



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMISSION (CIC)

December 19, 2022

4:30 – 6:30 pm

Webex Meeting & Seattle City Hall L2-80

Commissioners present: Saba Rahman (she/her), Marcus White, Julia Jannon-Shields (she/her), Ahoua Koné (she/her), Martha Lucas (she/her), Fiona Murray (she/her)

Commissioners not in attendance: Bill Southern (he/him), Robert Radford

City of Seattle Staff present: Alvin Edwards (Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, he/him), Laura Jenkins (Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, she/her)

(Transcriber's Note: The notes shown below are summaries of statements provided. They are not transcriptions and have been shortened and edited to include the major points raised. Full comments are retained in the files in video recording and available upon request.)

Community Comments and vote on 11/21 Meeting Minutes if complete

There were no community comments during this portion of the meeting. The 11/21 meeting minutes will be voted on at the January Community Involvement Commission meeting.

Discussion on who the Commission is serving (demographic data of city)

The City Demographer, Diana Canzoneri, joined the meeting to present some data and answer questions from commissioners. She went over a PowerPoint with population data in Seattle and briefly discuss the [Racial and Social Equity Index](#).

As the Seattle City demographer, Diana works in the Office of Planning and Community Development and provides analysis to inform neighborhood planning, long range planning for growth management, and the development of housing policy. She also provides information on population characteristics and community conditions to officials, colleagues, and City boards and commissions with a particular focus on advancing racial and social equity.

Diana discussed the differences and similarities in Decennial Census and American Community Survey data/uses:

Decennial Census

- Designed to provide an official count of population
- Conducted once a decade
- 2020 Census had 10 questions
- Basic topics: sex, age, race, ethnicity, household size and type, owner or renter housing occupancy, group quarters

The American Community Survey

- Continuous survey
- Each household has roughly a 1-in-500 chance of being selected within a month.



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- Provides estimates of population, social, economic and housing characteristics; not an official count.
- Describes characteristics over a period of time: 1 or 5 years of data.

Seattle in the 2020 Census: By the Numbers

- The 2020 Census count for Seattle is 737,015.
- Seattle is the 18th most populous city in the U.S.
- The Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue Metro Area is the 14th most populous metro in the U.S.

Diana highlighted that a majority of the kids in Seattle are now children of color.

Between 1990 and 2020, Seattle went from being 26% people of color to 41% people of color. In the rest of King County (without Seattle factored in), the population went from being 12% people of color to be nearly half people of color in the same timeframe. So, the diversification of the population has happened much more rapidly in the rest of King County.

The population of people who identify as multi-racial in Seattle has doubled since the 2010 census. The Black population in Seattle grew at a slower rate than Seattle population as a whole.

By neighborhood, Cascade/Eastlake (South Lake Union) grew 116% from 2010 to 2020. Ballard, SODO, Judkins Park, and Downtown's populations all grew by over 40% as well. The slowest growing neighborhoods in that 2010-2020 timeframe by population were Arbor Heights, Seward Park, Roxhill/Westwood, South Beacon Hill/New Holly, and South Park.

By age, there was a net population loss of kids in a lot of south Seattle from 2010 to 2020.

The population growth rates from 2010 to 2020 by race show that non-Hispanic white population increased in Southeast Seattle. The population of color grew in other parts of the city. The growth rates are lower for people of color in the census tracts where people of color are the largest share of the population. That reflects a lot of gentrification and displacement out of the city.

The Race & Social Equity Index combines data on race & ethnicity, socioeconomic disadvantage, and health disadvantage to identify where RSJI priority populations make up relatively large proportions of residents.

- Diana uses Race & Social Equity Index and overlays it with various indicators of well-being. Example overlay: the Shares of households who are housing cost-burdened (spending more than 30% of their monthly income on housing)
- All indicators can be found on this website: <https://population-and-demographics-seattlecitygis.hub.arcgis.com/pages/indicator-projects>

Questions from commissioners:

- Which neighborhood grew the most and why? Answer from Diana: Cascade/Eastlake (South Lake Union). Some reasons could be tons of new housing went up, designated as an Urban Center in 2006, and Amazon and other tech firms located there. In general, the areas growing the most are generally Urban Centers and Urban Villages where the City's policies have tried to center growth.



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- Does the centrality of the location have anything to do with population influx? Answer: During this period, people were flocking to areas in close proximity to Downtown. Whether that trend is still continuing, with COVID and the ability to work from home, is a question that a lot of demographers are debating.
- What neighborhood grew the least and why? Answer: South Park lost 4% of its population. It's hard to say what happened there. These are the official Census numbers but there were substantial undercounts. In the Decennial Census, we know from an analysis of the results for the US as a whole that Hispanic and Latinx people were undercounted at higher rates than they have been in previous censuses. So, that could partly account for that because, proportionally, the Latinx population in South Park is pretty large compared to a lot of the other parts of the city.
 - A group at the University of Washington is consulting on the likelihood of mounting a successful challenge to the Census Bureau's population estimates.
- One commissioner was interested in learning more about the "balance of King County" graphs in the slideshow.
- What do you think is the actual population of Seattle? Answer: There is the 737,015 count and we think it could be 3-4% higher than that. It may not seem like much of a difference but we want the baseline to reflect a more realistic estimate based on data from the state's Office of Financial Management based on housing construction permit information.
- Does this data include babies in the womb? Answer: No. The American Community Survey also does not count babies in the womb in population counts but it does track birth rates once they are born.

The presentation and recording, Diana shared from are available on the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods' session info are I LOVE CENSUS DATA webpage:

<https://frontporch.seattle.gov/2021/03/22/join-our-i-love-census-data-virtual-conversation/>

Link to Racial Equity Outcomes Survey & more information: [Racial Equity Outcomes Survey \(seattle.gov\)](https://seattle.gov/racial-equity).

This survey is open in conjunction with the [One Seattle Plan](#) (Seattle's Comprehensive Plan) outreach that is currently being conducted.

New Commissioner & Group Intros

Commissioner Bios: <https://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/community-involvement-commission/meet-our-commissioners>

Fiona Murray is the new Get Engaged appointee with the commission. This is her first meeting. Fiona has a Masters in Public Administration and works as an operations and policy analyst in childcare regulation. She's been passionate about civic engagement. She interned for the Council President, worked as a campaign manager on a local race, and worked at an organization that empowers young women to run for office.

Saba Rahman (she/her) is at the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency doing equity and engagement work. Saba volunteers with additional organizations as well.



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Marcus White mentioned that Fiona showed tremendous promise during the application period. They are delighted to have her on the commission.

Martha Lucas is the Executive Director of Washington State Coalition of African American Community Leaders. She has a background in demography as well as a Masters in health management.

Julia Jannon-Shields (she/her) worked with Fiona previously at an organization called IGNITE. She works at King County doing community engagement and co-creation work in the Office of Equity & Social Justice.

Ahoua Koné (she/her) is a first-generation immigrant from the Ivory Coast. She has two adult sons. Ahoua is a faculty at the University of Washington Department of Global Health. She teaches there and does research. She is an immigration attorney and community activist.

Co-Chair Bill Southern and Commissioner Robert Radford are not present. The Co-Chairs rotate facilitation of meetings and meet with the Staff Liaisons outside of regular meetings.

Gaps in proposed constituency/stratifying emails from community attendees

Co-Chair Marcus White provided some background on the commission's origins.

Commissioners discussed whether the commission should have a focus on who they are serving.

- Co-Chair White brought up renters, immigrants, minorities, and young people.
- Co-Chair Martha Lucas mentioned that the commission already said they decided to focus on underrepresented people and felt that was detailed enough.
- Commissioner Julia Jannon-Shields agreed that it makes sense to keep it broader. She mentioned wanting to create a scope of work or work plan and/or possible collaboration with other commissions.
- Commissioner Ahoua Koné wants to internalize the mission of the commission and wants the group to be able to articulate it to community as well. She mentioned she thinks they need to strategize how to act.
- Co-Chair Lucas mentioned her concern around spending time on the details/wordsmithing and missing opportunities to provide input to City departments.
- Commissioner Jannon-Shields had mentioned at a previous meeting that the commission should look at the membership of the commission and do recruitment accordingly. Commissioner Jannon-Shields pointed out the group would need to talk about the amount of time they are willing to spend on the commission.
 - The time commitment listed on the website is 3-6 hours a month.
- Co-Chair White mentioned that Black and Brown people could be the focus. A large swath of Black people in the City that feel like government does not care about them.
- Co-Chair Lucas asked if commissioners would like to vote to change the focus of the commission mission statement to include “renters, immigrants, minorities, and young people.”
 - Commissioner Koné said that she believes renters, immigrants, minorities, and young people all fall into the “underrepresented communities” outlined in the current mission statement. She feels like the mission is fine as it is. She asked the group where they should start.



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- Co-Chair White said he is looking forward to next steps.
- Commissioner Saba Rahman said it sounds like the group is ready to talk about scoping a work plan.
- Commissioner Fiona Murray thinks the mission is good as it is.

Commission Priorities Decided at previous meetings:

1. Strengthen CIC's relationships & visibility with City of Seattle Stakeholders, which include City Council, Mayor & City Departments.
2. Strengthen CIC's relationship with the City of Seattle's Community by building trust, being seen as a committed advocate acting in on the communities' best interests.
3. Retain Commissioners & recruit more Commissioners.

The commission discussed possible subcommittees:

- Co-Chair White said he sees four main things in the Community Involvement Commission mission: Mayor, City Council, equitable engagement, and civic participation.
- Co-Chair Lucas proposed using the pre-existing priorities (listed above) as possible subcommittee topics. Each co-chair could chair a subcommittee.
- Co-Chair White said he thinks the priorities are important but should not be the basis of the subcommittees.
- Commissioner Rahman thinks that having subcommittees would be helpful because they could talk about possible projects in more focused meetings and bring those back to the whole commission. She suggested starting with the three priorities and potentially adding another if needed.
- Co-chair Lucas brought up a vote to officially start subcommittees founded on the three priorities (listed above). The subcommittees will decide where and when to meet when established.
 - Co-chair White listed concerns in relation to these priorities not being focused on community.
 - Commissioner Rahman mentioned she is looking for structure and thinks these topics are a good starting point. The topics could change over time as needed. As the subcommittees start work, they can focus on how to best serve the underrepresented communities mentioned earlier in the meeting.
 - Commissioner Jannon-Shields said she understands that there may be concern about the priorities being insular but she thinks they are critical to ensuring the commission is a structure that is sound, grounded, and relied upon by members of the community.
 - The commission voted to approve setting up three subcommittees found on the priorities listed above with five commissioners in favor and one opposed.

Community Comment

Cindi Barker recommends having a committee to get people on to the commission who are representative of community. Cindi mentioned that, in the past, as soon as there have been more people on the commission, they need to start from scratch again. She said she agrees that the specific underrepresented audiences are filters through which to do the work but should not be specific priorities.



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Staff liaison updates

Due to timing, staff will share most updates with commissioners by email.

Commissioners did decide to postpone the Community Involvement Commission meetings originally scheduled for January 16, 2023 and February 20, 2023 due to holidays that fall on those dates:

- The rescheduled January meeting will take place on Monday, January 30 from 4:30-6:30pm.
- The rescheduled February meeting will take place on Monday, February 27 from 4:30-6:30pm.

Agenda details and meeting information will be shared on the City's website and with the commission email list in the coming weeks.

The meeting was adjourned.