

EXPO '74 was the first environmentally-themed world's fair. King Cole and the citizen group, Association for a Better Community (started in the 1960s), launched the effort to beautify the downtown centered around the river and to convert the railyard into the 100-acre park we know today. While working on the Riverfront Park Master Plan some years ago, I was always moved by the Chief Sealth quote that city leaders chose to celebrate in the US Pavilion (see image below).



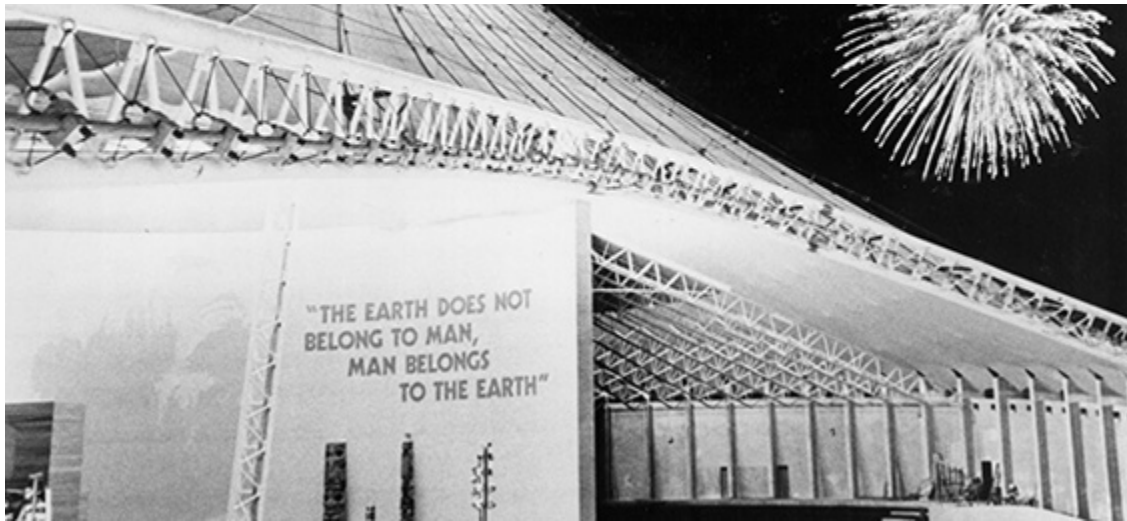
About 85 years prior, Spokane experienced the Great Fire, which decimated the City's downtown commercial district. Much of the waste from the fire was moved to today's south University District, creating a legacy of clean-up issues for new and existing property owners.

In this month's U-Forward we interview Sandy Treccani, Site Manager with the State's Department of Ecology's Toxic Cleanup Program. The program works with local governments, non-profits, tribes, and community stakeholders across the state who are interested in cleaning up brownfields for redevelopment.

Being stewards of our land by repairing and cleaning up our past mistakes is a responsibility that we all have in making our communities healthier and more economically prosperous. Ecology's program is a great service and one we want to bring greater awareness to.

*Juliet Sinisterra, CEO*





*US Pavilion, EXPO '74. Photo Courtesy Spokane Public Library.*

## Q&A with the Dept of Ecology's Sandy Treccani

**Can you describe Ecology's Brownfield program? How does it support urban development?** There are over 10,000 contaminated sites in the state of Washington. Many of these sites are located in urban areas. The idea is to reuse these sites which results in a clean piece of property with vegetation and positive environmental value. The program seeks to overcome the hurdles attached to these contaminated properties. It encourages redevelopment to occur on properties that have already been impacted rather than using a clean piece of property and making it dirty.

**What first steps should a business/property owner take if they think their property has contamination?** Owners should look into the history of the property first: operating histories, industry history, and activities that may have left contamination. Depending on what is discovered, the owner would then hire a company to sample the property (soil/water) which provides critical data for remediation options.

**How is the state supporting businesses around potential Brownfield Cleanup?** We have grants and/or low- to no-interest loans for businesses, local governments, and nonprofits. We have an Integrated Planning Grants program that provides grants between \$200,000 – \$300,000 depending on the size and use of the property. This money can be used to assess the property with record checks, sampling, and planning.

**Are there any comments you would like to share about ecology**

**in general in Spokane?** We encourage people to reach out and ask questions. We like to help people meet their goals. We like to find sites that can be reused. We are creative when finding ways to fund. We have a brand-new Housing Clean-Up Grant for people who want to clean up a site to build affordable housing. We also have Planning Grants to help people plan clean-up projects. This grant will be solicited later this summer and we are happy to add folks to our distribution list. For more information, please email me at [sandra.treccani@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:sandra.treccani@ecy.wa.gov).

## Other News

### Angels in our Midst

WSU and sp3nw have teamed up to reach out to potential investors in rural areas through the Rural Angel Investing Network (RAIN). The program is intended to demystify investing in startups and help rural investors connect to local angel funds. After taking a survey to help establish a regional baseline knowledge among wealthy rural residents, participants are invited to join RAIN's weekly angel investing courses that educate investors on risk, term sheets, portfolio strategies, and valuations. For more information contact Laurie Donnell, sp3nw program manager, [laurie.donnell@wsu.edu](mailto:laurie.donnell@wsu.edu).



## Board Member Focus

A warm welcome to new UDDA Board Member, Dr. Shari McMahan, the incoming President of EWU. McMahan was selected from a pool of four finalists who emerged after a nationwide search that attracted well over 60 applicants.

A first-generation college student, McMahan has a bachelor's degree and Ph.D. in social ecology from UC Irvine and a master's degree in health science from Cal State Northridge. She has been awarded more than \$5 million in external

funding, authored more than 50 peer-reviewed publications, given dozens of scientific and community presentations, and served on numerous professional task forces.

“Dr. McMahan’s excitement around urban systems, community health, and her overall zest for life will be a wonderful addition to the UDDA Board,” says Spokane UD CEO, Juliet Sinisterra.

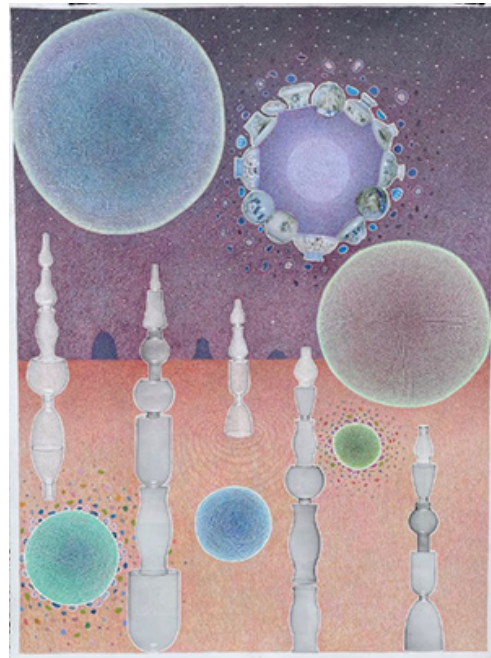
## Noteworthy Community Events



### Founders, Funders and Friends with Shine Mixer

July 27

SP3NW and Medcurity present Founders, Funders, and Friends with Shine mixer event at Winescape Winery.



### Saranac Arts Project

July 1 - 30

*Inadequate Visions*, new drawings by Mariah Boyle and Brad Skubinna. Opening reception July 1.



## Jundt Art Museum Online Exhibition

Ongoing

Deep Dive and Exploration of Water from the museum's collections.



## City Line Station Design Exhibit

Through August 12

Don't miss the Spokane Arts and Spokane Transit Authority City Line Station Design Exhibit upstairs at the downtown bus Plaza (701 W Riverside). For a list of artists and more info, see this link. Design below by Melissa Cole.

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