

We are thrilled to welcome AHANA (Asian, Hispanic, African, Native American) a multi-ethnic business association, to the UD as a business and property owner!

Way back, in 2008, I had the privilege of working with Ben Cabildo, the founder of AHANA while I was at the local non-profit Community-Minded Enterprises (CME). Ben founded AHANA in 1998 and while now independent of CME, AHANA is still going strong and led by Marvo Requindin and his team.

AHANA advances growth opportunities for the multi-ethnic and multi-cultural workforce, businesses, and nonprofits in our region. Following are the key issues that AHANA works to provide to their constituents:

- Information, resources, and mentors
- Access to capital
- Business management experience and knowledge
- Business marketing, financial experience, and knowledge
- Business and contracting opportunities

In partnership with Spokane County, in 2022 AHANA received a \$1 million allocation from the federal American Rescue Plan Act. They are now accepting applications from local nonprofits to disburse an additional \$300,000 as a part of this allocation. Grant applications are due April 30. This competitive grant will support recovery and rebuilding for local nonprofits whose missions support the interdependence and partnership between our business community and local workforce.

AHANA's mission and work supporting under-served and underrepresented business start-ups and workforce aligns with our U Vision 2044. The UD looks forward to future partnerships with AHANA to build a thriving and prosperous district for all.

*Juliet Sinisterra, CEO*





*AHANA Board of Directors and staff. Photo courtesy of AHANA.*



## **Board Focus**

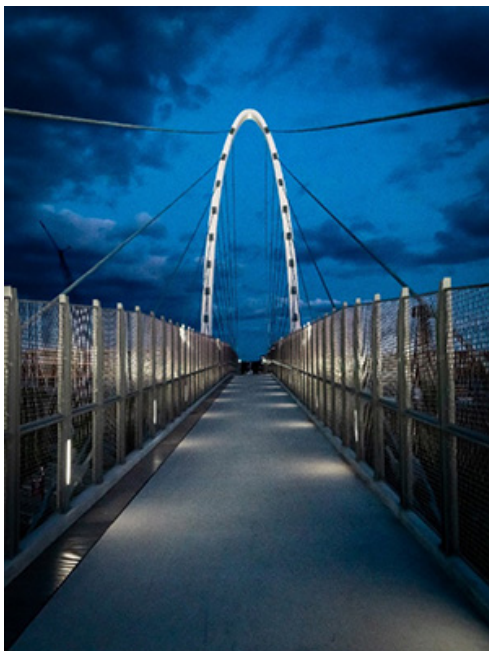
Join us in congratulating Bill Bouten, CEO of Bouten Construction, who retires in June after 40 years in construction and project management; as well as Bouten Construction as it celebrates its 80th anniversary this month.

As the CEO since 2022, Bill has been committed to maintaining the company's legacy of exemplary client service, innovation, safety, and community involvement. Bill has served on the UDDA Board since 2019.

Bill began his career in 1984 as a project engineer at HENSEL PHELPS. In 1986, he joined Bouten Construction Company as an estimator and project manager, where he primarily worked on complex healthcare projects. Bill was promoted to vice-president in 1991 and played a key role in the company's growth and transition. In 1996, he became the president of Bouten Construction Company after his father's retirement.

Bill and Bouten have left a lasting legacy across the UD with projects such as the Spokane Teaching Health Clinic, Catalyst Building, Scott Morris Center for Energy Innovation, the Boxcar and Warren apartments, the GU/UW Health Partnership Building, Joya Child and Family Development, and the newly renovated WSU Health Sciences Spokane Medicine Building, to name a few.

## Noteworthy Community Events



### 2024 State of the City Address

April 30

Greater Spokane Inc. hosts Mayor Lisa Brown to discuss what's next for the City. Event presented by Numerica Credit Union.

### UDDA Board Accepting Applications for 2025 Positions

April 30 Deadline

New directors will be selected by the UD Nominating Committee in part according to their demonstrated level of engagement with the University District as well as the leadership skills, expertise, and resources they bring to the board.





## First Friday Reception: Witching Hour: Senior Art Exhibition

May 3

Gonzaga University Urban Arts Center features artworks by Gonzaga's current BFA and BA senior candidates.



## Gelli Print for Collage

May 11

Spokane Art School presents a class with artist Sheri Medford. Gelli (gel) plates look and feel like gelatin but are durable. The process is easy and fun. All skill levels are welcome.



## Expo '74 50th Anniversary Opening Celebration

May 4

Kick off the nine-week celebration at the Spokane Pavilion in Riverfront Park. Event will feature live performances, speakers, international cuisine, and recreational/wellness activities.

EWU School of Business and Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis Present:  
**Future of Work & Entrepreneurship in Spokane**

**Industry Leaders & Entrepreneurs:**  
Hear from those at the forefront of economic growth.

**Pioneering Academics:**  
Gain insights from experts shaping the future of work.

**Networking Opportunities:**  
Connect with professionals and like-minded individuals.

**Rand Miller**

**Dan Roark**

**Katy Bruya**

**Rand Miller & Hanna Gamiel** March 13  
Co-Founder, CEO, Cyan Development Director, Cyan

**Katy Bruya** April 10  
SVP & Chief HR officer, Washington Trust Bank

**Dan Roark** May 15  
CEO, Gestalt Diagnostics.

**Be Part of the Conversation:**  
Explore innovative strategies, engage in cutting-edge discussions, and uncover opportunities in our local economy.

**Don't Miss Out! Shape the Future with Us.**

For more info please contact:  
Dr. Habib Islam at hislam@ewu.edu

School of Business  
Eastern Washington University

## Future of Work and Entrepreneurship

May 15

EWU School of Business and Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis presents industry leaders, entrepreneurs, and academics to discuss the future of entrepreneurship.



## 2024 State of the Downtown

June 6

Dedicated exclusively to the health of the urban core, come learn about the work being done by the staff and Board of Directors from the Downtown Spokane Partnership, who work diligently each year to advocate on behalf of downtown's continued growth and vibrancy.

Follow the UD on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#)!

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