

Washington State Commission On

**African American Affairs**



The Commission serves as the official state representative of the African American community - advising the Governor, Legislature and state agencies regarding policy development and implementation. The Commission also works to establish relationships with local governments and private sector organizations that promote equal opportunity for African Americans.

Creating an Equitable Future / Rising Voices

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December 4, 2017

2018 Public Commission Meeting Schedule Forthcoming

**NOW YOU KNOW**

**Remembering Della Reese  
Actress and Singer**

Born July 6, 1931, Deloreese Patricia Early was born in the Black Bottom neighborhood of Detroit, Michigan. At the age of six, Reese began singing in church becoming an avid gospel singer. She was often chosen as a regular singer for radio programs. Her talent led to her touring with gospel great Mahalia Jackson and her gospel group at just 13 years old. Despite her schedule, Reese maintained high grades and graduated high school early.

After the death of her mother, she began performing in clubs and shortened her name from "Delloreese Early" to simply "Della Resse." Winning a contest gave Reese her big break—an eight week engagement at Detroit's famous Flame Show Bar. She signed with Jubilee Records recording her first hit, a romantic ballad entitled "And That Reminds Me," in 1957. Her biggest hit, "Don't You Know" - adapted from an aria from the opera *La Boheme* - reached No. 2 on the Billboard charts in 1959.

Soon she made regular appearances on leading television variety shows. In 1969, her talk show, *Della* launched and ran for 197 episodes before being cancelled. Then in 1970, Reese became the first African American woman to guest host *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson*. She enjoyed an active career during the 1980's and 1990's, through a wide variety of roles, including doing voice-over work for the animated series *A Pup Named Scooby-Doo* for ABC, but she is mostly known by her role on the series, *Touched by an Angel*. Due to low ratings, the show was initially cancelled, however a massive letter-writing campaign brought it back to the small screen. Huge ratings carried the show for the next seven seasons. Cancelled in 2003, the show enjoyed heavy rotation in syndication.

Ms. Reese passed away in Los Angeles, California last month at age 86 after a long battle with Type-2 diabetes.

**Sources:**  
*ABC.com; Biography.com; NPR.org; NYTimes.com; Wikipedia.org*

**New Paid Sick Leave Law Begins  
January 2018**

Initiative 1433, approved by Washington voters in fall 2016, contains four primary changes to state law:

**Requires employers to provide paid sick leave** to most employees beginning Jan. 1, 2018.

**Increases the minimum wage** over the next several years.

**Ensures tips and service charges** are given to the appropriate staff.

**Protects employees from retaliation** when exercising their rights under the Minimum Wage Requirements and Labor Standards Act. This includes filing a complaint for wages owed, using paid sick leave and other protected rights

**Paid sick leave requirements**  
Starting Jan. 1, 2018, employers in Washington will be required to provide most of their employees with paid sick leave.

**For Employers:** Access tools, training and other resources at Labor and Industries online Employer Resource Center: [www.lni.wa.gov/sickleave](http://www.lni.wa.gov/sickleave) or call 1-866-219-7321.

**For Employees:** Learn about the new law at [www.lni.wa.gov/sickleave](http://www.lni.wa.gov/sickleave) or call 1-866-219-7321 or email [esgeneral@lni.wa.gov](mailto:esgeneral@lni.wa.gov)

Medicare enrollees make changes to your 2018 coverage during Open Enrollment for 2018  
Go to [www.CMS.gov](http://www.CMS.gov) or call

**1-800-633-4227**

**Medicare open enrollment closes this Thursday,  
December 7, 2017**

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**South Sound Circles—Mathematical  
Problem Solving Workshop**

**Saturday, December 9, 2017 | University of Puget Sound**

South Sound Circles will be holding a one-day workshop in mathematical problem solving Saturday, Dec. 9 at the University of Puget Sound. This workshop will be valuable for both math teachers and individuals in the community who are supporting efforts to close the achievement gap in mathematics. This latter group includes tutors and those involved in out-of-school math and science programs.

Mathematical problem solving does not require a particular background in mathematics but just a willingness to explore quantitative and geometric problems through reasoning.

In this workshop participants will explore a variety of questions that will connect them to the joy of mathematics and will expose them to a variety of problems and problem solving methods that can be used in classes and in enrichment programs in mathematics. The workshop is aimed at the middle school level, but individuals working with youth of all ages can benefit.

The workshop will run from 9:00 to 3:30 with refreshments available starting at 8:30. South Sound Circles will host lunch.

If you have questions contact David Scott at [scott@pugetsound.edu](mailto:scott@pugetsound.edu) or 253-879-3565.

If you are interested in attending please email David Scott at [scott@pugetsound.edu](mailto:scott@pugetsound.edu). To be sure of having a place please respond by Tuesday Dec. 5. Also pass this announcement along to anyone you think might be interested

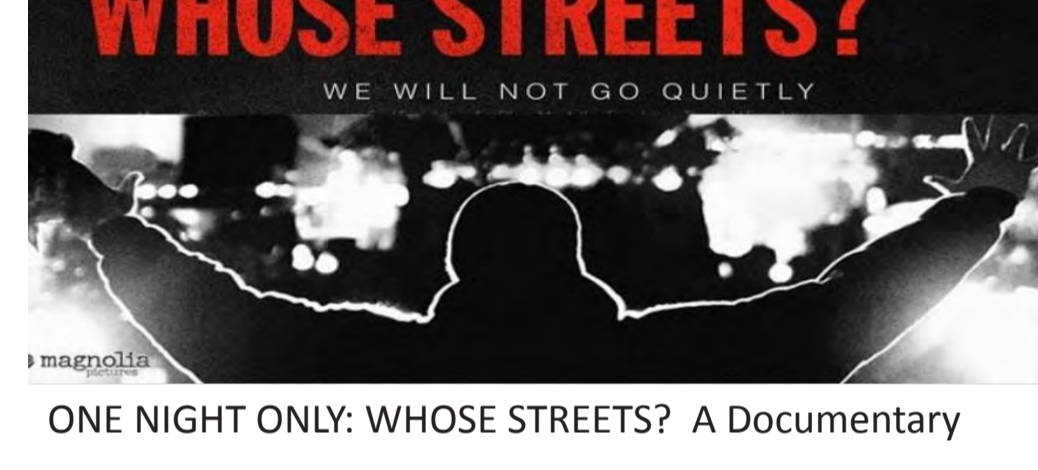


**NORTHWEST  
AFRICAN AMERICAN  
MUSEUM**

**Black Santa at NAAM!**

Black Santa is back for a visit this season at the Northwest African American Museum! December 2, 3, 9 and 10. Noon to 4PM each day.

Click [here](#) for more information Northwest African American Museum 2300 S Massachusetts Street Seattle, 98144



ONE NIGHT ONLY: WHOSE STREETS? A Documentary

When unarmed teenager Michael Brown is killed by police and left lying in the street for hours, it marked a breaking point for the residents of St. Louis, Mo. Told from the people's perspective, *Whose Streets* is an unflinching look at the Ferguson uprising through the eyes and voices of the activists and leaders who lived and breathed a movement for justice. Tickets \$12 at [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com). Seating is limited.

**Magic Lantern Theater  
25 W. Main Avenue #125, Spokane, WA 99201  
Friday, December 8, 2017 | 7 PM to 9PM PST**



Join Tabor 100 and the National Association of Minority Contractors for an evening of merriment at the Northwest African American Museum - Legacy Hall  
2300 S. Massachusetts St. Seattle, WA 98144  
Thursday, December 14, 2017 | 6:30 PM—9:30 PM  
Register at [Eventbrite](http://Eventbrite) | Admission: Free

**JUSTICE NIGHT**

Justice Night is a walk-in legal clinic, no appointment necessary. Free legal information in the following areas: Family law, Consumer Protection, Housing, LFO/ expungement, Police and Government Accountability.

**5:30-7:00pm  
Native Project  
1803 W. Maxwell, Spokane**

Questions? Center for Justice: 509-835-5211

**Education Dialogues #2**

Join the second gathering in this series co-sponsored by the League of Education Voters, Community Minded Television and Alliance for Innovative Educational Redesign for a discussion exploring the question "How can we form an educational system that creates good people where everyone belongs?"

**Thursday, December 14, 2017  
4:30 PM to 7:30 PM**

**Community Minded TV Studios  
104 W. 3rd Ave. Suite B  
Spokane, WA 99201**

Seating is limited. Please register at [Eventbrite](http://Eventbrite)

**EMPLOYMENT & CAREER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Listed are a few of the newest employment announcements. A more comprehensive list of jobs is available on webpage—[www.caa.wa.gov](http://www.caa.wa.gov). Resources and job fair information for job seekers available at [worksourcewa.com](http://worksourcewa.com). Click on 'career tools' and 'workshops and hiring events' for timely, state-wide information.

**WASHINGTON STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE**  
[Budget Director, Financial Service Division](#)—Olympia, WA. Closing 12/11/2017

**WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE:**  
[Staff Coordinator, Economic Development and Trade Committee](#)  
[Staff Coordinator, Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee](#)  
[Staff Counsel or Research Analyst, Human Services and Corrections Committee](#)

**2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION SUPPORT STAFF RECRUITMENT**  
Revenue Analyst/Counsel; Operating Budget Coordinator positions. See the [Senate Committee Services Employment](#) website for detailed information. Apply now!

**WASHINGTON STATE COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS—**[Volunteer Internship](#), Olympia, WA

**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS —**[www.jobs.doc.wa.gov](http://www.jobs.doc.wa.gov). Currently accepting applications for **multiple** positions throughout the state! For more information or to APPLY, visit [jobs.doc.wa.gov](http://jobs.doc.wa.gov) |

**WASHINGTON STATE OFFICE OF THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER**  
[Actuary 3](#), Tumwater, WA. Open continuous

**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
[SAS Program Manager](#)—Tumwater, WA. Closing 12/10/2017

**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
[Fiscal Analyst 1](#), Olympia, WA. Closing 12/3/2017  
[Communications Consultant 4](#)—Tumwater, WA. Closing 12/10/2017  
[Tolling Financial Consultant](#)—Olympia, WA. Closing 12/11/2017

**KING COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY**  
[Senior Property Manager](#)—Shoreline, WA. Closing 12/6/2017  
[Construction Cost Estimator](#)—Tukwila, WA. Closing 12/6/2017  
[Senior Housing Specialist](#)—Tukwila, WA. Closing 12/6/2017

**CITY OF SEATTLE**  
[Labor Relations Director](#)

**OFFICE OF SEATTLE MAYOR-ELECT JENNY DURKAN**  
Various positions follow [link](#) for more information

**CITY OF TACOMA**  
[Alder Lake Park Supervisor](#), Tacoma, WA. Closing 12/8/2017  
[Tacoma Public Utilities Safety Manager](#)—Tacoma, WA. Closing 12/22/2017

**SOUTH PUGET SOUND COMMUNITY COLLEGE** [openings](#) ; **CLARK COLLEGE** [openings](#); **BATES COLLEGE** [openings](#)