



What's your superpower?

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The Evergrey <hello@theevergrey.com> Reply-To: The Evergrey <hello@theevergrey.com> To: caitlin.j.moran@gmail.com

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What's your superpower?

Hello and welcome to Wednesday, friends. Seattle has been through a lot in the past three months: a global pandemic, isolation and quarantine, job loss and financial hardship, civil unrest — and some deep soul searching about what it means to live in community and support the most vulnerable among us.

Each of us has experienced our own individual challenges, some of them more difficult than others. But we've also stepped up like never before to give generously, provide mutual aid, and work toward a brighter future.

Today, I'm excited to launch a new six-week series in partnership with Civic Commons called Our Tomorrow.

Every Wednesday, we'll take a break from our usual programming and introduce you to a Seattleite who is seizing this once-in-alifetime opportunity to reshape our city into a place that's more equitable, more welcoming, and better equipped to address the

systemic problems that have become all the more pressing in the first half of 2020.

My hope is their stories will inspire you to take action and help you discover new ways to apply your passions and gifts toward the greater good. As always, my inbox is always open to your feedback and questions: Caitlin@theevergrey.com.

First up: **Doc Wilson**, the main organizer of the new Peace Peloton bicycle demonstration. Let's get rolling, shall we?

—Caitlin at The Evergrey



Doc Wilson on a recent Peace Peloton ride.



Where passion and purpose align

Name: Doc Wilson Neighborhood: First Hill Day job: Life coach

Project: Peace Peloton bicycle demonstration

The mission behind Doc Wilson's weekly Peace Peloton rides boils down to five words: Economic reform for Black people. Every weekend, he's leading hundreds of cyclists on rides between Black-owned businesses in Seattle.

An avid cyclist, Doc says he's working hard to create an environment that's inviting to everyone: commuters, casual riders, parents with kids in trailers, skateboarders, unicyclists — basically anyone on a non-motorized vehicle. Don't ride (or skate)? The Peace Peloton also needs volunteers to help with logistics, drive support vehicles, and do behind-the-scenes tasks, like marketing.

"That back-office stuff is important," Doc said. "Those unseen heroes who make everything come together are awesome."

Ready to get involved? Drop your contact information here, or show up to the next ride this Saturday.

We recently caught up with Doc to hear how he came up with the idea for the Peace Peloton and get his thoughts on economic justice, diversity in cycling, and more. The following Q&A includes excerpts from that conversation; head to our website for a more complete version.

What inspired you to take action?

Doc: My superpower is bringing people together. It's going to talk to John and introducing John to Mary, and then introducing Mary and John to a bigger group, and just having those communities grow.

I love cycling. I've taken my bike over to Southeast Asia and toured around for four months. I commute to work every day. I'm on a bicycle all the time, so I wanted to align my passion with my purpose, and this is the result of that.

Everybody has their own superpower. I'm just using the tools and the passions that I have to advance this aim. I thought, "Hey, if I'm going to do this, it has to be sustainable. And what in my life have I sustained?" I've sustained my business, I've sustained riding a bicycle every day. So why don't we merge those two? And out comes Peace Peloton.

What's your advice to other folks who are trying to figure out how best to apply their own superpowers?

Doc: Just start. As a life coach, my guidance for people who come to me with similar questions is often "well, do more than nothing." People who try to model their skills or their superpowers or their engagement solely around what other people are doing are going to fall short.

With Peace Peloton, not everyone has to ride a bike. The support can be on the ground. My girlfriend is an attorney, and she's helping with bringing the application for our trademark together. I've got other people working on the website. I've got other people working on figuring out which businesses we should visit.

Everybody can't grab the microphone and be on stage — that's not everyone's superpower. But everybody has their part, and there's absolutely no way I could do all of this myself.

How do the rides contribute to economic equity?

Doc: The vision is to introduce individuals who otherwise wouldn't know about these Black businesses to the Black businesses. That is economic reform. People are taking money out of their pockets and giving it to these businesses in exchange for their goods and services, and they're becoming aware of a business that they probably wouldn't otherwise know.

Along with riding to businesses, we're following routes through areas of African American significance in the city. Our first ride, we

stopped at the Northwest African American Museum. There are also places in the city that are significant for redlining, and where the first Black settlers came to the city.

We want to make sure that we stay true to the (mission of) economic reform for Black people. The byproduct of that is getting people on bicycles and advancing a healthy lifestyle, and bringing community together.



Who should we feature next?

Know someone who's bringing people together in Seattle to work on racial justice, COVID recovery, and related causes? Tell us about 'em here.

5 more ways to help build Our Tomorrow this week

Add your voice to a conversation about the future of affordable housing in Seattle.

Familiarize yourself with the demands of the King County Equity Coalition, and make a donation if you support their work.

Contribute to COVID-19 relief in Washington state by tuning in to a virtual benefit concert featuring Pearl Jam, Sir Mix-a-Lot, and Macklemore.

Stay committed to self-education with SPL's list of "always available" eBooks on white supremacy and institutional racism.

See Celebrate Pride by supporting an LGBTQ-owned business and participating in to this weekend's virtual festivities.



That's all for today

Catch ya back here tomorrow with our usual roundup of news and events.

—The Evergrey

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The Evergrey / WhereBy.Us Enterprises Inc. 2093 Philadelphia Pike #3050 Claymont, DE 19703

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