Attachment A – Glossary of Terms

The following terms and definitions shall guide ongoing efforts by City of Seattle departments to develop, implement and periodically update community involvement plans and practices that prioritize equity.

Community – A group of people sharing a common experience or interest; e.g., residents of a neighborhood, faith-based congregations, business owners along a commercial corridor, members of ethnic and cultural groups, gardeners at a P-Patch, school-based organizations.

Community Involvement – Outreach, engagement and other actions taken to identify and/or address issues of interest to a community.

Engagement – The act or process of building ongoing relationships with community members, often with the goal of developing and implementing a collective vision or plan for the benefit of the community's future.

Equal, Equitable, Equity

Equal – A solution or outcome where every community or community member receives the same level of resources, regardless of their level of need.

Equitable – A solution or outcome where resources are allocated according to each community or community member's level of need.

Equity – Everyone has fair and unbiased access to the resources they need to meet their fundamental needs and fully participate in the life of their community.

Neighborhood – A geographically localized district within a city; e.g., Ballard, South Park, Columbia City, Greenwood.

Outreach – The act or process of bringing information or services to community members, including members of underserved or underrepresented populations.

Participation – Active engagement by community members in projects and processes that are meaningful to them. Methods of participation can include, but are not limited to, sharing ideas, contributing to decision-making efforts, and assisting with the implementation of new programs and strategies.

Underserved Population – Communities and groups provided with insufficient or inadequate resources or services relative to their needs and/or proportion of the total population.

Underrepresented Population – Communities and groups provided with insufficient or inadequate representation relative to their proportion of the total population.