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May, 2023

Inspired to Be Our BEST



Dear Friends,

This month I'd like to share about one of the amazing organizations that we partner with through the [South King County Community Impact Fund \(SKCCIF\)](#).

[Businesses Ending Slavery and Trafficking \(BEST\)](#) is a local nonprofit that empowers employers to prevent human trafficking and create pathways to employment for survivors and people at risk. "One of the biggest barriers to exiting a life of exploitation is the lack of financial stability," said Violeta Vega, BEST's Safe Jobs Collaborative Manager.

Through the Safe Jobs Collaborative, BEST bridges the gap between employers and survivors of trafficking. Here's how it works. BEST finds employers who are committed to hiring people from marginalized communities and want to be a part of the solution for preventing human trafficking in the Puget Sound region. Participating employers must guarantee that they will provide survivors with opportunities to interview for open positions. Employers are put through trauma-informed training to understand how to create a safe, welcoming work environment for survivors of trafficking. Once they complete the training, employers become a part of the Safe Jobs Collaborative and are ready to receive applicants.

BEST also coordinates with six local service providers who work directly with survivors of human trafficking to provide case management and wrap-around services. These local service providers help Safe Jobs participants become job-ready, and with the help of BEST, participants can apply for jobs with employers that are a part of the Safe Jobs Collaborative. In 2022, the Safe Jobs Collaborative employed over 150 survivors.

As Violeta said, “Businesses have such power to interrupt injustices and provide support to the communities they are in.” This is truly exemplified through the Safe Jobs Collaborative, helping people escape trafficking by finding long-term financial stability which empowers survivors of human trafficking with the opportunity escape their traffickers and rebuild their lives.

This is aligned with the Port’s goals of [combating human trafficking](#) and developing the next generation of professionals in port-related industries. As part of SKCCIF, BEST’s Safe Jobs Collaborative is connecting survivors to employers in the aviation and maritime sectors at companies such as Alaska Airlines, VIP Hospitality, and Western Towboat, who are part of the Safe Jobs Collaborative.

Thank you, BEST, for being an incredible partner and leader in our community. Thank you for inspiring us all to be our best!

In Unity,



Bookda Gheisar

Senior Director, Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Centering Equity and Taking Action

Pathways to Opportunities: An Environment and Jobs Symposium



The Port is hosting a [one-day conference](#) that will feature the work of local non-profits and community groups working to organize and improve the environment and increase pathways to jobs and workforce development in South King County. Registration is free. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Join us:

Saturday, June 3, 2023

8:30 a.m.– 2:30 p.m.

Highline College.

RSVP Today!

Join the OEDI Team!



Are you passionate about environmental justice? Do you believe that local government has the power to create healthy, thriving communities? Then, apply to become OEDI's [Environmental Justice Program Manager](#)! In this position, you will lead the Port and community partners in designing and implementing an environmental justice framework to guide how the Port prioritizes and invests in issues that affect near-Port communities.

[Learn more](#) about the position and **apply by 11:59 p.m. on June 18.**

Celebrating Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Heritage Month



To commemorate May as AANHPI Heritage Month, the [Port Commission](#) passed a [proclamation](#) during their May 23rd meeting, honoring the profound contributions of local AANHPI leaders such as Bob Santos, Wing Luke, Phil Hayasaka, and Alan Sugiyama. The proclamation was read aloud by members of the Home of Asian and Pacific Islanders (HAPI) employee resource group. Additionally, in this short video, [Commission President Sam Cho](#) shares his reflections on the significance of AANHPI heritage month.



A Mural at Fishermen's Terminal

The Port of Seattle's [Public Art Program](#) is seeking an artist or artist team to submit qualifications for an outdoor mural to be sited within Fishermen's Terminal.

The artwork will focus on fishing in the Pacific Northwest and North Pacific, exploring ideas within the realm of history, culture, and heritage of sustainable fishing in the Pacific Northwest and create a community landmark that honors the Maritime industry, environmental sustainability, and equity and inclusion. King, Pierce, and Snohomish County artists and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) artists are strongly encouraged to apply.

All applications must be [submitted by June 2 at 2 p.m.](#)

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