



Seattle Women's Commission

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Seattle Women's Commission Announces Recipients of 2014 Jeanette Williams Awards and Civil Rights Champion Awards

Celebration on September 24, 6-8 pm at Seattle City Hall

The Seattle Women's Commission and Councilmember Jean Godden are proud to announce the winners of the 2014 Jeanette Williams Awards:

- Individual: **Tammy Nguyen** for her work on the Women in the Green Economy program with Got Green;
- Organization: **YWCA Seattle | King | Snohomish** for their Economic Resilience Initiative and focus on gender pay equity; and
- Business: **The Sweatbox** for owner Laura Culberg's business leadership and strong workplace equity policies.

This year the Women's Commission also will award a Civil Rights Champion Award in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act. The Civil Rights Champion Award honors outstanding women in our community who are advancing civil rights and eliminating barriers to equity. The Seattle Women's Commission and the Seattle Office of Civil Rights will honor two award recipients:

- **Estela Ortega** for her commitment to the Seattle community, long history community organizing and work with El Centro de la Raza; and
- **Nicole Vallesterro Keenan** for her community leadership with Puget Sound Sage, and numerous gender and racial equity projects.

The awards will be presented on Wednesday, September 24 at a celebration hosted by the Women's Commission and Councilmember Jean Godden from 6-8 pm at Seattle City Hall in the Bertha Knight Landis Room, 600 4th Avenue. The event is free and open to the public. Seattle City Hall is accessible to people with disabilities. Please call 206-684-4500 if you need to request an accommodation. This information is available in other formats on request.

The Jeanette Williams Award was created as part of the 2003 Seattle Women's Summit to honor an individual who demonstrates significant leadership and service in advancing the cause of women in Seattle. This year, the award also will honor a business in our community making strides to improve pay equity, highlighting the importance of women's advancement in the work place, and eliminating economic disparities for women and girls.

Jeanette Williams served on the Seattle City Council from 1969 to 1989. In 1971 she was instrumental in establishing the nation's first Seattle Women's Commission and Office of Women's Rights with paid staff. Prior to serving on Seattle City Council, Williams overcame gender stereotypes to become the first woman elected as County Chairperson for the King County Democratic Central Committee. A tireless advocate for women's issues, Jeanette Williams helped establish the first shelter for battered and abused women in Seattle, helped create the City's Division on Aging, developed policies to address early childhood education, and sponsored critical legislation that for the first time prohibited discrimination in housing and employment in the City of Seattle.

The **Seattle Women's Commission** advises the Mayor, City Council and city departments on issues that impact the women of Seattle. The Commission identifies areas of concern and recommends policy and legislation, provides feedback and opinion on issues of city and state budget, and acts as a liaison between the women of Seattle and City government. As advisors to the Mayor, City Council and City Departments, Commissioners have the opportunity to address issues of concern for the women of Seattle and to work for positive change.

The **Civil Rights Act of 1964** marked the beginning of an era of civil rights victories in our nation and in Seattle. This single Act paved the way for voting rights, desegregation of schools, fair housing rights, rights to public accommodation, and other efforts to end discrimination and promote equality for all people. Behind all those victories stood women and men whose passion and commitment led them to fight tirelessly for a more just society in Seattle.