebuildingtogetherss.org](mailto:cgoeke@rebuildingtogetherss.org) or 253-238-0977.

For cash donations, visit <https://rebuildingtogetherss.org/donate> Add "For Constance's Service Project"

Community grocery stores donated non-perishable foods

Help improve community resiliency!



# EVERGREEN

THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE-TACOMA

It's a great time to finish college!

email: [tacomaprogram@evergreen.edu](mailto:tacomaprogram@evergreen.edu)  
call: 253-680-3000 (leave a message)

- Currently remote with limited face-to-face interaction
- We are now accepting students with less than 90 credits

Find out how you can finish your bachelor's degree!

**APPLICATION FEE WAIVED!**

Find out more about our program at [www.evergreen.edu/tacoma](http://www.evergreen.edu/tacoma)

## What's Happening

Please visit our website or Facebook to view the entire Calendar.

**All Feb, Wed through Sun** – Tinkertopia Sweet Notes DIY Crafts @ The Patio at Alma Mater 9am-8pm For all-ages arts & crafts. visit [www.almamatertacoma.com/the-patio](http://www.almamatertacoma.com/the-patio)

**Feb 12th, Fri** - Evergreen State College Tacoma: Reparations 12pm-1pm. Black History Month Event Online at <https://evergreen.zoom.us/my/lyceum>

**Feb 14th, Sun** - Free Valentines Day Livestream featuring Sleeping Beauty! 4 PM– 4:45 PM by Dreams Are Forever Events. [https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=906626086743733&id=477585122981167](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=906626086743733&id=477585122981167)

**Feb 15th, Mon** - Black History on the Hill with HAC Special Guest, Leah Ford - HAC Virtual Weekly Update 6:00-7pm at [https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition/videos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition/videos/?ref=page_internal)

**Feb 16th & 23rd, Tue** - Tacoma City Council Meeting with Citizen's Forum 5-7:00pm Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market ST [https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city\\_council/ccmeetings](https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_council/ccmeetings)

**Feb 16th, Tue** - STEAM Storytime: Black Women in STEM 3:30pm from Tacoma Public Library Free! Join us every week for STEAM Storytime! For Pre K through Grade 5. Registration is required: [https://tacoma.bibliocommons.com/events/search?q=steam%20storytime&fq=branch\\_location\\_id:\(BC\\_VIRTUAL\)?fbclid=IwAR19T5NHLBSNNp-2w56ibwOdmAUe105NcdCL8X-890Lr1YaQe5aOuOTEb6NM](https://tacoma.bibliocommons.com/events/search?q=steam%20storytime&fq=branch_location_id:(BC_VIRTUAL)?fbclid=IwAR19T5NHLBSNNp-2w56ibwOdmAUe105NcdCL8X-890Lr1YaQe5aOuOTEb6NM)

**Feb 18th, Thu** - Black Voices from Tacoma's Musical Past 6-7:30PM Event by Tacoma Public Library and Tacoma Historical Society. Free! <https://www.facebook.com/events/403739767554510>

**Feb 19th, Fri** - Evergreen State College Tacoma: Covid-19 - 12-1pm. Black History Month Event Online at <https://evergreen.zoom.us/my/lyceum>

**Feb 20th, Sat** – Black Institutions in Tacoma - A Virtual Exploration of History- 8pm. Free event by Pretty Gritty Tours and Tacoma Historic Preservation. Online: [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/events/326704141977242>

**Feb 21st, Sun** - In Conversation: Introducing The Kinseys at 1pm. Free virtual event by Tacoma Art Museum and Tacoma Museum District. Join us for an intimate conversation between Lyle Quasim Co-Chair of the Tacoma Black Collective and the Kinseys at <https://2513a.blackbaudhosting.com/2513a/In-Conversation-The-Kinsey-Collection?fbclid=IwAR1xGdg1XyHHjTliWsCeHmxxXc0atPC2pmcInXXCwqHm9K5PkmTsa4tYM>

**Feb 22nd, Mon** - Black History on the Hill with HAC Special Guests Dionne Bonner, Whitney Brady and Karen Vargas - HAC Virtual Weekly Update 6:00-7pm at [https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition/videos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition/videos/?ref=page_internal)

**Feb 22nd & 24th, Mon/Wed** – Band of Colors: Self-Scripting: Tell the Story of You 2:30-4:30pm Hosted by Rainbow Center. Sign up for FREE Theatre based classes! Available for youth ages 12-14 & 15-18 years old. Register here: <https://www.rainbowcntr.org/band-of-colors?fbclid=IwAR1GdJwT9nL3IgS4i2IsIqh9pnnFF8w5gfSDP5kMh05xyv6DUOGvD2Pxm5s>

**Feb 23rd, Tue** – Band of Colors: Gonna Be Somebody: Character Building (Ages 9-11 & 12-14, 2 hours) 3pm-5pm by Rainbow Center. Available for youth ages 9-11 & 12-14 years old Sign up for FREE Theatre based classes here: <https://www.rainbowcntr.org/band-of-colors?fbclid=IwAR1GdJwT9nL3IgS4i2IsIqh9pnnFF8w5gfSDP5kMh05xyv6DUOGvD2Pxm5s>

**Feb 25th, Thu** - From Migration to Mark Making: George Bush, Jacob Lawrence, & the Impact of Black Pioneers in WA 6 PM – 7:30PM Free event by Washington State History Museum and Washington State Historical Society at <https://www.washingtonhistory.org/event/black-history-is-washington-history/>

Register for the Virtual Club at <https://www.bgcsp.org/virtual-club>



BGCSPS PRESENTS

## FEBRUARY ESPORTS TOURNAMENT

A one-hour video game competition for kids 4th-12th grade

FEBRUARY 25TH AT 4PM  
VIRTUAL CLUB- TEEN ZOOM LINK

Play video games with your friends and BGC staff!

Register for the tournament by 5pm on February 23rd at <https://forms.gle/jmcnPnLzauUABiuP6>. For the zoom link, register for virtual club at <https://www.bgcsp.org/virtual-club>.

Register for the Tournament at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpOLSF9L5TPbNwmMaHRoZICru3qrwsooY-dLf1\\_9qP7aMoD0qIQIEA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpOLSF9L5TPbNwmMaHRoZICru3qrwsooY-dLf1_9qP7aMoD0qIQIEA/viewform)



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