



## Basic Needs Possibility Day

January 9, 2025, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
LT Office - 1301 5th Avenue,  
Suite 1500 Seattle, WA 98101

### Session Sponsors:



### Session Objectives:

- Explore how we decide and whom we listen to in finding solutions to systemic barriers so communities can meet their basic needs to survive and thrive.
- Explore the roles of government/ Nonprofits/ Private Industry
- Discuss how the choices we make impact our community.
- Discuss the role your leadership plays in shared prosperity.
- Explore how race and racial equity impact access to basic needs and opportunities.

### Required Pre-Work – Read, Review, Explore, Write

- **Review:** [Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs](#), Basic Needs Framing
- **Read:**
  - [The Intersector: How the Public, Nonprofit, and Private Sectors Can Address America's Challenges](#): While not exclusively focused on Washington State, this resource provides valuable insights into cross-sector collaboration. It discusses how leaders from different sectors can work together to find solutions to systemic barriers, with relevance to Washington's unique context.
  - [Stanford Social Innovation Review](#)

### **Write: What does home mean to you?**

- Consider the policies, systems, and community elements that have benefited or burdened your meaning of "home." What was your family's definition of "home"? What did "home" look and feel like to you as a young adult? What does home mean to you now?
- Write a summary to describe your pathway to the present. If there is a picture or an object that symbolizes your story, please feel free to bring it.

## Agenda

Time	Activity	Presenter(s)
9:00 a.m.	Welcome, Reconnection, Land Acknowledgement, Empathic Listening, Basic Needs Context Setting (L)	C. Marie Taylor, LT'23
9:40 a.m.	Morning Mash-up (A,E)	Nell Brewer LT'23
10:15 a.m.	Break	
10:45 a.m.	Leadership Studio with Practitioners in Conversation (L,D)	Sara Seelmeyer (UWKC), Linda Taylor (Urban League), Josh Hirshland (Amazon), Alaric Bien (City of Redmond)
11:30 a.m.	Small Group Time with the Panelist & Basic Needs Experiential Activity (L,D)	Panel
12:30 p.m.	Lunch	
1:30 p.m.	Reflections From the Morning (D)	Jessica Werner, LT'05
1:45 p.m.	Health in All Policies: A Collaborative Approach to Health Rooted in Equity (A,D)	Cindil Redick-Ponte, LT'24
2:45 p.m.	Break	
2:55 p.m.	Knowledge Sharing Swap and Art Visioning (E,D)	Jessica Werner, LT'05
3:55 p.m.	Wrap-up and Adjourn	C. Marie Taylor, LT'23
4:00	Social Hour The Fonte Bar at Rainier Square 401 Union St Suite 201, Seattle, WA 98101	

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## **Bios**

### **Alaric Bien, Senior Planner, City of Redmond**

Alaric Bien is a Senior Human Services Planner for the City of Redmond, WA working with communities to ensure that all residents can thrive and not just survive. Previously, he was Executive Director of the Chinese Information and Service Center, serving Chinese, Vietnamese, Russian, and South Asian residents in the Greater Seattle area.

With a background in community mental health, he has worked with diverse groups of immigrants and refugees in Seattle, Boston, Hawaii, and Los Angeles. Having lived in the US, Germany, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, he has rudimentary skills in many languages and is functionally illiterate in most of them. This does, however, give him an insight into different ways of thinking and perceiving the world.

### **Josh Hirschland, Principal Product Manager, Communications & Corporate Responsibility, Amazon**

For the past four years, Joshua Hirschland has led food security efforts for Amazon's Community Impact team; this includes running Amazon's Community Delivery program, which has delivered more than 50 million meals to food-insecure families around the world since 2020. Josh is actively involved in the Puget Sound community, serving on the board of Town Hall Seattle and, previously, the Seattle Transit Advisory Board, and he supports food security organizations as an advisor and volunteer. Josh has a Bachelor's degree from Columbia University and an MBA from the University of Chicago. Originally from Michigan, you can find him most Sundays cheering on the Detroit Lions from his home on Mercer Island, where he lives with his wife, two young children, and 85-pound black lab Toby.

### **Meghin Margel, LT'18 (BECU)**

Meghin Margel serves as the President of the Kent School District Board of Directors, representing District 2. She was initially appointed to the board in September 2022 to fill a vacancy and was subsequently elected by voters in November 2023 for a term extending through November 2027. Margel holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a Master of Business Administration from the Foster School of Business at the University of Washington. Professionally, she has amassed nearly 30 years of experience in the financial services industry, including over a decade at BECU, where she has served as Director of Lending Solutions.

Margel's commitment to education is further demonstrated through her active involvement in the Kent School District community. She has two children enrolled in the district and has volunteered as a treasurer for the Ridgewood Elementary PTA, in addition to participating in various classroom programs. Her dedication to the community is evident in her statement: "I want to make sure that all of our students have doors wide open to them and that they have the same opportunities to be able to make those choices of where they take their careers and their education."

In her role on the school board, Margel emphasizes the importance of equity, diversity, and open communication. She advocates for listening to the diverse voices within the community to ensure that the district meets the varied needs of its students. Her leadership reflects a commitment to transparency and collaboration, aiming to foster an inclusive environment where all students can thrive.

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**Cindil Redick-Ponte (they/she), MSSW, LT'24 Manager of Community Healthcare Improvement and Linkages, Washington State Department of Health**

Cindil is a thoughtful and dynamic social worker specializing in supporting organizations to build community-led programs and operationalize anti-racist and equitable practices. Currently, they serve as the Community Healthcare Improvement and Linkages Manager at the WA Department of Health, overseeing the sexual, reproductive, and perinatal health programs in Prevention and Community Health.

As a multiracial person of color, Cindil grew up in a home where generosity, community, and justice were core values. Since the age of three, they have advocated for social justice and bring a wide range of academic, professional, and lived experience to their work. They are an experienced social policy practitioner, engaging public speaker, and an aspiring textile artist. In the community, Cindil can be found supporting health, art, and environmental justice as an active member of the Shoreline Parks, Recreation, Cultural Services and Tree Board.

**Sara Seelmeyer, Associate Director, Ending Hunger United Way of King County**

Sara Seelmeyer joined United Way of King County in 2016, and is United Way's Associate Director of Ending Hunger. In her position, she leads local and statewide work to increase access to federal nutrition programs and the emergency food system. Sara works closely with local, state, and national partners to break down barriers to food security and support a just food system. She is a native of northern Nevada, a proud AmeriCorps alum, and passionate about education justice, food justice, and ending childhood poverty.

**Linda Taylor, VP of Housing & Financial Empowerment for the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle**

Linda Taylor joined the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle in 1998 as a Housing Counselor, responsible for Pre-Purchase Counseling and now directs the ULMS Housing Department which includes a team of HUD-Certified housing specialists who coordinate counseling in the areas of: Financial Education, Mortgage Default which includes modifications, Budget Development, Credit Enhancement, Pre-Purchase Education, Rental Assistance, Transitional Housing, and Reverse Mortgage.