

What creative ways could we use to make statements in response to sweeps of places like the Union Loop?

Group Discussion Summary • Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness • 3.31.23

“We have learned to say that the good must be extended to all of society before it can be held secure by any one person or class, but we have not yet learned/ to add to that statement/ that unless all (people) and all classes contribute to a good, we cannot even be sure it is worth having.”

— Jane Addams, *Democracy and Social Ethics*, 1902.
<https://www.hullhousemuseum.org/>

Organizing and witness

- March in the streets, coincide with another event.
- Support 501c3 and 501c4 efforts that push for fair housing.
- Show up at Union Loop sweep. We will arrive about 9:30. It is likely parking will be available in the encampment, but because of sweep activity, may be limited. There is a shoulder on the road with parking and also across the street.
- Write about what you see and post or publish. Invite your Councilmember and Mayor to the sweep.
- If you come to sweep, bring supplies: blankets, tents, sleeping bags, contractor bags, small wagons or roll aboard suitcases, coffee, donuts, kindness.
- Flood inboxes weekly of the Mayor and Council - recruit others (organize).
- We could go to policy meetings with emergency blankets wrapped around our shoulders. Can fold and reuse and/or distribute so the blankets don't go to waste.
- Lobbyists need to be outed and PDC reports waved in faces.
- Paying for a billboard that says something like, "Where should they go?" Or use sheets as a billboard.
- Buttons to wear. Also thinking that children like buttons and children influence parents actions.
- Motivate civic engagement by encouraging voting, door to door campaigning for politicians who fight for fair housing.
- Call 211 with messages to stop the harm of sweeps. Counter all the calls that come into 211 that request removal.

Shifting the Narrative

- Communicate difference between number of people living homeless and available resources.
- Real life examples of why folks are homeless, such as among a senior has to live on vs. cost of housing.
- Humanize the issues with videos and interviews with those being moved and swept.
- Document the expense of sweeps and how those resources could be used for things like tiny house villages.

- Humanize by hearing how sweeps are impacting the unhoused and their ability to secure services.
- Social media to push out info., to inspire a movement. YouTube channel called Invisible People. They interview people experiencing homelessness and share their stories.
- The more there are sweeps, the less trust there is in outreach workers.
- Work with encampments and homeless leadership to develop positive media narratives about people meeting their own survival needs.
- There is a great need for opportunities for socialization.
- Organize group to respond to negative comments made in TNT articles about those living homeless, articles Matt Driscoll writes, for example.
- Most people don't see a sweep; video would be useful. Suggestion that Invisible People be invited. Richard will reach out.
- Need something written why sweeps not a good idea. And what it means when all your possessions are taken. Richard will coordinate with Rian.
- How do we offer better communication when we aren't offering real solutions?

Protest art ideas

- Large message that can be seen from street (repurposed sheet strung between trees/poles) with message e.g., "where would you have us go" installed at Union Loop.
- Ghost Tents, like ghost bikes idea, but to commemorate those that have died homeless.
- Body cams on HEAL Team and/or observers - footage can be made into art
- Farmtool based art.
- Increase messaging using t-shirts, banners, murals...
- Clear paint that can be seen in rain (leaves dry cement color under the clear paint)
- Banksy-like stencil.
- Farmers market booth - reusable bags with art by Lived Experience (or the stencil)
- Weather proofed Lived Experience art in public space.
- Request art and/or messages from unsheltered neighbors that we can print multiple copies of. These can be put in sheet protectors and posted whenever a sweep notice is posted.
- Some kind of art/message that is large enough for people to see while driving by that can be moved to locations where sweeps are posted.

Notes and Resources List

New and Notable

Homeless Coalition Social Event, April 6, Thursday 5 - 7 pm at Scamp's on S Tacoma Way. parking in the back alley. Bring a sharable.

Tacoma Reads is focusing on Home and Housing Insecurity. You can check out the books NOW and start sharing and talking about them in your networks. If you'd like to get in touch with Mariesa and me with any support or ideas feel free to email me at eboyd@cityoftacoma.org or mbus@tacomalibrary.org <https://www.tacomalibrary.org/tacomareads/>

The meeting where Lakewood will discuss the LIHI property is at a Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., and people can attend on Zoom. Here is a link to the agenda: https://cityoflakewood.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2023_04_05_PC_Agenda-.pdf

Sweeps are scheduled for Tuesday, April 11, at Union Street Loop. If you come to Union Sweep, take photos, video, and we can share. I am available if you have any questions or uncertainties. Richard 253-442-3045.

Roadmap to Housing Justice events being hosted by Resident Action Project on May 20 in Bellingham, Spokane, Vancouver, and South King County. More info: <https://housingalliance.salsalabs.org/rapsummitinvite?wvpld=ab6b2f4b-8600-4706-98ee-1590be3a6904>

HHS road map to “commercialization of Covid Testing.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/02/09/fact-sheet-covid-19-public-health-emergency-transition-roadmap.html>

If your org needs test kits you can still get them from us by emailing our team at: epitesting@tpchd.org

For people interested in learning more about BIPOC and making room for other community. <https://www.thebipocproject.org/>

Recent Press

"Rethinking Access in the Opioid Epidemic," an op-ed published by the manager of the library that now has a Narcan machine. <https://alki.pubpub.org/pub/qy8874cg/release/1>

“Boards Need Real Diversity, Not Tokenism” <https://hbr.org/2021/08/boards-need-real-diversity-not-tokenism>

Pierce County awarded \$4M in homeless funding through HUD. Others got more, but why? <https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article273758105.html>

Fundraisers and Events

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 Hope to see you there. <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=957347795616444&set=ecnf.10004023698001>

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

FUSION is holding a luncheon fundraiser on May 9th in Federal Way. Our keynote speaker is UW Professor Gregg Colburn, who will present key findings from his book, *Homelessness is a Housing Problem*. His co-author, Clayton Page Aldern, according to his bio, provided data analysis and program evaluation for homelessness programs in Pierce County. If you are interested in attending, please email me at Melinda.lowe@fusionfederalway.org If you are unable to attend, the link to the book synopsis is here -- <https://homelessnesshousingproblem.com>.

Resources and Needs

Ask state lawmakers to adjust their budget proposals to address the homelessness crisis. <https://housingalliance.salsalabs.org/backfillfundinggap/index.html>

Jay Worley is open to suggestion and ideas for cultural work: seededhopes@gmail.com

Housing Alliance Advocacy Links

WLIHA Advocacy pages - Take Action Now! <https://www.wliha.org/take-action>

Advocacy resources: 2023 Public Policy Priorities <https://www.wliha.org/advocacy/2023-public-policy-priorities>

Join the weekly advocate calls on Fridays, 2-3pm on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91811990363>

<https://leg.wa.gov>

<https://tvw.org>

Pierce County Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness can be found here:

<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/7309/Comprehensive-Plan-to-End-Homelessness>

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

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

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-](https://doh.wa.gov/newsroom/telehealth-sexual-and-reproductive-health-care-services-now-available-washington?fbclid=IwAR3ws_o6h7-mKa13rJFMKQ1P31_NkElVjm3hdmsFhNOWSmXbnmPrg8W7USE)

[mKa13rJFMKQ1P31_NkElVjm3hdmsFhNOWSmXbnmPrg8W7USE](https://doh.wa.gov/newsroom/telehealth-sexual-and-reproductive-health-care-services-now-available-washington?fbclid=IwAR3ws_o6h7-mKa13rJFMKQ1P31_NkElVjm3hdmsFhNOWSmXbnmPrg8W7USE)

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.

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_bw5KKsFQidzRN7XkM6yea6vHzD0Yf0m5lfjgdpU/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