Seattle is an innovative city with a rich history of active entrepreneurs. We are investing in the South Lake Union neighborhood to support our growing life sciences cluster and foster the next wave of innovative discoveries in the biotech and biomedical fields. The City is proud to be a partner in this work that will benefit not only citizens in Seattle, but people all over the world.”

Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels
Washington state has established itself as one of the leading biomedical research centers in the world. South Lake Union is providing a geographically concentrated focus that has not previously existed, involving many of the state’s institutions and biotechnology companies. The intense collaborations enabled by this focus could be a powerful force for the future growth of medical research in Washington state.

Nobel Laureate Dr. Lee Hartwell, President and Director, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Advantages of a South Lake Union Location

World-Renowned Research Institutions and Industry Leaders

- 15 research organizations, 3 research hospitals, and one of the nation’s leading public research universities
- 2 national leaders in attracting NIH and other federal funding: University of Washington ($989 million in 2006) and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center ($250 million in 2006)
- Top-rated primary-care medical school in the country: University of Washington
- 6 Nobel Laureates: Drs. Lee Hartwell, Linda Buck, E. Donnall Thomas, Hans Dehmelt, Edmond Fischer, and Edwin Krebs
- 4 of the leading scientists on the Human Genome Project: Drs. Philip Green, Leroy Hood, Maynard Olson, and Robert Waterston

Established and Growing Biotechnology Industry

- Fifth-largest biotechnology center in the nation
- 17,500 workers in 160 life science companies in the Seattle area
- 8 active industry associations including the Washington Biotechnology and Biomedical Association, the Washington Technology Center, and the Technology Alliance
- Center of research excellence in: cancer, infectious disease, diabetes, diagnostic and therapeutic ultrasound and imaging

Accessible Capital and Funding Sources

- $352 million in life science venture capital investments in 2006
- $21.8 million life science incubator, Accelerator Corporation, created in association with the Institute for Systems Biology
- 10 local biotechnology focused venture capital firms and angel funding networks
- $350 million Washington State Life Sciences Discovery Fund for research
- Multiple tax incentives for biotechnology firms

Thriving Biotechnology Center in South Lake Union

- 10 million square feet of development capacity for life science use in South Lake Union
- Hundreds of millions of dollars of public investment from the City of Seattle to improve utilities and transportation infrastructure, build a new streetcar line, create a waterfront park, and develop new housing
- Special zoning and building codes to accommodate biotechnology needs
- Close proximity to major research institutions and leading biotechnology companies

Exceptional Quality of Life

- Dynamic urban center set in a striking and diverse natural environment
- Vibrant visual arts, music, and culture scene
- Wonderful recreational activities such as skiing and hiking, as well as professional sports
- Gateways to major international markets via Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and the Port of Seattle

“We have unique assets in this region: Boeing in engineering, Microsoft in IT, the University of Washington in science, technology and medicine, Fred Hutchinson in cancer research, and Amgen and a host of biotech companies that provide an incredibly powerful technical and computational medical environment. There are real opportunities here to catalyze the transformation of medicine.”

Dr. Leroy Hood, President of the Institute for Systems Biology