

Educating Ourselves About Race & Racism

April-June 2024

Monday Evenings

All classes are from 7-8pm via Zoom

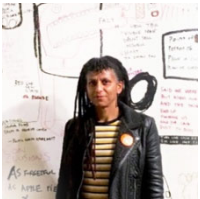
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By educating ourselves we can change our community and our country.

April 1

Looking back to look forward: Curating art as an act of healing Tammy Jo Wilson, Artist and Curator



Artist and curator Tammy Jo Wilson will share the work of Bush House Museum's "reimagining project," confronting its own problematic legacy through art. Wilson considers through her work how to move forward through the deep roots of systemic racism and de-memorializes that which no longer reflects our values. Wilson will also share her work curating the traveling exhibition BLACK MATTER featuring all Oregon-based black artists and how the serves as an act of social justice.

Tammy Jo is the Director of Exhibits and Programming for Bush House Museum. Tammy Jo received her BFA from the Pacific Northwest College of Art and her MFA from San Jose State University. One of her pieces was recently exhibited in the Black Artists of Oregon show at the Portland Art Museum. Her next solo exhibition will be at Souvenir Gallery in Portland this May.

April 8

The Impact of Our Identity

Ray White, DEI educator



Do you know how your identity impacts belonging?

If we lack self-awareness, our actions may inadvertently harm others. Through introspection and gaining clarity on our identity, we can proactively contribute to the greater good of our Salem community.

Join us to explore strategies for enhancing self and social awareness through reflective practices and valuable resources, empowering you to drive positive change within your circles of influence.

Raymond White's vision is to see communities where every identity belongs and thrives. Ray holds a Bachelor's degree from Willamette University, focusing on Sociology and American Ethnic Studies, and has a Master's in Business from George Fox University.

April 15

The Impact of Our Culture

Kristina Gonzalez, Executive Director for Innovation and Vitality,
Greater Northwest Area of the UMC



Kristina will use the Iceberg Analogy of Culture to help us understand how culture has shaped us - no matter our backgrounds - and how we live and judge from our cultural understandings. Cultural self-awareness is key to intercultural awareness.

April 22

The Impact of Inclusive Language

Dr. Suzanne Wertheim, author, [*The Inclusive Language Field Guide: 6 Simple Principles for Avoiding Painful Mistakes and Communicating Respectfully*](#)



Dr. Suzanne Wertheim is the head of Worthwhile Research & Consulting. Worthwhile debiases culture and communication. Clients rely on its expertise to improve their hiring, organizational culture, engagement, and retention. Located in Oakland, California, its clients range in size from 50 to 150,000, and many of them have a global presence.

Dr. Wertheim has been an invited speaker around the US and in Europe, presenting research on language and bias, language and gender, and anthropology and artificial intelligence. She has her PhD in linguistics from Berkeley.

April 29

Dr. Charlene Williams, Director, Oregon Department of Education
Educating Youth in Oregon



Dr. Williams brings 30 years of experience as a teacher and public-school administrator, working in school districts of all sizes. She is the first Black woman in Oregon history to be appointed to the role and was confirmed as the permanent director in September 2023.

Before accepting her current position, Dr. Williams was deputy superintendent at Evergreen Public Schools in Vancouver WA. She previously served as an assistant superintendent in the Camas School District and was a recipient of the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) Award for promoting access, equity, and social justice for students. She has worked at Portland Public Schools as principal and as Senior Director of School Performance.

She arrived in Oregon in 1999 to become a math instructor, program coordinator and curriculum developer at Portland Community College and has extensive background in traditional and alternative education.

May 6



Tribal Histories of the Willamette Valley

Dr. David Lewis, OSU professor and author
Tribal Histories of the Willamette Valley

The Willamette Valley is rich with history—its riverbanks, forests, and mountains home to the tribes of Kalapuya, Chinook, Molalla, and more for thousands of years. This history has been largely unrecorded, incomplete, poorly researched, or partially told. Oregon Indigenous historian David G. Lewis combines years of researching historical documents and collecting oral stories, highlighting Native perspectives about the history of the Willamette Valley as they experienced it (from Amazon.com).

Dr. David Lewis is a member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, a descendant of the Santiam, Chinook and Takelma Peoples of Western Oregon, and a former Cultural Manager of the tribe who planned and designed the tribal museum at Grand Ronde. Dr. Lewis is a recognized researcher, scholar, educator and writer of original histories of the peoples of Oregon and California, with an extensive record of collaborative projects with regional schools, tribes, local governments and communities for over 20 years. He currently is a full-time faculty at OSU Anthropology and Ethic Studies (Native Studies) Dept.

May 13



What is the Circle of Indigenous Ministries?

Dr. Alan Buck, Director, Circle of Indigenous Ministries

In addition to being the Director of Circle of Indigenous Ministries, Rev. Buck is also the pastor of Great Spirit PDX, a United Methodist congregation whose worship includes Native and Christian themes, traditions, and practices. He is a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.

May 20



The Impact of Violence on BIPOC Youth in Salem

Troy Gregg, Marion County Juvenile Department Director

The role of the Juvenile Department is to process juvenile delinquency referrals from law enforcement on youth who are alleged to have committed a criminal act.

After an almost 20-year career at the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA), Troy Gregg was hired as the Marion County Juvenile Department Director. While at OYA, Troy served in multiple positions, including as a parole and probation officer for the north coast region, program manager at the Tillamook Youth Accountability Camp, and as the Superintendent of the Eastern Oregon Youth Facility and the Rogue Valley Facility in Grants Pass. His final position in OYA, prior to coming to Marion County, began in 2008, where he served as the

