

## How do or can you use creativity to respond to homelessness?

Group Discussion Summary • Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness • 3.17.23

### Thoughts from Audre Lorde

“I am filled with a sense of urgency and dread: dread at the apparently random waves of assaults against people and institutions closest to me; urgency to unearth the connections between these assaults”... I sit before the typewriter for days and nothing comes. It feels as if underlining these assaults, lining them up one after the other and looking at them squarely might give them an unbearable power. Yet I know exactly the opposite is true—no matter how difficult it may be to look at the realities of our lives, it is there that we will find the strength to change them. And to suppress any truth is to give it power beyond endurance.”

— Audre Lorde, *A Burst of Light and Other Essays*, 2017

### What would help

- Supply donations have been much appreciated.
- Need collaboration with cafes and such.
- It would be nice to have a central location for storage and space to create. Are there any local studios that would be open to being a resource?
- Homeless people are not just a problem to solve, we need to address the whole person.
- Anyone who has supplies for the makers' kits and/or gallon Ziploc bags, notebooks, writing implements, or other art supplies for the outreach Richard talked about - please be in touch. [tpdrutis@nctacoma.org](mailto:tpdrutis@nctacoma.org).
- It would be great to have an accessible list of free art/cultural resources to share with clients.
- Re Jay's idea about a dedicated maker space, would be great to work on a grant to help with that.
- Places like Bryant neighborhood center, and some of the shelters might schedule “makers” opportunities where people could use the makers kits or be tutored in making sellable art pieces
- Could also do makers kits that don't involve paper materials (weather issue) out to the encampments.

### Issues to consider

- Need to get beyond surviving to thriving. Opportunities to be in relationship and community and be a whole person are ground zero for the transformative personal change and community organizing.
- Noted the drama troupe that was organized at Nativity House—more active pre-pandemic.

- Cultural projects are opportunities to build relationships and community.
- The balance of supply request vs what's available is tough.
- Transportation should also be another consideration, or a mobile set up that can go out to sites.

## Notes and Resources List

**Foot care kits are available for outreach** - just email me if you want some (thank you Sally, Sam, Health department folk, and all others who helped put these together).  
[tpdrutis@nctacoma.org](mailto:tpdrutis@nctacoma.org)

**COVID testing kiosk locations:** 21818 38th Ave. E. in Spanaway (OPEN NOW), 135 163rd St. in Spanaway & 4301 Browns Point Blvd (opening 3/20).

**Tranq is the street name of the animal tranquilizer xylazine.** Narcan does not counter it.  
<https://www.cnn.com/2023/03/07/health/philadelphia-xylazine-tranq-drug/index.html>

**Mobile Emergency Shelter**, 8 lockable and individual spaces on each trailer can be an asset for homelessness, disasters, migrant workers, women's shelters and so much more! If anyone wants to meet or learn more please reach out! 458-253-5821  
[jason@sleeptrailer.com](mailto:jason@sleeptrailer.com)

**Sexual and reproductive telehealth program, Washington State Department of Health:**  
[https://doh.wa.gov/newsroom/telehealth-sexual-and-reproductive-health-care-services-now-available-washington?fbclid=IwAR3ws\\_o6h7-mKa13rJFMKQ1P31\\_NkElVjm3hdmsFhNOwSmXbnmPrg8W7USE](https://doh.wa.gov/newsroom/telehealth-sexual-and-reproductive-health-care-services-now-available-washington?fbclid=IwAR3ws_o6h7-mKa13rJFMKQ1P31_NkElVjm3hdmsFhNOwSmXbnmPrg8W7USE)

**First feedback session for the Proposed Rental Housing Updates** is this coming week. 5:30-7 p.m. Thursday, March 23, Tacoma Public Utilities Auditorium (3628 S 35th St, Tacoma, WA 98409)

**2023 Opioid Summit**, March 23, 8:30 am – 1 pm, Pioneer Park Pavilion, 330 S. Meridian, Puyallup, WA 98371 <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-opioid-summit-tickets-559948640457>

**ORDER COVID TEST KITS** while you still can, they are good to have on hand: State program ends 5/11 and eligibility changes on 3/13. Order here:  
<https://sayyescovidhometest.org/>. Order from the Feds here:  
<https://www.covid.gov/tests>

**Homeless Memorial Service**, March 26, 5 pm, Shiloh Baptist Church.

**Tacoma Rental Housing Code website, with a link to the survey.** If you are neither a tenant nor a landlord, please feel free to fill out the survey as an advocate for either of these groups. <https://www.cityoftacoma.org/rentalhousingcode> Outreach events for community feedback on Tacoma housing code changes. In person event for housing providers, real estate professionals, renters, and housing advocates. Thursday March 23rd from 5:30-7pm at TPU; Virtual Event for Housing Providers, Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, Two sessions: 12-1:30pm, 5:30-7pm; Virtual Event for Renters & Housing Advocates, Thursday,

March 30<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7pm. Access Event Information and zoom links:

[www.cityoftacoma.org/rentalhousingcode](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/rentalhousingcode)

**Free Food and Resources**, Saturday 10~12 everyone welcome no requirements or ID needed you can pick up for others 4819 S 12 st Tacoma Greater Heights Church across from Delong Elementary School

**At Food is Free we do a weekly food rescue on Tuesday mornings at 11 am** at The Hope Point Church, 6511 S C St., Tacoma 98408. If you need fresh produce for outreach please come see us. It goes in a couple of hours so please come before we open at 11.

**FOB Hope is having a fundraiser on April 1st** at the Puyallup Elks Lodge. Dinner, stand-up comedy show, silent auction. Cost is \$15 for dinner and show. Time-5pm-9pm. If you need more information or want to donate to the silent auction, or reserve a table for your group, you can contact me at [tammyc@fobhope.org](mailto:tammyc@fobhope.org) Hope to see you there.

**Laurie Davenport's homeless art** work entitled *The Unseen* is on display at Marlene's Deli. Go look. Held over through April.

**Please sign up to the inclement weather listserv at**

<https://www.pchomeless.org/Home/Listserv>

**Winter '22 Emergency Outreach Tracking Googledoc**

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10Ec\\_bw5KKsFQidzRN7XkM6yea6vHzD0Yf0m5IfjgdpU/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10Ec_bw5KKsFQidzRN7XkM6yea6vHzD0Yf0m5IfjgdpU/edit?usp=sharing)

**We have inclement weather cards** (printed on business card sized stock) that Laurie Davenport created. Let me know if you want any. [tpdrutis@nctacoma.org](mailto:tpdrutis@nctacoma.org)