2022 Annual Awards
Ceremony & Reception

Saturday, November 5, 2022
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

MLK F.A.M.E. Community Center
Dedicated to promoting social, cultural, economic and community service

Thank You

MLK F.A.M.E. Community Center was founded in 2011 by members of the First African Methodist Episcopal Church with an eye toward transforming the former MLK Elementary School into a vibrant cultural center in the heart of the Central District in Seattle. MLK is now achieving its mission of promoting social, cultural, economic and community services for Seattle residents of all ages, races, cultures and ethnicities.

Thank You

We are grateful to the Boeing Company and Microsoft Corporation for their generous matching grant programs, rewarding employees for volunteer work in non-profit organizations.
Our Mission

The Ethnic Heritage Council’s mission is sharing and preserving ethnic heritage to advance mutual understanding.

EHC Programs in 2022 – Virtual and In-Person

Jan 29: VIRTUAL We Are History Keepers Workshop “What to Throw Away and What to Keep.” co-created and led by EHC with University of Washington Libraries

Feb 8: VIRTUAL “Global Competence Certificate from the Student Perspective.” EHC is partner in a Heritage Language Grant from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction

Feb 19: VIRTUAL Community Leaders Roundtable “International Mother Language Day, celebrating the cultural and linguistic diversity of the Pacific Northwest”


Mar 17: VIRTUAL Community Leaders Roundtable celebrating Women’s History Month: Inspiring stories from women leaders in the Pacific Northwest

Apr 12: Partner supporting annual International Children Friendship Festival, Seattle Center

Apr 22: IN-PERSON Ukrainian Support Charity Auction. EHC promotes and attends special auction at Polish Cultural Center, Seattle, to support Ukrainian Association of Washington

May 21: VIRTUAL The Endurance Forum - EHC new Speaker Series on the preservation of Heritage Communities, featuring Yelena Ambartsumian, Founder of Origen, on the ongoing challenges of the Armenian people in the diaspora and the ancestral homeland

May 22: IN-PERSON Community Leaders Roundtable - Community Leaders discuss organizational resilience and how they are adapting to new realities. Speakers: Mike Evans, Chair of the Snohomish Tribe and Ken Workman, a Duwamish Tribal Council member and former president of Duwamish Tribal Services

August 22: VIRTUAL The Endurance Forum – Panel presentation: “Prevent Harm to the Chinatown International District” – Petitioning Sound Transit to seek alternative to the 4th and 5th Avenue options for transit expansion

Oct 22: IN-PERSON Sixth Annual Kent We Are History Keepers Workshop. EHC and UW Libraries with Greater Kent Historical Society. Margaret Wetherbee of Washington State Historical Society; Risho Sapano of Mother Africa, Kent; and Richard Kott, Polish Home Association, Seattle

Nov 5: IN-PERSON Annual Meeting Reception & Awards Ceremony. MLK F.A.M.E. Community Center, Seattle. Six ethnic community leaders receive recognition for extraordinary achievements

Kiki Valera

2022 Gordon Ekvall Tracie Memorial Award

“Kiki Valera brings a purity of cultural expression that is as close to the source as one could find,” says John Gilbreath, Executive Director of Seattle’s renowned Earshot Jazz. One of the reasons is that Kiki Valera was born into a family of musicians going back to his great-great grandparents, who meticulously passed on through the generations the “Son” tradition of Cuban music. “Son” is the acoustic roots music that developed in eastern Cuba, where Kiki was born and raised and is the root of modern salsa.

Kiki studied at the Conservatorio Esteban Salas in Santiago and toured with his famous family, La Familia Valera Miranda. He moved to Seattle in 2013, the year his family were artists-in-residence for the renowned Earshot Jazz Festival. As one of the world’s leading Cuban cuatro players, Kiki has conducted master classes at Cornish College of the Arts, University of Washington, and University of Puget Sound. He performs in concerts, nightclubs, schools, benefit events and as a guest on radio shows, albums and podcasts. He directs his local group Kiki Valera y su Son Cubano and has played with most other local musicians of Cuban music.

In 2018 Kiki received a 4Culture grant to place his own compositions into the legacy of “Son” music with the album “Vivencias en Clave Cubana”, and a second 4Culture grant in 2022 to complete his new album “cuaTROmeta.” Also in 2022, he was one of three artists chosen to create the live production Movement with Meklit Hedero, internationally acclaimed and Seattle-raised Ethiopian American singer-composer. The production tells the musicians’ immigration stories and had its world premier at Meany Hall, Seattle.

Fans of Kiki Valera love the ambience he creates in smaller venues. Balkan music performer Ruth Hunter says, “Kiki is more than a musician. He is the heart of a community. It feels like a family picnic and everyone is invited!”

Kiki Valera’s website is kikivalera.com