

Events & Announcements

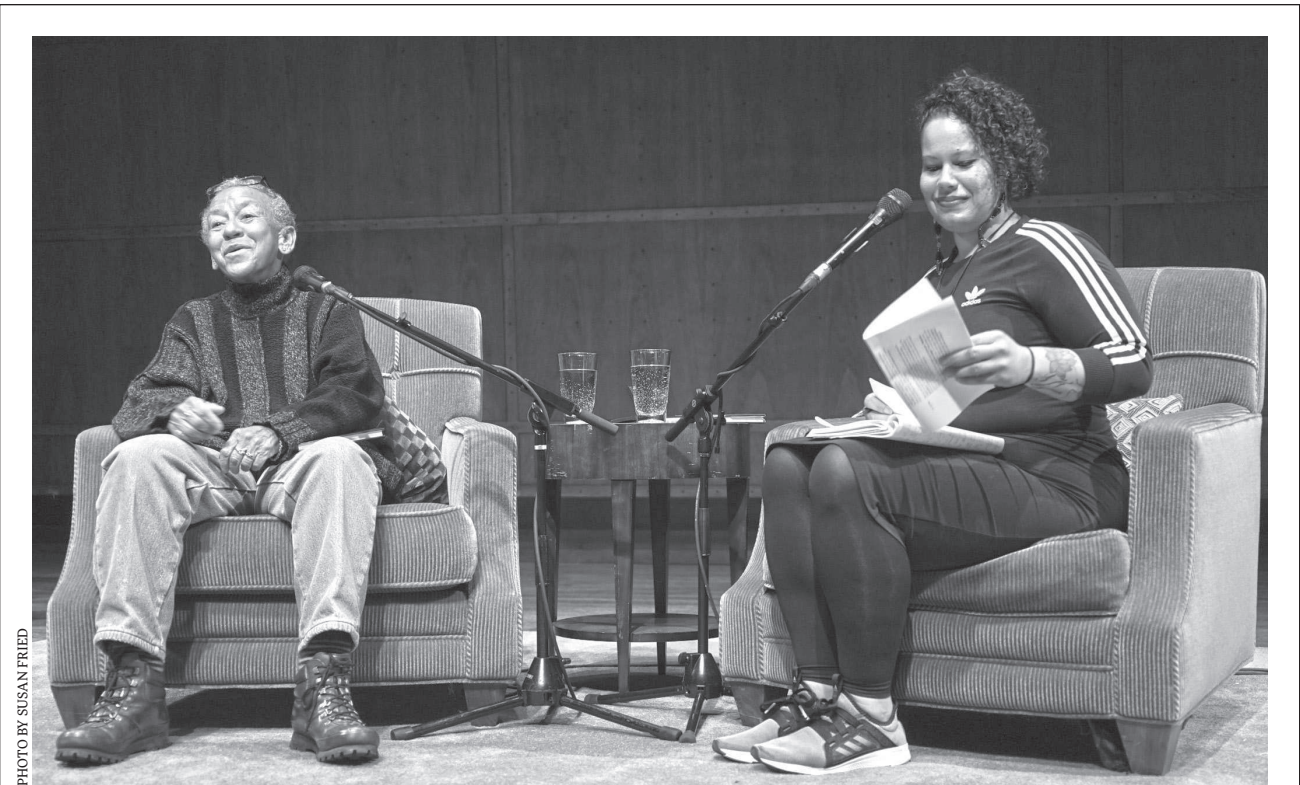


PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Nikki Giovanni Speaks with Nikkita Oliver

Poet, activist and professor Nikki Giovanni spoke briefly with local Seattle Poet, activist, poet and former Peoples Party Mayoral candidate Nikkita Oliver, after telling stories and reading some of her poetry to a sold-out audience as part of the Seattle Arts and Lecture Sherman Alexie Loves series, a three-part series curated by Seattle's favorite novelist, poet, playwright, and children's author, Sherman Alexie, and highlighting authors he loves and champions, Jan. 16 in the Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall in Benaroya Hall. Ms. Giovanni entertained the audience with stories and poetry about her friends and family, particularly her mother.

Seattle News Briefs

Mayor Durkan Announces New Department Appointments

Mayor Jenny A. Durkan announced two new department leaders in her administration at the Office of Labor Standards and Seattle Information Technology Department. With the departure of Seattle's Chief Technology Officer Michael Mattmiller and Dylan Orr, the Director of the Office of Labor Standards, Tracye Cantrell will serve as Acting Director of the Seattle Information Technology Department and Martin Garfinkel will serve as the Director of the Office of Labor Standards, subject to the confirmation of City Council.

With the resignation of Michael Mattmiller, Mayor Durkan announced that Tracye Cantrell will serve as Acting Director, effective February 3, 2018. Cantrell currently serves as Chief of Staff at the Seattle Information Technology Department. Durkan will launch a search process to find a candidate for the permanent position.

In addition, Mayor Durkan announced that Martin

Garfinkel will serve as the Director of the Office of Labor Standards (OLS) with the resignation of Dylan Orr. Garfinkel will begin as Acting Director on February 1, 2018 and his permanent appointment will be subject to confirmation by the City Council. Since 1982, Garfinkel has practiced labor and employment law representing unions, employees and victims of discrimination and harassment. In 2000, he joined Schroeter Goldmark & Bender. OLS currently implements the City's labor standards for the minimum wage, paid sick and safe time, wage theft, Fair Chance Employment, Secure Scheduling, and Hotel Employee Health and Safety.

Durkan Announces \$1.4 Million to Support Seattle's Small Businesses

Mayor Jenny A. Durkan this week announced the award of \$1.4 million in funding to support small businesses owned by historically disenfranchised communities in Seattle, including immigrants and refugees, people of color, women, veterans, people with disabilities, and the LGBTQ community.

Awarded through the City's Office of Labor Standards' (OLS) Business Outreach and Education Fund, the funding supports local organizations' outreach, education and compliance assistance efforts to Seattle's small businesses in those communities, helping ensure they have the tools they need to fulfill their responsibilities under Seattle's labor laws. This includes City laws such as: Minimum Wage, Wage Theft, Paid Sick and Safe Time, Fair Chance Employment, Secure Scheduling and the Hotel Employees Health and Safety ordinance.

Recipients of the funding will emphasize outreach to employers not typically served by traditional methods: businesses owned by low-income and historically disenfranchised communities, including immigrants and refugees and people of color, as well as women, veterans, people with disabilities, and the LGBTQ community. Grant recipients will engage and build relationships with local small businesses through a range of activities, including holding workshops, direct outreach, providing linguistically appropriate information, and offering ongoing support to business owners in neighborhoods across the City on issues like recordkeeping compliance and economic development.

The City has selected five organizations and partnerships to receive funding for a two-year (24 month) period estimated to begin the first quarter of 2018 and end in the first quarter of 2020.

The organizations to receive funding include the following:

- Seattle Business Education HUB - \$164,050.00
- Latino Community Fund - \$282,966.00
- Ethnic Chambers of Commerce Coalition (ECCC) - \$565,960.00

Community Calendar 2018

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

YOU, ME, WE 2018: A festival of free family fun. Local Kent talent, interactive booths showcasing various Kent youth/teen agencies and resources, hands-on art projects and much more! 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., ShoWare Center at Kent, 625 W. James St., Kent.

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 MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or call (425) 452-2565. 5 p.m. - 6 p.m., Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Ave. SE, Bellevue.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

ROBINSWOOD HOUSE/SEATTLE BRIDE ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE AND TASTING: The annual open house and tasting features all Robinswood House's exclusive caterers. Reservations are suggested but not mandatory for this free event. Please call (425) 865-0795. 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Robinswood House is located in Robinswood Park, 2430 148th St. SE, Bellevue.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

FREE FIRST THURSDAY AT BURKE MUSEUM: On the First Thursday of every month, admission to the Burke Museum is free and the museum is open until 8 p.m. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., University of Washington - Burke Museum, 17th Ave. NE and NE 45th St.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

READERS' THEATRE: Do you like to act? Then join us for a Readers' Theatre, which requires NO memorization, costumes, blocking or special lighting. Participants read from a script and reading parts are divided among the group. 2 p.m. - 4 p.m., Village Green Community Center, 26159 Dulay Rd. NE, Kingston.

- Ethnic Business Coalition (EBC) - \$275,590.00
- Ventures - \$111,434.00

Seattle has approximately 36,500 businesses with fewer than 50 employees, and small businesses account for more than half of all jobs in Washington State. Seattle's small businesses employ nearly 200,000 people in the City.

For more information about the Office of Labor Standards or the Business Outreach and Education Fund, contact Business Liaison Darius Foster at 206-386-1238, email darius.foster@seattle.gov or visit <http://www.seattle.gov/laborstandards>.

King County Elections Today Mailed Ballots for the February 13 Special Election

King County Elections today mailed ballots to about 750,000 registered voters for the Feb. 13 special election. The department estimates a 34.4 percent voter turnout rate.

This special election consists of propositions from 18 jurisdictions, including 16 school districts.

Ballots can be returned without a stamp to any of the 55 ballot drop boxes by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Or voters can return their ballot through the Postal Service with one first class stamp. Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked by Feb. 13.

King County citizens not currently registered to vote in Washington can register in person through Feb. 5. Registration is available from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the at the King County Elections office in Renton and from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Elections Annex downtown.

Voters who don't receive a ballot by Jan. 29 or who have questions should call King County Elections at 206-296-VOTE (8683).

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