Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO
PRESENTS THE 2015 MAYWORKS SPOKEN WORD WORKSHOP
with
Elise Bryant, Executive Director, Labor Heritage Foundation
http://www.laborheritage.org/

Applications are due by April 20th, 2015
Submit via email to khightower@wslc.org – see below for further details

The 2015 MayWorks theme is *Solidarity Forever* in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the writing of that song, labor’s anthem.

On Saturday May 9th, 2015, the Washington State Labor Education and Research Center at South Seattle College will host an all-day, spoken word workshop with Elise Bryant. Participants will create a spoken word performance piece focused on worker experiences of solidarity. Come experience the power of hearing the stories of other workers, and sharing your own!

Elise Bryant is an extremely talented facilitator and performer, with 35 years of experience as a labor educator. Elise launched her labor arts career as the artistic director of the University of Michigan’s labor theater project, Workers’ Lives/Workers’ Stories in 1982. She joined the National Writers Union, founded the DC Labor Chorus, and was a professor at the National Labor College. Her areas of expertise include Communication Skills, Teaching Techniques, Labor History and Culture, Diversity Training, and “Arts as a Tool for Organizing”. Elise is a lifetime member of the Industrial Workers of the World, a member of the American Federation of Musicians Local 1000, and a member of the CWA/Newspaper Guild Local 32035. In 2012 she was given the Lifetime Achievement Award by the United Association for Labor Education. Even if you have no prior performance or spoken word experience, Elise will help you succeed in this workshop and have buckets of fun doing it!

Because we have to limit the number of people who can participate, we ask you to complete and submit an application for this workshop. The deadline for applications is Monday, April 20th; you will hear about whether or not you have a spot in the workshop by April 28th. Registration for the workshop costs $50. Grants may be available on a case-by-case basis for those for whom this registration fee is a barrier.
If you are accepted into the workshop, you will be committing to three things:

1) Full day workshop attendance from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm on the Saturday, May 9\textsuperscript{th} in South Seattle. Morning coffee and lunch will be provided.

2) Participation in at least one or two follow-up workshops in the evenings later in May to complete your spoken word pieces. The scheduling of these follow up workshops will be done on May 9\textsuperscript{th}.

3) Willingness to be video-taped and/or perform your piece as part of other MayWorks activities. One potential performance venue will be the “labor stage” at the NW Folklife Festival on Saturday, May 23\textsuperscript{rd}, 2015. This year’s Folklife theme is \textit{Beats, Rhymes and Rhythms: Traditional Roots of Today’s Cultures}. Let’s make worker’s stories part of it!

**APPLICATION**

To be awarded a spot in this unique workers’ voice experience, please send the following information in an email to khightower@wslc.org. Put “MayWorks Spoken Word Workshop” in the subject line.

1) Name

2) Best contact information (email address & phone number)

3) Union or organization to which you belong (if any)

4) Date of Birth

5) Racial identity

6) Gender identity

7) Any prior experience you have with spoken word and/or performance

8) Write a few sentences about why you want to be part of this workshop. If you need a grant to cover the cost of registration, please include that information here.

9) Anything else about yourself you would like the workshop organizers to know

The Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, age, gender identity, citizenship status, color, creed, disability, marital status, military status, national origin, political ideology, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, or ancestry. We are also interested in making the group of people in this workshop as diverse as possible. Experiences of solidarity come in all shapes, sizes, colors, ages, and identities! If you have questions, please contact Sarah Laslett at 206-934-6859.