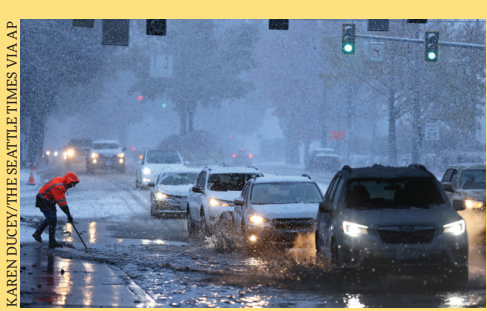


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HISTORY RECORDED



A worker from Washington Department of Transportation clears a drain on Northgate Way during a heavy snow at the morning commute in Seattle, on Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022.

Freezing Rain and Snow Snarl Travel in Pacific NW

Snowfall has impacted holiday air travel

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Heavy snow, freezing rain and sleet have disrupted travel across the Pacific Northwest, causing widespread flight cancellations and delays and creating dangerous driving conditions in the region stretching from Vancouver, Canada, down through Washington state and Oregon.

In Oregon, one person died in an accident on Interstate 84 in the Columbia River Gorge near Rooster Rock State Park on Tuesday morning when a semi-truck collided with their SUV, the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office said. Police are conducting a crash investigation and noted that the thin layer of ice on the major highway that weaves its way through the Gorge may have been a contributing factor.

About 47 miles (75.6 kilometers) of eastbound I-84 between Hood River and Troutdale closed earlier in the day due to crashes caused by ice, the Oregon Department of Transportation said. After all eastbound lanes reopened, transportation officials said drivers should still use caution.

The agency warned that long delays caused by heavy snow were also "plaguing" U.S. 26 over Mount Hood.

In Washington, heavy snow in parts of the Cascades closed two of the main roadways across the state on Tuesday.

Multiple spinouts shut down traffic in both directions at Snoqualmie Pass, a mountain pass on Interstate 90 about

See FREEZING on page 3



Seattle Griot Project interviewer Charlie James speaks with Eddie Rye Jr., who provided a wealth of newspaper archives and historic documents about the Central Area neighborhood in Seattle

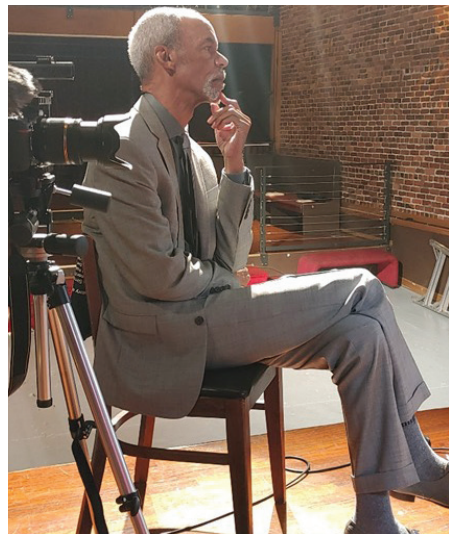
Seattle Griot Project Provides Blueprint for Preserving Black Identity in Whitewashed Neighborhoods

Volunteers from the neighborhood formerly known as Central Area use digital technology and film to create living library of Black history.

By *Saundra Sorenson*
Of *The Skanner News*

Former residents of a Central Area, a formerly Black Seattle neighborhood now known as the Central District, are working to document their hometown's rich Black heritage — and want to provide a blueprint to other cities for preserving hyper-local Black history.

The Seattle Griot Project is named for a West African phrase for a community historian, the "repository of oral tradition" through storytelling, poetry and music. In practice, it will be a highly visual platform for recording and indexing local oral histories from everyday people.



Clyde Merriwether

The group has conducted 49 interviews so far, with a goal of at least 200 sit-down, filmed conversations with elders.

"The oldest person so far we've interviewed has been 98, Josephine Stokes," longtime multimedia educator Roger Evans, who launched the project, told *The Skanner*. "Her husband was judge Carl Stokes, so we did an exhaustive interview with her. She's also allowed us in her home several times. She has a sign-in book that everyone who came into their home signed, and one of the names we found in the book was Thurgood Marshall back in 1952."

'Very Little to Be Recognized'

The project began in the early aughts as Evans' effort to record interviews with "people of color that were successful in our community," Evans said, with the vision of creating a series of DVDs that would be made available in public libraries. The project fizzled due to lack of funds, but Evans held onto the material.

"I noticed a couple years ago that my granddaughter was extremely savvy on her cellphone. I spent a lot of time with her, and I recognized that even though she could sit and read a book that was not what compelled her...My business went into super-stasis during the pandemic, and I wanted to create something that would capture an essence" of the

neighborhood he remembered.

"There was very little to be recognized," Evans said. "So in early 2021, we took this challenge on again to start digitizing and preserving the oral histories of the elders. We wanted to bridge the gap so we had this information online, so that our people in our community, wherever they were, would have access to the data that their grandparents or they, if they were elders, remembered and had available to them."

Volunteer Clyde Merriwether spoke to the universal nature of his neighborhood's gentrification.

"It's happened everywhere," Merriwether said. "Motivation: Seattle is gridlocked. It can't go north, it can't go south, it certainly can't go out into the ocean. The next real property was the dumping ground, where they put the Black folks. All of a sudden that became prime property — all these Microsoft (employees), they're all moving into the neighborhood as they get into town. Where can they go?"

"So in essence, you have these people who bought their houses for \$8,000, \$17,000 back in the early days. Somebody comes and offers you \$400,000 for your property, you think you got over. You walk out the door, all of a sudden (your property is worth) \$1.3 million and you can't come back."

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Bill Affects Local and Black-owned Newspapers page 6