

Events & Announcements



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

African American Odyssey

Northwest Tap Connection performed their African American Odyssey March 5 at Seattle University. The touring performance that includes spoken word, dance, and music that expresses the history and struggles of African Americans from a place of pride was presented as part of Seattle University's Moral Mondays at SU, the #BlackLivesMatter Initiative.

Seattle News Briefs

Community Coalition Proposes Inquest Reforms

A broad coalition of community groups and leaders have joined together to propose a new structure for King County's inquest process. The coalition's recommendations were formed after substantial community input and dialogue. The proposed reforms are designed to inform the work of the King County Inquest Process Review Committee and the ultimate reform package adopted by King County Executive Dow Constantine.

The coalition includes King County's American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander, immigrant, and Latino/a communities. Also joining the coalition are representatives of people with disabilities, advocates for those experiencing homelessness, community policing advocates, families of those killed by the police, and the public defense community, among other community leaders. The full list of organiza-

tion and individual partners is included at the end of this press release.

Multiple coalition members attended all three public focus groups held by the King County Inquest Process Review Committee, as well as other focus groups for the families of those killed by the police and inquest process experts. The coalition took into account the community feedback provided in those focus groups and the reform recommendations closely reflect the public input provided in those forums.

The coalition has proposed nine reforms (attached) that would provide for a more meaningful, compassionate, transparent, and fair inquest process. The reforms were designed to be implemented together in order to avoid unintended negative consequences. The proposed process would allow all parties to directly introduce witnesses and evidence, expert analysis of policy and training, and summation of the evidence through opening and closing statements. The reforms also include a number of changes to create a more compassionate process, including providing families with culturally appropriate resources and translation services.

Additionally, the coalition recommendations would also bring greater transparency to the inquest process by increasing public access through live and recorded video streams of all inquests. In order to increase fairness and diversity, the inquest jury would be expanded to 12 members. Finally, due to perceived conflicts of interest, the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office would no longer actively participate in the inquest process.

Full list of organization and individual partners:

- Asian Counseling and Referral Service
- Asian Pacific Islander Coalition of Washington State
- Casa Latina
- Chief Seattle Club
- Columbia Legal Services
- Disability Rights Washington
- El Centro de la Raza
- Not This Time
- OneAmerica
- Public Defender Association
- Real Change
- Seattle Community Police Commission
- Seattle Japanese American Citizens League
- Vietnamese Community Leadership Institute
- Washington Defender Association
- Dianne and Michael Murphy, Parents of Miles Murphy
- Jay Hollingsworth, Chair, John T. Williams Organizing Coalition
- Jenna Mitchell, Former inquest juror
- Jim Street, Retired Seattle City Councilmember and King County Superior Court Judge

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SATURDAY, MARCH 10

POULSBORO SECOND SATURDAY ART WALK: Poulsbo Second Saturday Art Walk is free and kids are welcome. Come gallery hop, shop, wine and dine in historic downtown Poulsbo. 5 p.m. – 8 p.m., Downtown Port Orchard, 1230 Bay St., Port Orchard.

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

30TH ANNUAL KENT KIDS' ART DAY: Admission for children 2 and older are \$10 parents and children under 2 are free. Kids create hands-on art projects for a flat fee. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Kent Commons Community Center, 525 Fourth Ave. N., Kent.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15

LADIES' NIGHT OUT: Ladies Night Out at Country Village features drawings, refreshments, fantastic finds, and drastic discounts. 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., Country Village Shops, 23718 Bothell Everett Highway, Bothell.

FRIDAY – SUNDAY, MARCH 16 – 18

HUGE BOOK SALE: Browse 100,000 titles starting at \$1 at the spring book sale by Friends of The Seattle Public Library. Friday night is members only 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Open to the public Saturday and Sunday. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Sunday. Exhibition Hall at the Seattle Center, 299 Mercer St.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17

SEATTLE'S 2018 ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE: At 12:20 p.m. the Irish Flag is raised in front of the King County Administration Building followed by trumpeters playing the Irish and US National Anthems. Then at 12:30 p.m. the St. Patrick's Day Parade kicks off. Starting from 4th Ave. at James St. Downtown Seattle.

View the Community Calendar and regularly updated News Briefs for Seattle and Portland at

THE Skanner.com

- Lee Covell, Attorney
- Nikkita Oliver

Mayor Durkan Announces Community Workshops for Chief of Police Search

Mayor Jenny A. Durkan has announced ten community workshops in all police precincts to assist the Police Search Committee with finding the best candidates for Seattle's next police chief. The workshops, including one for Seattle's young people, are open to all Seattle residents and are an opportunity to share their thoughts about what characteristics and experience is needed in the City's next police chief. Last month, Mayor Durkan announced the Community Input Survey, an online resource for providing feedback, which offered the public the first opportunity to participate in the process. To date, the online survey has received more than 1,000 responses and continues to be available for those who work and live in Seattle to participate.

The 25-member search committee, which has extensive experience in criminal justice reform and policing, was announced in December and began meeting in January. The committee is working with a national search firm to gather applications, and upon the end of the community input process, will narrow the field of applicants and submit their recommendation of the best candidates to Mayor Durkan in the coming months. Residents can visit www.seattle.gov/police-chiefsearch for more information on the search and community input workshops as well as additional meetings attended by the Police Search Committee.