



## **Seattle Women's Commission 2018 Work Plan**

The Seattle Women's Commission is the appointed advisory body for the City of Seattle who come together as volunteers to research, analyze and make recommendations to the Mayor, City Council, and City Departments on issues facing women in Seattle.

The Seattle Women's Commission has identified one primary policy area of focus and two primary public awareness issues of focus for 2018.

Primary policy and public awareness issues:

1. Enhancing access to affordable child care in Seattle (2 year focus, 2017-18)
2. Driving discourse on issues of gender based violence/harassment in Seattle (multi year commitment)
3. Promoting stable housing for women and families in Seattle (multi year commitment)

To accomplish this, we will:

- Conduct research on policy options
- Work collaboratively with community members, city council members, members of other SOCR commissions, and other partners to determine goals and strategy
- Pursue communications strategies (both traditional media and social media) to raise public awareness of the issue and organize advocacy efforts
- Advocate to policy makers through comment letters, in-person testimony, and other avenues
- Continuously work toward racial equity and shifting gender norms in all we do.

In addition to the top policy and awareness concentrations, the Seattle Women's Commission will continue to be responsive to issues identified by the community in the areas of Community Health and Wellness, Economic and Educational Opportunities, Equitable Development, and Violence Prevention and Justice. In particular the Commission will prioritize the following:

### **Community Health and Wellness**

Mission: to address health disparities affecting women in Seattle by

- Listening: Outreach and listening campaign to understand health issues women experiencing homelessness are facing;
- Learning: Hosting a panel of relevant experts to better inform stakeholders about possible improvements;
- Sharing: Sharing findings from listening, learning, and research with the public; and
- Being responsive to city issues that arise within committee's established mission.



### **Economic and Educational Opportunities**

Mission: to promote economic and educational equity for all women in Seattle by

- Advocating for economic and educational opportunities for women and girls of color;
- Furthering access to affordable quality child care for families; and
- Being responsive to city issues that arise within committee's established mission.

### **Equitable Development**

Mission: to identify and address barriers to shelter and housing and to support safe, affordable, accessible housing and transit options for women and families in Seattle by

- Conducting research around evictions in Seattle and developing policy recommendations with focus on the impacts on marginalized communities like elder women, LGBTQ individuals, women of color, immigrant women, women with disabilities and gender non-conforming individuals;
- Increasing access to temporary and permanent shelter options for women and families by supporting efforts to stop homeless encampment removals (sweeps) and other efforts led by communities;
- Gathering information about transit deserts (an area with limited or no public transit options) and their impacts on safety and equitable access to livelihoods, especially for women with disabilities; and
- Being responsive to city issues that arise within committee's established mission.

### **Violence Prevention and Justice**

Mission: to advocate for equitable policies and programs that prevent violence against women/sexual assault/domestic violence (VAW/SA/DV), increase access to quality and responsive services, and promote healthy and safe spaces and relationships for people who identify as women and/or gender nonconforming individuals by

- Advocating for police training and greater collaboration with/across criminal justice organizations and institutions;
- Advocating for continued funding and accessibility for DV/SA survivor support;
- Seeking ways to collaborate with other city stakeholders to combat/prevent sexual harassment and other malicious harassment;
- Driving public discourse and education around potential solutions with the public and elected officials about these issues; and
- Being responsive to city issues that arise within committee's established mission.