



City of Seattle

Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Seattle LGBT Commission

PRESS RELEASE

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Seattle LGBT Commission Recommends LGBTQ Community Visibility and Inclusion of Cultural, Intersectional Diversity in Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Growth Management Plan

Use an Intersectional Lens of Race, Social, Economic and Gender Equity in addressing planned growth

SEATTLE— The City of Seattle’s LGBT Commission calls on the public to advocate for inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender children, youth, adults, seniors, and families in the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan for Growth Management. A draft version was released July 8th, 2015 that includes key strategies that address various categories for growth planning including Housing, Transportation, Arts and Culture, Community Well-Being and Neighborhood Planning among other key elements. The LGBT Commission has submitted recommendations specifically to the *Growth and Equity draft*, which is being used as a structural analysis to frame the key elements in the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan.

“We support the Four Core Values: 1) Race and Social Equity; 2) Environmental Stewardship; 3) Economic Opportunity and Security; and 4) Community that are being used as guiding principles for policies and goal setting of the 2035 plan; however, the analysis offered does not go deep enough in addressing issues and experiences of those living at the intersections of race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or disability.”

~~~Gunner Scott, of the City Planning Task Force of the LGBT Commission.

The data highlighting Seattle’s relatively young, diverse and well-educated population reveals glaring disparities between ethnic, racial and cultural communities in those same statistical groupings. Primarily, the Commission’s recommendations call for a specific, transparent, representative, inclusive consideration for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender children, youth, adults, seniors, people with disabilities and families—establishing all as a unique, culturally-diverse, intersectional complex community.

“Racial equity should be the largest lens through which any policies, practices, planning, guidelines, and ordinances are examined. Our City, our children, youth, adults, seniors, and families are as complex as we are diverse and many live at the intersections of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, ability, language, and income. Without an analysis that includes the diversity of these intersections, the marginalized populations, including and especially racial/ethnic individuals, are made invisible and further marginalized.”

~~~SLGBTC Recommendations for Seattle 2035 Growth and Equity Draft

The LGBT Commission is further concerned that the goals and mitigation measures of the Equitable Development Framework, while visionary and broadly comprehensive, may not be sustainable. Cooperation and participation by the public and private sector, while encouraged, cannot be required or easily managed.

*“Funding for equitable growth seems to be heavily dependent on the strength of the market. At best, programming is underfunded or subjected to funding decreases with funding waning over time. At worst, elements of a highly networked plan could be cut entirely or never implemented due to funding priorities. This directly exposes these proposed growth alternatives to vulnerabilities that contradict the language and intention of equitable growth.”*

~~~Marxa Marnia, Co-chair, Seattle LGBT Commission

The LGBT Commission urges the public to contact the Mayor’s office and the Seattle City Council and ask that these recommendations be implemented. Provide public comment on the City’s website:

<http://2035.seattle.gov/>

SLGBT Commission Recommendations and Needs for an Inclusive Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan:

- Inclusion of an Intersectional framework to effectively address Social Equity in addition to a Racial Equity lens listed in the Core Values.
- Explicit inclusion of language, data, and strategies, of gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, languages, disability, and income in the framework and analysis for growth and equity in the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan.
- Recommendations and subsequent adoption of policies, practices, and strategies that use an intersectional framework highlighting specific impacts and outcomes for LGBT children, youth, adults, seniors, people with disabilities and families.

Seattle Demographics

Seattle is the proud home to one of the largest concentrations of LGBTQ residents in the United States.

- Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) ranks Seattle as #5 in the top five of cities with adults who identify as LGBT at 4.8% of the city’s population (approximately 31,000 residents—roughly the population size of Seattle’s Queen Anne neighborhood.)
- 12% of same-sex couples were raising children in King County and among those raising children, 28% of householders in same-sex couples are non-White compared to 24% of householders in different-sex married couples.
- 20.6% of same-sex couples—more than one in five are interracial or interethnic compared to 18.3% of different-sex unmarried couples and just 9.5% of different-sex unmarried couples.

These numbers indicate a notable percentage of households are LGBT and as such would be impacted especially in areas of housing, economic disparity, transportation, communities of color, and neighborhood planning. Specifically, LGBT people of color and Transgender individuals overall are disproportionately adversely affected in many of these key elements:

Data from the American Community Survey (ACS) by the Williams Institute found that:

- “Racial/ethnic minority individuals in same-sex couples tend to live in areas where there are higher proportions of individuals of their own race or ethnicity.”
- “African-American individuals in same-sex couples report lower median incomes than African-Americans in different-sex couples.”

The 2011 National Transgender Discrimination Survey reported:

- “Transgender people of color in general fare worse than white participants across the board, with African American transgender respondents faring worse than all others in many areas examined.”
- “Transgender adults reported various forms of direct housing discrimination — 19% reported having been refused a home or apartment and 11% reported being evicted because of their gender identity/expression.”
- “Transgender adults reported less than half the national rate of homeownership: 32% reported owning their home compared to 67% of the general population.”

The LGBT Commission urges the public to echo and support these recommendations by contacting the Mayor’s office and Seattle City Council and requesting these recommendations be implemented. In addition, provide public comment on the City’s website <http://2035.seattle.gov/> before September 30, 2015.

To download the full recommendations click the link or go to the following address:

[Seattle LGBT Commission Recommendations](#)

http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/SeattleLGBTCommission/documents/SLGBTC_Recs-Seattle2035-GrowthEquity.pdf

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Seattle LGBT Commission is a voluntary commission of 15 commissioners with 7 appointed by the City Council and 7 from the Mayor’s Office with the addition of an at-large commission-appointed position and one “Get Engaged” member.

Mission: The Commission's role is to effectively address and present the concerns of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender citizens of Seattle to the Mayor, City Council, and all City Departments through recommendation of legislation, policy, programs, and budget items. For more information visit <http://www.seattle.gov/lgbt>