



**Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission
September 6, 2011, 6:00-8:00 PM
City Hall, Boards and Commissions Room-L280**

Meeting Minutes

- Commissioners Present:** Devon Alisa Abdallah, Ph.D., Tsegaba Woldehaimanot, Cherry Cayabyab, Bincy Jacob, Jesus Rodriguez, Andrea Caupain, Lesley Irizarry-Hougan
- Commissioners Absent:** Yasemin San, Ashraf Alazadi, Mohamed Sheik Hassan, Magdaleno M. Rose-Avila, Pradeepta Upadhyay, Shree Dahal, Michael Neguse
- Commissioners by Phone:** N/A
- SOCR Staff Present:** Glenn Harris
- Guests:** N/A
- Guest Speakers:** Aaron Fishbone and Steve Sneed
- Call to Order:** Call to order at 6:00 PM
- Approval of Minutes:** August Minutes approved by vote, Bincy and Lesley abstained

1. Welcome / Housekeeping / Announcements

Introduction

- August Minutes approved by vote
- Announcements:
 - * Seattle Jobs Initiative has announced a new program design that will eliminate immediate job placement assistance as well as the VESL classes. They want to focus instead on college training and education. Although college training is really good, many immigrants and refugees are at least 3 or more levels behind college entry and would not benefit from this program. With this tough economy, immigrants and refugees are in desperate need of jobs. This new program design would dramatically affect immigrant and refugee communities.

* Jesus invited everyone to community storytelling at White Center Community Development Association on September 23rd. The Community Center is also having an annual dinner/auction on September 16th for Celebrating Global Village Families, in 2010, of Family Connections program served 117 families (514 individuals, 96% people of color, 77% spoke languages other than English at home). <http://wccda.org/home/wccda/1916>

* The Redistricting Committee United for Fair Representation Campaign is in full swing, Cherry reported that Jesus and Yemane were on television supporting this effort. Over 500 people have participated, September 13 reveal in Olympia at 10:00 AM. Follows this link for videos and info - <http://fairrepresentationwa.org/>

* October 8th and 9th –Celebrate Arab Festival at Seattle Center’s Fisher Pavilion
<http://www.seattlecenter.com/festal/detail.aspx?id=21>

* One America is sponsoring the Immigrant Integration Conference in Seattle on October 24-26.

Action Items:

The Co-Chairs gave a reminder about attendance: three unexcused absences will be grounds for Board removal.

The Board voted to bring food when they can. Unanimous vote!

Cherry will attend the 5-Commission Meeting on September 14th. Jesus is interested in participating in planning for 5-Commission Meetings.

Retreat Planning – Jesus, Andrea and Cherry volunteered to be the Retreat Planning Committee. Rose will send out a Doodle to Commissioners for availability October 22 23 29 30 from 9-4 at Central Area Motivation Project.

Questions/Needs:

Orientation needed, history, accomplishments, responsibilities, binders

Team Building

Facilitator

Send Bylaws and Workplan

Panel on Opportunities

Food supplied by CAMP

2. SOCR Report

Julie sends out the full report via email.

For a copy of the full report, contact Rose or Julie.

3. 50th Anniversary of Seattle’s World Fair

Aaron Fishbone, Scheduling, Advance and Mayoral Staff and Steve Sneed, Managing Artistic Director for Seattle Center gave a presentation about the focus, ideas and plans for the celebration to include highlighting immigrant and refugee businesses and import/export business in Seattle. The focus is Commerce and the Innovation Economy (see handout with details).

“Culture Fusion” will be held August 11th and 12th and they are looking for an additional focus on the American born communities and are recommending business community tours.



**Seattle Center Next 50
Commerce & the Innovation Economy Fact Sheet**

Seattle Center's Next 50 will illuminate the present and envision the future of the Pacific Northwest. The Commerce & the Innovation Economy committee is partnering with our region's top innovators and economic drivers to transform Seattle Center into an incubator for the emerging economy.

WHAT IS THE NEXT 50?

April 21 to October 21, 2012 is the 50th anniversary of the 1962 Seattle World's Fair (<http://nextify.org/>). To mark this milestone, Seattle Center is hosting six months of dialogues, feature exhibits, demonstrations, festivals, concerts, speakers and more – a dynamic gathering of people and things, ideas and learning, and just plain fun. The celebration will highlight the contributions that have defined what the region has become and map out the pathways to the future. The Next 50 will focus on our region's expertise and innovations by exploring eight focus areas:

- Arts Culture and Design
- Sustainable Futures
- Science and Technology
- Global Health
- Learning
- Commerce & the Innovation Economy
- Civic Action
- History

COMMERCE & THE INNOVATION ECONOMY – SEPTEMBER 2012

September 2012 of the Next 50 will be dedicated to showcasing the strong and exciting business activities that are the foundation of our economy, now and into the future. Rich natural resources buoyed Seattle's early economy. Boeing made Puget Sound a center of aerospace, and strong air, land and sea ports have bolstered Pacific Rim trading relationships. The region now embraces a knowledge-based economy, while still hewing to its agrarian and manufacturing roots. Entrepreneurship has produced homegrown corporate icons alongside industry-leading smaller companies, and the influx of people from other parts of the world has brought in ideas and innovations from around the globe.

How will we channel this momentum into a more prosperous and sustainable future economy for the next half-century and beyond? It is our goal to use this month to create a bridge to that future via a month-long exploration of four areas critical to our economic development:

Human Capital & Workforce Development – What will the jobs of the future be, and what skills will our workforce need to accomplish and excel in those fields? The task of preparing young people exists within our K-12 education system, community colleges, vocational institutions and four-year universities. Continuing education and on-the-job training will allow our adult population to update and hone skills and adapt to the new economy. A vital part of that success lies in educating current and future leaders about the jobs that are here, the innovation economy, and what their role in it will be.

Our anchor event, **Career Discovery Fair**, will engage our communities and young people in various innovation sectors and help them to explore the attributes and skills necessary to succeed in an economy filled with great possibilities and unknowns. Organizations will set up booths that allow guests to spend a few minutes hammering in insulation or writing HTML code; in short, getting a sense of the career paths of today and tomorrow, introducing some people to fields never previously envisioned and helping others narrow their interests.

Innovation & the Entrepreneurial Process – The Pacific Northwest is considered a world "innovation hub" because it has excelled in creativity, ingenuity and the ability to harness new ideas in high-tech, life sciences, aerospace

technology, interactive media, online commerce, and many others. It has been individuals willing to take risks on behalf of novel ideas – entrepreneurs – who have driven that success.

This track will consider the "who, what, how and why" of innovation and business development in our region and beyond. What elements have enabled the region to foster the entrepreneurial spirit? How do we build on past successes to cultivate future innovation? How do we continue to attract and nurture entrepreneurs in the region given the competition nationally and abroad?

Our anchor event, *American Idol for Business*, will provide a fun and refreshing way to explore the entrepreneurial process in our region and will provide everyone, from the budding to the successful entrepreneur, the opportunity to pitch their great idea to a panel of seasoned judges.

Transforming Transportation: Moving People, Products and Ideas -- In the 20th Century trains, ports, highways, and airplanes tied the country together and enabled the Pacific Northwest to become an important global center. Achievements in airplane manufacturing, information technology and communications are among the most notable regional innovations that transformed transportation and communications nationally and internationally. What should be done in the 21st century to ensure that the Pacific Northwest continues to be a world leader in transportation and communications for years to come? What policies should be considered to incent investment in these transitions? What regulatory barriers should be addressed?

We will showcase speakers, demonstrations, and exhibits that illustrate how the convergence of advances in information technology, communications, lightweight materials, smart grid technologies, renewable energy and electric vehicles are enabling the transformation of transportation—making it safer, faster, more affordable and greener.

Similarly, we intend to illustrate how our region's IT expertise and broadband (wired and wireless) infrastructure can be leveraged to reduce "miles traveled" in commutes and embrace digital conferencing; increase civic engagement; and improve delivery of healthcare and education.

Our anchor event, "Beyond Oil: Transforming Transportation in Century 21," will be complemented by two cross-state electric vehicle rallies and region-wide demonstrations of emerging transportation and broadband communication technologies.

Regional/Global Economies – Washington is one of the most trade dependent states in the country, exporting and importing vast quantities of goods. Additionally, the Pacific Northwest has benefited tremendously from the impact of the many ethnic communities and international workers who now call it home. This track will look at the impact of international trade on the region, and break down what international trade actually involves. It will also investigate the impact of ethnic communities locally, and examine the interplay between international trade and local economies.

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September 2012 will "display" what is happening around the region and seek to play an active role in the "conversation" in each of the four focus areas, through convening groups that may not otherwise be in touch, providing a central place for those ideas and visions to be explored, and by sharing those ideas and opportunities with the broader public who may not have thought of a career in a given field or the role of international trade in their daily lives.