



City of Seattle

Seattle
LGBTQ Commission



SEATTLE LGBTQ COMMISSION WORK PLAN 2019-2020

Co-Chairs: Katrina Sanford, Jessi Murray, and Byram Simpson

Secretary: Deepa Sivarajan **Staff:** Erika Pablo

The Seattle LGBTQ Commission aims to make particular headway in the following areas:

- **Housing, Homelessness, and Affordability** – In the city of Seattle, housing instability is a major issue; in fact, a state of emergency regarding homelessness was declared in 2015, and the problem has only worsened. LGBTQ+ identities are overrepresented in homeless populations, especially among unaccompanied youth. Additionally, LGBTQ+ individuals face additional structural barriers to shelter and services, and elderly LGBTQ+ individuals face housing instability and isolation challenges.
- **Healthcare Access** – LGBTQ+ individuals, especially trans and non-binary folks, have unique healthcare needs that are often unmet. Lack of insurance coverage, lack of LGBTQ+-qualified providers, and stigma can cause even those who have some amount of access to not seek services.
- **Amplifying and responding to Community** – Community organizations are already doing amazing work on behalf of the LGBTQ+ population and within housing and healthcare spheres, and the Seattle LGBTQ Commission aims to increase outreach and partnership to these organizations to serve as a bridge to city government. Additionally, the Commission will be responsive to community needs and requests in areas not included in the above as opportunities arise.

With these three focus areas in mind, the Seattle LGBTQ Commission's goal is to lead their work with a trans and racial equity lens. The Committees below are formed in order to work to these goals, with the expectation that ad-hoc committees can be created as needed.

Standing Committees: Commission Operations; People of Color Stakeholders; Social Media & Communications; and Outreach and Community Engagement

Committee Details

Commission Operations: Chair – Deepa Sivarajan; Members: Chris Brown and Sabel Roizen

Goal	Strategies, Actions and Measures
Supporting the Seattle LGBTQ Commission by maintaining documentation, budget and operational processes.	Work with key stakeholders to facilitate recruitment and retention of commissioners, in line with Commission's goals for equity in representation
	Create and maintain operational documents to ensure transparency with the public and facilitate consistent internal processes
	Amplify work of other committees through logistical support
	Provide logistical support to Commission's role in reviewing and giving input on City's annual budget cycle
	Maintain oversight and furtherment of current operational processes

People of Color Stakeholder Committee: Chair – Latosha Correll; Members – Joseph Suttner, Manuel Venegas, Deepa Sivarajan, Katrina Sanford, and Ely Hernandez

Goal	Strategies, Actions and Measures
Review current policies and practices of creating an affirming and inclusive equitable place for people of color.	Partnership with organizations who are doing similar work to amplify people of color voices around homelessness, housing affordability, barriers to housing, and health & safety. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen relationship with Alphabet Alliance of Color (AAOC) and other QTPOC Organizations/Coalitions. • Support City of Seattle Census 2020 task force
	Launch and complete a POC survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with AAOC, explore partnerships, conduct research, and begin developing survey

	<p>Advocate for affordable, safe housing for Queer and Trans People of Color (QTPOC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with HSD on City’s Council’s statement of legislative intent on homelessness service for LGBTQ community • Explore community land trusts for LGBTQ community • Support the Equitable Development Monitoring Program • Review the City of Seattle’s 2019-2020 Housing Funding Policies; determine priorities and make recommendations for the LGBTQ community
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Community Outreach & Engagement Committee: Chair – Alejandro Castillo and Michael Garrett; Byram Simpson, Katrina Sanford, and Kari Lerum

Goal	Strategies, Actions and Measures
<p>To advocate for Seattle's LGBTQ+ population by serving as a hub/conduit of information and resources for our constituents, organizations, and policymakers that reside in the City of Seattle while continuing to advocate to preserve the dignity and full-spectrum identities of those most marginalized in our community</p>	To increase direct engagement with constituents and stakeholders in the LGBTQ+ population of Seattle
	To build a resource database for our constituents to access necessary and impactful resources
	To listen to the community, assess their needs, and define the LGBTQ Commission’s role in the LGBTQ+ and broader communities

Social Media & Communications Committee: Chair – Joseph Suttner; Members – Jessi Murray, Sabel Roizen, Chris Brown, and Michael Garrett

Goal	Strategies, Actions and Measures
To leverage social media to amplify our Commission’s work and communicate with our community to foster a platform for engagement.	Manage all social accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Youtube)
	Amplify other committees’ work
	Increase community engagement through various social platforms