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***For immediate release re: Womxn’s March on Seattle 2019***

THREE-DAY WEEKEND OF ACTIVISM: Womxn’s March on Seattle anniversary events January 19 - 20; MLK March and Day of Service January 21

Seattle, WA - On the third anniversary of the Womxn’s March on Seattle, organizers have planned three days of activism, including rallies, marches, workshops, lectures, panel discussions, and more. The events on January 19 and 20 are being organized by Seattle Womxn Marching Forward, the Seattle chapter of the Women’s March. These womxn organized the Womxn’s March on Seattle in January of 2017 and last year’s official anniversary event, Womxn Act on Seattle. Events on January 21 are organized by the Martin Luther King Day Organizing Coalition. Both organizing groups have worked collaboratively to build positive, complementary events.

JANUARY 19: WOMXN’S MARCH ON SEATTLE 2019: BUILDING POWER

- 9 a.m. Rally at Cal Anderson Park
- 10:30 a.m. Womxn’s March from Cal Anderson to Seattle Center
- 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Seattle Center events

JANUARY 20: WOMXN’S MARCH DAY OF ACTION

- 9:30 a.m. start time for Womxn’s March Day of Action and Food Drive, taking place at Hubs around the city
- 2 p.m. MLK Day Kickoff Youth Celebration Hip Hop Party at the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center
- 4 p.m. deadline to drop off Food Lifeline donations at Hubs

JANUARY 21: MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

- 8:30 a.m. start time for events celebrating MLK Day at Garfield High School
- 12:30 p.m. Womxn’s March contingent joins MLK Day March in progress at 22nd and Jackson

Womxn’s March on Seattle 2019: Building Power

The anniversary weekend programming kicks off on January 19 with a 9 a.m. rally at Cal Anderson Park. Speakers listed below are confirmed.
Masters of Ceremonies: Colleen Echohawk, Executive Director of Chief Seattle Club, and Monserrat Padilla, Coordinator with the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network
- Rev. Bianca Lovelace, Washington Poor People's Campaign
- Cinthia Vazquez, Washington Dream Coalition
- ChrisTiana Obey Sumner, Seattle Disability Commission
- Dr. Rev. Kelle Brown, Lead Pastor, Plymouth Church Seattle

“These speakers represent Seattle Womxn Marching Forward’s commitment to meaningful activism, and lifting up voices of marginalized communities. We believe these speakers will provide a deeper understanding of systemic injustice here in Seattle and across the country, and fire up our marchers to take action in the year ahead,” says Keala Aronowitz, co-lead of the event committee for Seattle Womxn Marching Forward.

The Womxn’s March will start immediately following the rally between 10 – 10:30 a.m. In keeping with the last two years, the march will be led by Indigenous womxn. The route will take marchers from Cal Anderson Park to Seattle Center. A detailed march route will be published the week before the march and sanctioned entry and exit points will be published as soon as they are identified.

As they arrive at Seattle Center, marchers will be invited to take a deeper dive into their commitment to justice and equity. Seattle Womxn Marching Forward has organized nearly a dozen panels led by speakers from diverse and dedicated communities. Topics include: #MeToo, homelessness, youth activism, womxn of color candidates, personal stories of indigenous womxn, disability justice, womxn's health, immigrants and refugees, art in activism, and trans advocacy.

Events at Seattle Center begin at 11:30 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m. Details about panel locations and exact timing will be published on the Seattle Womxn Marching Forward website and in Real Change newspapers.

Womxn’s March Day of Action

On Sunday, January 20, Seattle Womxn Marching Forward presents the second annual Womxn’s March Day of Action, a day of learning, educating, healing, and community-building in neighborhoods all around the city. Like last year, most of the action will happen at neighborhood “hubs,” or large venues that will accommodate an exciting lineup of events. In addition to the hubs are some exciting standalone events. At Seattle University, for example, Kids 4 Peace and their program partners will present Make Your Voice Heard: An MLK Youth Advocacy Workshop at 2 p.m.

Currently, we have programming planned at the following five hub locations. Programming details are not yet finalized, and more locations may be added.

- Phinney Neighborhood Association
- The Riveter Capitol Hill
- Plymouth Church Seattle
- Casa Latina
- Youngstown Cultural Arts Center

At each of these events, local leaders, teachers, and activists will share their expertise with attendees seeking to make new connections, uncover new truths, and deepen their understanding of marginalized
communities and systemic oppression.

"Our incredible community of frontline organizers, activists, and their allies have stepped up to lead a program that is as exciting as it is varied. This powerful weekend of panels, healing sessions, workshops, and trainings will galvanize the region, and bring us together into deeper solidarity and movement work," says Liberty Harrington, co-lead of the programming committee for Seattle Womxn Marching Forward.

**Partnerships for Building Power**

Seattle Womxn Marching Forward is partnering closely with a number of nonprofits and grassroots groups on the anniversary weekend. Recognizing early in the planning process that the Womxn’s March anniversary would fall on Martin Luther King Day weekend, Seattle Womxn Marching Forward reached out to the organizing committee for the MLK Day events. Both teams have worked in close collaboration and will offer complementary programming.

For the second year in a row, Seattle Womxn Marching Forward will partner with Food Lifeline and Seattle Indivisible to collect food and sundries at Hub locations on January 20. Please bring your non-perishable goods to each Hub by 4 p.m. Last year, Hub attendees donated almost one metric ton of food.

A detailed schedule of all the Womxn’s March and MLK Day events will be published in the January 16th edition of Real Change. These newspapers will be available to purchase from every Real Change vendor one week prior to the march. Vendors will also attend the march. Programming details also will be available online at [www.seattlewomxnmarchingforward.org](http://www.seattlewomxnmarchingforward.org).

The fiscal sponsorship of the march and the day of action is provided by Reel Grrls, a Seattle-based nonprofit that empowers young women and gender non-conforming youth from diverse communities to realize their power, talent, and influence through media production. Reel Grrls leadership will also host several workshops on the Day of Action.

**ABOUT THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY**

The format, activities, and themes for this year’s anniversary weekend were conceived of by a core programming team of diverse frontline activists. Members of this programming team, external to Seattle Womxn Marching Forward, represent communities and organizations with long histories of social justice action and movement work and bring deep experience, leadership, and perspective to the most pressing issues in our region.

**ABOUT SEATTLE WOMXN MARCHING FORWARD**

Seattle Womxn Marching Forward is the Seattle chapter of the Women’s March, initially formed to organize the 2017 Womxn’s March on Seattle. Seattle Womxn Marching Forward is committed to upending the white supremacist patriarchal attitudes, systems, and institutions that continue to negatively impact womxn and their families. Since 2017, Seattle Womxn Marching Forward has organized several major events, including the volunteer-centered Community Convergence and last year’s Womxn Act on Seattle. They work with local, regional, and national coalitions to bring attention and awareness to issues of inequity and injustice. Seattle Womxn Marching Forward is fiscally sponsored by Seattle-based nonprofit, Reel Grrls. For more information about the team and the work they do, please visit [www.seattlewomxnmarchingforward.org](http://www.seattlewomxnmarchingforward.org)