



Seattle's small businesses are integral to the economic fabric of the city, because they are an important source of jobs and make vital contributions to Seattle's unique identity. The current period of rapid economic growth threatens to displace small businesses unless the City takes action to help resolve the problem.

Mayor Ed Murray has formed a Commercial Affordability Advisory Committee to evaluate the complex issues and recommend solutions in support of commercial affordability.

Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee is charged with reviewing existing City policies and making recommendations to support affordable commercial spaces so that Seattle remains a competitive marketplace for small neighborhood businesses. The committee is directed to emphasize incentive-based solutions, resulting in affordable opportunities that help retain longtime businesses and encourage entry of new businesses. They will submit their recommendations by the end of September 2016 to the Executive for consideration.

The Advisory Committee represents a diverse range of expertise including neighborhood business owners, developers, real estate professionals, and arts and music businesses.

Committee Members

Don Blakeney is the VP of Advocacy and Economic Development for the Downtown Seattle Association, where he oversees a variety of economic development initiatives and programs that shape public policy, planning, and efforts to improve the quality of life and economy of downtown Seattle. He also co-founded Storefronts Seattle, a storefront activation and small business incubator project that partnered downtown property owners with artists and creative businesses.

Shanti Breznau is a retail and restaurant recruiter for Seattle's Chinatown/International District/Little Saigon business district. She assists property owners with vacancies and helps businesses seeking space to

find the right fit and open successfully. Shanti was previously a principal with Strategic Economics and project manager for the City of San Francisco's Neighborhood Marketplace Initiative.

John Chelico is a leasing and sales broker with JSH Properties, a property management and brokerage firm whose client base includes major developers, pension fund advisors, and real estate partnerships. During his 20 year real estate career, John has built many strong landlord and tenant relationships while completing more than 3 million square feet of lease transactions.

Dennis Comer is a retired military officer and co-owner of Brown Sugar Baking in the Central Area of Seattle. He is a member of both the Central Area Land Use Review Committee and the Central Area Collaborative, two community groups comprised of residents and business community stakeholders who work to ensure commercial vitality and a collaborative approach to development in the Central Area.

Solomon Dubie is the owner of Café Avole, an Ethiopian coffee shop in southeast Seattle. His goals for Avole are to share and innovate Ethiopian coffee culture, grow the market for Ethiopian products, and build community locally and globally. Solomon has helped organize community events in his neighborhood and has engaged local youth to gain on-the-job training at his café.

Liz Dunn is the owner of Dunn & Hobbes, LLC, a developer whose mixed-use projects in urban village neighborhoods aim to create intimate urban places and unique retail opportunities for local entrepreneurs. Liz serves on the board of Capitol Hill Housing, the Capitol Hill EcoDistrict Steering Committee, the Lid-15 Committee, and the national Reuse and Redevelopment Council of the Urban Land Institute.

Sam Farrazaino has combined 28 years of construction industry experience and 30 years of working in and with the arts to found Equinox Development Unlimited LLC. Equinox's mission is to partner with public and private entities, to facilitate the creation and preservation of affordable arts and cultural spaces, and to support the communities that sustain those spaces.

Mariela Fletcher is the owner of MANILA MANILA, an Asian grocery in Lake City that specializes in Filipino products and cuisine. She is also a seasoned real estate broker with RE/MAX Metro. Prior to immigrating to the U.S., Mariela owned a manufacturing and exporting business in the Philippines. She serves in leadership roles with the International Drop-In Center, Lake City Future First, National Federation of Filipino American Associations, and Seattle's St. Matthew Parish.

Frank Gross applied his lifelong passion for vintage instruments and a decade of experience in the instrument retail field to found Thunder Road Guitars in 2011. Initially started as a web-based business, Thunder Road quickly grew, enabling Frank to open a storefront the



following year and then move in 2015 to a larger space at the West Seattle Junction with expanded offerings like guitar repair and lessons.

Megan Jasper is CEO of Sub Pop Records. Her first stint with Sub Pop was in 1989; she returned in 1998 and has since been instrumental in the label's growth and success. Megan has served on the Board of Directors for SCBWI (Society of Children's Books Writers and Illustrators), The Service Board, and the Vera Project.

Matt Landers is the Public Policy & Communications Manager for the Greater Seattle Business Association (GSBA), North America's largest LGBT and allied Chamber. For the past four years Matt has represented GSBA's small businesses on a local, state, and federal level. He has served on the board of Out for Sustainability and on the advisory council of the NW chapter of Out & Equal Workplace Advocates.

Mark Morel is VP Sales & Marketing at Morel Industries, Inc., which he co-owns with his brother Steve. Morel Industries has a proud reputation for the manufacturing and machining of quality aluminum, brass/bronze, iron, and zinc castings for companies in the Puget Sound region and worldwide. Mark and Steve are third-generation foundrymen based in Seattle.

Tam Nguyen is co-owner of Tamarind Tree and Long Provincial restaurants. He is also president of Friends of Little Saigon, a nonprofit whose mission is to promote, enhance, and showcase the cultural and economic vitality of Seattle's Little Saigon district. Tam's dream is to build the first Vietnamese American cultural community center in Little Saigon.

Susanna Tran is a commercial real estate broker who specializes in retail leasing at West Coast Commercial Realty. Prior to real estate, she had a long career in the day spa and salon industry, as both a technician and business owner. Susanna serves on the boards of SouthEast Effective Development (SEED), Mercy Housing Northwest, On Board Othello, Celebrate Asia at the Seattle Symphony, MLK Business Association, and Ethnic Business Coalition, and as a Rainier Valley representative of Communities of Opportunity.

Karen True is the Director of Business Development for the Alliance for Pioneer Square. Her approach to business development is part retail recruitment, part matchmaking, part business consultation, and full-time community building. She currently serves as Member Leader of the ULI Northwest Thriving Communities Task Force.

Maiko Winkler-Chin is Executive Director of the Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDpda), whose mission is to preserve, promote, and develop the Chinatown-International District as a vibrant community and unique ethnic neighborhood.

