



CIVIC COCKTAIL RESOURCE GUIDE

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

LEGISLATORS, IMMIGRANT STORIES, AND CONTRIBUTIONS



[SEATTLECITYCLUB.ORG](https://seattlecityclub.org)



DESCRIPTION

Black History Month is an annual celebration of Black achievements and contributions in our communities. This February, at Civic Cocktail, Seattle CityClub will welcome Black legislators and immigrants for an insightful discussion and will share their stories and important contributions to the Pacific Northwest region.

ABOUT CIVIC COCKTAIL

Civic Cocktail connects elected and community leaders with the public for lively conversations about important issues facing our region.



ABOUT SEATTLE CITYCLUB

Seattle CityClub is a 40-year-old nonpartisan, civics-focused nonprofit providing a platform for insightful and educational conversations that include a diverse range of perspectives.



@seattlecityclub

ABOUT THE COLLECTIVE

The Collective is a brand new urban basecamp for the mind, body and soul. A vibrant, Members-only community in the heart of South Lake Union that merges dynamic space, active Members, neat programs and craveable food + beverage offerings.

MEET THE TEAM!



Alicia Crunk
Executive Director



Jeff Carter
Program Specialist



Nina McGinnis
Development Manager



Marina Abbott
Program Coordinator



Sarah Hill
Development Coordinator



Andrew Hoge
Communications Consultant

Sen. John Lovick, Washington State Senator



Sen. John Lovick has spent his life in public service. Prior to his elected to office, he served as a State Trooper for 31 years and was named Trooper of the Year in 1992. He also served a total of 13 years in the United States Coast Guard, including time patrolling the waters off Alaska.

Lovick was elected to the Mill Creek City Council in 1993, where he served as Mayor Pro Tem. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1998, where he served for nine years, including five as Speaker Pro Tem.

While in the House, Lovick sponsored the Primary Seat Belt Law, which boosted seat belt use from 81 to 97 percent. He also has helped reduce car thefts in Washington State by sponsoring legislation to create the Auto Theft Prevention Authority.

He was elected Snohomish County Sheriff in 2007 and served as Snohomish County Executive from 2013 – 2015.

In June 2016, Lovick was appointed to the House of Representatives to fill the vacated seat of Rep. Hans Dunshee and won re-election to the position in November 2016.

In December 2021, Lovick was selected to fill the vacancy left when Steve Hobbs was appointed Secretary of State.

A long-time resident of Mill Creek who has lived in Snohomish County for 38 years, Lovick is married to a retired teacher. He still volunteers regularly at the elementary school his children attended and cooks many of his famous “John Lovick’s Deep-Fried Turkeys” for charity events.

Rep. April Berg, Washington State Representative



A common thread throughout my entire life and career has been a commitment to equity, inclusion, and results.

In so many ways, my background and story reflect our district — I'm a believer in great public schools and that's paired with an understanding of small business, aerospace, and community building.

As the former owner of The Edmonds Inn: Bed and Breakfast, I know what it takes to build and managed a business, along with the true nature of customer service and problem-solving. And like many in the 44th District, I have worked in aerospace as a former Boeing Procurement Agent and Program Manager.

After being raised on the Southside of Chicago, I moved to the Northwest for my education and was elected the first Black and youngest student body president in the history of Oregon State University. Soon after, I was appointed by the governor of Oregon as a student representative to the Oregon State Board of Higher Education.

Today, I am the first Black woman to represent the 44th District of Washington.

It's a district that I know well. My family and I have lived in Snohomish County for more than 20 years. Our children attend Western Washington University and Jackson High School in the Everett School District. Two of our children have graduated from the University of Washington.



Emmanuel is the Director of Programs at the African Chamber of Commerce of the Pacific Northwest. He is a versatile, detailed-oriented manager with over 18 years of experience using PMI and other project management methodologies to initiate, design, and lead community development initiatives, humanitarian response and post-crisis recovery, resiliency, and reconstruction projects. He is currently a commissioner at the City of Seattle's Immigrant and Refugee Commission, a City of Auburn Transportation Advisory Board member, and the founder of Washington Transfinancial Services – a trading and resources LLC based out of Seattle. He holds a Master of Arts in International Community Development; has received several international honors for his work, including the City of Seattle 2021 Human Rights Award, a 'Global Laureate Fellow Award' by the International Youth Foundation and 'The 2009 iLEAP International Fellowship Award', by iLEAP, a Seattle based organization.

Medard Ngueita, World Relief Western WA



Medard Ngueita's connection with World Relief began in 2007 when his family, and he were granted asylum to the United States. As a program participant, Medard experienced first-hand the refugee and asylee services provided by World Relief Western Washington. Initially, he started in the Hospitality industry and took on a leadership role. However, he had a heart for serving the vulnerable, and five years later, he joined World Relief as an employee. Over the course of eleven years, he has developed a close understanding of refugee resettlement and held positions of increasing responsibility. These included Donations Coordinator, Housing Coordinator, Resettlement Manager, and Resettlement Director. Now, as the Executive Director of World Relief Western Washington, Medard oversees the Seattle, Bellingham, Olympia offices, and a team of over 100 employees from more than 18 different countries.

With this, Medard believes in a just world where any doors of opportunity should create opportunities for many others no matter where they come from. He firmly believes that excellence in leadership arises through collaboration, contextualization, and co-powerment, and appreciates that every human being has God given talents to contribute to a better world.



@aliciainedmonds

Moderator

Previously, Alicia worked at AtWork in Bellevue and prior to that, at the YWCA of King/Snohomish County. Alicia's experience is wide-ranging, including six years as an Executive Director and ten years of corporate and foundation donor relations.

Links related to the speakers:

[World Relief Western WA](#)

[African Chamber of Commerce of the Pacific NW](#)

[WA State Legislature - Representatives](#)

[WA State Legislature - Senators](#)

Civic Engagement Opportunities

Our region's civic health depends on each of us to get involved in civic life. Here are some ways you can support immigrants and refugees.

Donate

- Donate money directly to a local nonprofit that works with immigrants.
- Learn about other philanthropic opportunities (Women's Funding Alliance, Social Ventures Partners, Social Justice Fund, Seattle Foundation)
- Join the Immigration Justice Giving Project (Multiple sessions over five months starting September 8th). (Check out socialjusticefund.org)
- Create a donation drive with friends, family or colleagues to collect essential items for newly-arrived families. (Check out rescue.org, jfsseattle.org for a list of essential items).

Employ and/or financial support:

- Shop and/or dine at immigrant-run stores and restaurants.
- Hire immigrants to work at your business or home (Casa Latina, World Relief, IRC)

Advocate

- Create or join a OneAmerica Community Group to support immigration reform.
- Participate in marches and rallies to support immigrants.
- Contact your elected officials to advocate for immigration policies

Civic Engagement Opportunities (cont.)

Our region's civic health depends on each of us to get involved in civic life. Here are some ways you can support immigrants and refugees.

Volunteer

- World Relief, United Way's Day of Caring, Seattle Works Day, volunteermatch.org
- Citizenship Clinics in Seattle (Seattle's Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs)
- Pro-bono immigration law and/or interpretation (NWIRP).
- Community garden work (Interim CDA, IRC)
- Mentor a refugee professional (Jewish Family Services)
- Tutor youth in a youth program (Refugee Women's Alliance)
- Host an individual or family in your home (Air BnB, Church Council of Greater Seattle)

Learn

- Follow the latest news and legislation (NWIRP, IRC, We Are One America and social media)

Connect

- Connect to an immigrant/refugee organization on Facebook or Twitter.
- Engage your social media network by posting/sharing about immigrant/refugee issues.
- Attend an ethnic festival (Seattle Center's Festal cultural events, or World Refugee Day).

RESOURCES

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE
RESOURCES AND
DATA.](#)

