

Planning for RSJI's next 3 years



On a Saturday morning in mid-May, a hundred community members gathered at the Eritrean Association Center to begin planning the future of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Participants split up into groups to discuss priorities for work in education, equitable development and criminal justice.

2014 marks the last year of the Initiative's current 3-year plan. Between now and October, the Seattle Office for Civil Rights will be holding a series of discussions and meetings to chart the Initiative's direction in 2015-17. We plan to meet with all of RSJI's key stakeholder groups, including RSJ Community Roundtable member organizations, faith-based groups, Seattle Public Schools, community groups, businesses, government agencies, and

Seattle City departments and interdepartmental teams.

In late fall, we will share a broad outline of the Initiative's 2015-17 Plan in order to hear additional comments and ideas from the community. We will present the final Plan by December 2014.

3-Year Plan timetable

- **May-October:** Discussions with key stakeholders
- **Late fall:** Public presentation of draft RSJI 2015-17 Plan for additional comments
- **Late 2014:** Plan finalized for implementation in January 2015

Would you or your group like to be part of the planning process? We also need volunteers to facilitate meetings with stakeholder groups about the 2015-17 Plan. For more information email diana.falchuk@seattle.gov or call 206-684-4500.



RSJI Manager Glenn Harris to become President of New York City's Center of Social Inclusion

Glenn Harris is moving to New York City! After six years as the Manager of the City of Seattle's Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI), Glenn has accepted a position as President of the Center for Social Inclusion (CSI), a national policy strategy organization that works to transform structural barriers and ensure that communities of color share in the benefits of public policy. As President,



Glenn will bring his policy, program development and fundraising expertise to help move a national agenda on race and equity.

“I am deeply proud of the work of the Race and Social Justice Initiative and the employees of Seattle,” said Glenn Harris. “Our work has been a national model for the role of government in addressing racial equity and I look forward to continuing that work with CSI.”

To help ensure a successful transition, Glenn will continue working part-time with RSJI until the end of 2014. The Seattle Office for Civil Rights will conduct a national search later this year to find a new RSJI Manager.

“The Center for Social Inclusion is fortunate to have Glenn’s vision and leadership, and we are looking forward to seeing his work unfold on the national stage,” said Patricia Lally, director of the Seattle Office for Civil Rights, which leads RSJI. “Glenn and I also are excited to add new leadership to RSJI’s talented team.”

RSJI launches Community Institute for Racial Equity



RSJI has launched the **Community Institute for Racial Equity** as part of our new [Campaign for Racial Equity](#). The Community Institute is currently offering free trainings and workshops to groups that have made a commitment to achieve racial equity, including the 129 groups (and counting) that signed the Commitment to Action following the RACE exhibit group workshops last fall and winter.

The first training, *Turning Commitment into Action*, helps groups create a plan to build racial equity internally within their own organization, as well as in their community work. The workshops are led by RSJI staff and community partners.

For more information about the Community Institute or the Campaign for Racial Equity, please email diana.falchuk@seattle.gov or call 206-684-4500. Thanks to our partners, including Social Justice Fund NW, Brothers United in Leadership Development (BUILD), Columbia Legal Services, Statewide Poverty Action Network, Non-profit Anti-Racism Coalition, SOAR and School’s Out Washington.

Photo – panel discussion at the first *Turning Commitment into Action* workshop. Left to right: Mauricio Ayon, Stephan Blanford, Tina LaPadula

Six groups funded to work on racial equity in the community in 2014

The Seattle Office for Civil Rights has awarded funding to six organizations in 2014 to address structural racism in the community:

- Partner’s for Black Parent Empowerment

- School's Out WA
- King County Coalition on Racial Disproportionality
- Southeast Seattle Education Coalition (SESEC)
- Non-Profit Anti-Racism Coalition (NPARC)
- WA State Indian Commission

Seattle City Council approved funding last year to help Seattle's network of human services agencies build their own capacity to address structural racism. In 2013, a review committee of community members, funders and SOCR staff selected five organizations for first-year funding: Partners for Black Parent Empowerment, Rainier Beach High School/SESEC, Non-Profit Anti-Racism Coalition (NPARC), Partnership for Racial Equity and King County Racial Disproportionality Coalition.

These five organizations built coalitions and coordinated their work. Partners for Black Parent Empowerment, the Non-Profit Anti-Racist Coalition and Partnership for Racial Equity developed curricula for youth, parents, teachers and social service professionals. The King County Disproportionality Coalition developed a racial equity toolkit for policy and budget decisions that was adopted by the Washington Department of Human Services Children's Division to guide decisions about foster care.

By the end of the year more than seven hundred youth and adults had received racial equity training, had learned to facilitate racial equity discussions and had connected with more than eighty community organizations to address structural racism in education and social services. The organizations also held more than 25 "How to Talk about Racism" workshops for adults and youth in the community and how to access college and university level education. The partnerships were so successful that some of the groups decided to join forces to continue working together in 2014.

This year, the six organizations selected for funding are implementing use of toolkits in the child foster care system, increasing training and curricula for youth to address racism in schools, supporting racial equity professionals in Seattle and beginning racial equity work in the Urban Indian community.

Announcements

Seattle 2035: Help City of Seattle set key directions for the future

By 2035 Seattle expects to add 120,000 people and 115,000 jobs. On June 24 you can weigh in on key directions for [Seattle's Comprehensive Plan](#) to guide this growth. [Seattle 2035](#) is the Department of Planning and Development's (DPD) effort to update the Comprehensive Plan.

Mark your calendar: [Tuesday, June 24, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.](#) Seattle Center Next 50 Pavilion (adjacent to the Monorail on the north side).

For more information about the Seattle 2035 project, and to RSVP, visit 2035.seattle.gov.

CITY PEACE 2014: a Community Resource Fair, BBQ, & Classic Car Show

Friday, June 13, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Rainier Beach Community Center, 8825 Rainer Ave. S.

Music!
Speakers!
Prizes and free passes!
Open Mic Contest!

Sponsored by Seattle City Attorney's Office, Seattle Councilman Bruce Harrell's Office, Seattle Police Department, Seattle Parks & Recreation Department, Seattle Youth Violence Prevention Initiative (SYVPI), and DSHS-Juvenile Justice & Rehabilitation Administration (JJ&RA).

For more information phone 206-386-1925.

40th Annual Pride Parade and PrideFest

Sunday, June 29, 11 am – Fourth Avenue to Seattle Center

A large contingent of City of Seattle employees will be marching – come on down to cheer us on!