



Washington State Commission On

# African American Affairs

August 23, 2021



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## Charlotta Bass

Charlotta Bass was a newspaper publisher-editor, and civil rights activist. She is the first African American woman to own and operate a newspaper in the United States and the first African American woman to be nominated for Vice President of the United States.

Bass moved to California and began selling subscriptions for *The California Eagle*. When the owner died, she borrowed \$50 to purchase the newspaper. With a circulation of 60,000 readers, it became the largest African American newspaper on the West Coast. She was the talk of the town because no one had ever heard of a woman running a newspaper. As owner, editor and publisher, she advanced a range of social justice causes such as housing, voting, and labor rights, as well as police brutality and harassment. The paper is credited as pioneering multiethnic politics, advocating Asian-American and Mexican-American civil rights during which time *The California Eagle*, along with other African American presses, were under investigation by the Office of the Secretary of War, Bass published the paper from 1912 until 1951.

She entered politics during the '40's, running for the Los Angeles City Council and helped organize the Independent Progressive Party of California. Retiring from the newspaper in 1952, Bass became the first African-American woman nominated for Vice President of the United States. Without basis, she was labeled a Communist for her "radical" beliefs of civil rights and organized labor. She was monitored by the FBI, her international travel restricted and considered a security threat well into her nineties. Bass did not become Vice President but made history for bringing national attention to the fight for equality. After politics, she retired to what was then the Black resort town outside of Los Angeles - Lake Elsinore. She turned her garage into a community reading room and voter registration site. Bass passed away in 1969 at age 95.

### Sources:

Blackpast.org; NPS.gov; NYTimes.com, Wikipedia.org;

## Diaper Bank Grant Program Proposed Public Comment Needed

The Washington State Department of Commerce is proposing a grant program for "diaper banks."

Thousands of families throughout Washington are struggling to afford diapers, wipes and other essential baby products. Recognizing this need, the state legislature provided \$5 million over the next biennium and charged Commerce with administering a new grant program to fund "diaper banks" in communities statewide.

Purpose of the funding is to support local organizations/agencies in purchasing and distributing diapers, wipes and other essential baby products to families in need with children under three years of age. The legislation prioritizes diaper bank providers that serve or are located in marginalized, low-income communities or communities of color, and providers that help support racial equity.

Community input is needed now to gather input from stakeholders and the public to help guide what should be included in the new program. Please submit written comments on the Washington State Diaper Program via U.S. mail or e-mail as soon as possible.

Email: [CSBG@Commerce.wa.gov](mailto:CSBG@Commerce.wa.gov)  
or by U.S. Mail:

**Attention: Karen Dunn, Department of Commerce  
WA Diaper Program  
P.O. Box 42525  
Olympia, WA 98504-2525**

Questions? If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Karen Dunn, (360) 485-2984

Demystifying Philanthropy:

# MOVING TOWARD BLACK ABUNDANCE

August is **Black Philanthropy Month**  
in **Washington** and around the world.

**Join Black philanthropic leaders** to  
explore the legacy of Black  
generosity and investing in a  
liberated future by, for, and with  
Black Washingtonians.

## Virtual Event Series

**Black Philanthropy Is Community Care**

Tuesday, Aug. 17 at 12 to 1:30 pm

**From Institutional Philanthropic Redlining to  
Black Freedom**

Tuesday, Aug. 24 at 12 to 1:30 pm

**Where Is the Money?**

Tuesday, Aug. 31 at 5 to 6:30 pm

# JOIN US

**RSVP at [BlackFutureWA.org/BPM2021](https://BlackFutureWA.org/BPM2021)**

**BLACK  
FUTURE  
CO-OP  
FUND**



**BLACK  
PHILANTHROPY MONTH**  
WASHINGTON • AUGUST 2021

Organizers: Black Future Co-op Fund, ESK Family Fund, Lindsay Hill, Morgan Dawson,  
Philanthropy Northwest, Renton Regional Community Foundation, and Seattle Foundation.

# EMPLOYMENT/CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Please see our website for additional announcements [WWW.CAA.WA.GOV/Employment](http://WWW.CAA.WA.GOV/Employment)

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**COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS** [Executive Assistant](#). Closing August 31, 2021

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**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS** [openings](#)

**EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT** [openings](#)

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[IT Application Development \(Journeyman\)](#)

**OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT** [openings](#)

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE** [openings](#)

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[Deputy Insurance Commissioner - Operations Division](#). Open until filled

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH** [openings](#)

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRIES** [openings](#)

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[Executive Director](#). Open continuous

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**WASHINGTON STATE PATROL** [openings](#)

**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION** [openings](#)

**CITY OF SEATTLE** [openings](#)

[Ignition Interlock Counselor](#). Closing August 31, 2021

**CITY OF BELLEVUE** [openings](#) **CITY OF TACOMA** [openings](#) **CITY OF OLYMPIA** [openings](#) **KING COUNTY** [openings](#)

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**OLYMPIC COLLEGE** [openings](#)

**TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT** [openings](#) **KITSAP MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES** [openings](#)

**SPOKANE HEALTH DEPARTMENT** [openings](#)

**AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION** [openings](#)

**PIERCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT** [Habitat Improvement Projects Manager](#). First review of applicants September 22, 2021