

CID Framework and Implementation Plan

Workgroup 1 - Community Development and Stabilization

Meeting Summary,

October 26, 2017

Work Group Members present

Shanti Breznau	Leslie Morishita	Pradeepta Upadhyay	Quynh Pham
Tammy Deets	Marlon Herrera	Brien Chow	Jessa Timmer
Mike Omura	Betty Lau	Rachta Danh	Misa Murohashi Cartier

Staff present

Heidi Hall (OED)	Michael Wells (OED)	Vinita Goyal (OPCD)	Janet Shull (OPCD)
Emily Alvarado (OH)	Ubax Gardheere (OPCD)		

Additional Attendees

NOTES:

The first meeting of the Community Development and Stabilization Workgroup was held at the Hirabayashi Place Community Room, 424 S Main Street. The meeting was cohosted by the City of Seattle's Office of Economic Development (OED), Office of Housing (OH) and Office of Planning & Community Development (OPCD).

Janet Shull of OPCD welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Pradeepta Upadhyay and Marlon Herrera as the co-leaders for this workgroup. As co-leaders, Pradeepta and Marlon will work with city staff to set agendas for Workgroup meetings and also be responsible for reporting back to the CID Advisory Committee on Workgroup activities and recommendations.

Pradeepta welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for a round of introductions.

At this first meeting staff from the Office of Economic Development (OED), Office of Housing (OH) and OPCD's Equitable Development Initiative program (EDI) were in attendance to provide overview of their work in the CID neighborhood and how it relates to the topics that will be discussed at future meetings of this Workgroup.

Michael Wells of OED shared information about the Commercial Affordability Task Force and its recommendations, and the recently completed Legacy Business Report. These reports are available electronically via links on the OED website.

There are many recommendations from both bodies of work that this workgroup may consider for application in the CID neighborhood. Some recommendations in the reports come from other cities and there may be challenges for implementing in Seattle (due to WA laws for example). Heidi Hall of OED spoke about the Only In Seattle (OIS) program and how it is a resource for specific projects and partnerships that support local businesses and business districts.

Emily Alvarado of OH spoke to the history of City investment in the CID neighborhood. City investments began in the early 80's and there are currently approximately 1000 affordable

housing units in the CID. Affordable housing is created by investments in new housing and through housing preservation. OH is interested in looking at new tools such as working with existing building owners by offering low cost financing to help them renovate buildings while still keeping rents affordable to existing tenants. Anti-displacement strategies and affirmative marketing are also important affordable housing strategies. There was discussion about Coordinated Entry requirements and the challenge it can present to current residents who want to access affordable housing units in the same neighborhood.

Ubax Gardheere presented background and a status report on the EDI program and investments that are being made in the CID. She shared the EDI goals which include mitigating displacement, increasing access to opportunities, developing an equity infrastructure within the City and building community capacity. The City has 16 million dollars identified for funding projects through EDI. 385 thousand dollars is currently being distributed to help advance community-based projects of which the Little Saigon Landmark Project is one.

Questions brought up by work group members included:

- Can this workgroup have input from the City's legal staff regarding policies, programs, strategies that may have legal questions w/WA state law?
 - Yes, while we do not have a specific city attorney identified to support this workgroup, staff can consult legal staff as needed.
- How do housing and commercial anti-displacement and affordability strategies fit together?
 - Staff from OH and OED are interested in looking for ways to coordinate to find solutions that can address both the need for affordable business spaces and affordable housing.
 - It was noted that housing dollars can only be spent on housing
 - OED staff is included in review panels for new affordable housing.

Next Steps and Action Items:

- This workgroup decided it will meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 5-6:30 PM
- Pradeepta will arrange for the Community Room at Hirabayashi Place to serve as the meeting location for this workgroup.
- Michael Wells will provide Janet with links to OED reports on Commercial Affordability Strategies and Legacy Businesses

NEXT MEETING: The next Meeting will be held Wednesday, November 8th from 5-6:30 PM at Nihonmachi Terrace Community Room.