

# Events & Announcements



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

## Black Lives Matter

Contemporary dancer Randy Ford performed for about 1,000 people attending a Black Lives Matter rally at Westlake Park April 15. On a rare sunny day in Seattle, people listened to speakers talk about economic injustice and unfair tax burden placed on low-income people, especially people of color, before marching to the Federal Court House. The BLM march followed a Tax March held in conjunction with hundreds of Tax Day rallies and marches across the country, held to demand President Trump release his tax returns.

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often silent adversities. These stories are intended to lift the veil surrounding mental illness and start a dialogue toward healing.

Presale tickets are \$15 at <http://www.breakthestigma2017.eventbrite.com> and \$20 at the door.

### SBA Funds MESO \$1,000,000 for Micro Lending

The Small Business Administration (SBA) awarded MESO (Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon) \$1 million in capital to help scale small-businesses that may not qualify for traditional bank loans.

MESO is a CDFI (Community Development Financial Institution), a SBA micro-lender, a SBA Community Advantage Lender (7A) and an Individual Development Account Fiduciary.

MESO is located at 4008, NE MLK Jr. Blvd. with satellite offices in Beaverton, St. Helen's and Gresham. Access to affordable capital can mean the difference between a thriving business that is able to expand and one that is likely to fail. MESO clients often face barriers to accessing credit for reasons such as lack of assets for collateral or a solid borrowing history, insufficient income, and limited business experience. In addition to providing financing designed to overcome credit challenges and help scale client businesses, MESO offers in-depth, customized support for 3-5 years. Services include business planning; small group comprehensive training in: business plan development and implementation, financial literacy, QuickBooks, and social media; industry-specific market research data and direct marketing assistance; Individual Development Account (IDA) funds; and a 3:1 matched savings program.

For more information, visit <http://mesopdx.org/>.

## Seattle News Briefs

### UW Grad School, Alumni Association Present 'History, Conflict and Promise: Civil Rights at the UW' May 3

The University of Washington Graduate School and the UW Alumni Association will present 'History, Conflict and Promise: Civil Rights at the UW,' a panel discussion featuring UW civil rights leaders reflecting on the 1968 student occupation at Gerberding Hall, and the state of the UW's ongoing commitment to equity and justice for all starting at 6 p.m. May 3.

There will be a reception from 6 to 7:15 p.m. in the Walker Ames Room of Kane Hall and a lecture at 7:30 p.m. in Kane Hall 130. Refreshments will include wine, beer and appetizers.

Space for the event is limited. RSVP by April 26, at

[UWalum.com/CivilRightsUW](http://UWalum.com/CivilRightsUW) or by phone, (206) 543-0540.

### Central District Forum Hosts 'Taste of Creativity' May 5

The Central District Forum Will Host 'Taste of Creativity' starting at 5:30 p.m. May 5 at the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center, 104 17th Ave. S.

Taste of Creativity introduces the public to chefs, dessert artisans, cocktail masters and specialty coffee brewers from East Africa and Haiti. This three-course meal prepared by acclaimed Black chefs invites participants on a journey of flavors from across the globe. You'll experience live performances by Kitchen Sessions artists and join us for the opening night of our season's final show, Spiritrials by Dahlak Brathwaite. Your donations will help raise the funding needed to curate the vital programming and rich performances at CD Forum.

5:30 pm - Cocktail Hour  
6:00 pm- Dinner  
8:00 pm- Spiritrials by Dahlak Brathwaite

#### Food:

Appetizers by Tarik ([cheftarik.com](http://cheftarik.com))  
Entree by Pam's Kitchen ([pams-kitchen.com](http://pams-kitchen.com))  
Dessert by My Sweet Lil Cakes ([mysweetlilcakes.com](http://mysweetlilcakes.com))  
Drinks by Damon of That Brown Girl Cooks

#### Coffee:

Boon Boona Coffee by Efrem Fesaha  
Haiti Coffee Co. by David Pierre-Louis

#### Entertainment:

From Kitchen Sessions our curated by Imani Sims Spiritrials by Dahlak ([www.thisisdahlak.com](http://www.thisisdahlak.com))

Tickets are \$100 and are available at [www.eventbrite.com/e/taste-of-creativity-tickets-33301926960](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/taste-of-creativity-tickets-33301926960).

### King County Council Approves Funds to Assist Immigrants and Refugees

The Metropolitan King County Council today approved funding that will invest in the capacity and resiliency of the incredibly important immigrant and refugee communities in King County. The funding will be directed toward programs that inform and support immigrants and refugees on everything from legal resources, outreach efforts to informing them of their rights, and capacity building for community based organizations serving and educating their communities.

In the wake of an increasingly hostile environment at the federal level for immigrants and refugees, King County remains committed to being a welcoming and

## Community Calendar 2017

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**ARBOR DAY - EARTH DAY FAMILY FESTIVAL:** All ages welcome! Kids can grab an Arbor Day passport from a ranger and journey through various eco-stations. Completed passports will be entered into a prize drawing. 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Lewis Creek Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Rd., Bellevue.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 23

**SPRING RESTORATION DAY:** Come join friends and neighbors at this fun day making Volunteer Park beautiful for everyone. No gardening experience needed. Gloves and tools will be provided as well as free coffee and donuts. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Volunteer Park, 1247 15th Ave. E.

### MONDAY, APRIL 24

**POETRY ON BUSES TAKES A POETIC STAND ON WATER:** An expanded Poetry on Buses launches, with an event at Seattle's historic Moore Theater, featuring community poets, live music and dance performances. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and program begins at 7:30 p.m. The event is free and designed for all ages. This year, Poetry on Buses will feature 365 poems published online on King County Metro Transit. Moore Theater, 1932 2nd Ave.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 25

**HELPING YOUR PARENTS THROUGH A LATE- LIFE MOVE:** Helping your parents through the challenges of getting older can be challenging. What documents do you need and how to manage your parents' "stuff." How do you sell your parents' home? Join our experts as we discuss these and other questions. Laurelhurst Community Center, 4554 NE 41st St.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 27

**COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE HOSTED BY NEIGHBORS:** City of Seattle staff will have maps and other information regarding proposed zoning changes to create more affordable housing. All ages are welcome to attend. 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., Hale's Ales Brewery, 4301 Leary Way NW.

inclusive County. Proposed by the Council and County Executive Constantine, the adopted legislation allocates funds, which comes from money unspent in the County's 2015-2016 Budget, to invest in community based organizations serving immigrants and refugees.

The funds will be distributed in three main areas:  
\$300,000 to support organizations that are providing legal aid to the increasing number of immigrants being forced to navigate immigration proceedings;  
\$100,000 to support organizations that ensure culturally accessible, relevant information is readily available - efforts such as holding 'Know your Rights' trainings for interested communities, and learning opportunities for members outside of ethnic communities to learn about the cultures of their neighbors.  
\$350,000 to partner with the Seattle Foundation to develop the "Resilience Fund," a collaborative fund into which other public or private funders can invest to enhance the capacity and resiliency of community based organizations in at-risk communities.

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