



# SEATTLE DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS

## *Strengthening Seattle by actively engaging all communities*

Seattle Department of Neighborhoods (DON) strives to strengthen Seattle by engaging all communities. DON serves Seattle's residents by providing programmatic support and building inclusive partnerships to ensure they receive equitable access to government. To accomplish this, we foster community partnerships, cultivate emerging leadership, and facilitate community inclusiveness. Outreach and engagement is the core of DON's mission, with equity serving as a guiding principle. By establishing equitable outreach and engagement practices, DON creates opportunities and broadens accessibility which is reflected in the programs DON administers.

### **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**NEIGHBORHOOD MATCHING FUND** provides funds 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. There are two levels of funding based on the request - from small amounts up to \$100,000.

**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.

**YOUR VOICE, YOUR CHOICE** lets Seattle residents decide how to spend \$3 million of the City's budget. With the focus on parks and streets, community members share ideas and vote on small-scale improvements by council district.

**YOUTH OPPORTUNITY FUND** offers grants to support programs that offer positive development activities for young people. The awards range from \$5,000 to \$15,000.

### **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

**COMMUNITY LIAISONS** are bi-cultural and bi-lingual independent contractors who we train and assign to assist City departments in their outreach and engagement efforts to underserved populations. They serve as a resource and liaison to ensure the City receives diverse and meaningful civic participation and forges real connections. The program also hosts **COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS** where we partner with community-based organizations to share information on City programs with underserved communities where they are congregating. Our Liaisons assist attendees in navigating the various resources and provide support through interpretation or translation.

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

## OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATORS** serve as a resource and liaison to community members with the goal of making it easier for residents to be engaged in their neighborhoods and beyond. If you want to connect with your neighborhood, learn about City services or have an idea to share, our team is ready to help.

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

**SEATTLE RENTERS' COMMISSION** provides information, advice, and counsel to the Mayor, Seattle City Council, and departments concerning 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.

**COMMUNITY RESOURCE HUB** is your online “one-stop shop” for information, city resources, tools, and trainings to help you engage with us and with your community. This web portal offers tools to help you get informed about the city, get engaged with others, and get organized in your neighborhood. Find the hub at [seattle.gov/resourcehub](http://seattle.gov/resourcehub).

## 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 90 gardens serve more than 3,000 households and 6,800 gardeners, along with 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. It also supports the work of citizen review boards involved in historic preservation.

**MAJOR INSTITUTIONS AND SCHOOLS PROGRAM** provides a way for neighbors of Seattle's larger institutions (i.e. 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.

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