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February 2025

Our Commitment to Our Beloved Community



Dear Friends,

On Monday, January 20, our nation celebrated the life and legacy of the heroic, visionary civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In his book *Strength to Love* and throughout his work, Dr. King envisioned the “beloved community” – a society where love and compassion guide policies, where people work together to eliminate hunger, poverty, and bigotry, and where we collectively foster inclusion, unity, peace, and justice.

In reverence to Dr. King and the world he envisioned, I want to reaffirm that the Port of Seattle is committed to supporting and advocating for the richly diverse communities we serve. This includes our employees, partners, vendors, collaborators, and, of course, the residents of King County. The Port is a mission-driven, values-centered organization. We serve our communities to promote economic opportunity and quality of life for all by advancing trade, travel, commerce, and job creation in an equitable, accountable, and environmentally responsible manner. And we advance that mission through our steadfast commitment to our R.A.I.S.E. values – Respect, Anti-racism and equity, Integrity, Stewardship, and Excellence.

Our mission, values, and commitment to fostering an inclusive, thriving, and safe community are unchanged. We will continue to embed our values in all we do for the people of our region and our workforce. As always, this takes courage – to stand up for our values, to advocate for what is right, and to make tough decisions.

Thankfully, we are not isolated or alone. We gratefully have each other. This moment requires us to be bold and unified. We each play a role in building a future that benefits us all, a future that we all deserve.

Once again, I remind us of the brilliance and inspiration of Dr. King – “Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable ... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.”

I am honored to serve the residents of King County in my role at the Port of Seattle. I am excited about the year ahead, including, but not limited to, our [recent commitment](#) to deeper collaboration with the Suquamish Indian Tribe; our innovative partnerships to grow our region’s workforce in port industries through collaborations like the [Aviation Maintenance Technology](#) and [Ground Service Equipment](#) programs; our reinvestment in the economic and environmental health of our communities through the [expansion of South King County Community Impact Fund](#); and our continued efforts to reach our [goal of decarbonizing our operations by 2040](#).

I believe in our collective ability to create a community where everyone – in all our beautiful diversity – is valued and to drive an economy where people and the environment are healthy. Please join us in creating a beloved community.

In Unity,



Bookda Gheisar
Senior Director
Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (OEDI)

Centering Equity and Taking Action

Join the OEDI team! Apply by February 16



Are you an expert in civil rights? Do you have experience creating, implementing, and tracking programming related to Title VI, Language Access, and/or Anti-Human Trafficking? Apply to join the Port's OEDI team as the new [Civil Rights Program Manager](#). This two-year position serves as the Port's Civil Rights advisor and subject matter expert. In this role, you will lead the implementation of the Port's Title VI and language access work, and be a significant contributor to anti-human trafficking work. Learn more and [apply by February 16 at 11:59 p.m.](#)

The Port of Seattle and Suquamish Indian Tribe sign Memorandum of Agreement



The Port and the Suquamish Indian Tribe signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) expanding their government-to-government relationship and increasing collaboration on areas of mutual interest. This includes increased communications, constructive dialogue, and problem-solving to advance issues of regional importance such as economic development, treaty-reserved fishery resources, intergovernmental advocacy, cultural and archaeological resource preservation, education and job training, and fish and wildlife habitat restoration and stewardship.

[Learn more →](#)

New allies join the Port Pledge to Stop Human Trafficking

On January 9, the Port of Seattle held its third annual [Port Allies Against Human Trafficking \(PAAHT\) pledge](#) event and was joined by two new signatories — Norwegian Cruise Line and Coastal Alaska Premier Seafoods. [A total of 22 signatories](#) have taken the pledge since its 2023 inception, which began as a Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA)–specific awareness and training effort and expanded to the Port’s cruise partners last year. The event marks the Port’s continued commitment to preventing human trafficking through awareness, education, and tools created in partnership with regional anti-human trafficking leaders.

[Learn more →](#)

A SEA CHANGE is in our future



The Port of Seattle is looking for a [SEA CHANGE](#) – a fundamental transformation of our aviation and maritime operations, infrastructure, and technology. This journey is not a sprint; it's a marathon. Becoming the greenest port in North America demands innovation, unwavering commitment, strong partnerships, and an understanding that significant change takes time. [Check out the 2024 highlights from the Port's environmental work](#) to see how we're building new infrastructure, engaging our communities, and creatively advancing our goal of decarbonizing our operations by 2040.

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