

# Events & Announcements



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

## Celebrating Our Queens

Toyia Taylor, founder of We.APP (We Act. Present. Perform.) Young Artists Academy, which works with youth to find their voices through public speaking is presented with the Africatown Community Building Award, by Wyking Garrett March 26 at Washington Hall during the “Celebrating Our Queens” Community Builders Brunch. Taylor was among several women and organizations honored including long-time community activist Janet Preston, Melba Ayco, owner of the renowned Seattle dance studio, Northwest Tap; Dolls and Gents Drill Team and Drum line founders Jameelah Cage and Makessa Jackson and a tribute to Vickie Williams, the owner of Lem’s Life Enrichment Bookstore, who died earlier this month.

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cently she was a panelist for the Arlene Schnitzer Visual Arts Prize Jury at Portland State University and a presenter of a Curatorial Slam at the Associate of Art Museum Curators Annual Conference in Houston, Texas.

Blake Shell succeeds Bryan Suereth, Disjecta’s founder, who guided the organization for 15 years at several locations throughout Portland, before it settled into its current home in the vibrant Kenton neighborhood of North Portland.

## Seattle News Briefs

### Seattle Civil Rights Groups to Gather on Anniversary of King’s Death

In commemoration of the 49th anniversary of the assassination of rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a peaceful gathering will take place from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Park, located at 2200 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way South in Seattle.

Featured speakers include leaders of sponsoring organizations who work closely with those impacted by growing xenophobic sentiment and Rev. Dr. Samuel B. McKinney, pastor emeritus at Mount Zion Baptist Church. Rev. McKinney was a classmate of Dr. King’s at Morehouse college and was responsible for Dr. King’s only visit to Seattle in November 1961.

More than 20 organizations representing government offices, faith, labor, communities of color, immigrants, refugees and civil rights advocacy groups have joined together with the Seattle MLK Committee to denounce the recent uptick in hate crimes and overt violence committed in King County, Snohomish County and the continued marginalization of African Americans in all aspects of society, including their own neighborhoods.

### Mayor Murray, City Attorney Holmes Respond to Sessions’ Threats Against ‘Sanctuary Cities’

This week, Mayor Ed Murray and City Attorney Pete Holmes issued the following statements in response to comments made by U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions threatening to withhold grants from so-called “sanctuary cities”:

“Attorney General Jeff Session’s latest threat does not change our position,” said Mayor Murray. “As I’ve said, I’m willing to risk losing every penny of federal funding to stand by our commitment to protect everyone in our community. Attorney General Sessions’ threat to claw back federal funding only strengthens our resolve to fight back. We will keep all our Welcoming Cities policies in place. Attorney General Sessions accused Welcoming Cities like Seattle of

harming their respective communities. However, we are helping those in our community by assisting residents on the path to citizenship and warmly integrating immigrant schoolchildren into our classrooms. But the federal government is intent on driving people underground. If Attorney General Sessions is so concerned about Seattle’s safety, pulling law enforcement dollars from cities nationwide is the height of hypocrisy and makes us less safe. Research shows cities with larger foreign-born populations experience less violent crime. Bigotry, not safety, seems to be at the heart of the White House immigration policy.”

City Attorney Pete Holmes added, “Just like the original executive order targeting so-called ‘sanctuary cities,’ today’s press statements in D.C. provided little if any legal clarity to guide otherwise law abiding Welcoming Cities like Seattle. The Attorney General’s comments appear to be little more than cynical attempts to talk about anything other than Trumpcare or Russia following a bad week for the Trump administration. At the same time, Seattle should know that my office and the Mayor’s Office have been working ever since President Trump’s ‘sanctuary cities’ order was signed to explore all avenues to protect Seattle’s interests, and most of all its values. The City will not be bullied into abandoning its principles. Stay tuned.”

On Wednesday, the city announced it is suing Trump over the order to withhold funding.

### State Senate Confirms New UTC Commissioner

Last week, the Washington State Senate unanimously confirmed Jay Balasbas as commissioner of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission.

Gov. Jay Inslee appointed Balasbas to a six-year term that runs until Jan. 1, 2023. Balasbas joins Chairman David Danner and Commissioner Ann Rendahl on the three-member panel.

Balasbas has been serving as senior budget assistant to the governor in the Office of Financial Management since 2012.

He worked for the Washington House of Representatives in a variety of roles, including senior fiscal analyst, assistant director of policy, and policy analyst. Balasbas also worked for the Department of Transportation.

Balasbas is a graduate of Seattle University and has a bachelor’s degree in political science and master’s in finance.

His first day at the commission will be May 1.

The UTC regulates the rates and services of the state’s investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities, landline telephone companies, solid waste haulers, private water systems and residential movers among other industries.

The agency also manages the state’s pipeline, railroad and intrastate bus and trucking safety programs.

## Community Calendar 2017

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to people and understanding different needs across Multnomah County. Now is the time to share your ideas. Join us to see a draft vision of library spaces! 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., North Portland Library, 512 N. Killingsworth St.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

HELP US PLAN LIBRARY SPACE: As our community grows and changes, the library should change, too. We’ve been hard at work gathering information, listening to people and understanding different needs across Multnomah County. Now is the time to share your ideas. Join us to see a draft vision of library spaces! 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., Midland Library, 805 NE 122nd Ave.

EARTHQUAKE: PREPARE FOR “THE BIG ONE”: Presenter Scott Johnson, emergency management division manager for Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency, will inform us on what to expect and how to prepare for Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake a.k.a. “The Big One.” The one-hour presentation will be offered at 3 p.m. and again at 6 p.m. WSU, Vancouver, Dengerink Administration Building, Room 110, 14204 NE Salmon Creek Ave., Vancouver.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 8

41ST ANNUAL PETER RABBIT BREAKFAST & CARNIVAL: West Linn Community Preschool is hosting their 41st Annual Peter Rabbit Pancake Breakfast and Carnival. We are looking forward to serving over 600 breakfasts as well as hosting a fun-filled carnival, raffle and visits with Peter Rabbit at this annual event. Admission: Adults \$5.00 pre-sale, \$6.00 at the door, Children (3-12) \$4 pre-sale, \$5 at the door. 8 a.m. – noon, West Linn High School, 5464 W “A” St., West Linn.

BROOKWOOD SPRING BAZAAR: Please join us at the Brookwood Elementary Spring Bazaar. We have 80 vendor tables of fun and exciting items. Handmade items, direct sales consultants, food and also door prizes. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Brookwood Elementary School, 3968 SE Cedar St., Hillsboro.

## Seattle Metro

### FRIDAY, MARCH 31

EASTER BUNNY PHOTOS AT TACOMA MALL: Take treasured snapshots with the Easter Bunny. He’ll be waiting for you near JC Penney Court. Simply go to [simonbunny.com](http://simonbunny.com) and reserve your appointment for a photo with the fluffy bunny ahead of time. 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., Tacoma Mall, 4502 S. Steel St., Tacoma.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 1

FREE FORM DANCE: Open free form dance for anybody, any size, any age, any movement ability. People attend this dance ages 5 to 80. \$10 and you can pay at the door. Children suggested donation of \$5. 10 a.m. – noon, Northgate Community Center, 10510 5th Ave. NE.

### WEDNESDAY APRIL 5

PRAIRIE HOUSE MUSEUM KIDS’ DAY! This will be our 27th Kids’ Day! Enjoy life at the turn of the century. Tour our 1890’s farm house and outbuildings, make butter, pop popcorn, see farm animals and so much more! This is a free Kids’ Day event! 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Prairie House Museum, 812 E. 176th St., Spanaway.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 7

FAMILY BINGO NIGHT: Gather your friends and family for our Family Bingo Night at Chambers Creek Regional in University Place. Prizes will be awarded to the winner of each game. \$5 per person. 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m., Environmental Services Building, 9850 64th St. W. University Place.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 8

KIDX CLUB EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA AT THE OUTLET COLLECTION: Children are invited to hop down the connector corridor for the Kidx Club’s Easter Hop with the Bunny. Kids will spend a morning in wonderland enjoying story time with Mother Goose, seasonal arts and crafts and activities, they will also get to meet the Easter Bunny. Each child will also have the opportunity to hunt for Easter eggs filled with special springtime prizes. 8 a.m. – noon, Outlet Collection, 111 Outlet Connection Way, Auburn.

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT: We will have 30,000 eggs, popcorn and drinks for the entire family. We will have specific times for each age group. This is a very popular event. To avoid lines and save time we recommend you to pre-register. Please visit [www.lovebellevue.com](http://www.lovebellevue.com) This is a free event for the children. 3 p.m. – 6 p.m., Lake Hills Elementary School, 14310 SE 12th St., Bellevue.