

Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting Notes

MEETING SUMMARY	<p>Date: May 20, 2022</p> <p>Time: 9:00 am – 12:30 pm (*special meeting to start discussing and designing budget recommendations)</p> <p>Location: Virtual meeting</p>
MEMBERS PRESENT:	Barbara Baquero, Barbara Rockey, Christina Wong, Dan Torres, Jaimée Marsh, Jen Moss, Kristin Sukys, Munira Mohamed, Rebecca Finkel
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Bilan Aden, Tanika Thompson
GUESTS:	<p>Office of Sustainability & Environment: Bridget Igoe, Alyssa Patrick</p> <p>Human Services Department: Seán Walsh</p> <p>Department of Education and Early Learning: Leilani Dela Cruz, Tiffany Lee</p> <p>Department of Neighborhoods: Daniel Sims, Lisa Chen</p> <p>City Budget Office: Gregory Shiring</p>

Key decision/actions points:
<p>While the CAB made no decisions about its budget recommendations (as intended), the leading sentiments to help inform June’s budget recommendations meeting were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding is limited and is only appropriate for one-time investments or small, ongoing investments (<i>see SBT Financial Plan for details</i>). • Rather than spread the SBT Fund too thin, the CAB is interested in going deeper with current investments, while also looking for opportunities to invest in innovative ideas within or related to those investments. Recommend crosswalking our ideas (<i>see notes on pp 5-8 for details</i>) with current investments. • The community grant programs (Food Equity Fund, Prenatal-to-Three grant programs) are a key way SBT invests in community-led innovations. <p>City staff A. Patrick also noted she will follow up with City economists to address some of the questions the CAB had about SBT revenue and inflation (see pg 3).</p>

Meeting Notes

Jen Moss and Dan Torres facilitated the first part of the meeting.

Welcome and Introductions

- CAB members introduced themselves.
- City staff introduced themselves.

The CAB reviewed its [meeting agreements](#).

Food Access Program Updates

Presented by Seán Walsh from the Human Services Department (HSD)

S. Walsh provided a brief overview of food access programs supported by SBT. [Click here](#) for the presentation materials.

Discussion

CAB Question: Given inflation and food prices, what is the gap in how many food bank clients can be served?

- *Response:* Specifying the gap has been challenge due to the lag in data. Anecdotally, the need over the past couple of months has been acute, but we don't have hard numbers yet. WSDA has reported similar trends. Cost of food is higher in 2022 than in 2021 and the impact is being felt across communities and the hunger relief sector.

CAB Comment: For additional context about needs, there is also a loss of federal programs, like the expanded child tax credit. Looking ahead, June 30 is the end of the national waiver authority for USDA to expand child nutrition programs (congregate summer meals). All of this is going to put pressure on families if kids can't get meals in community. We also know that 40% of households on SNAP that struggle the most have seen a loss of the 15% increase to their benefits. Those emergency SNAP allotments are in danger of going away if the national emergency is ended. We expect the emergency order to be extended through July.

CAB Comment: When it comes to supporting community-led work and innovations to meet these ever-changing needs and be resilient during these times of emergency/crisis – I wonder what support or skill building we can provide? How can we empower organizations but also clients/program participants?

Child Health and Development Programs Update

Presented by Tiffany Lee from the Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL)

T. Lee gave a brief overview of the Developmental Bridge program and Child Care Health program supported by SBT. [Click here](#) for the presentation materials.

Discussion

CAB Question: Re: the Prenatal-to-Three Grants Program – how is DEEL thinking about sustaining these grantees?

- *Response:* We are talking with grantees about what their needs are beyond the contract year, not with any guarantee that would get re-funded, but to get a sense of capacity and sustainability needs.

CAB Question: Re: the Developmental Bridge Program – what are the gaps?

- *Response:* Developmental Bridge has shown it can meet current needs. However, there are barriers in terms of access. We are working on building awareness of these supports in communities, especially in communities most impacted. There are also cultural components of screening and intervention that can be barriers; sometimes there is resistance to getting treatment. We've talked about having community liaisons to assist with this.

Food Equity Fund Program Update

Presented by Daniel Sims from the Department of Neighborhoods (DON)

D. Sims gave a brief presentation about the Food Equity Fund, which released first grant applications in 2021 and 2022. [Click here](#) for the presentation materials.

Discussion highlights:

- Displacement is a common challenge for reaching communities the Food Equity Fund intends to serve. BIPOC communities are fractured and not as concentrated in Seattle as they once were. People are still coming into Seattle to visit anchor institutions like clinics, churches, community organizations, but they are living elsewhere in King County (Kent, Auburn, Tukwila, etc.)
- Displacement and gentrification are raising interesting policy considerations for the Food Equity Fund. Are there ways to take a regional approach in this work? Food access and food justice work doesn't stop at geopolitical boundaries and city limits.

Budget and Revenue Update

Presented by Greg Shiring from the City Budget Office

G. Shiring presented the SBT Financial Plan ([click here](#) for details) and walked the CAB through the details on how to read the balance sheet.

Key points:

- Overall, SBT Fund is healthy
- Lower than budgeted spending in 2019-2021, but these funds carried forward into 2022 and spend is picking up.
- Projected \$3.5 million in ending unreserved fund balance in one-time funds
- Inflation, policy changes from Mayor or Council could be a factor

CAB Questions:

- If the tax rate is tied to ounces, does that mean the revenue fund won't keep up with inflation?
- Does the Revenue Stabilization Reserve need to be adjusted to inflation?

A. Patrick will follow up with the City economists, who calculate the projections, to address these questions.

Community Engagement Discussion

The CAB reviewed its [budget principles](#).

R. Finkel, on behalf of the CAB community engagement committee, presented findings from recent engagements related to food access and early learning and child health and development.

[Click here](#) to access the slides.

CAB discussed the following prompts:

- *What stands out to you?*
- *What's missing?*
- *How to keep big picture/root causes in mind and bring them into the policies and programs funded by SBT?*

Full CAB discussion was captured on Jamboard (screenshot included below). Some highlights:

- High mobility and displacement. How can resources serve families no longer living in Seattle/keep them in Seattle?

- Re: food access – culturally relevant and medical needs – what’s the gap in services?
- Do we have the ability to address structural issues (building space, cost, etc)?
- Would like to know what/how solutions have been implemented well. What are the good models we can promote?
- Would like to hear more about housing policy, programs, and resources.
- Even where there are good resources, how do community members access resources that are available? Transportation, geographic isolation, areas that are underserved are challenges that compound our ability to offer or deliver services.
- Need to consider how orgs/programs are structured and what systems they use. Is there a breakdown somewhere to outcomes? Ex: quality of food that gets to food banks/distribution site
- SBT ordinance has a specific focus, but could/should CAB weigh in on other issues and determinants of food access? Is there an opportunity to do more braiding and blending across advisory boards? More collaboration and strategic planning across these groups?
 - Yes, but can’t lose sight of SBT being protected funds and intended for specific issue areas (food access, prenatal-to-three).
- We need to center everything in a framework of race and social justice. Recognizing intent vs impact - community be included in creation of programs. What is wanted as well as needed?

Budget Recommendation Prioritization

After reflecting on community needs and program updates, the CAB did a brainstorm activity to start seeding ideas for its 2023 budget recommendations. Brainstorm topics were:

- *Gaps between community needs/priorities and SBT-funded programs*
- *Ideas to address needs and gaps that could be fulfilled with one-time funds*
- *Other recommendation ideas beyond specific funding ideas?*

Summary results from the brainstorm and discussion

While the CAB made **no** decisions about its budget recommendations (as intended), the leading sentiments to help inform June’s budget recommendations meeting were the following:

- Funding is limited and is only appropriate for one-time investments or small, ongoing investments (*see [SBT Financial Plan](#) for details*).
- Rather than spread the SBT Fund too thin, the CAB is interested in going deeper with current investments, while also looking for opportunities to invest in innovative ideas within or related to those investments. Recommend crosswalking our ideas (*listed in table A and the screenshots that follow*) with current investments.
- The community grant programs (Food Equity Fund, Prenatal-to-Three grant programs) are a key way SBT invests in community-led innovations.

Table A: Transcribed sticky notes from the brainstorm (see Jamboard screenshot below as well).

<p><i>Gaps between community needs/priorities and SBT-funded programs</i></p>	<p>Gaps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund the startup costs of childcare providers to expand access • Emergency preparedness funding and funding specifically for infrastructure needs • Support for co-locating food distribution in more community settings outside of food banks/partnerships between food banks and other community partners to increase access • Higher costs of culturally appropriate ingredients for school meals • Exploring community “wants” along with “needs” for food access. • Allowing greater choice in food options <p>Tension Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to manage breadth vs. depth and mission creep [in our recommendations]? E.g.: <table border="1" data-bbox="492 810 1414 1024"> <tr> <td data-bbox="492 810 954 842">How to address root causes?</td> <td data-bbox="954 810 1414 1024" rowspan="2">SBT doesn't fund all of the needs identified but does address some core basic needs like food access and childcare. We should lean into our strengths</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="492 884 954 1024">How to support non-Seattle residents. Cost of housing. Infrastructure. Various structural barriers caused by eligibility criteria.</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for non-Seattle residents. Cost of housing. Infrastructure. Various structural barriers caused by eligibility criteria. • Can we discuss and consider which SBT funds most effectively reinvest the funds back into community? • The importance of food access organizations and health professional and community around food quality and health. • Funding is limited. The funding that was already allocated will not go as far due to inflation • What percentage of our budget address immediate need (meals) vs. root causes/long-term goals (grants to CBOs)? 	How to address root causes?	SBT doesn't fund all of the needs identified but does address some core basic needs like food access and childcare. We should lean into our strengths	How to support non-Seattle residents. Cost of housing. Infrastructure. Various structural barriers caused by eligibility criteria.
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<p><i>Ideas to address needs and gaps that could be fulfilled with one-time funds</i></p>	<p>Theme: Go Deeper with Current Investments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can we increase the funding of some of the things we are already doing? It is hard to start new things with one-time funds. • increase funding to organizations that are already funded and have the most capacity to do food access/child care work since the funding they have won't go as far and funding in general is hard to come by • Focus on 2022 recommendations and looking to the list of COVID cuts is a great place to start. (e.g. child care subsidies and family home providers) • Funding to support increased partnerships between food banks and community partners to increase co-located food distribution/access points 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can RFP/grant programs be adjusted to meet community needs raised through engagement? • Funding to SPS to support school meals ingredients costs/relieve anticipated school meal debt when we lose universal school meals authority • Increase P-3 grant and FEF grants <p>Theme: Consider New Investments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund grocery vouchers (like the ones earlier in the pandemic) that can do more than Fresh Bucks, e.g., buy non-food necessities • Funding BIPOC community assessment tools/apps to navigate food access program resources in their geographic areas near transportation, work, schools. • TA support for community coalitions • Food is Medicine (produce prescription or medically tailored meals) pilot programs to increase access to medically appropriate food for individuals with chronic conditions. Medicaid waiver could provide funding for something like this, also grocery vouchers • Infrastructure grant program. MA did this during COVID and outlined specific spending that was labeled as infrastructure. • One time land use/access funding to BIPOC farmers (...but would land have to be within Seattle limits??)
<p><i>Other recommendation ideas beyond specific funding ideas?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I know we can only make recommendations year by year, but we could agree to distribute the reserve incrementally. • I think it's important that whatever we decide can point back to the community engagement summary. • cross collaboration and learning across city's CAB (housing, transportation, food, social-determinants related)

Jamboard screenshots:

Community Engagement Discussion

What comes up for you?

- Displacement - how can resources serve families no longer living in Seattle? Who may still work here? Especially considering this may impact BIPOC the most?
- Culturally relevant foods/foods that meet medical needs - something I want more info on (esp medical needs) - what's the gap in services?
- How are the programs SBT funds being implemented? What are examples of programs being implemented well?
- Transportation to be able to access services - folks prefer delivery/mobile options to come to communities where transpo is limited

The solutions are out there - it's about finding the money for the work.

Anything missing?

How to keep big picture/root causes in mind and bring them into the policies and programs funded by SBT?

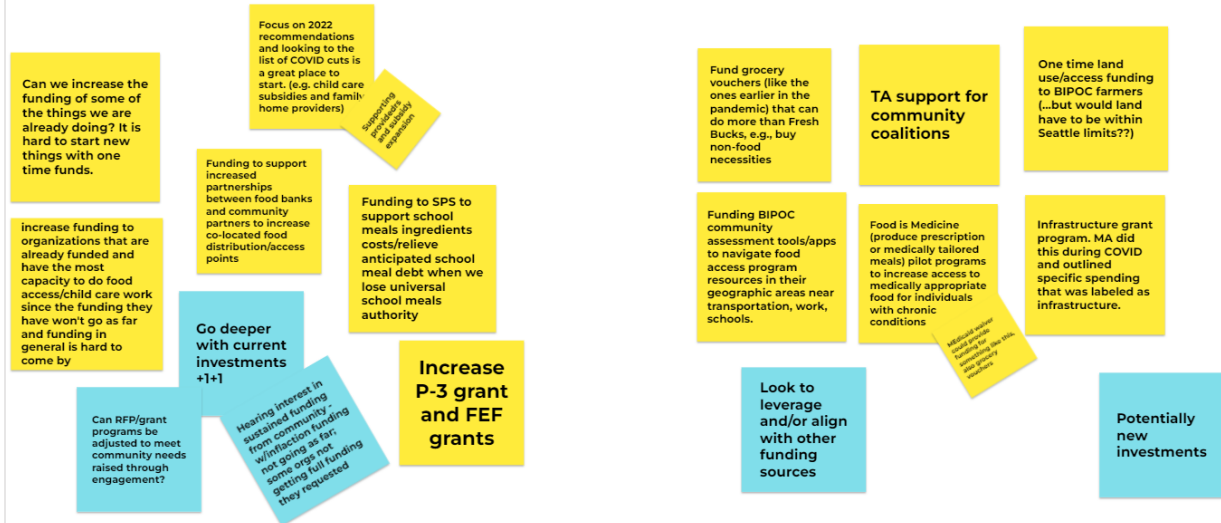
- Do we have the ability to address some of the structural pieces? (thinking about building space/cost, etc)
- Curious to hear from folks working in/having policy, programs, resources. This impacts so much connected to financial stability
- How to go beyond recommending for food access/child care - do we have room to make broader recommendations to impact systemic issues?
- Opportunity to do more braiding and blending across advisory boards? More collaboration across - strategic planning across groups. +1
- Centering everything in framework of race and social justice. Recognizing intent vs impact - community be included in creation of programs. What is wanted as well as needed?
- ALSO - community was very involved in creating this fund and what it is focused on. Do not want to lose that.
- SBT priorities have focus - but SBT could work in a way that is more interconnected/increase on this
- How to think about more holistic resources? Braiding together? More folks are thinking about this across the city.

Gaps between community needs/priorities and SBT-funded programs

- Fund the start up costs of childcare providers to expand access
- Emergency preparedness funding and funding specifically for infrastructure needs
- Higher costs of culturally appropriate ingredients for school meals
- Support for co-locating food distribution in more community settings outside of food banks/partnerships between food banks and other community partners to increase access
- land access for farmers (esp BIPOC)
- Allowing greater choice in food options
- Exploring community wants along with needs for food access.
- Support for non Seattle residents. Cost of housing, infrastructure. Various structural barriers caused by eligibility criteria.
- The importance of food access organizations and health professional and community around food quality and health.
- How to manage breadth vs. depth?
- SBT doesn't fund all of the needs identified, but does address some core basic needs like food access and childcare. We should lean into our strengths.
- Can we discuss and consider which SBT funds most effectively reinvest the funds back into community?
- What percentage of our budget address immediate need (meals) vs. root causes/long-term goals (grants to CBDs)?
- Funding is limited
- the funding that was already allocated will not go as far due to inflation

Ideas to address needs and gaps that could be fulfilled with one-time funds*

*Examples of one-time funds: capitol/infrastructure, consultant support, pilot projects, etc.



Other recommendation ideas beyond specific funding ideas?

E.G. recommendations to the city about addressing relevant community needs/priorities, program recs, etc.

