

For Immediate Release—Sept. 30, 2021



WA communities inspire creative ways to survive with fall 'Dreamathon'

SEATTLE—Around Washington state communities and everyday people will have a unique invitation to use art, humor, social media, and other forms of creativity to imagine a better pandemic life during the fall with the Delta variant on the rise. The "[What The World Needs Now: A Dreamathon](#)" campaign is an innovative partnership between artists, African American Health Board, Washington Community Alliance, mutual aid organizers of color and several local community-led BIPOC groups, along with The Seattle Public Library and King County Library System.

Cash prizes will be given out weekly for creative ideas, and the Dreamathon will culminate with two days of livestream events on Oct. 22-23 for families, elders, singles, community organizers, creatives, performers and more to showcase their solutions for making pandemic life better!

"Right now, with the rise of the Delta variant, one of the most practical things we can do is to dream. What the World Needs Now is for communities who have been hit hardest by COVID to have warmth and connection, and space to share a proactive vision," said Davida Ingram, an artist who designs public engagement at The Seattle Public Library.

The event organizers have asked youth and community conveners who are Native, Black, Latinx, Pacific Islander, Asian and BIPOC, along with communities experiencing incarceration and economic insecurity to imagine how we can take care of one another. The goal: make things less scary and more uplifting, even amid the rise of the delta variant and changing public health guidance.

Here's how the Dreamathon campaign works: Friends, school classes, families, individuals—anyone!—are invited to [share their dreams](#) and most importantly, [register for the events on Oct. 22 and 23](#). #DreamathonWA asks: if you could travel back in time and go through fall quarantine again, what would you do differently? What would be in your COVID-response kit for yourself, for your family and for your communities?

Folks are invited to submit ideas like drawings, sketch comedy, mutual aid events, comics, poetry readings, memes and more with the hashtags #DreamathonWA and #StaySafeTogether when they post online. Participants can also vvy for weekly cash prizes: \$375 for youth submissions, and \$150 for adults!

This community campaign's early submissions already include: [3 PSA animations from a 9-year-old artist named Emery](#) about the how to #StaySafeTogether during the Delta Variant; [weekly outdoor screenings at El Centro de la Raza by Sankofa Films](#); and a Black and Asian solidarity dinner and Instagram Live broadcast by foodies Mytam Nguyen and Tarik Abdullah of Feed the People.

The #DreamathonWA two-day finale takes place Oct. 22 and 23 with live-streaming events. These include a virtual dance party on Friday, Oct. 22, from 7:30 to 10 p.m., and a community celebration on Saturday, Oct. 23, from 2 to 4 p.m. and are open to participants from across the state. Both presenters and audience members will have a chance to share their Delta rapid response solutions in a lineup that features artists, organizers, performers, public health advocates and more.

"Our communities know what we need. We've always known." said Denisse Guerrero, Field Organizer at Washington Community Alliance "Starting with joy and gratitude, we're using fun as a way to share and amplify our own solutions. We're grounding ourselves in our collective brilliance and our ability to keep us well."

Ideas from the Dreamathon will inform campaign recommendations shared with the public and to policy makers across the state as part of the broader health equity initiative. The goal is to elevate BIPOC community-led solutions to health equity in the context of COVID. Through 2022, we aim to listen deeply to communities and to ensure their solutions for creating wellness with health equity are heard.

Partners in the Dreamathon include:

African American Health Board, African American Reach and Teach Health (AARTH), A Sacred Passing, Fred Hutchinson (CoVPN), Gathering Roots Wellness, Harborview Medical Center, King County Equity Now, King County Library System, KVRU 105.7 LPFM, Pacific Islander Community Association, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, The Seattle Public Library, Seattle Youth Commission, Tubman Center for Health & Freedom, UTOPIA Washington, Washington State Department of Health, Wa Na Wari, Washington Community Alliance and #SeattleTogether.

###

Contact:

Candace Jackson

africanamericanhb@gmail.com