

LAKE CITY

FUTURE
FIRST



STRATEGIC
PLAN

2015-2016

A MESSAGE FROM LAKE CITY FUTURE FIRST

Lake City is the very definition of a diverse community. This diversity, both cultural and economic, provides Lake City with the unique opportunity to celebrate and expand on all that makes our community special. Through funding from the Only in Seattle grant initiative a diverse group of stakeholders came together to draft a strategic plan to guide our work to ensure Lake City is a thriving and healthy neighborhood to live, work and recreate. These are exciting times for our neighborhood as we continue to grow and diversify. We believe we have created a plan that will also grow and remain fluid as we navigate these changes. Lake City's success will be of a result of strong communication and our ability to connect with all our neighbors. Together we can achieve anything from clean and safe streets to an inviting and thriving business core. We can work together to help guide development and to speak with a unified voice to reach our potential as one of Seattle's truly unique neighborhoods. Lake City Future First is committed to broad and inclusive engagement to ensure that the path ahead is paved for the benefit of the entire Lake City community.

Lake City Future First Volunteers

GUIDE TO THIS DOCUMENT AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Plan-at-a-glance

The opposite page summarizes Lake City Future First's vision, strategic focus, goals, catalytic projects, and key partnerships.

Lake City Future First Background & Purpose

An overview of Lake City today appears on pages 4-5. This includes a brief history of the Lake City Future First, previous planning efforts, and major current projects.

Strategies, Goals + Objectives

Beginning on Page 8, the strategies, goals, objectives that form this plan and workplan are listed.

1-3| STRATEGIES: Overall direction for Lake City Future First as an organization

GOALS: Based on the 5 Focus Areas from the Only In Seattle initiative

Objectives: Long, medium & short-term directions for Lake City Future First supported by actions in the workplan

Partners: Each Goal has suggested partners based on current relationships in Lake City who could work with LCFF to achieve its goals.

7 Catalytic Projects

Descriptions of this plan's catalytic projects appear on page 7 and are called out in the Strategies, Goals + Objectives section under each Objective.

APPENDICES:

A 2015/16 Work Plan: Priority tasks for 2015, along with a timeline are shown as an appendix.

B Lake City Urban Design Framework: Executive Summary: A Urban Design Framework (UDF) work group has been meeting since 2014 to guide Seattle's Department of Planning & Development Urban Design Framework. A description of the UDF process is available at: www.seattle.gov/dpd/cityplanning/completenesslist/lakecity/whatwhy/

C Lake City Future First: Community Conversation: A community-sponsored event drew on the values and good ideas of the community to invigorate discussion about Lake City's vision. A summary of the conversation is described in Appendix B and at www.lakecityfuturefirst.com.



LAKE CITY FUTURE FIRST

| | |
|---------------|---|
| VISION | Sustainable, representative organization to inform and engage business and property owners, residents, and organizations to achieve a vibrant and connected Lake City business district |
|---------------|---|

| | | | |
|--------------|----------|--------|---------|
| FOCUS | CAPACITY | INFORM | CONVENE |
|--------------|----------|--------|---------|

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Leadership + Organization Active & sustainable leadership of volunteers and staff | Economic Sustainability Robust & vibrant business economy supports shared prosperity in Lake City | Wellbeing Attractive neighborhood promotes a healthy and safe community | Urban Design Vibrant accessible, and inviting environment for all | Promotion Diverse place for doing business and raising families |
|---|---|---|---|---|

CATALYTIC PROJECTS
World of Tastes ♦ Community Conversations ♦ Branding
♦ Community Garden ♦ Tours ♦ 125th St Park ♦ Beautification

LONG-TERM SUSTAINABLE FUNDING
to achieve strategic goals in partnership with:
residents ♦ businesses ♦ property owners ♦ organizations ♦ City of Seattle ♦ other stakeholders



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A 2015/16 Work Plan

B Lake City Urban Design Framework: Executive Summary

C Lake City Future First: Community Conversation

BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Lake City Future First (LCFF) is an emerging organization formed in 2013 whose mission is to form a coalition of residents, business owners, and organizations to work together in order to establish a unified voice for Lake City and foster the development of the business corridor along Lake City Way and adjacent to other commercial areas. LCFF members represent sectors of the Lake City community, including local businesses, residents, social service providers, and faith-based community. A Leadership Group of LCFF emerged in 2014 with representatives from: businesses: Kaffeeklatsch, Two Dog Yoga, Manila Manila, residents, Pierre Family, Lake City Neighborhood Alliance (LCNA), Children's Home Society of Washington's North Seattle Family Resource Center (NSFRC), Lamb of God Church, and the North Seattle Chamber of Commerce.

● **Urban Design Framework**

Currently, the Department of Planning & Development is undertaking an Urban Design Framework (UDF) that will describe the future design, location, and features of buildings, streets, and public spaces in downtown Lake City and along Lake City Way. A UDF Advisory Group was formed in 2014 and continues to meet monthly to shape the UDF guiding principles. The UDF guiding principles are incorporated throughout the Strategic Plan and called out with a ● symbol. More information about the UDF can be found at <http://www.seattle.gov/DPD/cityplanning/completenesslist/lakecity/timeline/default.htm>

Strategic Planning

Lake City Future First received a grant from City of Seattle Office of Economic Development's Only In Seattle Initiative to complete this strategic plan in 2014. This process was led by the LCFF Leadership Group who focused their attention on business development, land use and development, neighborhood appearance, human services, and community engagement. Community issues and opportunities were identified for each focus area, along with key projects that could be implemented with volunteers and partner organizations in the short and long-term.

On May 28, 2014 180 residents, business owners, and partner organizations attended a community conversation about the future of Lake City at Elliott Bay Brewing where LCFF asked the community what they'd like to see in their future Lake City. 167 comment cards

were returned the night of the event. Answers ranged from an Ice Cream Shop to safer routes to schools. The conversations, input from comment cards, and the outpouring of volunteers who were willing to sign up for future volunteer opportunities and made it clear, a central community engagement strategy is needed in Lake City.

The LCFF Leadership endorsed the strategic plan on February 19, 2015. The Strategic Plan will inform LCFF's annual work plan and budget for 2015-17.

VISION

Lake City Future First envisions a dynamic and safe Lake City business district.

Lake City Future First endeavors to be an accessible and sustainably funded nonprofit organization that delivers engagement opportunities and resources for businesses and residents within the Lake City community.

Lake City Future First will:

Harness the energy, interests, and passions of Lake City businesses, partner organizations, residents, and other stakeholders to come together to address common issues.

Celebrate the rich culture in Lake City with meaningful gatherings of diverse communities within Lake City.

Listen to the community and speak with a strong voice for Lake City to be a visible and leading advocate for effective leadership in Lake City, business retention and economic development, urban design and public space, community wellbeing, and promoting the district.

Advocates for all businesses and residents, all income levels, and all needs, to make it possible for a diverse, vital, and inclusive community to live, work, and enjoy Lake City.

MISSION

LCFF's Mission is to:

Connect residents and business;

Encourage active involvement and sustainable leadership with community leaders, volunteers, and staff to achieve program goals;

Partner with Lake City serving organizations to enhance services and deliver successful programs with sustainable funding;

Lead a robust business community that supports a vibrant economy and shared prosperity in Lake City; and

Collaborate on efforts that make Lake City an attractive place to live, work and recreate.

GOALS

LCFF will work to achieve its Mission by focusing on five strategic initiatives:

Leadership + Organization

Neighborhood organizations, residents, property owners and business owners collaborate toward a common vision for the district

Economic Sustainability

Business prosperity through collaboration, technical assistance, and community support, as well as new businesses to complement and improve the mix

Wellbeing

The district is clean, safe, and welcoming for visitors and residents

Urban Design

Physical environments are attractive, inviting and easily accessible. Catalyst real estate projects rehabilitate or replace underutilized spaces

Promotion

A positive, consistent district image draws customers

CATALYTIC PROJECTS

Neighborhood Tours

Lake City Future First will design walking tours for funders, partner organizations, and government officials and staff. Tours will showcase the recent success in Lake City from public and private investments, highlight current and planned projects, tell the stories about the community that the media doesn't always pick up on, and give a small glimpse of the complexity of community development in Lake City that Lake City Future First is seeking to streamline.

Essential actions needed for Neighborhood Tours: Scheduling tours, invitations, coordination with partners, and reception planning and sponsorship

World of Tastes Passport Program

"World of Tastes in the Heart of Lake City" encourages local shopping in Lake City and provides an avenue for communication between Lake City Future First and small business owners. In its first year (2014) eight businesses participated. Patrons received a stamp on their passport for spending a minimum amount at Lake City food and retail establishments. World of Tastes demonstrated a strong community desire to support local businesses. Future rounds of the program will be improved and used to launch a business technical assistance program.

Essential actions needed for World of Tastes: increased business participation, graphic design, sponsorship for prizes, event planning and follow up with participants

Business District Beautification

Lake City Future First will continue to organize volunteer business district clean ups. They bring people together with a common and demonstrable goal. Promotional t-shirts and hats for a Clean & Safe crew will raise awareness for what regular efforts within the business district can provide for the community. New volunteer participation will be encouraged to create opportunities for neighborhood conversation, unlikely connections, and shared ownership.

Essential actions needed for Business District Beautification: T-shirt & hat sponsorship, volunteer recruitment and organization, and procuring cleaning supplies

Lake City Future First Branding

Lake City Future First endeavors to provide a robust vehicle to connect businesses and people to opportunities with lakecityfuturefirst.org. It will be a branded and recognizable place to post volunteer opportunities and projects needing support and connect Lake City to resources and each other - all to ensure that community projects are successful and connections to each other are made.

Essential actions needed for Branding: Graphic design, branding, website design, hosting, and administration, posting current opportunities, and community outreach

125th Street Park

Lake City Future First, Seattle Parks Department, Department of Neighborhoods, and community partners will address the use of the mini park on Lake City Way at 125th Street. An increase in negative behavior in the park has started to affect businesses, disrupt community activities, and gives the wrong impression about the care of the community. Activating the park and a possible low-impact redesign are solutions being explored.

Essential actions needed for 125th Street Park: Community input for desired use and positive activities for the park

Community Conversations

Lake City Future First came together to develop a shared vision for Lake City's future among community stakeholders, especially businesses. Hosting forums is a way to share information and perspectives on key issues and opportunities and to inform planning efforts through a collaborative process. Community Conversations will be a series of public forums and supporting engagement activities to provide the opportunity for participants to listen and engage in a lively discussion about topics that affect the Lake City Hub Urban Village. The first Community Conversation took place on May 28, 2014. Approximately 180 people attended to learn about City-led initiatives in the public realm.

Essential actions needed for Community Conversations: Topic ideas, graphic design (invitations, materials), event logistics, sponsorship, coordination with partners, reporting results, and follow up community outreach

Fred Meyer Community Garden

A new community garden along Lake City Way at the Fred Meyer vacant lot at 130th Street will create a concrete and visual representation of positive change in the Lake City Hub Urban Village. A full community engagement process will be the catalyst for the success of this project. Lake City Future First will engage UW Urban Design students to illuminate possibilities for the garden. The potential for outreach and inclusion on this project is immense and the impact will be extremely positive. Fred Meyer is in full support of this project as well as other adjacent partners.

Essential actions needed for The Fred Meyer Community Garden: gathering input from the community for desired uses, garden designs, planting days, and on-going maintenance



CAPACITY

STRATEGY

Build Lake City Future First into an established, long-term leadership organization.

GOALS

Leadership + Organization

- **Objective 1A:** Expand Lake City Future First's engagement structure to include roles for partner organizations and underserved communities
- **Objective 1B:** Build organizational financial and engagement strength
- **Objective 1C:** Maintain active leadership with staff positions
- **Objective 1D:** Establish a physical presence for Lake City Future First

Catalytic Project: Neighborhood Tours

Partners: North Seattle Family Resource Center, Department of Neighborhoods (DoN), Office of Economic Development (OED), Lamb of God, Public Outreach & Engagement Liaisons (POELs)



Economic Stability

- ≡ **Objective 2A:** Facilitate an environment of connected businesses
- ≡ **Objective 2B:** Encourage a diversity of businesses and employers to fill vacant storefronts

Catalytic Project: World of Tastes Passport Program

Partners: Office of Economic Development (OED), Grow Seattle, Pierre Family

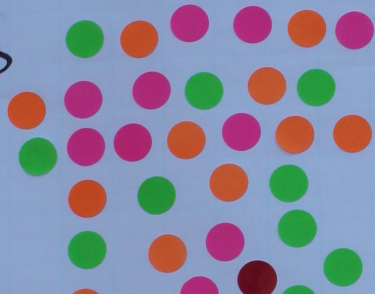
Urban Design

- **Objective 3A:** Grow at a human-scale that reinforces Lake City’s unique sense of place and character
- **Objective 3B:** Improve sidewalks and pedestrian connections within the Civic Core, and to public schools and parks
- **Objective 3C:** Strengthen the civic core with more active uses and pedestrian connections

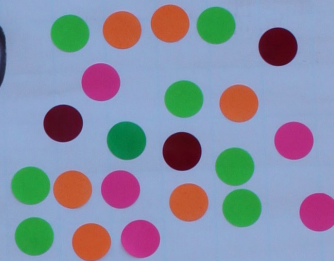
Partners: Lake City Urban Design Framework Advisory Group (UDF) Department of Planning & Development (DPD), Seattle Greenways, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), Pierre Family Properties

IS⁴⁻ THE FARMERS MARKET THE PRIMARY REASON YOU CAME OUT THIS AFTERNOON/EVENING?

YES



NO



Wellbeing

- 🏠 **Objective 4A:** Maintain a connection between businesses, human service providers, and public safety entities in Lake City to provide a safe and healthy Lake City

Catalytic Project: Business District Beautification

Partners: North Seattle Family Resource Center, Human Service Providers, Seattle Police Department (SPD)

Promotions

- 🏠 **Objective 5A:** Increase local business participation in community and Chamber events

Partners: North Seattle Chamber of Commerce, Department of Neighborhoods (DoN), Public Outreach Engagement Liasons (POELs)

2

INFORM

STRATEGY

Deliver current and relevant information about initiatives and opportunities in Lake City

GOALS

Leadership + Organization

- **Objective 1E:** Increase availability of information about Lake City and volunteer opportunities in blogs, email, and social media

Partners: North Seattle Family Resource Center, Lake City Neighborhood Alliance (LCNA)

Economic Stability

- **Objective 2C:** Balance job needs with local entrepreneur opportunities
- **Objective 2D:** Promote, market, and communicate Lake City business growth through multiple means and media

Partners: Office of Economic Development (OED), Grow Seattle, Pierre Family, North Seattle Chamber of Commerce



Urban Design

- 🏠 **Objective 3D:** Include businesses in the public process for new public realm projects and facilities

Catalytic Project: 125th Street Park

Partners: Department of Planning and Development (DPD), Seattle Parks, North Seattle Chamber of Commerce, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)

Wellbeing

- 🎯 **Objective 4B:** Improve access to services and activities that nurture healthy, vital communities

Partners: Human Service Providers Network, Summer Programming Committee, Lake City Neighborhood Alliance (LCNA), North Seattle Family Resource Center, Urban Design Framework Advisory Group (UDF), Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), Department of Planning and Development (DPD)

Promotions

- 🏠 **Objective 5B:** Encourage people to get out of their cars, walk around, and patronize businesses

Partners: North Seattle Chamber of Commerce, Seattle Farmers Market

3

CONVENE

STRATEGY

Bring the community together to achieve consensus around topics of neighborhood concern and city initiatives

GOALS

Leadership + Organization

🏠 **Objective 1F:** Mobilize business to participate and provide input for physical changes to Lake City

Catalytic Project: Community Conversations

🏠 **Objective 1G:** Host an online community where business owners and residents can connect

Catalytic Project: Lake City Future First Branding

Partners: Lamb of God, North Seattle Family Center, Lake City Neighborhood Alliance (LCNA), Department of Neighborhoods (DoN)

Economic Stability

🏠 **Objective 2E:** Maximize the potential of public events to catalyze economic development within the Lake City Hub Urban Village

Partners: North Seattle Chamber of Commerce, North Seattle Family Resource Center

Urban Design

🏠 **Objective 3E:** Connect residents and businesses through community building projects

Catalytic Project: Fred Meyer Community Garden

Partners: Urban Design Framework Advisory Group (UDF), Lake City Neighborhood Alliance (LCNA), Department of Planning and Development (DPD), Fred Meyer

Promotions

🏠 **Objective 5C:** Bring new ideas to foster the development of arts and culture

Partners: North Seattle Chamber of Commerce, Summer Programming Committee, North Seattle Family Resource Center, Office of Arts & Culture (ARTS)

APPENDIX A

2015 / 16 WORK PLAN



LAKE CITY FUTURE FIRST

STRATEGIC PLAN

2015/16 Workplan

- 1 | CAPACITY:** Build Lake City Future First into an established, long-term leadership organization
- 2 | INFORM:** Deliver current and relevant information about initiatives and opportunities in Lake City
- 3 | CONVENE:** Bring the community together to achieve consensus around topics of neighborhood concern & city initiatives

| Leadership + Organization | | | | | | | |
|--|------|----|----|----|------|----|------|
| Objectives & Actions | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | 2017 |
| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | H1 | H2 | |
| 1A: Expand Lake City Future First's engagement structure to include roles for partner organizations and underserved communities | | | | | | | |
| <i>Recruit community representatives to Lake City Future First</i> | | ◆ | — | ◆ | | | |
| <i>Maximize the benefit of the City's Public Outreach Engagement Liaison (POEL) program</i> | | | ◆ | | | | |
| 1B: Build organizational financial and engagement strength | | | | | | | |
| <i>Catalytic Project: Design Neighborhood Tours for potential funders & board members</i> | | ◆ | — | — | — | — | — |
| <i>Build representative board of directors</i> | | ◆ | — | ◆ | | | |
| <i>Develop Board Handbook with bylaws & other operational materials</i> | | | ◆ | | | | |
| <i>Develop organizational annual budget</i> | | ◆ | — | ◆ | | | |
| <i>Apply for City grants</i> | | | | | | | |
| <i>Only In Seattle Grant</i> | | | | ◆ | | | |
| <i>Department of Neighborhoods Neighborhood Matching Fund</i> | | ◆ | | | | | |
| <i>Explore membership & other local funding</i> | | | ◆ | — | — | — | — |
| <i>Explore BIA</i> | | | | ◆ | — | — | — |
| 1C: Maintain active leadership with staff positions | | | | | | | |
| <i>Community Coordinator</i> | | | ◆ | — | — | — | — |
| <i>Neighborhood Navigator</i> | | | | | ◆ | — | — |
| 1D: Establish a physical presence for Lake City Future First | | | | | | | |
| <i>Open a storefront office on Lake City Way</i> | | | | | ◆ | — | — |
| 1E: Increase availability of information about Lake City in blogs, email, and social media | | | | | | | |
| <i>Encourage media from other perspectives - "My Lake City":</i> | | | | | | | |
| <i>youth, ethnic communities, seniors, persons with disabilities</i> | | ◆ | — | — | — | — | — |
| <i>Encourage blog-writers to consider business-related topics in their blogs</i> | | | | | | | |
| 1F: Mobilize businesses to participate and provide input for physical changes to Lake City | | | | | | | |
| <i>Catalytic Project: Community Conversations for public input</i> | | | | | | | |
| <i>Develop an annual schedule of community input/learning opportunities</i> | ◆ | | | | | | |
| <i>April: Transportation with SDOT, Urban Design Framework with DPD</i> | | ◆ | | | | | |
| <i>June: Pierre Properties, Community Center Feasibility Study with Parks</i> | | ◆ | | | | | |
| <i>September: Housing Development, Community Center</i> | | | ◆ | | | | |
| <i>Future: Topics TBD</i> | | | | ◆ | | | |
| 1G: Host an online community where business owners and residents can connect | | | | | | | |
| <i>Catalytic Project: Optimize website to regularly communicate and post volunteer opportunities</i> | | | ◆ | — | — | — | — |
| <i>Apply for DON Neighborhood Matching Fund grant for website as community engagement</i> | | ◆ | | | | | |



LAKE CITY FUTURE FIRST

STRATEGIC PLAN

2015/16 Workplan

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| Economic Stability | | | | | | | |
|--|------|----|----|----|-------|----|------|
| Objectives & Actions | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | 2017 |
| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | H1 | H2 | |
| 2A: Facilitate an environment of connected businesses | | | | | | | |
| <i>Catalytic Project: World of Tastes in Lake City Passport Program</i> | | | ◆ | | ◆ | | |
| <i>Establish relationships with small business owners</i> | | | | ◆ | | | |
| <i>Participate in the City's Business Retention programs</i> | | | | ◆ | | | |
| <i>Host quarterly events focused on business education</i> | | | | | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ |
| 2B: Encourage a diversity of businesses and employers to fill vacant storefronts | | | | | | | |
| <i>Survey residents, employees & visitors for desirable businesses</i> | | | | | ◆ | | |
| <i>Work with property owners to identify potential business tenants</i> | | | | | | ◆ | |
| <i>Ensure that information and opportunities related to economic development are readily available</i> | | | | | | ◆ | |
| 2C: Balance job needs with local entrepreneur opportunities | | | | | | | |
| 2D: Promote, market and communicate Lake City Businesses district growth through multiple means and media | | | | | | | |
| <i>Keep data about retail space, commercial properties and tenants</i> | | | | ◆ | ————— | | |
| <i>LCFF Website, Farmers Market, Citywide & other local media</i> | | | ◆ | ◆ | | ◆ | ◆ |
| 2F: Maximize the potential of public events that bring people to Lake City to catalyze economic development within the Lake City core | | | | | | | |
| <i>Farmers Market, SalmonFest</i> | | | ◆ | ◆ | | ◆ | ◆ |

| Urban Design | | | | | | | |
|--|------|-------|-------|----|------|----|------|
| Objectives & Actions | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | 2017 |
| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | H1 | H2 | |
| 3A: Grow at a human-scale that reinforces Lake City's unique sense of place and character | | | | | | | |
| 3B: Improve sidewalks & pedestrian connections within the Civic Core, and to public schools & parks | | | | | | | |
| 3C: Strengthen the civic core with more active uses and pedestrian connections | | | | | | | |
| 3D: Include businesses in the public process for new public realm projects and facilities | | | | | | | |
| <i>Urban Design Framework</i> | | ◆ | ————— | | ◆ | | |
| <i>Community Center</i> | | ◆ | ————— | | ◆ | | |
| <i>Office of Housing Multit-family project</i> | | ◆ | ————— | | ◆ | | |
| 3E: Connect residents and businesses through community building projects | | | | | | | |
| <i>Catalytic Project: Community Garden on surplus Fred Meyer land</i> | ◆ | ————— | | ◆ | | | |
| <i>Catalytic Project: 125th Street Park</i> | | ◆ | ————— | | ◆ | | |



LAKE CITY FUTURE FIRST

STRATEGIC PLAN

2015/16 Workplan

- 1 | CAPACITY:** Build Lake City Future First into an established, long-term leadership organization
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| Wellbeing | | | | | | | | |
|--|------|----|-------|-------|------|----|------|--|
| Objectives & Actions | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | 2017 | |
| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | H1 | H2 | | |
| 4A: Maintain a connection between businesses, human service providers, and public safety entities to provide a safe and healthy Lake City | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Catalytic Project: Business District Beautification</i> | | ◆ | ————— | | | | | |
| <i>Join local entities who organize human services in Lake City</i> | | | | | | | | |
| <i>North End Human Services Network</i> | | | ◆ | ————— | | | | |
| <i>Summer Programming Committee</i> | | | ◆ | ————— | | | | |
| <i>Invite representatives from human services and safety entities to participate in LCFF activities</i> | | | | | | | | |
| 4B: Improve access to services and activities that nurture healthy, vital communities | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Support City initiatives that promote cleanliness, safety, and health</i> | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Safe Routes to School (SDOT)</i> | | | ◆ | ————— | | | | |
| <i>Multi Modal Corridor Study (SDOT)</i> | | | ◆ | ————— | | | | |

| Promotions | | | | | | | |
|--|------|----|----|----|------|----|------|
| Objectives & Actions | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | 2017 |
| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | H1 | H2 | |
| 5A: Increase local business participation in community and Chamber events | | | | | | | |
| <i>Develop a focused outreach and engagement structure</i> | | | | | | | |
| 5B: Encourage people to get out of their cars, walk around and patronize businesses | | | | | | | |
| <i>Design a local shopping event during</i> | | | | | | | |
| <i>SalmonFest</i> | | | ◆ | | | | |
| <i>Farmers Market</i> | | | ◆ | | | | |
| 5C: Bring new ideas to foster the development of arts and culture | | | | | | | |
| <i>Renew the Community Center Arts Council</i> | ◆ | | | | | | |

APPENDIX B

LAKE CITY URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

LAKE CITY DRAFT

urban design framework

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lake City is an urban village located within the diverse neighborhoods of Seattle’s North District. The people of Lake City – residents, business owners, service providers – are working together to establish a clear vision to guide growth. The vision is of a complete neighborhood where everyone can grow and thrive. To achieve this, the community wants a strong, walkable business district with services for residents of all ages, thoughtfully designed buildings and open spaces, and safe streets that connect to schools, parks, and residences.

Lake City Future First, a new community group funded in part by grants from Seattle’s Office of Economic Development, is working closely with other neighborhood groups and City staff on efforts including:

- This Urban Design Framework, in collaboration with Department of Planning and Development. This document will guide decisions about zoning and other development regulations in Lake City.
- SDOT projects to make safer streets and a more complete sidewalk network: the Traffic Safety Corridor Project, Safe Routes to School, and neighborhood greenways. Given that Lake City’s “main street” is a busy state highway, good transportation planning is especially important.
- A study of a new, full service community center, led by Seattle Parks and Recreation.
- Various efforts to strengthen the business district and improve community well-being.

The community supports bringing more local businesses and employment opportunities to the commercial areas, as well as a broader mix of housing. Generally, people agree that new development should contribute to a pedestrian-oriented, urban town center. There is also a desire to increase the quality and variety of new buildings to avoid monotonous or out-of-scale frontages.

The Thornton Creek watershed is the largest in Seattle and provides a unique asset for the North District. It offers rare glimpses into the forest that used to cover our region and now is typically only found outside the city. As the neighborhood grows, it is increasingly important to enhance the watershed, which acts as an urban oasis.

The DRAFT Lake City Urban Design Framework (UDF) establishes guiding principles and illustrates specific recommendations for this vision. The UDF also describes implementation strategies and key partnerships that need to continue or be established in order to achieve this vision for a neighborhood that is a vibrant, accessible, and inviting environment for all.

Guiding Principles

As Lake City grows and changes in the coming years, these principles will help guide development. For more detail, see page 8.

- Encourage a diversity of businesses and employers.
- Grow at a human-scale that reinforces Lake City’s unique sense of place and character.
- Encourage development that enhances the public realm, increases open space, and enhances natural features.
- Improve sidewalks and pedestrian connections within the Civic Core, and to public schools and parks.
- Build on existing transit service and identify opportunities for new facilities that make it easier for people to ride transit and bicycles.
- Provide housing for our diverse population.
- Improve access to services and activities that nurture healthy, vital communities.
- Capitalize on the Thornton Creek watershed.

APPENDIX C

LAKE CITY FUTURE FIRST:

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

