

# SEATTLE DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS

## MIDYEAR ONE SEATTLE UPDATE 2022

Colleagues and Community Partners,

Here at Seattle Department of Neighborhoods (DON), we build strong, diverse, and thriving communities by connecting Seattleites closer to each other and to their City. We ground our work in authentic relationships, invest in community-led solutions, center race and equity, and hold a deep belief that by working together we can solve any problem. It is our distinct joy and privilege to collaborate with community members, City staff, and elected officials to create a better Seattle for all.

Our work in 2022 has been both challenging and exciting. In this Midyear Update, we share some of the milestones reached this year. While it is difficult to capture the full scope of DON's activities, I hope this gives you a sense of the impact the City and community are making together.

We look forward to partnering with each of you as we amplify that impact in the months ahead.

Greg Wong, Director



# COMMUNITY ASSETS



## P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING

Our P-Patch Community Gardening Program serves more than 3,600 gardeners in 90 community-managed gardens. Gardeners, individually and collectively, use small plots of land to build connections and grow organic food, flowers, and herbs for their families and communities. In 2021, P-Patch gardeners donated 41,882 pounds of organic produce to meal programs and food banks across Seattle. In 2022, the P-Patch Program has:

- Provided \$66,152 in plot fee assistance to 858 low-income gardeners
- Welcomed 275 new BIPOC and low-income gardeners through its priority placement initiative

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Our Historic Preservation Program oversees the designation and protection of more than 450 historic landmarks and eight historic districts in Seattle. The structures and areas conserved through this program hold the stories of our city and cultivate connections and belonging.

Seattle's Historic Districts:

- Support jobs in small and new businesses
- Offer smaller retail spaces and competitive rents
- Have higher percentages of women-, Black-, Indigenous-, and people of color-owned businesses
- Provide vibrant and diverse environments for small and incubator businesses



*Designated as a landmark this year, the Cayton Revels House is a modest Victorian rental house in Capitol Hill that embodies the story of a prominent Black family's rise to success in the early 1900s and the growing racism that led to their financial ruin.*

Other 2022 landmark designations include: Panama Hotel, South Park Neighborhood Center, Caroline Horton House, Freeway Park, Steinhard Theriault Anderson Office Building.

# STORYTELLING

DON's communications team continues to invest in community-centered storytelling, commissioning community members to create and share their stories. This investment has allowed us to build authentic relationships and create shared ownership of our communications.

- The *Reimagine Seattle* project invites community members to reflect on their experiences in Seattle and their hopes for the future.
- The *Seattle Histories* project uses community-generated stories to highlight the history of Seattle's communities.
- In 2022, we have already published more than 50 community-centered stories and commissioned more than 35 community members to create content.



*Interdisciplinary artist and educator, Amber Flame, was one of 25 contributors to the 2022 edition of Reimagine Seattle.*

# COMMUNITY GRANTS



2022 Food Equity Fund grantee Black Farmers Collective is a network of Black-led, regenerative farms and gardens.

## FOOD EQUITY FUND

Completing its first grant cycle in February 2022, the Food Equity Fund awarded more than \$1 million to 19 community groups working to address equitable food access. This fund invests in projects led by those who have lived experience with the injustices of our food system and are striving to make sustainable change in their communities.

## NEIGHBORHOOD MATCHING FUND

Over its 34-year history, more than 5,000 projects have been funded through the Neighborhood Matching Fund and its investment in neighborhoods can be seen across the city. In 2022, we have already awarded \$849,711 to support 20 community groups who have pledged \$710,588 to match their award through local cash donations, volunteer hours, donated materials, and in-kind professional services.

# REIMAGINATION AND RECOVERY

## GENERATIONAL WEALTH

DON has launched an effort to invest in community-centered solutions to the racial wealth divide and help the City fully understand our investments in generational and community wealth for BIPOC communities. DON staff are currently:

- Aligning City departments and programs behind a shared vision for building and sustaining BIPOC generational wealth.
- Researching strategies for City investments in generational wealth.
- Building relationships with community partners to develop a vision for how the City of Seattle can lead the nation in systems change.

## WEST SEATTLE AND BALLARD LINK EXTENSION

This year, DON secured a \$125K grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to support Stories of Belonging, a collaboration with the Wing Luke Museum and Delridge Neighborhood Development Association to bring artists and community members together to create artworks centered on belonging in the Chinatown International District and Delridge corridors.

# BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

We support several boards and commissions, including the Seattle Redistricting Commission, Indigenous Advisory Council, Community Involvement Commission, Seattle Renters' Commission, Seattle Youth Commission, Landmarks Preservation Board, Historic District boards, and various Major Institution and School Departure Advisory Committees.

- In partnership with the Seattle Redistricting Commission, DON has hosted more than 50 meetings and provided resources to ensure community members understand the redistricting process and how they can participate.
- DON has led the establishment of the Indigenous Advisory Council to help City government fulfill trust, treaty, and racial obligations to American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian people in Seattle. The Seattle City Council will confirm the inaugural nine members later this year.

# EXTERNAL RELATIONS



## OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Acting as liaisons between the City and the diverse communities of Seattle, our Outreach & Engagement staff attend an average of 38 community meetings each month and are responsible for sharing resources and cultivating relationships with community members.

- Over the past two years, our team has partnered with and invested \$323,974 in 17 community organizations providing COVID-19 support. Of those groups, 88% are led by and for Black, Indigenous and people of color communities.
- Our Strategic Advisors have helped other departments and regional agencies reach historically underserved communities to ensure they have a voice in City projects happening in their neighborhoods.
  - Seattle Department of Transportation: West Seattle Bridge
  - Sound Transit: West Seattle Ballard Link Extension Project
  - Seattle Public Utilities: Stormwater Infrastructure Improvement, Customer Review Panel

## PACE

Our People's Academy for Community Engagement (PACE) program helps everyday people learn how City government works and how they can get involved. This year, we launched the first Academia Civica del Pueblo (PACE in Spanish) in partnership with the Duwamish Valley Affordable Housing Coalition.

## COMMUNITY LIAISONS

Our 42 Community Liaisons (CL) represent 23 languages and several historically underserved and underrepresented communities, including people with disabilities, unhoused individuals, seniors, and Black and Indigenous communities.

Year-to-date, the CL program has worked with 13 City departments on 39 projects including:

- West Seattle Ballard Link Extension
- ORCA Recovery Card distribution
- Office of Planning and Community Development Comprehensive Plan Survey



Top Left: Our Outreach and Engagement team partnered with the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle, Boon Boona Coffee, and Dunia Health Clinic for their MLK Jr. Day community event where they vaccinated/boosted 135 people. Above: Our Community Liaisons worked with Seattle Department of Transportation to distribute free ORCA Recovery Cards to eligible restaurant and grocery store workers in Othello and Rainer Beach.