

Hello. My name is Adam Martin. Many of you know me through Stars 4 Peace and Artists 4 Life in the Sound. We have used music and art to support organizations serving need in local community since 2012.

I rarely address the public in this way, but due to some special things aligning right now and how they'll be impacting people I think its best.

Right now three projects are launching side by side, each impacting Tacoma communities in unique ways: Our work with Stars 4 Peace is year-round: We have had a donation station at Marlene's Market & Deli on So. 38 since 2021- they say it's among the most successful drives they've ever had. We have a second location on 6th Ave that's also consistent and the donations we bring in go direct-to-need and address an array of needs.

Stars 4 Peace is a 501(c)3 developed specifically to be a family-friendly organization suitable for children under 12, as a way to spend quality time with loved ones and friends in the context of broader community. You can learn more about us under the ORIGINS tab at [Stars4Peace.org](http://Stars4Peace.org).

The Tacoma Santa Parade returns this December: Stars 4 Peace has been part of it since 2016, and 2025 was our first year hosting. Late year was supposed to be Santa Al's last year but he got sick and we had to cancel the parade portion, and instead made a holiday festival focused on giving to people in need leading up to the holiday. The Skoolie Foundation gave away 15,000 pounds of food and 2,000 toys that day.

This is a good example of how we highlight organizations at events, and help connect them to communities that will value what they do.

City Council Woman Latasha Palmer was present, as was Mrs. Curvee USA Dianna Kennedy. ADTV's Stephan Childers covered the event, and this episode will air in the coming weeks. This is one example of how we keep things fun, even as we support important social needs. It works.

I propose that we use this auspicious occasion leading up to the 2026 Tacoma Santa Parade to do something radically special and new. It adds value to and benefits local communities in a variety of ways.

Also it literally rocks, tying into a music community we've worked with and been part of since our origins. You can find links to what we're doing this year at [Stars4Peace.org](http://Stars4Peace.org) and [TacomaJOY.com](http://TacomaJOY.com) to find out more.

The third project we call THE WALL. It is rooted in our music community and the mission is to gain material support for organizations serving at the community ground level in Tacoma and the South Sound, highlighting them as we go, and to connect people to resources through community.

In short, our community provides more value to people than their cost to donate, making it common sense for people to support organizations.

The public finds organizations serving a cause they value and gives directly to that organization - **not us**. 100% of funds goes to the org they choose. They can find organizations like Washington's Skoolie Foundation, who provide mobile services like showers, medical and more. They are at pioneering the development of a new way to use converted school buses as mobile housing shelters in a program they call THE ARK - they have a great veteran-owned nonprofit that merits consideration. Our society needs solutions that go beyond what has been known - Skoolie is one organization doing that. They meet people where they are.

You can also discover and support organizations like HOPE Victims Advocacy Services, that helps disadvantaged women escape and recover from violence in the home; the Emergency Food Network, who provides food resources; Oasis Youth Center, who helps queer youth; the Coffee Oasis, who provides shelter for youth under 18 and job training with real life skills. Support Food Backpacks for Kids, Community in Schools, Permission to Start Dreaming, Harbor Wild Watch and more.

When people find and donate to an organization they have chosen, we then give them access to a growing treasure trove of music, art and deals at businesses that have been contributed. For a one-time donation they receive the full Trove of music, art and deals, even as it grows all year.

Bands add music, artists add art and businesses add deals that provide more value to people who donate than the cost of their donation, making it common sense to give. The possibilities are real and the app is online now. Bands get new fans and a broader audience; artists gain new patrons and businesses get new customers. Organizations get funded and goodwill in community grows. In this way contribution to organizations becomes both common sense and common place through widespread collaborations.

Adding your business, music or art is free, and we are receiving referrals for organizations to support from our community now. This project is affordable, brings positive attention to community-minded businesses and

artists and demonstrates in real time the positive nature of our local communities around Tacoma and the South Sound. Plus it's actually **fun**.

Everybody wins.

Two cool additions to THE WALL this year are a map we have integrated into the app and a Resource Library: As businesses and organizations are added, with music and art, we can literally watch HOPE spread day by day through South Sound cities - and people in need of services can find good resources to review in the Library. Our community will be adding quality resources for learning about an array of topics, from how to recognize the early signs of abuse to where to go for things like food and clothes.

On our team and in our community we have the means to connect women to the resources and services they need to address these kinds of issues.

I myself have a ten-year relationship with Adrienne at HOPE. I also worked for one of the best respected attorneys in our city, Terry Lumsden, as his legal assistant before he retired after 51 years. Shannon also has good experience, is a professional connecting people to resources - this is a part of our immediate team. And we have a strong community equipped and able to get people real resources that will help them in their situations.

Right now you can find organizations that I'm familiar with and have vetted through Stars 4 Peace over the past many years, and the beginning of the Resource Library. As we approach April we will be adding to this selection and by Summer will have a solid knowledge base to build on.

Check it out at [LOOKWASHINGTON.com](http://LOOKWASHINGTON.com) or just follow the links at [Stars4Peace.org](http://Stars4Peace.org)

Our reach in 2026 is set to be quite substantial.

To get a perspective of scale the Tacoma Santa Parade alone reaches all of Pierce County and beyond. In 2025 we had people drive all the way from Yakima. That event was covered on an episode with ADTV, who has 30 million monthly viewers. We are working with them now to help our team promote the Tacoma Santa Parade leading up to the holiday Season when they'll cover the 2026 Tacoma Santa Parade again this December.

Stars 4 Peace itself is deeply rooted in Tacoma and well established itself. We're well known to the arts and music communities and have good long term relationships with many local businesses around the area.

In addition to this, Artists 4 Life in the Sound has a substantial, close Partnership with a local production company in the film industry that is nearing commencement on a major project they're expecting to shoot in the South Sound. It will be set in Tacoma with the cannabis industry as a backdrop. Since their project is for-profit, I have to keep further details private, but this partnership should be instrumental in elevating Tacoma's arts community in an especially positive way, together with Stars 4 Peace.

Suffice it to say a lot is happening and I invite you to touch base, look into what we're doing and see how what you do may fit in this year's calendar.

With everything happening that is difficult and challenging in our lives, our focus will be to bring a positively rewarding experience to life that people will find encouragement in leading up to a truly joyful Holiday Season.

We will be addressing heavy issues with THE WALL, but we are meeting people where they are - if they just want the rewards, they can give to an org, browse great local music and get good deals around town.

If they want to connect to proactive communities they can get involved.

We're keeping this light hearted and rewarding, fun and positive.

To see more about what this looks like go to [Stars"4"Peace.org](http://Stars4Peace.org)

But the issues we are addressing are serious. They are real and have a very real impact on people immediately in our communities.

For those of you who would like to know more about why I developed Stars 4 Peace and THE WALL separately, and how this all ties together, it will be helpful to know some personal and professional background:

Stars 4 Peace was developed as a family-friendly way to bring people into community in a way that fosters quality time with friends and loved ones. It all started in 2012 when we surprised Vicci Martinez for her homecoming birthday show at Tacoma's Pantages Theater, when she returned after her national tour following her appearance on The Voice. Vicci was born on the International Day of Peace and bringing peace to the stars was a natural

fit. We pioneered a HOPE-Centered learning model called y2112, with the idea that it would serve as an introduction to life in the South Sound area.

I developed it with my family in mind, specifically my niece.

You can learn more about this under the ORIGINS tab on the website.

14 years of work is a bit much to delve into here but it's worth a look: You'll see how we incorporate learning in legitimately fun, community activities - like the Tacoma Santa Parade, but a lot more in those early years as well.

THE WALL itself is intended to address real issues in a balanced way that lets people go as deep as they want to into the issues - or, just keep it light hearted, fund organizations they like and get cool music and deals at local businesses that are community-centered and want good to prosper.

This project started in 2017 on 6th Ave when we installed on 1/8th of the Art on the Ave footprint. It has been rooted in Tacoma's Music scene in a special way and developed through the Post-Pandemic era with an emphasis on building a hybrid system that encourages people to give to ground level orgs by providing them more in incentives than their donations. All money goes to the orgs entirely, and it's tax deductible.

Tacoma is blessed to have a city with leadership that values our cultural heritage and acknowledges the economic and social benefit art can bring. Tacoma officials created a first-of-its-kind initiative called Tacoma Creates, that supports the community arts in a way that allows us to create positive social and cultural experiences accessible to people of all kinds.

So a socially responsible project that involves exactly the community arts form that is locally active in responsible ways, and regionally recognizable, seems uniquely appropriate for promoting solutions to issues we face now. We developed Stars 4 Peace and THE WALL exactly for this purpose, and have a long history of doing what we do. It works - and it's fun.

The issues we are facing now as a society and in our local communities are serious and we're at a critical time as we see all around us right now.

For those of you who would benefit from understanding why this work is relevant right now, I want to take a moment to go deeper into some of the issues at the heart of what this project is about. THE WALL is designed to let people engage with these as deeply as they choose.

Whichever side of the issues you're on, you have to agree that we are watching a culture of abuse at the highest levels being exposed at an astonishing degree. This impacts us right here in our communities.

THE WALL will cover a lot of issues, and one of these is abuse.

There is a saying: As Above, So Below.

Right now in Pierce County our courts are seeing more domestic abuse cases than they have fielded in a long time. People like Adrienne Castele of H.O.P.E. Victims Advocacy Foundation have been helping women establish after violence in the home since Tacoma was a gangland, risking her life to stand for women. These organizations merit support.

Most of these organizations are losing funding at exactly the moment their services are needed most. It is the same in other areas like food scarcity. Adding to their general funds collectively as we are able to as a broad community across our region we will be able to help them meaningfully.

I've worked with H.O.P.E. since 2016 and have seen what they can do.

As a more personal example of this, I recently helped someone navigate getting out of an abusive relationship. Out of respect for her privacy I won't share details, but I will say that what I witnessed firsthand changed my own understanding of what organizations like H.O.P.E. actually do, and why women need help navigating abuse right now. The character assassination, the surveillance, the way an abuser works to discredit the people supporting his victim — I experienced this up close and personal.

Organizations like HOPE exist precisely for these moments in women's lives - they help and they matter. These issues touch a lot of lives.

In all its forms, abuse is the polar opposite of what healthy relationship requires: Honoring personal boundaries, respecting personal choice, providing a safe environment free from coercion and peer pressure — this is not a high bar. This *used* to be basic and expected, and not long ago. Resources like The Gottman Institute are helpful for people who want to learn about what healthy relationship looks like - and we include that.

My years in the local music and social scene give me a perspective that's grounded in real experience and for me what we're facing now is crystal clear: **Things have changed. From 6th Ave to STW it's not the same.**

The woman who gives her number to the guy she knows is interested in her friend, as soon as her friend steps away. The guy that gets his friends to gaslight a girl about the kind of guy he is, so she'll sleep with him. The clique that spreads gossip about people, but then flatters them to their face so they stay under their influence. There has always been some element of this kind of thing, but I've never seen it so common place.

It's gross, and sensible people are aware of the difference between this current mode of social manipulation and the kind of organic coming together of people in a natural way that isn't interfered with.

The difference is stark.

Whole groups characterize *healthy* connections as weird, undermining healthy boundaries and creating an atmosphere where peer pressure acts against women. There is a covert predatory undercurrent that comes into play when a guy spends money with the expectation of sex in return. This is more normal now to a lot of people, and it hasn't always been like that. But now this general atmosphere permeates much of life, in many forms.

I think of my niece and the atmosphere she's growing up to encounter and have wondered how to prepare her for this disconcerting reality: That men will inevitably present themselves one way and act behind her back in ways that would disturb her badly. They literally study, watch videos and learn how to effectively manipulate women and the people around them in every way, and then after they're done with them destroy their character to everyone around them - this has become normal in a lot of circles.

And worse.

Guarding against spiked drinks, for instance, was once cautionary — cases once were relatively rare. Now it's essential social knowledge. That shift alone tells you something. Women need to be aware of the signs and the realities that some drugs require immediate testing to be detected - a lot of this is happening **right now** and men are becoming brazen with this.

Women need to know how to interpret brain fog the next morning - and get tested right away to see if guys are dosing or microdosing their drinks.

There's a premeditated element to this. Guys are aware that the drugs they choose to lace a drink with only stay in the system a day or so - and women need to be aware of these realities and get tested when they suspect foul play. To those of you who think this is alarmist, the reality at the ground level is that we know. We are not guessing - this is real.

Then there is the inevitable escalated version of abuse, the physical, verbal or psychological abuse we know, which continues even after the victim gets away from the abuser. The reflex of abusers is to default to a tactic advocates teach about called **DARVO**: It stands for Deny, Attack, Reverse Victim and Offender. They deny the abuse, attack the character of their victim and reverse the roles accusing their victim of abuse and painting themselves as some form of a victim so THEY get the sympathy and support that the community would provide the victim if they knew.

The abuser doesn't retreat, they go on the offensive and escalate. They disparage the victim and also go after their support system. They isolate the victim from the people who would otherwise support them. I have seen this up close, have been attacked by predatory individuals myself and have had friends distance themselves until the truth was known.

This is what abuse culture actually looks like — it's insidious and includes manipulation and deception often in focused, strategic, premeditated attacks. Often it looks like a slow erosion of a sense of reality: Community relationships are dissolved and the people who gain are often the abusers.

For people without support it can be devastating.

This is the textbook abuse profile and a growing element of urban life here.

But the signs of abuse start early - if you know to look for subtle boundary violations, for instance, transactional relational patterns, or if the guy always pushes for drinks or other substances to break down resistance.

Educating people to recognize abuse early on helps women that would be vulnerable to the group dynamics where these behaviors are normalized. This provides a way of identifying and avoiding abuse to begin with.

I talk often with people in a range of fields and all of us see the signs: The writing is on THE WALL. There is a real divide right now that is polarizing.

And this miasma of mistreatment happening in public life right now emerged from a culture of abuse we are watching now in real time being

exposed on a global scale. Whichever side of an aisle you're on, you know this is true. It is no wonder the scene is how it is right now. But if we want to have healthier places in public life we need to offset this meaningfully.

I feel that those of us who are aware and in a position to bring full attention to the issues have a responsibility to do so - that's what THE WALL can do: it's a viable solution useful for educating and connecting people.

In my opinion, the best recourse we have is to provide a base of resources that people overcome the challenges they face. For women, to help them to recognize what abuse looks like in the early stages, so they can avoid it, and also connect them to quality resources if and when they're needed.

For me, this *is* the Front Line. And the Adrienne Castele's in the world live their lives on the front line of this very real battle. H.O.P.E. helps the most vulnerable victims, providing phones and clothes and things like diapers and other essential life items to the women who go to her for help.

The proof is in our courts - the caseloads don't lie. And our community is able to make progress in this area and other well enough. Others have their issues they feel are mission critical: Food scarcity is a big deal right now, as are youth services: We can address all of these in this project.

This was not the environment that gave rise to THE WALL, but it does now underscore its urgency. In 2017, the popular momentum was cooperative. The trend was overwhelmingly to work together. THAT was the cool thing to do. Today the trend is cynicism: Anything that provides an excuse NOT to do anything - except, of course, to indulge the people abusing things.

So we are using this project to arm people of all ages and social strata with the knowledge and resources they need, AND gain the needed support for the organizations working on the Front Line across fields.

Right now people can go to [LOOKWASHINGTON.com](http://LOOKWASHINGTON.com) and find direct links to resources like a map with food locations all around Pierce County.

Youth can find The Coffee Oasis and Oasis Youth Center and others.

Soon there will be links to full resource guides as we connect with others of like mind and hearts in our city and region. We have the connections in our community - let's *use* them and do something awesome together.

The way THE WALL is designed provides a way to make it easy for people to contribute how they can - it takes a little from a lot of us that care.

And the rewards and benefits are real.

There is another, personal dimension to this work I think is helpful to share, that underscores for me the need for better understanding in our lives.

Many of us have been through a lot these past years. We've lost loved ones, good friends, have encountered challenges - almost all of us have.

A little understanding can go a long way.

In 2015 I was in Paris for work during the terrorist attacks that November, Friday the 13th. I had been in the neighborhood of the Bataclan that night, and walked all over looking for shows. Had I seen the poster for their show that night 100% I would have been in that room. Good friends of mine are friends with the band that played that night and if I had only mentioned to them that I was in Paris they also would have told me about that show. I was that close to being in that room.

The night was terrible enough, and I think you would be surprised how much it has impacted my life. I mention this because I know first hand that people need resources and support at certain times in life for reasons they have no control over. It was then I started working with H.O.P.E.

In 2016 we had the Pulse Nightclub attack in Orlando and we partnered with Tacoma's Rainbow Center to install the memorial at Tacoma Pride.

Then in 2017 I created THE WALL at Art on the Ave.

Walls can be used to divide, but also walls can be used to protect.  
What do we value and appreciate about life here in our region?  
What we value we must nurture if we want it to exist in the future.

Together, across our communities, we have real solutions.

The resources are available, and together substantial advance is possible.

With THE WALL we are building something that has been largely absent from popular public discourse: A model of inter-community partnership

that doesn't require institutional expenditure. We are advocating for the under-served, encouraging direct support for the organizations serving them and providing value *for* those who give, *through* our community of musicians, businesses and artists. Also we're building the resource library.

Our intent has been published, practiced and present publicly for years before the pandemic - it has local roots, is grounded, practical and real. What we have created is accessible and affordable, proven and effective, includes a lot of goodwill and has a solid track record for bringing smiles to people's faces, regardless of ideologies, for many years now.

Just look at the pictures on the [Stars4Peace.org](http://Stars4Peace.org) website - wherever the stars go, there are always smiles. Also this project really does ROCK.

THE WALL has also been part of a Tacoma festival called Music & Heart in Wright Park, a Tacoma Creates supported event, whose roots reach back to the earliest days of the 1990's when Nirvana and Soundgarden were practicing here, right at the moment the Northwest Music broke into the international consciousness. Tacoma has been a navel of creativity and an oasis for its development, especially in music, since the Sonics played here in the early '60's. THE WALL is well rooted in this pioneering spirit.

And as our region enters a New Era, which is sure to be full of its own challenges, what we stand to accomplish together can be really wonderful, good for a great number of people and beneficial to the people making our lives here a little better, in their own corner of a community not many see.

People need something hopeful and real that's close to home. We need to build hope in each other and remember our humanity in a positive way.

THE WALL has a map on it - we will literally see HOPE grow in community throughout the year. And as organizations like HOPE, Skoolie and others are added, their work will be seen by people wanting to support them.

With the Santa Parade this December, we have a lot of time to bring about something very special for Santa AI and for people all around The Sound.

Developing these projects side by side we will make JOY real this year for some. The wall is in Pilot now. Spring we launch and Summer we build.

By the holidays we'll have something engaging for everyone to be part of.

The Tacoma Santa Parade is happening Sunday, Dec 20 - see more and consider how you want to be part of it online at Tacoma [JOY.com](http://JOY.com).

To see how THE WALL works, go to [LOOKWASHINGTON.COM](http://LOOKWASHINGTON.COM).

And if you want links to all of this in one place, together with some background information about Stars 4 Peace, what we do year-round, who our community is and about our ORIGINS, go to [Stars4Peace.org](http://Stars4Peace.org)

That's Stars and the number 4 peace dot org.

I invite you to join us in bringing a positive, more hopeful expression to life around Tacoma's South Sound this year, and build to a more rewarding year leading up to a celebratory Holiday Season this December.

I hope to hear from you and look forward to seeing what we can do together. Thank you for taking a moment of your time.

Welcome to Stars 4 Peace: The Power of Peace to Provide.

We are Artists 4 Life in the Sound.