Tuesday, May 18, 2021

This day will focus on building a diverse, qualified and representative urban forestry workforce. Speakers will highlight national efforts and local programs and perspectives on youth leadership and career development.

9:00 - 9:25 a.m.    Welcome and introductory remarks
- Micah L. McCarty, Makah, Artist, former Makah Tribal Chairman, new Hereditary Custodian
- Jessica Farmer, University of Washington Botanic Gardens
- Maggie Rogers, Plant Amnesty

9:25 - 10:15 a.m.    Advancing Tree Equity through Career Pathways
American Forests’ Tree Equity: Career Pathways Initiative is designed to support the recruitment and retention of under-resourced populations into urban and community forestry, helping to diversify the field and extend the manifold benefits of well-managed forests to all. The best practices featured will focus on teaching participants to build programs, partnerships and structure that can help them meet area workforce needs in tree care by preparing those without college degrees to enter into the field.

Sarah Lillie Anderson, Director of Career Pathways | American Forests

10:15 - 10:30 a.m.    Break

10:30 - 11:55 a.m.    Panel Presentations on Youth Leadership & Career Pathways in Urban Forestry

This session will highlight Pacific Northwest programs and perspectives on youth engagement in urban forestry through leadership, career development, and community engagement. Each program or perspective will give a 10-15 minute presentation to introduce their work. Presentations will be followed by a group conversation and Q&A, facilitated by the Urban Forest Symposium planning committee.

Duwamish Valley Youth Corps Duwamish Valley Youth Corps (DVYC) is a youth engagement program of the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition that focuses on environmental justice and job skills. In 2019, DVYC partnered with federal scientists from the US Forest Service, local government and universities, community leaders, and health advocates to conduct a community-based participatory research project to measure heavy metals in moss on street trees. Through this project, 26 local youth from the Duwamish Valley learned how to collect moss samples to use as a bioindicator of air pollution in the Georgetown and South Park neighborhoods of Seattle. This project aims to use the information gathered from moss sampled to reduce air pollution and, ultimately, improve the community’s health.

Leilani Gutierrez & Faith Villalobos, program participants. Troy Abel, Western Washington University, and Ruby Vigo, Duwamish Valley Cleanup Coalition
Congolese Integration Network (CIN) is a non-profit organization in South Seattle led by and for Congolese immigrants and refugees. CIN provides community members with access to critical resources including housing assistance, interpretation services, and employment support. CIN is partnering with Dirt Corps to host free tree giveaways and training youth Tree Specialists. Through this program, they are empowering mentees to become mentors – teaching community members about tree planting and care for the health of their community and promoting environmental integration for their youth.

Angela Ngangis Diansasila, Congolese Integration Network

The Youth for Parks Winter Workshop Series is an opportunity offered by King County Parks for young people in grades 9-12 to participate in a series of workshops on various environmental topics related to parks and greenspace. This past winter, the youth participants also helped design King County Parks’ new summer internship program for high school students. King County Parks Youth Conservation Corps is a new internship program that will provide paid environmental learning opportunities for high school-aged youth. This is a seven-week program that runs from July 6 – August 20, 2021. Interns will work with King County Parks & Recreation Division staff at multiple Parks locations to better understand the breadth and depth of environmental justice, conservation, environmental stewardship, and parks and recreation management practices. The program will provide growth and learning opportunities, foster positive work relationships, and support youth in experiencing the work life environment.

Sahar Arbab, Volunteer Program Education Coordinator, King County Parks, and Fatema Metwally (she/her), participant in Youth for Parks Winter Workshop Series

The Makah Tribe, the “People of the Cape,” are located at the Northwest point of the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State. They currently manage over 37,500 acres of forestland under Makah regulations, as well as co-manage under federal and state regulations approximately 47 square miles of Usual and Accustomed Fishing Area (U&A) extending north to the Canadian border, 40 miles offshore to the west and east into the Straits of Juan de Fuca. They also have a terrestrial traditional territory that covers a significant portion of the western Olympic Peninsula. The existence and well-being of the Makah people has always been closely tied to their relationship with the environment. The Makah hold a spiritual reverence and have inexorable ties to the ocean and land for its bountiful natural resources. This relationship has supported the Tribe’s cultural, subsistence and economy for thousands of years. However, much of western society has had a hard time honoring and respecting the natural stewards of this land. Public outreach and education is a necessary tool for Tribes to help try to address those shortcomings and strive to improve relationships and protect resources for future generations.

Stephanie Martin – Habitat Division Manager, Makah Tribe

11:55 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  Closing

An informal Zoom lunch hour will follow from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. for anyone interested in continuing the discussion!
Wednesday, May 19, 2021

This day will focus on approaches for broad and inclusive community engagement in urban forestry planning, priorities and programming.

9:00 - 9:15 a.m. Welcome and introductory remarks
- Jeffrey P. Thomas (Muckleshoot Tribal Elder), Director – Puyallup Tribal Timber, Fish & Wildlife Program
- Jessica Farmer, University of Washington Botanic Gardens
- Maggie Rogers, Plant Amnesty

9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Intentional Community Outreach: Diverse Communities, Diverse Insights
What does it take to shift from “business as usual” urban forest community outreach to connect with new partners in underserved or under-represented neighborhoods? Environmental justice and canopy equity are about much more than tree planting: we need to be truly inclusive about where, how, and who is involved with the urban forest at every level -- from neighbors, volunteers, and advocates to nonprofits, community groups, and grantees. Which new organizations do you need to partner with now? How can state and local policies influence and drive equity in your community? Come hear about key lessons learned by California ReLeaf over the last 10 years.

California ReLeaf is the statewide umbrella organization for a Network of nearly 100 urban forest nonprofits – we offer education, advocacy, and urban forest grants to grow greener, healthier, and stronger communities.

Cindy Blain, Executive Director, California ReLeaf

10:15 - 10:30 a.m. Break

10:30 - 11:55 a.m. Panel Presentations on Community Engagement

This session will highlight Pacific Northwest programs and perspectives on community engagement in urban forestry. Each will present for about 20 minutes, and the presentations will be followed by a group conversation and Q&A, facilitated by the Urban Forest Symposium planning committee.

Seeding Connection – Trees, People, and Planning
In 2018 the City of Seattle’s Urban Forestry Core Team committed to working closely with Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities to determine the goals for its updated Citywide plan. This was a radical departure from past processes which, while open for public comment, had only generated
Sparse participation from racially diverse and other marginalized communities. Community members helped tailor materials, develop engagement strategies and gave staff important insights for identifying short and long-term goals for urban forestry. We invite you to join us to explore what the team learned and why this was only a first but critical step in collective stewardship of our invaluable urban forest.

*Sam Keller, Senior Community Planner, Seattle Public Utilities*
*Vicky Raya, Racial Equity Advisor, Seattle Public Utilities*

**Tales from an Urban Canopy**

The *Growing Old* team came together as we approached the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, thinking about all that had changed over the past half century, and where we might go in the next 50 years. We asked: “What would it look like, within the next 50 years, for Seattle to become a place where both trees and humans grow old?”

This question took us through parks and reserves throughout our City, to the Chief Seattle Club’s Eagle Village, and into discussions with experts across fields and communities. We relearned the histories that have shaped the forest we live in: colonialism, assimilation boarding schools, Japanese internment, and regional restoration among them. We heard visions of healthy, abundant Orcas in the Salish Sea, millions of Salmon thriving, and affordable multi-family homes in proximity to beautiful trees. We imagined carbon neutrality, a biodiverse and contiguous forest devoid of litter, and a bountiful landscape with foods and medicines native to this place. And we explored what needs to happen today to make that future a possibility. We bring these stories to you across seven episodes of *Growing Old*.

The Growing Old podcast uses stories as an entry point to deeper conversations about trees. Using an artistic lens and emphasizing that stories are medicine – an invitation – the podcast offers a different perspective for engagement with trees that has created connections to other bodies of work including climate justice and educational curriculum.

*Lylianna Allala, Climate Justice Director | City of Seattle’s Office of Sustainability & Environment*
*Colleen Echohawk, Executive Director | Chief Seattle Club (to be confirmed)*
*Tamara Power-Drutis, Director of Research & Strategy | The Vida Agency*

**Local Urban Forests: For Tribes or Not for Tribes – Critical Questions**

Local tribal communities do not benefit from cultural trees and plants of urban forests unless it is to view them in a zoo-like fashion. This presentation will probe the notion of connecting local treaty rights, and/or state laws, to urban forests in ways that benefit cultural gathering needs of local tribal communities, if at all possible. Achieving this can happen through shifting paradigms shifts to times when every Native person was intimately linked to their surrounding environments and local forests of their ancestral lands, in particular.

The Native people of King and Pierce counties were particularly intimate with their inland upland areas, from their saltwater shorelines all the way across the Cascade Mountains where their upriver families were constantly interacting with more easterly families whom occupied the Cascade Mountains. The historically forested shorelines, lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands of King and Pierce County were...
replete with Native people - whom today still cherish, treasure, revere and care for their sacred homelands, as they have since time immemorial.

This presentation will question why there is not any meaningful tribal presence or access – by local, or any other tribes – within urban forests of King and Pierce Counties anymore (despite the Medicine Creek and Point Elliott treaties, 1987 Timber/Fish/Wildlife Agreement, and RCW 76.48 among other provisions, now). Reflecting upon these critical questions for intentional collective urban community outcome actions remains ongoing.

*Jeffrey P. Thomas (Muckleshoot Tribal Elder), Director – Puyallup Tribal Timber, Fish & Wildlife Program*

**11:55 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  Closing**

An informal Zoom lunch hour will follow from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. for anyone interested in continuing the discussion!