



Frequently Asked Questions

Overview

As Seattle's population grows and changes, the City needs to continually revisit and expand its public engagement efforts to ensure growing demographic groups are represented in the City's decision-making processes and that barriers discouraging people from participating are eliminated.

In July 2016, Mayor Murray signed Executive Order 2016-06 reaffirming his commitment to advance effective implementation of equitable and inclusive engagement strategies across all City departments. In November, as part of the 2017-2018 budget process, the City Council passed legislation that formalized the Mayor's outreach and engagement principles, outlined a new citywide framework for community engagement, and created a Community Involvement Commission. This new Commission will advise and guide City departments in their efforts to develop, implement, and improve authentic and thorough outreach and engagement practices that benefit all Seattle residents.

Purpose, Goals, and Structure

What is the purpose of the Community Involvement Commission?

The Community Involvement Commission will advise Seattle Department of Neighborhoods and other City departments on coordinated, citywide outreach and engagement activities.

What are its goals?

1. Provide advice on priorities, policies, and strategies related to equitable civic engagement and public participation in City decision-making processes. This includes the review of initiatives, strategies, and proposals brought forward by the City, as well as ones identified by the Commission.
2. Provide feedback on the development of City departments' community involvement plans with a focus on implementing more equitable engagement strategies and identifying new ways to increase civic participation in City processes.
3. Develop and periodically amend bylaws and a work plan that enable the Commission to organize itself, perform its work, and advance program and policy proposals consistent with its mission.

How will it be structured?

The Commission will have 16 members. Individuals in positions 1 through 7 will be appointed by the City Council, with each member representing the City Council district that corresponds to their position number. Individuals in positions 8 through 14 will be appointed by the Mayor, with position 14 filled by a young adult through the City's Get Engaged program. These 14 members will be subject to confirmation by a majority vote of the City Council. Members in positions 15 and 16 will be selected by the Commission subject to approval by the Mayor and confirmation by a majority vote of the Council.

For the initial round of appointments, odd numbered positions will serve one-year terms and even numbered positions will serve two-year terms. After the conclusion of the initial terms, all subsequent terms for each position will be for two years, except for the Get Engaged position, which will continue to have a one-year term. No Commission members shall serve more than two full consecutive terms. By a majority vote, the Commission will annually elect one or more members to serve as its Chair.

Members of the Commission will serve in a volunteer capacity and be requested to dedicate approximately three to six hours per month to their roles.

Questions?

For further information about the Community Involvement Commission, contact Sara Belz at sara.belz@seattle.gov or (206) 684-8696.