

INAUGURAL ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018



City of Seattle



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first annual report of the Community Involvement Commission. Members of the commission ask continuously: “how can we help engage and empower residents of the City of Seattle who may not be visible, heard or understood?”

As the composition of Seattle’s population changes, the City of Seattle needs to continually revisit and expand its public engagement efforts to ensure growing demographic groups are represented in decision-making processes, and that barriers discouraging participation are eliminated.

In July 2016, an Executive Order established principles for public engagement and outreach. The Order directed the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods to lead a citywide effort for timely implementation of equitable outreach and engagement practices that reaffirmed the City’s commitment to inclusive participation by all departments.

Those public involvement programs and practices were to reflect Seattle’s commitment to the Race and Social Justice Initiative, which focuses on ending structural racism and race-based inequities both within City government and across the community.

From this, the Community Involvement Commission was created. This first annual report is a record of the efforts to stand up the commission.

The commission is composed of 16 members – seven appointed by City Council and seven appointed by the Mayor, with one position filled by a young adult through the Get Engaged program. The final two commissioners are selected by the commission members. Members of the commission share the City of Seattle’s commitment to equitable, inclusive community engagement, as well as a strong desire to help improve access for all residents across all City departments.

The commission remains dedicated to holding the City accountable for increasing participation and engagement – especially amongst those who have been forgotten or discounted in the past. Seattle already benefits from strong local traditions of community service and innovation; our challenge is to nurture and channel those resources in ways that will provide maximal benefits to our residents and neighborhoods.

"It was a great pleasure to share with the Community Involvement Commission our work around language access and how to engage departments. What was really valuable was feedback from a community perspective and to think of ways we can partner together in the future to ensure Seattle is an inclusive city for all. "

Maha Jahshan, Seattle Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs



COMMISSIONERS

Commission Members*:

- Patricia Akiyama, City Council Appointee
- Sonj Basha, Mayoral Appointee, Commission Co-Chair
- Felix Chang, Commission Appointee, Commission Co-Chair
- Natalie Curtis, City Council Appointee
- Leanne (Liên) Do, City Council Appointee
- Karyn Kubo Fleming, Mayoral Appointee
- Rani Hanstad, Get Engaged Appointee
- Emily Kim, Mayoral Appointee
- Bereket Kiros, Mayoral Appointee
- Thais Marbles, City Council Appointee, Commission Co-Chair
- Chris Maykut, City Council Appointee
- Ben Mitchell, City Council Appointee
- Julie Pham, Mayoral Appointee, Commission Co-Chair
- Carol Redfield, Commission Appointee
- Alison Turner, City Council Appointee



2018 Commission Co-Chairs: Thais Marbles, Sonj Basha, Felix Chang, and Julie Pham

**Current as of January 1, 2019*

Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Staff Liaison: Danielle Friedman





ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMISSION

The Commission acts in an advisory capacity to:

- Make recommendations to the Mayor, City Council, and City departments on the development of plans, policies, regulations, strategies, and community grant funding processes that advance equitable public engagement and civic participation in the City of Seattle.
- Provide advice on priorities, policies, and strategies related to equitable civic engagement and public participation in City decision-making processes.
- Advise the Department of Neighborhoods on review of community grant processes.
- Hold accountable the City of Seattle's community involvement practices to ensure they align with the Race and Social Justice Initiative.

Community Involvement Commissioners do NOT:

- Conduct direct community outreach nor act as a conduit to the community.
- Represent and/or speak on behalf of specific communities or groups.
- Represent CIC in non-CIC meetings, unless specified to do so.
- Act as a focus group on any issues not related to the community involvement process.

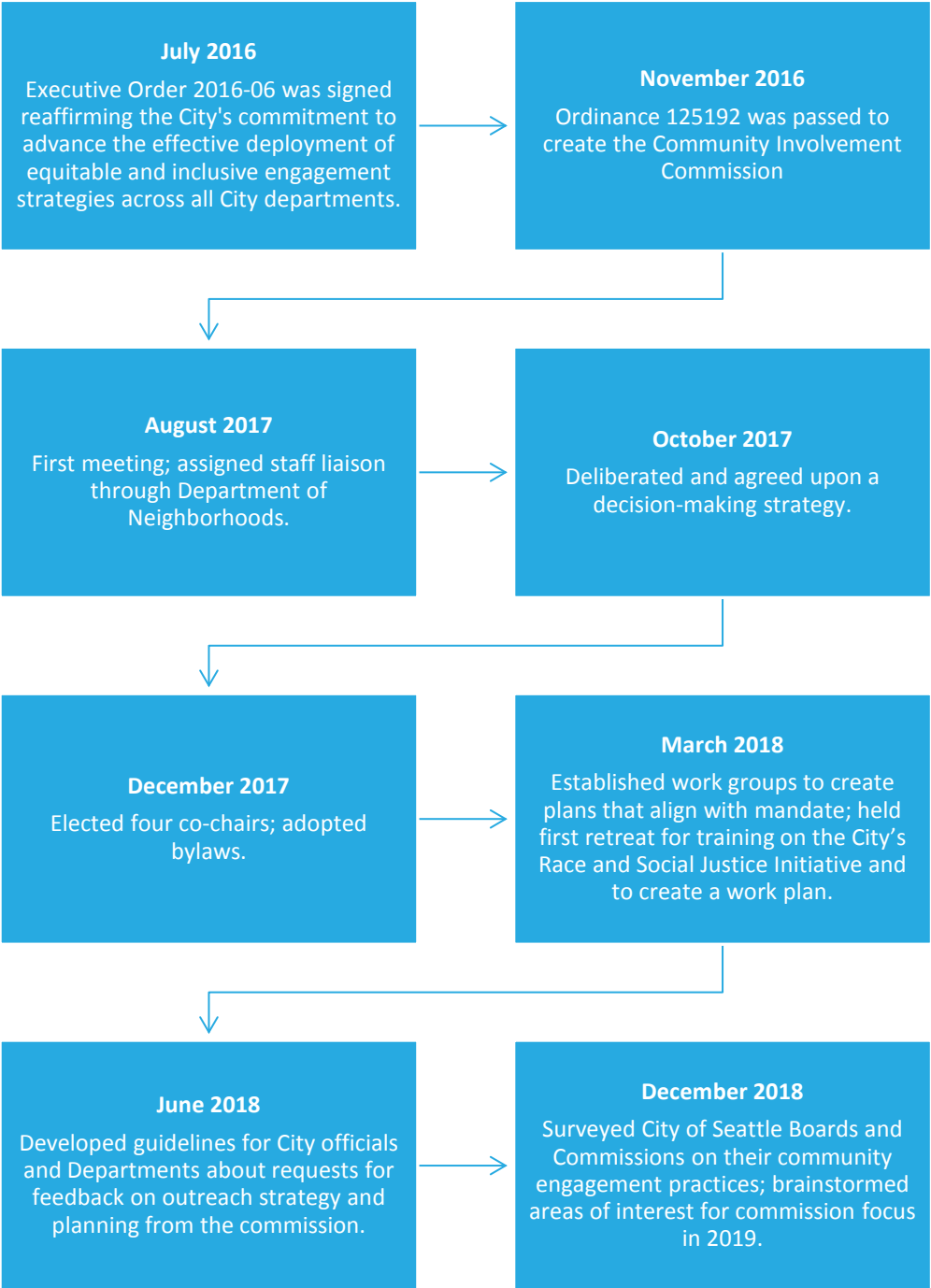
“The Community Involvement Commission provided input on our Transportation Equity Committee recruitment plan, giving us great feedback on the amount of lead-time needed and also providing us with ethnic media and language access recommendations. We’ve incorporated these into our plans, which we’ll be launching in 2019. We look forward to continuing to engage with the commission.”

Naomi Doerner, Seattle Department of Transportation



TIMELINE

Highlights of the Community Involvement Commission since its inception:





ENGAGEMENTS AT MONTHLY MEETINGS

The following departments have consulted with the Community Involvement Commission regarding their community involvement practices:

- Seattle Department of Neighborhoods
- Office of Economic Development / Seattle Human Resources
- Office of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs
- Office of Planning & Community Development
- Seattle Department of Transportation
- Seattle Public Library
- Office of the Mayor
- Seattle City Councilmember Sally Bagshaw



Employment Pathways Interdepartmental Team presenting to the Community Involvement Commission

“Your Voice, Your Choice (YVYC) staff attended a Community Involvement Commission meeting to present on the formation of an Outreach Steering Committee that would represent leaders in communities across Seattle. The commission advised that the structure placed unnecessary burden on uncompensated volunteers and cautioned this would not result in equitable outcomes. YVYC staff redesigned the structure and the scope of work to create a compensated community body to advise, guide and assist on key programmatic concerns related to equity, the funding structure, outcomes and accountability.”

Amy Nguyen, Department of Neighborhoods



2018 WORK GROUPS

Community Involvement Principles and Best Practices

Advises the City on community engagement/outreach practices to achieve equitable involvement of historically underserved populations.

Resources

Reviews and encourages an equitable distribution of City resources so communities are able to achieve self-determined goals.

Commission Charter

Establishes a charter, scope of work, workable norms and relations to other relevant organizations.



Commission Members: Alison Turner, Emily Kim, Felix Chang, Thais Marbles, Bereket Kiros, and Rani Hanstad

“The Community Involvement Commission was very helpful in thinking through our preliminary ideas in the Employment Pathways Interdepartmental Team. Their input validated the direction of some of our recommendations and identified new issues. It is valuable to have an already established and organized arena in which to gather community input.”

Matthew Houghton, Office of Economic Development



OUR COMMITMENTS



“The commission offered feedback on Seattle Public Library’s Community Listening process, through which library staff engage with community members to better understand neighborhood priorities and needs. Their suggestions for a more iterative process fully rooted in partnership with community are being incorporated into the next round of Community Listening, planned for 2019.”

--Hayden Bass, Seattle Public Library



The Community Involvement Commission advises City of Seattle departments and staff on coordinated, citywide outreach and engagement activities.

Learn more at:

seattle.gov/neighborhoods/community-involvement-commission

If you have questions or would like to contact the commission, send an email to:

CommunityInvolvementCommission@seattle.gov

If you are interested in attending a Community Involvement Commission monthly meeting, check the website for current meeting schedule.

The Community Involvement Commission is staffed by the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods.



Seattle
Neighborhoods
