



**JOIN US FOR the Whatcom County Racial Equity Commission  
Community Visioning Summit  
Saturday, May 22nd, 10am-2pm**

*The subject of racial tensions in America has seen a resurgence since the death of George Floyd in May of 2020 at the hands of police officers. Since then, communities around the country have been working on recognizing and addressing systemic racism, including right here in Whatcom County.*

**All Whatcom County community members** should have the opportunity to make the choices that allow them to live a long, healthy life—  
every neighbor should have the opportunity to make a living wage and prosper—  
every parent should be able to send their children to school with full bellies and ready to learn—  
every person in Whatcom County should be able to live, thrive, and belong for who they are, as they are regardless of their race.

There are roadblocks and barriers to that in our community right now. Let's envision what it looks like in Whatcom County if we identified and dismantled those roadblocks.

**It requires us to enter it with our whole hearts, open minds,  
and hands that are ready to do the work together.**

**Where Do We Start**

**We are beginning this work with a Community Visioning Summit on May 22nd from 10am-2pm.** This is our opportunity as a community to learn more about the Racial Equity Commission concept - to provide input and ideas - to ask questions - and to get connected to the work. We know that when we build together as a community, we create real opportunities for transformation. The goals of the Summit are to:

- Begin an ongoing transparent, and collaborative process with the community
- Honor the feedback the community has already given as we move forward together
- Create community dialogue about what racial equity work looks like in Whatcom
- Work together so that every person in Whatcom County is able to live, thrive and belong for what they are, as they are regardless of their race.

At this Summit, you will hear more about the work underway to develop this Commission and opportunities to get involved. You will also hear from national colleagues about their work to address racial disparities in their communities. And most importantly, you will be asked for input, ideas, feedback, and questions about this work - to ensure that the scope and vision for this Commission are truly community-owned, led, and informed.

**We are reaching out to ask you to be an ally in this work.**

Find out more about the Commission, the Summit, and apply to be a Stakeholder at:

- [Racial Equity Commission — Chuckanut Health Foundation](#)

The Whatcom Racial Equity Commission team:

Kristina Michele Martens, Racial Equity Commission Co-founder

Shu-Ling Zhao, Racial Equity Commission Co-founder

Heather Flaherty, Executive Director of Chuckanut Health Foundation

Barry Buchanan, Whatcom County Council

Seth Fleetwood, Mayor of Bellingham

Dan Hammill, Bellingham City Council

Jed Holmes, Community Outreach Manager for Whatcom County

Hollie Huthman, Bellingham City Council

Rita Jefferson, Fmr. Lummi Nation Council Member & Chief Operating Officer for Silver Reef Casino

Jeremiah “Jay” Julius, Fmr. Lummi Nation Chairman & Owner/Strategist Julius Consulting LLC

Jyoti Kaur, REC Intern

Janice Keller, Communications Director for City of Bellingham

Eric Richey, Whatcom County Prosecutor

Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive

Gina Stark, Economic Development Project Manager for the Port of Bellingham

Cindy Whiston, Principal at Whiston Consulting