

# LAKEWOOD MULTICULTURAL COALITION



*Providing a voice to all people and communities through celebration, empowerment, and inclusion!*

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

In 2015, the Lakewood City Council passed a vision statement that highlighted the city's diversity as one of its greatest strengths. This commitment to equity and inclusion led to the creation of the Lakewood Multicultural Coalition (LMCC) in October 2016. The Coalition was launched by Mary Moss, who continues to serve as its chair and is also the current Deputy Mayor of Lakewood.

The LMCC was formed to foster inclusivity and understanding within our diverse community. Recognizing the need for a platform where different cultures could come together, we aimed to celebrate unique traditions and promote mutual respect. Our goal was simple: to build bridges between cultural groups and create a more connected, harmonious community.

As a passionate and diverse group of community members, the LMCC works to represent the interests of all residents in Lakewood and the Greater Puget Sound area. Under Mary Moss's leadership, the coalition has become a space where community members can discuss ways to support diversity and the role we can play in strengthening it.

Our mission is to give a voice to all people and communities through

## 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL DR. CLAUDIA THOMAS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD GALA

Dr. Claudia Thomas was the first African American mayor in the state of Washington. With 42 years of dedicated service in public education, Dr. Thomas focused on helping youth reach their full potential, founding the still-active organization, **Lakewood's Promise**.

In honor of Dr. Thomas' extraordinary contributions to our community, we will recognize individuals who continue her legacy of service. To nominate someone for the **Dr. Claudia Thomas Community Service Award**, please complete the **Award Nomination Form** (attached below) and submit it by **January 31, 2025**.

## DESSERT DASH FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

A highlight of the evening will be the **Dessert Dash**, an exciting and interactive fundraiser to support local scholarships. Guests will have the opportunity to bid on a selection of beautifully crafted desserts displayed at the event. The more you bid, the closer you get to choosing your favorite! The proceeds from the Dessert Dash will go toward funding scholarships, helping local students pursue their educational goals.

## SAVE THE DATE

The **2025 the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dr. Claudia Thomas Community Service Award Gala** will take place on **March 8, 2025**, at the **Clover Park Technical College McGavick Conference Center**. We look forward to celebrating Dr. Thomas' legacy and continuing her work of empowering our community.

For more information on the upcoming event, visit our website: [www.lmcc-lakewood.org](http://www.lmcc-lakewood.org) or visit us on our [Facebook page](#), where will be posting updates on the event.

## PURCHASE TICKET TO THE DR CLAUDIA THOMAS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-annual-dr-claudia-thomas-community-service-award-gala-tickets-1101207434079?aff=oddtcreator>

celebration, empowerment, and inclusion. We envision a future where our communities are built on mutual respect and shared values, united in their diversity.

One of our key objectives was to establish a Signature Event that would bring our mission to life. In 2023, we proudly launched the 1st Dr. Claudia Thomas Community Service Award Gala, which we hold annually in March to coincide with National Women's History Month, honoring the legacy of Dr. Claudia Thomas. The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual will be March 8, 2025. This event has become a cornerstone for the city, highlighting the contributions of individuals who inspire positive change in our community.

Together, we continue to work towards a more inclusive and united Lakewood, where all cultures are celebrated and respected.

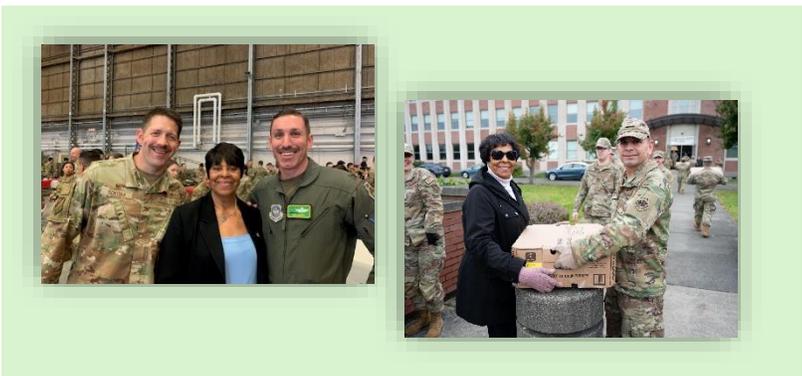
Mary Moss, LMCC, President/CEO

The **Lakewood Multicultural Coalition (LMCC)** is incredibly proud of the positive impact we've made in our community, especially in supporting our youth and education. Thanks to the tremendous success of the **Dessert Dash** at the **Dr. Claudia Thomas Community Service Award Gala**, LMCC was able to provide much-needed scholarships to students in our area.

- \$2,000 to Clover Park Technical College
- \$2,000 to Pierce College
- \$1,000 each to four outstanding high school graduates



In addition, we collaborated with the talented students at **Hilltop Artists** to design the special award that honors those who exemplify Dr. Claudia Thomas' dedication to community service.



LMCC was also proud to support the creation of a mural at **Clover Park High School** that beautifully captures the diversity of Lakewood. This mural, created by Clover Park High School students, serves as a lasting reminder of the community's unity and inclusivity.



**LMCC BOARD MEMBERS**

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Amari Davis       | Kimi Ginn         |
| Andrea Pruneda    | La Marco Mitchell |
| Annessa McClendon | Martin Olmos      |
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