



**WILLO** Women's Intergenerational  
Living Legacy Organization

Celebrating the Voices of Women and Girls

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## **WILLO Third Annual Storytelling Festival and Appearance by trailblazing artist Rita Moreno Shine spotlight on Women's Leadership at Broadway Center**

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**Tacoma, Wash.** –Broadway Center for the Performing Arts and Women's Intergenerational Living Legacy Organization (WILLO) will present two distinct events this October highlighting women's leadership: WILLO's [Third Annual Storytelling Festival](#) on October 9 at Theatre on the Square, and [Rita Moreno's performance](#) on October 16 at the Pantages Theater.

[WILLO's Third Annual Storytelling Festival](#) will highlight the remarkable influence that ordinary women in pursuit of extraordinary dreams can have on our community. WILLO seeks to connect the greater Tacoma community by celebrating and inspiring women and girls.

**Megan Sukys**, Tacoma-based consultant and former host and executive producer with KUOW-NPR, will be the event Master of Ceremonies, engaging the six featured storytellers in an informal, conversational setting—revealing their unique challenges, moments of inspiration, and unexpected events that gave them courage to pursue their dreams.

Featured WILLO storytellers include: **T'wina Franklin**: Women in Education, **Judie Fortier**: Women in Government, **Amy McBride**: Women in the Arts, **Sonya Silver**: Women in Business, **Karen Vialle**: Women in Politics, **Sulja Warnick**: Women in Non-profits, and a memorial tribute, "We Remember," in honor of **Carol Milgard**. Featured storyteller of the 2014 festival, former Washington State Senator **Rosa Franklin**, will give the opening address.

Tickets for the Festival on Sunday, October 9, 1 p.m.–3 p.m. are FREE with advance registration through [WilloTacoma.org](http://WilloTacoma.org) or by calling Broadway Center Box Office at 253.591-5894. Donations of non-perishable food items for **FISH Food Banks of Pierce County** will be collected at the door.

Broadway Center presents celebrated, trailblazing performer [Rita Moreno](#) in an afternoon of song and story at the Pantages Theater on October 16, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. [Tickets are on sale now.](#)

Rita Moreno will perform some of her favorite songs from the American Songbook as well as Broadway classics, Swing, Jazz, selections from her new Spanish album and even rap! She will be accompanied by a trio under the direction of Russ Kassoff. She will also share fascinating experiences, anecdotes and encounters with some of show businesses' biggest names.

Moreno is one of only 12 living performers who have the distinct honor of winning all of the industry's most prestigious awards: The Emmy®, The Grammy®, The Oscar®, and The Tony®. From her early years in theater to the height of film, Broadway and television stardom, Moreno rose above the limitations of Hollywood typecasting and established herself as a versatile performer. She has starred on Broadway and London's West End; appeared in more than 40 movies and countless television shows.

Now on a 29-city tour, Moreno is as active today as ever. She is starring in a remake of producer Norman Lear's classic TV sitcom, "One Day at a Time," premiering in January on Netflix. She is known to television viewers for her guest-starring roles in primetime series, including "Getting On," "Jane the Virgin," "Happily Divorced," "Grey's Anatomy" and "Grace and Frankie." She is the voice of Abuelita in the new NBC-TV Sprout network's animated TV series, "Nina's World."

Moreno was honored by The Kennedy Center for a lifetime of artistic achievement. Her status as a national treasure was previously recognized when President George W. Bush presented her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. President Obama awarded her the American National Medal of the Arts for her lifetime of service and contributions to the arts.

Her dozens of other honors include receiving the Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement Award and the Latin Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. She is most proud of being a trailblazer for women and Latinos in the entertainment industry.

[Tickets for Rita Moreno are on sale now and start at \\$19.](#) To purchase tickets call the Broadway Center Box Office at 253.591.5894, toll-free 1.800.291.7593, visit the Broadway Center website at [www.BroadwayCenter.org](http://www.BroadwayCenter.org), or in person at 901 Broadway in Tacoma's Theater District.

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