



EQUITY, PEOPLE, & CULTURE NEWSLETTER

Women's History Month

2025 Theme: "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations"



For 2025, the National Women's History Alliance (NWHHA) proudly presents the theme "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations." This theme celebrates the collective strength and influence of women who have dedicated their lives to education, mentorship, and leadership. Through their efforts, they have served as an inspiration for all generations – both past and present.

Education has always been a powerful catalyst for change, and women have been at the forefront, driving this transformation. From classrooms to boardrooms, and from grassroots movements to global initiatives, women educators and leaders have played a pivotal role in nurturing minds and inspiring action. This theme underscores the importance of acknowledging and celebrating these contributions, especially at a time when inclusive and equitable education is more critical than ever.

We can't talk about this theme without talking about the incredible women at BGCP who continue to have significant impacts on those around them - through their mentorship, leadership, and investment in communities across the Portland Metro region.

BGCP Women's Leadership in Action



On February 27th, our What's Tea Facilitators—Michelle, Isis, and Pearl—joined BGCP's Board member and Equity & Programs Committee Chair Melissa Lowery, producer of "Black Girl in Suburbia," for a powerful film screening. This affinity space, designed for Black women and girls at The Center (formerly Center for Equity & Inclusion), offered dinner, a screening, and insightful discussion about the documentary's exploration of Black girls' experiences in predominantly White communities. The 22 attendees left with self-care packages and a strengthened sense of community.



An 8-year old girl, who is not a BGCP member, showed up to the event not knowing anyone but her mom. During the event, she made a special connection with Isis and Pearl. Leaving energized, she exclaimed to her mother how much she loved "seeing the beautiful Black women who were there, coloring, the food, and the gift bags." She asked to attend Clegg Club instead of her current SUN school program.

Shout out to Michelle, Isis, and Pearl for their leadership in making this event happen, and the intentionality they brought to all the fine details! Moments like these are transformative and create lasting change in our communities.



Women of Color Leading the Way

Women's History Month is a perfect opportunity to celebrate women who massively contributed to women's rights, global issues, and more. History notoriously overlooks the achievements of women, especially women of color, and recognizing their accomplishments is one way we can work toward a more inclusive and equitable society.



“Decide what you want. Declare it to the world. See yourself winning. And remember that if you are persistent as well as patient, you can get whatever you seek.”
Misty Copeland

Ellen Ochoa: In 1993, Ochoa became the first Latina astronaut in space when she was a mission specialist on the space shuttle Discovery. Today, Ochoa is the chair of the National Science Board.

Misty Copeland: The first African American woman to be promoted to principal ballerina in the American Ballet Theater.

Patsy Mink: In 1964, Patsy Mink was the first woman of color elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. She was a Democrat representing the state of Hawaii.

Isabella Aiukli Cornell: Isabella wore a red pleated gown to prom in 2018 to bring awareness to missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. She is from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, and a member of Matriarch, an intertribal organization dedicated to creating a safe space for Native women.

Wangari Maathai: Founder of the Green Belt Movement, author, professor, and the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. Her work helped give jobs to thousands of women and plant over 30 million trees in Kenya and other parts of Africa.

Christine Sun Kim: Berlin-based artist who uses her art to advocate for the deaf community. She explores and deconstructs ideas of communication and sounds in society through her drawings, photographs, and performances that combine ASL, body language, and musical notation.

Michelle Bachelet: Chile's first female president; advocates for gender equality.

Ofelia Zepeda: Poet, linguist, and advocate who wrote the first grammar book on the Tohono O'odham language spoken by Indigenous people living in the Sonoran Desert in Arizona and northern Mexico.

Source: International Association of Women

Latinas Talk Latinas: Short Video Series



This series introduces you to the lives of 21 Latinas, as told by educators, curators, and scientists across the Smithsonian. Join them as they explore stories of women breaking barriers— in everything from music and fashion to community organizing and scientific exploration—who have shaped the United States. [Click here to watch.](#)

BGCP Staff Board:

March 2025

Promotions & Transfers

Monty Woods: moved from Front Desk at Clegg to Teen Youth Development Coordinator at Clegg

Erika Gonzalez: moved from Front Desk at CareOregon to Youth Development Coordinator at Clegg

Birthdays

Rachel Jeffreys
GiGi Saechao
Abraham Pasion
Ariana Brovelli

Job Openings

Front Desk, CareOregon

Work Anniversaries

Pearl Moon - 7 years
Rachel Jeffreys - 4 years
Lisa Meersman - 4 years
Jennifer Sagrero - 3 years
Emmi Stonier - 2 years
Rida Arain - 2 years

New Hires

Ariana Brovelli

Exits

Loki Vandehey