

SEATTLE DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Seattle Department of Neighborhoods provides resources and opportunities for community members 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 ties, and engage with their community and city government.

Strengthening Seattle by actively engaging all communities

Our programs and services:

ENGAGE SEATTLE is the City's commitment to advance equitable and inclusive engagement across Seattle. As the leaders of this effort, we work to broaden access for community members so that all voices are heard, including our underrepresented communities. We ensure that City departments do outreach and engagement in an authentic and meaningful way. We are creating opportunities for civic involvement through the newly established Community Involvement Commission and the introduction of new tools, initiatives, and resources to help community members navigate government and connect with others in their neighborhoods.

NEIGHBORHOOD MATCHING FUND awards money to local groups for a broad array of neighborhood-initiated improvement, organizing, or planning projects. Every award is matched by the community through their contribution of cash, volunteerism, donated goods, materials and supplies, or in-kind professional services. There are two levels of funding based on the amount requested - from small amounts up to \$100,000.

P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM promotes and manages community-stewarded open spaces for organic gardening to individuals and groups. As the largest municipally-managed community gardening program west of New York, the staff manages 90 gardens that serve more than 3,000 households and 6,800 gardeners. It also provides special 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 in Seattle, including the landmark designation process and incentives for property owners to encourage preservation and renovation. It also supports the work of citizen review boards involved in historic preservation.

COMMUNITY LIAISONS are bi-cultural and bi-lingual independent contractors who we train, assign, and oversee to assist City departments in their outreach and engagement efforts to underserved populations. Their role is to serve as a resource and liaison to community members to ensure the City receives diverse and meaningful civic participation and forges real connections and relationships with these populations.



Seattle
Neighborhoods

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COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS are events where we partner with community-based organizations to share information on City programs with underserved communities where they are already congregating. These events include presentations of topics geared to each community and resource booths providing information on City services. Our Community Liaisons assist attendees in navigating the various resources and provide support through interpretation or translation.

PEOPLE'S ACADEMY FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (PACE) provides leadership development and skill building for emerging leaders in a multicultural, participatory environment. Offered three times a year, PACE provides participants hands-on strategies from experts on such topics as community building, inclusive engagement, and accessing government.

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

YOUR VOICE, YOUR CHOICE is a [Participatory Budgeting](#) process in which Seattle residents decide how to spend a portion of the City's budget. With the present focus on parks and streets, community members will help decide how to spend \$2 Million on small-scale improvements to streets and parks.

FIND IT, FIX IT COMMUNITY WALKS are a series of Mayor-led walks where neighbors, police and city officials walk together to identify physical elements in neighborhoods that make it feel unsafe. Once identified, the City and community work together to fix the problems. Hundreds of improvements have resulted from these walks – from new trash bins to upgraded street lights.

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

SEATTLE YOUTH COMMISSION is a group of 15 Seattle teens from around the city who connect youth to local elected officials, advise City departments and elected officials on City policies, and discuss solutions for issues that youth in Seattle are facing. The Mayor and City Council appoint one Youth Commissioner to represent each of the seven council districts, as well as eight at-large commissioners.

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