



Video Transcript

2022 RSJI Summit & MLK Unity Day: Mayor Bruce Harrell

[**Image Description:** A graphic with text on top of a black and white photo. The text says, "Portions of the following presentation were performed on Indigenous land, the traditional territories of the Coast Salish people. This acknowledge reminds us to strive for respectful partnerships with all people, as we search for collective healing. The photo shows a wooden boat in the water. A person holding an oar is visible on the left.]

[The Seattle Center logo on a green background. Underneath on a white background are logos for the City of Seattle and the Seattle Center Foundation.]

[The 2022 RSJI Summit logo on a black background. Left of the event name is a triangular design with interlocking hands inside.]

[Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell stands in front of a blue curtain. The Mayor has short, dark hair and a mustache. He is wearing a grey suit and a light blue shirt with a faint square design. During the video, the camera cuts back and forth from the front of Mayor Harrell and another camera angle slightly to his left.]

Welcome to the Race and Social Justice Initiative Summit and to the virtual celebration of Martin Luther King Unity day. I'm Mayor Bruce Harrell, and I'm so excited to be with you as the work you are embarking on is crucial for ensuring Seattle is truly able to live up to our ideal values and serve as a beacon for the nation.

Unity and togetherness are center to my approach as a leader and center to the values of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in achieving opportunity, justice, progress, and fairness. At its core, this means a belief in the best of one another, you, me and in all of us to approach each other with an open mind, and an open heart to listen to share. And to activate.

I want you to think for the moment about the power of listening, which is the foundation of understanding. I believe so strongly in Dr. King's words: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate. Only love can do that."

So the only way I know how to lead is with love and with compassion. I will bring that attitude to my work every single day and I hope you'll consider it at least bringing it to yours. It works for me.





Similarly, the Race and Social Justice Initiative, and its goals are near and dear to my heart. Something I'm passionate about strengthening and uplifting. For years I was the only person of color on the Seattle City Council. And throughout my time there I worked hard to respond to the needs of communities of color and tried every day to bring a race and social justice lens to my work: Leading on legislation like Ban the Box, bias-free policing, raising the minimum wage, the Great Student Initiative and more. I was the sole sponsor of the Race and Social Justice Initiative on Council because I knew from experience that we couldn't take for granted representation. Nor the kind of nuanced conversation and real outreach needed to ensure Seattle's policies were truly built with a race and social justice focus.

So now, while I'm thrilled to serve alongside a diverse city council and our first Indigenous Council President as Seattle's first Asian, and first biracial, and second black mayor, I actually believe this initiative is more important than ever. Last year on the campaign trail, I was consistently impressed with how frequently the 15 candidates in total running for mayor would reaffirm their commitment to this initiative. But the truth is, we have to go even further. More than ever, if we want to see real change, we need to come together, to listen to one another, to elevate the voices of those too often not heard. I am so excited to work with all of you.

I don't come to the table knowing all of the answers or with a fixed mind, I, I come to hear you, to build together and to rise together, and to emphasize effective collaboration above all else. My vision for our city, across departments, programs, and policies is to lead with equity. Not just talk about equity, not to nibble around the edges on equity, but to take real, substantive action that drives equity for our communities. I talk about operationalizing equity. That's why I've appointed a Chief Equity Officer, who will work to further drive this conversation and ensure real change, especially in key departments like Transportation and Parks as examples.

Further, it's why I've pushed for a Race and Data Initiative to help quantify and visualize the issues we're discussing from housing and transportation access to public safety impacts and public safety reform, health outcomes and climate effects. With this work, those on the outside can better see the challenge, and affected and underrepresented communities can see progress and hold us accountable.

Finally, this is why I will issue an Executive Order in support of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. We must ensure this lens is top of mind and top priority for our departments and directors.

So with that said, I thank you for your willingness to dive into this incredibly hard work. Now, the issues in front of us are not easy. They never have been. They can be burdensome, taxing and even exhausting. We understand this. But progress that comes out of this work is well





worth the sacrifice for our neighbors, for our communities, for our city. I believe working together we can make a difference and from my heart I would like to thank you.

[A graphic with several overlapping circles. The most prominent circle in the center is dark yellow-green with white text saying "Seattle Center Studios". Other circles have a person playing an electric guitar, a ballerina, and the exterior of a building. On the bottom are the Seattle Center, City of Seattle, and Seattle Center Foundation logos on a light yellow-green background.]

[Credits for the video.]

Seattle Center Studios

Office for Civil Rights Co-Producers – Kelly O’Brien & Jason Eastman

Cultural Program Manager – Heidi Jackson

Director – Vivian Huang

Floor Manager – Shane Knode

Sound & Video Crew Chief – Bill Droege

Video Engineer – Rick Smargiassi

Audio Engineer – Mark Anderson

Teleprompter – Jennifer Bacon

Camera 1 – Tom Stiles

Camera 2 – Chad Bystrom

Video Editor – Wrick Wolff

Stage Crew Chief – Mike D’Aberle

Lighting Designer – Dominic Iacono

Lighting Tech – Candy Solie

Stage Crew – Inger Brandal & Jeff Doll

Stage-Lead Tech – Sean Wilkins

In the bottom right are the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees logo and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers logo.]

