

SEATTLE DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS

ANNUAL ONE SEATTLE REPORT 2022

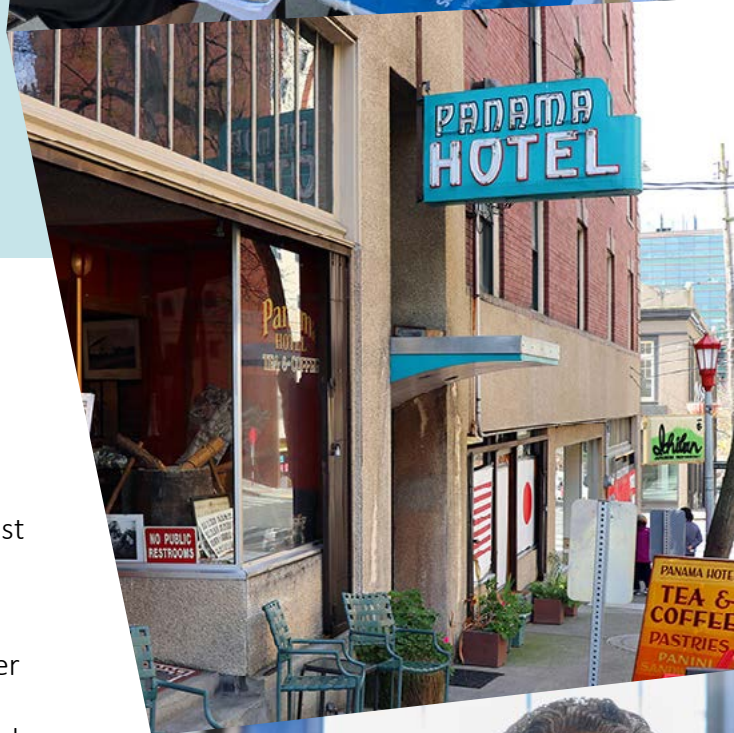
Colleagues and Community Partners,

Our work at the Department of Neighborhoods is centered in relationships. The authentic and trusting relationships we build with community are at the heart of everything we do. They allow us to learn from, understand, and effectively engage with communities across the city, many of which have little to no trust in government.

This value is on full display through the partnerships, projects, and programs we supported and implemented in 2022. Whether cultivating equity in our P-Patches, lifting community voices through strategic partnerships, investing in community-designed wealth-building projects, or supporting community revitalization through preservation, relationships are key to our success. They allow us to both understand and center the needs of community and ensure that we hold ourselves accountable to our North Stars of centering racial equity and investing in community-driven solutions.

This annual report is a snapshot of the strength and power that comes from working closely with community every day and building relationships rooted in trust. It only reinforces what we already know—we are stronger together, as One Seattle.

Sarah Morningstar, Acting Director



EXTERNAL RELATIONS



Community Liaison Project Manager, Stanley Tsao, pictured with a group of Community Liaisons.

COMMUNITY LIAISONS

Our 53 Community Liaisons act as a bridge between community and city government. They ensure historically underserved and underrepresented groups have access to City information, resources, and decision-making power. In 2022, the Community Liaison program partnered with 13 City departments on 41 different projects, programs, and initiatives, including the South Park Flooding Emergency, Comprehensive Plan Update, Seattle Preschool Program, Mothers Impacted by Gun Violence, Tenant Improvement Fund, and much more.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Our Outreach and Engagement Advisors partner with other City departments, regional agencies, and community groups to provide strategic advisement, coordination, and support focused on equitable engagement. Highlights of their work in 2022 include:

- Creating equitable outreach and engagement strategies for the Seattle Transportation Plan and Reconnect West Seattle projects.
- Working with Seattle Public Utilities to pilot a non-profit/Community Engagement Consultant to assist the City with a drainage and wastewater project in Rainier View.
- Leading the West Seattle Bridge Racial Equity Toolkit process.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATORS

Our four Community Engagement Coordinators (CEC) work tirelessly to foster relationships and collaborations with community members. Whether it is supporting initiatives like the Regional Community Safety and Well-being Plan, coordinating the creation of the CID Resource Guide, or helping residents impacted by the flood in South Park, the CECs provide an invaluable resource to community members in Seattle. By truly engaging, listening, and putting the needs of residents at the forefront of their work, the CECs are helping to advance equity, elevate community voices, and set the foundation for building One Seattle.



Community Engagement Coordinator, Alvin Edwards, working with two Community Liaisons at a neighborhood event.

REIMAGINATION AND RECOVERY

DON launched the Generational Wealth Initiative, a City-Community collaboration working to address Seattle's racial wealth divide. In its inaugural year, program staff and participants:

- Identified six community wealth building strategies to align City of Seattle investments and policies.
- Invested \$2 million in community-designed, wealth-building pilot projects that support local community efforts.
- Generated a BIPOC Wealth Building report that outlines key recommendations for creating a more equitable local economy.

FRONT Top: DON Strategic Advisor, Phyllis Porter (center), working on outreach for the Seattle Transportation Plan with Seattle Department of Transportation and Community Liaisons. Center: The Panama Hotel, designated as a Historical Landmark in 2022. Bottom: P-Patch Supervisor, Kenya Fredie, receives the inaugural Equity Action Award from Mayor Bruce Harrell.

COMMUNITY ASSETS



Food Equity Fund grantee Casa Latina successfully served over 2,800 meals for their day laborers and families. They've also supported 20 Latino immigrants in obtaining food permits and provided food related job training skills.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Our Community Grants team supports grassroots projects within neighborhoods and communities through funding opportunities for community-driven projects. In 2022, we provided a total of more than \$5.8 million in funding to 126 projects throughout the city.

Since launching applications in 2022, the **Food Equity Fund** has received more than \$10.5 million in requests and granted \$3.8 million in awards to 41 organizations working toward building an equitable and sustainable local food system. The fund supports work led by Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), immigrants, refugees, people with low incomes, youth, and elders. Recent grantees include Chief Seattle Club's Pál?al Café, Cultivate South Park, Black Farmers Collective, Cham Refugees Community, Villa Comunitaria, and many more.



Girma Toke, Westcrest P-Patch Gardener: "We came to the shed and we see the sign with our language on it, saying 'Welcome!' It says welcome in my language!"

P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING

Our P-Patch Community Gardening Program serves more than 3,600 gardeners in 91 community-managed gardens. These gardens create strong social ties and build a greater feeling of community, fostering the health and well-being of neighborhoods. In 2022, the P-Patch Program:

- Provided \$66,152 in plot fee assistance to 858 low-income gardeners.
- Welcomed 335 new BIPOC and low-income gardeners through its priority placement initiative, which represents 46% of all new plot assignments.
- Helped facilitate the donation of 44,403 pounds of organic produce to meal programs and food banks across Seattle.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The Landmarks Preservation Board designated seven new City Landmarks, including the Panama Hotel, the Caroline Horton House, Fire Station No. 26, Freeway Park, the Steinhart Theriault Anderson Office Building, the Elephant Car Wash Sign, and the University of Washington's Anderson Hall. The Landmarks Preservation Board also approved five Special Tax Valuation applications for rehabilitation projects representing a total investment of more than \$37 million – an investment that supports community revitalization, local job creation, and disaster preparedness.

MAJOR INSTITUTIONS AND SCHOOLS

Our Major Institutions & Schools Program (MIS) provides ways for neighbors of large Seattle institutions (e.g. hospitals, universities, schools) to be involved in their development plans so that neighborhood concerns are considered. In 2022, the MIS team successfully implemented several strategies to both diversify their advisory committees and increase community participation in the program. These efforts resulted in more representation and participation from BIPOC individuals, immigrants, and people with disabilities in both the recruitment pools for committees and overall public input on proposed projects.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

In partnership with the Seattle Redistricting Commission, our Civic Engagement team managed a robust, equity-focused public education and engagement program for Seattle's first redistricting process. We offered more than 53 regular and special commission meetings, 10 public forums, and 40 community education events. Through negotiation and compromise, the Commissioners developed a new City Council Districts Plan that will go into effect after the November 2023 election.

INDIGENOUS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The inaugural nine members of the Indigenous Advisory Council (IAC) began meeting in August 2022. This historic commission provides a unique opportunity for City government to fulfill trust, treaty, and racial equity obligations to American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian people in the region. To date, the IAC has come together to develop bylaws and group values that will guide their upcoming strategic planning process.

STORYTELLING

"I APPRECIATED THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK FREELY AND IN ANY FASHION ABOUT MY LIVED EXPERIENCE AS A SEATTLEITE." —STORYTELLER SURVEY RESPONSE

Our communications team's ongoing investment in community-centered storytelling continues to strike a chord with community. It has allowed us to build authentic relationships with community members and amplify the voices and experiences of the people we serve, particularly those in communities with a history of harm.

- In 2022, we published more than 90 community-centered stories on our blog, with more than 60 of those stories commissioned from and generated by community members.
- In November 2022, we hosted a gathering to celebrate and thank the community members who contributed stories and began a partnership with them to shape future storytelling projects.



*Eric Alipio, Native American Heritage Month:
"We continue to rebuild and reclaim our autonomy over our bodies and our community – something that colonization has aimed to strip us of for generations now."*



Local teacher and poet, Chelsey Richardson (right), stands with her daughter while holding up her illustrated portrait, drawn for her contribution to the DON storytelling project Reimagine Seattle.