

BELLTOWN

Who did we hear from?

Participation at the neighborhood discussion varied from five to eight people, most of whom were residents who have been actively engaged in the Belltown Community Council. Most participants indicated they have been residents for more than five years. There were 211 respondents to the online questionnaire, most of whom have lived in the neighborhood for less than five years. Many online respondents also have been regular visitors to Belltown and more than one third work in the neighborhood.



What did we hear?

- Significant growth in recent years has increased density that is not accompanied by amenities that foster community building.
- Focus on amenities such as pocket parks, recreational areas, a library and a community center are needed to attract families with kids.
- Public safety is an issue in need of stronger police attention and should be accompanied by greater attention to trash, garbage and graffiti cleanup.
- Transportation around the city is good, but less useful to neighboring cities.
- Olympic Sculpture Park is a valued community green space.
- Due to amount of high-rise condo development Belltown is becoming a community of “haves” and “have nots” with the “have nots” moving out to find community elsewhere.
- Restaurants and bars offer entertainment and dining options that attract consumers from outside the area.
- The vibrant nightlife brings increased noise and crime to the neighborhood.

For more information about the Neighborhood Status Check, including the complete summary of the neighborhood discussion and the transcript of the online responses, please see the Planning Commission’s [report](#).

What are the similarities between the in-person and online responses?

All agree that significant growth has taken place, increasing density, supporting area businesses and creating greater divisions between the haves and have nots. All agree that the restaurant and bar scene brings increased entertainment and dining opportunities accompanied by noise, rowdy late night behavior and crime.

What are the differences between the responses?

There is greater division between those who approve of the changes that have taken place and those who focused on the negative aspects such as trash, garbage and graffiti on the streets and alleys. Those who responded online are less tolerant of the City's tolerance for crime, drug dealing, homelessness and the impact of the concentration of social services.

The following online responses capture the range of opinion very well in response to the question *how has your neighborhood changed?*:

More buildings and night life which is good. there has also been an increase in drug dealing and itinerants which is not good. Some progress was made when the park at 3rd and Bell was converted to a dog park, but most of 3rd is still pretty hostile to walking and even parts of 2nd by Bell and Blanchard have gone downhill.

Belltown P-Patch has improved in quality and appearance significantly. The Cistern steps was constructed, but due to problems in construction or communication or planning has never been operable. Greening Vine was begun, but never completed. Crime has increased, decreased and is on the increase again. Several new condos have been constructed. Several new restaurants have opened. Few have closed. Sculpture Park is open and serves as an amazing asset to the community. There have been improvements in Myrtle Edwards park. Traffic has increased significantly. Dog Park on 3rd has opened. Reports indicate drug trafficking is on the increase. Small corner groceries have opened. Handicap access is being added to the curbs at corners of sidewalks.

Growth has resulted in over-crowding.

