



SEATTLE DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Seattle Department of Neighborhoods (DON) strives to strengthen Seattle by engaging all communities. We provide resources and opportunities for residents to build strong communities and improve their quality of life. Through our programs and services, we meet people where they are and help neighbors develop a stronger sense of place, build closer connections, and engage with their community and city government.

Our department acts as an essential connector – building bridges between government and community. We are actively involved in projects throughout the city, providing community engagement and outreach support and ensuring that historically marginalized communities have voice and representation in City projects from beginning to end. Our work is driven by two North Stars: 1) Put race and equity at the center of all decisions and actions, and 2) Invest in the power of communities to forge their own solutions.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

NEIGHBORHOOD MATCHING FUND provides funding to local groups for neighborhood-initiated improvement, organizing, or planning projects. Every award is matched by the community through volunteer hours, locally raised money, donated materials, and in-kind professional services.

FOOD EQUITY FUND provides funding to an array of unique and creative community endeavors that seek to increase equitable access and opportunities to grow, learn about, and/or eat healthy, affordable, and culturally relevant foods.

DUWAMISH RIVER OPPORTUNITY FUND awards funding to support small-scale projects addressing challenges faced by communities in the Duwamish River area during the Superfund clean-up.

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATORS serve as a resource and liaison to community members, connecting them with one another and City government, including coordinating citywide efforts to partner with community groups on COVID response. If you want to connect with your neighborhood, learn about City services, or just have an idea to share, our team is ready to help.

EARLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR DESIGN REVIEW encourages dialogue between developers and the community before building designs are complete. Our staff advise developers on their outreach plans, if requested, and provide them with resources and tools to effectively conduct outreach.

STRENGTHENING SEATTLE BY ACTIVELY ENGAGING ALL COMMUNITIES



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STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS collaborates with City departments, regional agencies, and community groups to provide strategic advisement, coordination, and support for City programs and projects with a focus on increasing equitable engagement to communities most impacted by the city's growth and infrastructure needs.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY LIAISONS are independent contractors who are trusted advocates and expert community navigators in historically underrepresented communities, which include communities of color, immigrants and refugees, the LGBTQ+ community, people with disabilities, seniors, youth, and people experiencing homelessness. They serve as a resource and liaison to ensure the City forges meaningful connections and receives diverse and impactful civic participation.

PEOPLE'S ACADEMY FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT offers leadership development and skill building for emerging leaders in a multicultural, participatory environment. Participants learn hands-on strategies from experts on topics like community building, inclusive engagement, and accessing government.

REIMAGINATION AND RECOVERY

GENERATIONAL WEALTH PROGRAM works with community organizations, government agencies, and philanthropic partners to enhance, develop, and invest in community-centered approaches to closing race-based wealth gaps.

WEST SEATTLE BALLARD LINK EXTENSION (WSBLE) RACIAL EQUITY AND ENGAGEMENT is responsible for building relationships with community and providing the capacity and partnership necessary for community members to be powerful self-advocates. This team will guide Sound Transit to engage in decision-making that is centered in racial equity and co-created with community.

CHINATOWN INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT (CID) is an historically significant and culturally rich community. In 2019, the most recent work in community self-determination started with the founding of a community coalition, the CID Vision Group. DON is excited to add internal capacity to support their work, organize collective City efforts in partnership with this community, and repair past harms.



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COMMUNITY ASSETS

P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM manages community-stewarded open spaces for organic gardening available to individuals and groups. As the largest municipally managed community gardening program west of New York, our 89 gardens serve more than 3,500 gardeners, and facilitate programs that serve youth, low-income, and underrepresented populations.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM manages the identification and protection of more than 400 historic structures, sites, objects, and vessels, as well as eight historic districts. It provides information on the basics of historic preservation, including the landmark designation process and incentives for property owners to encourage preservation and renovation.

MAJOR INSTITUTIONS AND SCHOOLS PROGRAM provides a way for neighbors of large Seattle institutions (e.g. hospitals, universities, schools) to be involved in their development plans so that neighborhood concerns are considered. This program organizes and staffs city-appointed advisory committees for each project.

COMMISSIONS

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMISSION advises the City on priorities, policies, and strategies related to equitable civic engagement and public participation in City decision-making processes.

INDIGENOUS ADVISORY COUNCIL advises the Mayor, City Council, and City departments on policies, budgets, programs, services, and projects directly affecting Indigenous populations including American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian people.

SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION is an independent, non-partisan body of five appointed Seattle residents responsible for redrawing the new Council district boundaries to reflect the city's population growth.

SEATTLE RENTERS' COMMISSION provides information, advice, and counsel to the Mayor, Seattle City Council, and City departments regarding issues and policies affecting renters.

SEATTLE YOUTH COMMISSION discusses solutions for issues that Seattle youth face and advises City departments and elected officials on City policies.

