

Intersectionality and the Intergenerational Labor Movement

February 20, 2020

3:00-5:00 pm

**Lyllie Reynolds-Parker Black Cultural Center
University of Oregon • 1870 E 15th Ave**

Light refreshments served at 3:00 followed by the talk at 3:30



April Sims was elected Secretary Treasurer of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO in December 2018 and began her four-year term in January 2019. She is the first woman of color and the first black person to be elected as a WSLC executive officer.

In this talk, Sims will explore the concept of intersectionality through the lens of personal narrative, intergenerational reflections on working-class experiences that shaped her political consciousness as a woman and as a black person, and the ways in which those anecdotes directly informed her life as a unionist and leader in the labor movement. She will also share her experiences and observations regarding social and economic justice in the current political economy of collective bargaining.

Prior to being elected Secretary Treasurer, Sims served as the WSLC's Political and Strategic Campaign Director since November 2017, working to develop

shared agendas with labor and community partners, to advance strategic organizing campaigns, and to recruit, train and elect political champions for working people. She first joined the WSLC in September 2015 as Field Mobilization Director after serving as the Legislative and Political Action Field Coordinator for the Washington Federation of State Employees, AFSCME Council 28 (WFSE.)

Sims firmly believes in the power of working people organizing together, and has dedicated her working life to affirming that power. A life-long resident of Tacoma, April lives with her husband, two daughters, and 100 pound chocolate lab in the gritty city she's proud to call home.