

**THE CD FORUM AMERICAN HERITAGE SERIES: BLACKS IN THE WEST**  
**NORTHWEST AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM**  
**SELF-GUIDED TOUR**

In conjunction with The CD Forum's American Heritage Series, NAAM is pleased to offer this self-guided tour of its three galleries. The individuals chosen for this self-guided tour – some widely known, some historically overlooked despite impressive accomplishments within their own profession, family or neighborhood –tell the story of African American migration to this area. We hope that you will take the time to read their stories, as well as those of the many other fascinating men and women featured in our galleries and reflect on the impact these individuals have had on the Pacific Northwest. A map of the Museum and a guide to the individuals described below are on the back of this page.

- A. **Al Colvin**: Al Colvin was born in 1922 in Texas. After high school, he moved to Tuskegee, Alabama and became a fighter pilot for the celebrated, all-Black flying unit, the Tuskegee Airmen of the U.S. Army Corps. In 1946, he moved to Bremerton, Washington where he worked for the Puget Sound Naval Station for 35 years. After the war, he started one of the first credit unions for African Americans, in an era when most Blacks couldn't borrow money.
- B. **Meseret Habeti**: Meseret Habeti was born in Gonder, Ethiopia. She immigrated to the United States in 1982, after walking from Ethiopia to Sudan, where she lived in a refugee camp. She lived first in California, then moved to Seattle where today she owns Assimba Ethiopian Restaurant. Although initially homesick for Ethiopia, she is now grateful for the wealth of opportunities available to women in this country, and the fact that both her daughters can attend college here.
- C. **Beatrice Morrow-Cannady**: Beatrice Morrow- Cannady was born in 1889, in Texas. She graduated from Wiley College (in Marshall, Texas) and, in 1912, moved to Portland where she married, and became editor of the *Advocate*. She was the first Black woman to graduate from Portland's Northwestern College of Law, filed a lawsuit against the Portland School Board for segregating swimming pools, held interracial, interreligious teas to educate Whites about Black history and discrimination, and ran for the state legislature in 1932, among other accomplishments. She died in 1974.
- D. **Claude Harris**: Claude Harris was the first Black firefighter to be hired by the Seattle Fire Department, in 1959. In the racially-charged 1960's and 70's, he was often the focus of hostility and fury, even from other firefighters. He persevered through the civil rights era, however, and eventually became Seattle's first African-American Fire Chief, a position he held for 12 years. He retired in 1996.
- E. **Nettie Asberry**: Nettie Asberry was born in 1865, in Leavenworth, Kansas. She earned a music degree from the Kansas State Conservatory of Music and a Ph. D. from the University of Kansas (perhaps the first Black woman to earn a Ph. D. in the country). She moved to Washington in 1890 and was a life-long activist, leading the Washington State Federation of Colored Women's Organizations and co-founding the Tacoma Branch of the NAACP, among other accomplishments.
- F. **Ike Morrow**: Ike Morrow was born in 1940 in Frogsville Bottom, Oklahoma to a family of sharecroppers. In the mid-1940's, his father moved the family to Eastern Washington. Ike became a longshoreman, working his way up through the ranks against a backdrop of racism, until the Port of Tacoma hired him as Terminal Foreman. He originated the concept for Tacoma's unique straddle carrier-driven North Intermodal Yard (a system for loading railcars with containers directly off ships).