

Events & Announcements

PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

'Dark Divas'

Gwendolyn Phillips Coates brings to life the great performer Bessie Smith during the Nu Arts West Theatre's production of *Dark Divas* Feb. 3, at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute. The play which was written 19 years ago by Kibibi Monie' and Demene Hall celebrates the lives and music of women like Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Dinah Washington, Bessie Smith, Moms Mabley, Etta James, Billie Holiday, Aretha Franklin and Lena Horne. The performances on Feb. 1 were a fund raiser for the Demene Hall Scholarship fund.

Briefs cont'd from pg 4

also lives in Los Angeles where he teaches and has released his own CD and plays with indie duo Innocent Alex. Kate Davis was one of our first scholarship winners in 2009. She studied at Manhattan School of Music and was touted by MTV as one of 2014's "15 Fresh Females Who Will Rule Pop." This vocalist/ bassist has performed at such illustrious venues as The Kennedy Center, The Bowery Ballroom, Lincoln Center, and Carnegie Hall. She just finished a stint on the Late Show with Jon Batiste's band as well. Our winners are from every corner of Oregon, from Cannon Beach to Bandon, Burns, Ontario, Astoria, Salem and Portland.

Thanks to the generous contributions from EP-B&B (Elliott, Powell, Baden and Baker Insurance) and KNRK/94.7 FM OMHOF scholarships grew from \$1,000 each to \$2,500 each (4 total) for 2019. Each applicant should be studying music with talent on an instrument or voice, graduating spring 2019 from an Oregon high school to continue their collegiate career as a major or minor in music.

Any questions may be emailed to: info@omhof.org or please take a look at our website at: <http://www.omhof.org> where an online version of the application is available. All items must be mailed together, in order to qualify: Oregon Music Hall of Fame, PO Box 82173, Portland, OR 97282.

Seattle News Briefs**Durkan Transmits Legislation to Provide New SPD Officers With \$15,000 Hiring Bonus**

Mayor Jenny A. Durkan announced this week she has transmitted legislation to the Seattle City Council to help recruit and retain experienced officers committed to reform to the Seattle Police Department (SPD) by providing them a hiring bonus of up to \$15,000. If passed by the City Council, the new hiring bonus created would ensure the SPD has more experienced law enforcement officers, increases the number of officers from communities historically underrepresented in policing, and supports potential officers who may need additional resources to relocate to the Seattle area. The full legislation can be viewed at <http://durkan.seattle.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/SPD-Recruitment-Incentives-Ordinance-Mayor-Durkan-Jan-2019.pdf>.

In recent years, SPD has faced new challenges in recruiting officers due to attrition, historically low employment, regional and national competition for officers, and hiring incentives offered by other jurisdictions in the region.

With these new challenges to recruiting, lateral applications – applications from officers already serving in other law enforcement jurisdictions – fell by 67 percent since 2015.

SPD also faced recruiting challenges because they had been working without a contract since 2014, and were earning 2014 wages even as living costs in the region grew significantly. Under the new agreement with the Seattle Police Officers' Guild transmitted by Mayor Durkan in October 2018 and approved 8-1 by the City Council in November, SPD officers will be receiving retroactive pay for the last four years and continued cost of living increases in 2019 and 2020. These new wages will make Seattle officers the highest paid in Washington State and the fourth highest paid of the seven largest departments on the West Coast.

To compete for experienced officers, several law enforcement jurisdictions in the Puget Sound provide similar lateral incentives to the ones proposed in Mayor Durkan's legislation. The Everett Police Department offers a \$15,000 hiring incentive, and the Renton Police Department provides a \$10,000 incentive in addition to 40 hours of sick leave and 40 hours of vacation leave upon hire. The King County Sheriff's Office provides up to \$5,000 in paid moving expenses, plus airfare and three nights' hotel provided for out-of-state applicants. The Bellevue Police Department, Bremerton Police Department, Tukwila Police Department, and Bainbridge Police Department all provide a \$5,000 hiring incentive.

Because officers hired from other departments participate in a shorter academy training and field training program within the SPD, they are deployed five months sooner than entry-level officers, resulting in salary savings for the department.

The Accountability Reform legislation, which passed Council in 2017, was bargained for in the agreement and the agreement includes many of the legislation's key provisions like:

- Full implementation of body worn cameras by front line officers;
- Management improvements in transfers and performance evaluations;
- Improvements and clarity for the 180-day timeline for investigations of police complaints;
- Civilianization of the Office of Police Accountability supervisor positions and an HR leadership role in SPD;
- Office of the Inspector General provided full and unfettered access to fulfill duties under the Accountability Ordinance; and,
- The Guild will withdraw several pending Unfair Labor Practice claims.

Durkan Advances Vision to Create New Affordable, Livable Community at Magnolia's Ft. Lawton

To help address Seattle's housing and affordability crisis and advance a vision for a new affordable, livable community at Ft. Lawton in Magnolia, Mayor

Community Calendar 2019*cont'd from pg 4***MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

PORTLAND RHYMES & HIP HOP LIFE: Join us for a special performance led by Mic Crenshaw, featuring Cool Nutz. Be part of a discussion of hip-hop history in the Northwest and how it has influenced our lives and our culture. Mic Crenshaw is a world class spoken word artist and emcee who has toured extensively in Africa, the U.S and Europe. From 6 - 7:30 p.m., Rockwood Library, 17917 SE Stark St.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

WE SHOULD ALL BE TEENAGE FEMINISTS: Teen members of the Jefferson High School Women's Empowerment Club lead a discussion about the issues addressed in *We Should All Be Feminists* and their impact on young people. All are welcome, especially teens. 6:30-7:30, North Portland Library, 512 N Killingsworth St.

PCCEP MEETING: Join the Portland Committee on Community-Engaged Policing (PCCEP) - Steering Committee for its February meeting. PCCEP welcomes input from community members. Please share your ideas during the public comment periods. Free, open to the public. 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., 525 NE Oregon St.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

BROWN HOPE MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEETING: The Brown Hope Action Team was established with the goal of advancing the mission of Brown Hope and serving as a space for Black, Brown and Indigenous people to work directly with white people in the pursuit of justice as a lived experience. All are welcome to join the monthly meeting of the Action Team, held every second Wednesday. Food and drink will be provided. Starts at 6:30 p.m., Q Center, 4115 N Mississippi Ave.

Seattle Metro**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7**

LOOKING FOR ACTION? Everyone is invited to join this discussion focused on the Womxn's March, the #MeToo movement, and other timely topics with fellow feminists. Free, from 7 - 8:30 p.m., New Freeway Hall, 5018 Rainier Ave. S.

WITNESS TO REVOLUTION - THE STORY OF ANNA LOUISE STRONG: Follow the life of author and labor activist Anna Louise Strong in this sweeping documentary film. Her political vision took shape in the Pacific Northwest after witnessing the 1916 Everett massacre and chronicling the 1919 Seattle General Strike. Stay after the screening for a discussion with the film director Lucy Ostrander and local historian Stephanie Ogle. 6 p.m., Museum of History & Industry, 860 Terry Ave. N.

TENANT RIGHTS BOOTCAMP: Tenant Rights Bootcamp is a neighborhood-by-neighborhood series teaching renters how to assert their rights, find solutions to various issues, and make change in their communities. Free. 6:30 p.m., Garfield Community Center, 2323 E Cherry St.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8

BELLEVUE COLLEGE FREE PLANETARIUM SHOW: Bellevue College's Astronomy Department and the Science and Math Institute offer free planetarium shows on select Fridays of each month. Each show features a different video and a live segment on that night's brightest stars and constellations. Free admission but reservations are required, call (425) 564-3055. Shows at 6 p.m., 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. Bellevue College Willard Geer planetarium, Room B244, 3000 Landerholm Cir. SE, Room B244, Bellevue.

Jenny A. Durkan released her draft plan for redevelopment of approximately 34 acres at Ft. Lawton.

The plan includes mixed-income affordable housing, parks, and recreational space. It would create permanent supportive housing for seniors, apartments for low-wage working individuals and families, and home-ownership opportunities. Over 60 percent of the land at the Ft. Lawton site will be used for park and park-related uses, with preservation of existing natural areas that support wildlife habitat.

The announced Draft Redevelopment Plan updates the original 2008 plan making it consistent with the Ft. Lawton Army Reserve Center Environmental Impact Statement issued in March 2018. The City has done extensive community outreach during the original process and additional public hearings and meetings conducted in 2017 and 2018, engaging with hundreds of community members and housing proponents from all corners of Seattle. In the coming weeks, Mayor Durkan will transmit the Redevelopment Plan to City Council to allow the City to formally acquire and develop the property.