

Puget Sound Equity Summit: Session Descriptions (Saturday Nov 9, 10:30-12:30)

Group A: 10:40 – 11:30 AM

1A. Targeted Local Hire: An organizing strategy for equitable job creation

Building 8, Mt. Olympus

Concerned about chronic high unemployment and lack of employment opportunities for workers of color and low-income women? This workshop will uncover how a grassroots committee is leading a campaign to win a "permanent" policy to ensure our tax dollars help create real jobs on City of Seattle public work construction projects. We will share our experience and help you understand, "Why Targeted Local Hire can work!" and "How you can frame this issue in your community?"

Moderator: Willea Cooks, South Seattle Jobs Committee

Presenters: South Seattle Jobs Committee members
Michael Woo, Got Green

2A. Building Power in Communities of Color Through Political Office

Building 8, Mt. Constance

How do we get leaders who represent diverse realities into decision-making positions? Hear from elected officials about their paths to public office.

Moderator: Harry Hoffman, Rainier Beach Moving Forward

Presenters: Mia Gregerson, SeaTac Deputy Mayor
De'Sean Quinn, Tukwila City Council
Angelica Alvarez, Highline School Board

3A. Organizing in Education to Improve Outcomes for Communities of Color

Building 21, Room 201

In this workshop you will hear two approaches utilizing community driven organizing to impact issues that directly relate to closing the educational opportunity gaps for students of color. Both presenter(s) will share their processes in ensuring community voice and leadership in developing strategies that help to create a pathway to student success in building partnerships and relationships within the education system, while maintaining perspectives and values that are important to diverse multi-cultural and multi-ethnic communities and families.

Moderator: Sili Savusa, Executive Director, White Center Community Development Association

Presenters: Ay Saechao, Chair and Co-Founder, Southeast Asian/American Access in Education (SEA3eD)
Laurie Bohm, Director, White Center Promise Neighborhoods

4A. Safe Neighborhoods: Partnering block by block to improve community safety

Building 21, Room 105

There is no one magic solution for how to improve neighborhood safety. Many strategies are used by our communities, block by block, to improve both the perception and the reality of crime. And each of them require a strong vision and a partnership between community resident, small businesses, and the police.

Moderator: Barbara Phillips, Community Network Council

Presenters: Darren Pen, Safe Streets and Commissioner with the Washington State Commission of Asian Pacific American Affairs
Maiko Winkler-Chin, Executive Director, Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority

5A. Healthy Foods, Community and Culture

Building 21, Room 202

The healthy food movement is a hot topic – but for our communities it's not just about being on trend. In some cases, healthy food is an opportunity to preserve culture, community as well as individual health, and many are using creative strategies in which to do so.

Moderator: Peter Masundire, Co-Chair, Rainier Beach Urban Farm

Presenters: Susan Balbas, Founder and Director, Tierra Madre
Tsegaye Gebru, Executive Director, Horn of Africa

6A. How can we better resource communities to organize, advocate, and collaborate

Building 21, Room 104

Lack of adequate resources is a major barrier for communities working to organize, advocate, and participate in community change efforts. Yet we cannot achieve racial and economic equity without community engagement. We will share some experiences and effective practices that try to address this fundamental gap.

Moderator: Alice Ito, Center for Community Change

Presenters: Judy de Barros, Neighbor to Neighbor, the Small Grants Program at The Seattle Foundation
Susan Dobkins, Russell Family Foundation
Social Justice Fund Northwest

7A. Affordable Care Act or “Obamacare”: Local strategies for implementation and engaging communities

Building 21, Room 203

The Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, is an unprecedented opportunity to sign up large numbers of local residents – especially low-income residents and communities of color – for health insurance coverage. Learn about what organizations are doing in Pierce, King and Snohomish counties, and what you can do to support and play a role.

Moderator: Matias Valenzuela, Manager, King County Equity & Social Justice
Presenters: Gordon McHenry, Jr., President & CEO, Solid Ground
Roberta Marsh, Executive Director, South Sound Outreach Services
Karol Brown, CEO, President at Brown Tones Productions
Teresa Clark, Lead Organizer, Washington Community Action Network

8A. Youth Voice and Youth Leading for Change

Building 21, Room 206

Approaches to supporting young people and facilitating youth leadership. Discuss models engaging young people across government, philanthropic and nonprofit structures to create youth driven community change.

Moderator: Holy Chea, The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation
Presenters: Cristina Orbe, Food Empowerment Education and Sustainability Team (FEEST)
LaMont Green, Pierce County Youth Advisory Council

9A. Supporting Businesses and Business Districts as Community Anchors

Building 8, Mt. Skokomish

Strong neighborhood businesses are vital to our communities. What are the strategies to both build stronger businesses to avoid displacement as neighborhoods change, and cultivate partnerships to bring resources to build capacity of neighborhood business districts.

Moderator: Andres Mantilla, Business Services Manager, Seattle Office of Economic Development
Presenters: Quynh Pham, Community Builder, Friends of Little Saigon
Vy Nguyen, Neighborhood Revitalization Program Manager, White Center Community Development Association

Group B: 11:40 AM – 12:30 PM

1B. Living Wages and the SeaTac Living Wage Campaign

Building 21, Room 201

Discuss the role that faith, community, and workers play in advancing economic opportunity through a case study of the SeaTac Living Wage Campaign.

Moderator: Michael Ramos, Church Council of Greater Seattle
Presenters: Claudia Paras, Airport Coalition Organizer
Rev. Jan Bolerjack, Riverton Park United Methodist Church
Omar Mumim

2B. Civic Engagement: Participating in and influencing the political and policymaking process

Building 21, Room 104

This session focuses on the importance of civil participation in reshaping the public landscape. Hear from groups on the ground working to create a more equitable democratic system by increasing access and inclusion within the political and policymaking process.

Moderator: Cherry Cayabyab, Outreach and Engagement Strategic Advisor, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods
Presenters: Ben Henry, Board President, Asian Pacific Islander Americans for Civic Empowerment
Yemane Gebremicael, President, African Diaspora of Washington

3B. Multicultural Parent and Community Engagement for Student Success

Building 21, Room 206

Involvement by parents, families and communities in children's education leads to more motivated, resilient students and helps young people reach their full potential. Join a discussion about supporting parents and communities navigate the school system and build the knowledge and leadership skills to influence systems to better support all students.

Moderator: Mauricio Ayon, Board President, Para los Niños
Presenters: Roxana Pardo Garcia, Para los Niños
Hamdi Abdulle, Executive Director, Somali Youth and Families Club
Trise Moore, Director of Family and Community Partnerships, Federal Way Public Schools

4B. Environmental Justice: Air, water, earth, and community health advocates

Building 21, Room 202

Hear about partnerships with community, academics, tribal and small business organizations, environmentalists, and other stakeholders to address environmental hazards and organize for greater health for Duwamish Valley neighborhoods.

Moderator: Genevieve Aguilar, Port Campaigns Director, Puget Sound Sage
Presenters: BJ Cummings, Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition
Samantha Keller, Coalition Organizer, Puget Sound Sage / DEEDS Project

5B. Mobility and Transit

Building 8, Mt. Constance

Learn about community organizing underway to avert transit cuts. Discuss the implications of potential transit cuts and strategize with key partners. King County Metro recently announced impending bus cuts which will begin in 2014 unless they find a new source of revenue to stave off cuts. These proposed bus cuts will have a significant impact in the community. At the same time, Pierce County and Snohomish County have already experienced transit cuts.

Moderator: Carrie Dolwick, Policy Director, Transportation Choices Coalition
Presenters: Shefali Ranganathan, Director of Programs, Transportation Choices Coalition
Transit Justice Youth Corp, Rainier Beach Community Empowerment Coalition
Mo Avery, Young Workers Project Organizer, Got Green
Jourdan Keith, Urban Wilderness

6B. Housing Strategies to Mitigate and Prevent Displacement

Building 21, 105

What are some of the ways to ensure communities can retain their place in changing environments? Hear about two unique approaches for residents, developers and architects and community organizing strategies for communities threatened by displacement.

Moderator: Ryan Curren, Office of Housing, City of Seattle
Presenters: Miguel Maestas, Associate Administrator, El Centro de la Raza
Francisco Calderon, Community Organizer, Rainbow Haven
Evelyn Allen - Executive Director, Washington Equity Housing Alliance
Roderick Butler, Principal, N3 Architects LLC

7B. Immigration: Building for empowerment at the intersection of culture, change, and service

Building 8, Mt. Olympus

In 1980, 1 out every eleven residents in the Seattle metropolitan region was foreign born. Today, one of every 6 residents in the region are immigrants. In the last decade growth among communities of color contributed to more than 90 percent of all population growth in the region, and immigrants alone accounted for approximately 40 percent of that growth. Learn how governments are responding to this tremendous transition, what immigrant and refugee communities are doing to advance equity and share your own experience.

Moderator: Rich Stolz, Executive Director, OneAmerica
Presenters: Liz Dunbar, Executive Director, Tacoma Community House
Leno Rose-Avila, Seattle Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs
Abdullahi Jama, Consultant

8B. How to Start Organizing your Community or Neighborhood

Building 21, Room 203

Hear how communities and neighborhoods are starting to organize, with examples from Kent and Skyway. We will discuss what new organizers and organizations should focus on, and spend time talking through participants' projects.

Moderator: Skye Schell, Community Projects Director, Forterra
Presenters: Maya Vengadasalam, Kent East Hill Revitalization
Michael Majeed, Founding Board Member and Board Chair, Skyway Solutions
Lori Guilfoyle, Community Impact Manager, United Way King County