



City of Seattle

February 2, 2015

The Honorable Ed Murray, Mayor of Seattle
The Honorable Mike O'Brien, Planning Land Use and Sustainability
Committee Chair, Seattle City Council

Dear Mayor Murray and Councilmember O'Brien,

The Seattle Commissions noted to the left are writing to express our collective support and enthusiasm for elevating the prominence of Social Equity in the City of Seattle Comprehensive Plan. Seattle was ahead of its time when it made Social Equity one of the four Core Values in the original 1994 Comprehensive Plan and should continue to lead the nation in this principal. Social Equity places an emphasis on the limited resources and opportunities being shared; and the inclusion of under-represented communities in decision-making processes as being necessary. This principal is as vital today as it was in 1994.

In the drafting of Seattle 2035, the major update to Seattle's Comprehensive Plan, we can continue to lead the nation in this work. as we have e an opportunity to fully integrate social equity with the document vision, goals and policies of each of the elements. It is vital for the continued health and prosperity of our community that Seattle grows equitably, supporting the needs, lives and human rights of all current and future members of our diverse community.

Commissioners are heartened by the Equitable Development Initiative co-led by Diane Sugimura, Director of the Department of Planning and Development and Patricia Lally, Director of the Office of Civil Right and appreciative of the investment of staff resources to draft and review the Comprehensive Plans Goals and Policies through a lens of social equity.

Seattle Human Rights
Commission

Seattle Immigrant and
Refugee Commission

Seattle Lesbian Gay
Bisexual Transgender
Commission

Seattle Planning
Commission

Seattle Women's
Commission

We look forward to reviewing and commenting on the draft plan and definition of equity as they become available, and appreciate your sharing the drafts with the Commissions. We will be submitting subsequent comment as individual Commissions.

Sincerely,



Sarah Bishop and Ethel Branch, Co-Chairs
Seattle Human Rights Commission



Jeniffer Calleja and Shree Ram Dahal, Co-Chairs
Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission



Gunner Scott and Susan Snyder, Co-Chairs
Seattle Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Commission



Amalia Leighton, Chair
Seattle Planning Commission



Liz Kellog, Co-Chair on behalf of
Seattle Women's Commission

CC: Patricia Lally, Office of Civil Rights
Diane Sugimura, Department of Planning and Development