

**Events & Announcements**

PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

**MLK Unity Celebration**

Ilyasah Shabazz, an author, social justice activist and the daughter of Malcolm X was the keynote speaker at the City of Seattle's 4th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Celebration Jan. 11 at Seattle First Baptist Church.

**Briefs cont'd from pg 4**

to Bus Project Foundation, City Club of Portland, Elders in Action, League of Women Voters of Oregon, League of Women Voters of Portland, MetroEast Community Media, Northwest Family Services, Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc., Saturday Academy, and Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees.

Grants are awarded to 501(c)(3) organizations whose programs advance civic education and engagement and increase the public's understanding of the justice system.

Criteria for letters of inquiry and more information about the grants program may be found at <http://mbabar.org/foundation/grants.html>. Letters of inquiry should be emailed to [mbf@mbabar.org](mailto:mbf@mbabar.org). The deadline is Jan. 31.

Founded in 2005, the Multnomah Bar Foundation is the 501(c)(3) charitable and educational arm of the Multnomah Bar Association, a professional organization, primarily serving the legal community in the Portland, Oregon metropolitan area. The mission of the MBF is to increase the public's understanding of the legal system, to promote civic education, public participation and respect for the law, to improve the quality and administration of the legal system, and to support programs and projects related to the MBF's purpose.

**Seattle News Briefs****Mayors to DOJ: Rollback of Federal Marijuana Policy is a Misguided Legal Overreach**

Seattle Mayor and former U.S. Attorney Jenny A. Durkan and Denver Mayor Michael Hancock led a letter to Attorney General Jeff Sessions criticizing the Department of Justice's misguided rollback of the "Cole Memo," which provided guidance on federal marijuana enforcement policy. The letter signed by ten Mayors from the across the country, including Portland mayor Ted Wheeler, asks the Department of Justice to prioritize their efforts to combat the opioid epidemic instead of wasting law enforcement resources on legal marijuana.

"Reversing course now is a misguided legal overreach and an attack on cities where legal, safe, and



high regulated recreational sale and use occurs, and on the majority of states where the voters have made their voices heard loud and clear on this issue," wrote the Mayors. "With overdose deaths, primarily caused by opioids, at an all-time high throughout this country, the federal government should be a better partner to help combat this epidemic. President Trump and DOJ should not waste our law enforcement resources and taxpayer money on prosecuting legal activity and instead prioritize their efforts on ending the scourge of the opioid crisis."

The letter was co-signed by: Bill de Blasio (New York, NY), Michael B. Hancock (Denver, CO), Robert Garcia (Long Beach, CA), Paul Soglin (Madison, WI), Karen Freeman-Wilson (Gary, IN), Jim Kenney (Philadelphia, PA), Ted Wheeler (Portland, OR), Jonathan Rothschild (Tucson, AZ), and Pauline Cutter (San Leandro, CA).

The full text of the letter is below and at [www.seattle.gov/documents/departments/mayordurkan/Sessions-Letter-01-10-2018.pdf](http://www.seattle.gov/documents/departments/mayordurkan/Sessions-Letter-01-10-2018.pdf).

**Mayor Durkan Proposes "Building a Bridge to Housing for All"**

In her first major legislation, Mayor Durkan proposed "Building a Bridge to Housing for All," a plan to sale an underutilized City property to address Seattle's affordability and homelessness crisis. Her plan would leverage \$11 million from the sale of an underutilized City property to create urgently needed bridge housing for those in our community experiencing homelessness and to support households on the verge of homelessness, while also reinvesting in essential City services.

Mayor Durkan's legislation is co-sponsored by four Councilmembers including Council President Bruce Harrell (District 2, South Seattle, Georgetown), Councilmember Rob Johnson (District 4, Northeast Seattle), Councilmember Debora Juarez (District 5, North Seattle) and Councilmember Sally Bagshaw (District 7, Pioneer Square to Magnolia).

This one-time investment would leverage \$3.5 million for essential City services and \$10.7 million for affordable housing, safer spaces for those without shelter, and provide housing stability for households on the verge of homelessness. The sale of the property located at 1933 Minor Avenue is expected to close in Summer 2018. Mayor Durkan's proposal includes:

- Investing \$5.5 million in a Bridge Housing Investment Strategy to increase our capacity to quickly and cost-effectively move people experiencing homelessness to safety through new bridge housing and shelter. Several options of bridge shelter or bridge housing will be examined including but not limited to mass shelter tents, hard sided tents, wood-frame sheds, portable modular bunkhouses or cabins, backyard cottages, and the master leasing of existing apartments. This strategy will kick off with a project to serve chronically homeless women in our community by the end of Spring 2018 with additional solutions to be deployed later this

**Community Calendar 2018**

cont'd from pg 4

**Seattle Metro****SATURDAY, JANUARY 20**

**SMARTS FOR ADVOCACY:** The Seattle affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness will be hosting an advocacy. The training event called "Smarts for Advocacy". The training provides step-by-step advocacy skills and hands-on practice. 1 p.m. - 3 p.m., Lake City Public Library, 12501 28th Ave. NE.

**SEATTLE'S WOMXN'S MARCH 2.0:** This event takes place on the first anniversary of the Women's March. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Cal Anderson Park, 1635 11th Ave.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 22**

**ENJOY A LUNCHTIME THRILLING TALE AT THE SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY:** "Mailman" by Jonathon Stone. This is a lunchtime break for grown-ups. 12:05 p.m. - 12:55 p.m. Central Library, 1000 Fourth Ave. Level 1.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 26**

**NATURE MOVIE "FROM POLE TO POLE":** The first episode of Planet Earth illustrates a journey around the globe, revealing the effects of gradual climate change and seasonal transitions. All ages welcome, free. Please RSVP to [MSECC@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:MSECC@bellevuewa.gov) or call (425) 452-2565. 5 p.m. - 6 p.m., Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Ave. SE Bellevue.

year;

- Investing \$2 million to maximize housing options for those on the verge of homelessness by piloting a Seattle Rental Housing Assistance Pilot Program;
- Reinvesting \$2.5 million into our City's communications capabilities including the relocation of the Seattle IT's Communication Shop and a new lease;
- Investing \$1 million for design and pre-planning costs for a new Seattle Fire Department facility; and,
- An upfront Mandatory Housing Affordability payment of \$2 million, for affordable housing. The City will be able to leverage the full payment of approximately \$7.7 million several times over through other funding sources.

You can view the full "Building a Bridge to Housing for All" Fact Sheet at [www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/mayor/Building\\_a\\_Bridge\\_to\\_Housing\\_for\\_All\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/mayor/Building_a_Bridge_to_Housing_for_All_FINAL.pdf).

**City Holds Workshops on Neighborhood Matching Fund**

The Neighborhood Matching Fund, a program of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, is hosting three workshops for those interested in applying to the fund. Each workshop will provide an overview of the Neighborhood Matching Fund, the qualities of a strong application, and the review process. Neighborhood and community groups interested in the fund are invited to attend.

**Workshop dates and locations are as follows:**

Jan. 31, 6 - 7:30 p.m.  
Phinney Neighborhood Center, 6532 Phinney Ave N

Feb. 15, 6 - 7:30 p.m.  
Montlake Community Center, 1618 Calhoun St.

Feb. 27, 6 - 7:30 p.m.  
Columbia City Library, 4721 Rainier Ave S

The Neighborhood Matching Fund has two funds - the Small Sparks Fund and the Community Partnership Fund. The Community Partnership Fund provides funding up to \$100,000 with three opportunities to apply this year. The deadlines are March 26, June 25, and September 10. The Small Sparks Fund provides funding up to \$5,000 per project, and applications are accepted on a rolling basis through November 30.

To attend a workshop, RSVP at [surveyMonkey.com/r/LMRCDFJ](http://surveyMonkey.com/r/LMRCDFJ) or contact us at 206-733-9916 or [NMFund@seattle.gov](mailto:NMFund@seattle.gov).

More than 5,000 projects have occurred across the city since this program began in 1988. To learn more about the Neighborhood Matching Fund and its support to community-initiated projects, visit [seattle.gov/neighborhoods/neighborhood-matching-fund](http://seattle.gov/neighborhoods/neighborhood-matching-fund).