

City of Seattle | Tribal Nations Summit 2025 Progress Report


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September 3, 2025



Working Together More Effectively for One Seattle

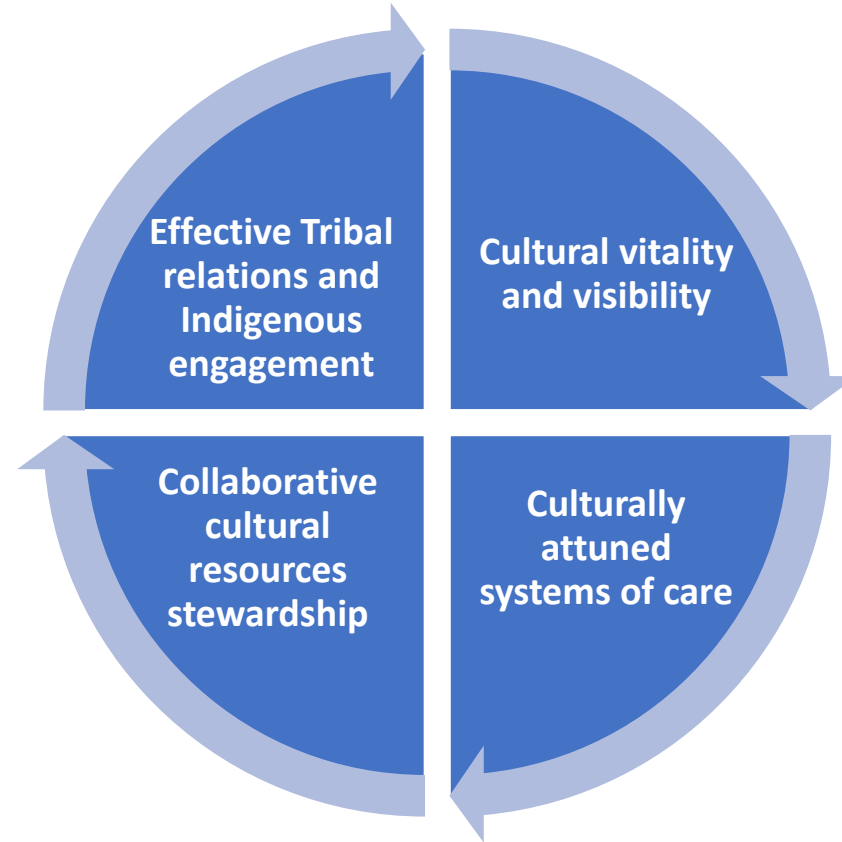




“It has taken 168 years for this historical meeting to take place ... The Treaty of Point Elliott was signed in January 1855 ... in exchange for hundreds of thousands of acres of land ... we were promised a reservation, healthcare, and even vaccinations ... These treaties are the supreme law of the land. That is why we are here today.”

– **Jay Mills**, Councilmember,
Suquamish Tribe and member of the
City's Indigenous Advisory Council

Commitment Areas



23 commitments in four areas

Key Takeaways

Foundational Commitment

Demonstrated commitment to reflecting Indigenous values, cultures, and priorities

Increased understanding of the government-to-government framework

Commitment to developing systemized and standardized protocols that supports City and Tribal priorities

Internal Capacity Building & Coordination

Workgroup and tools to better track and coordinate Tribal engagement

Increased staff education and opportunities to learn about Tribal histories, governments, and priorities

Building staff skills and capacity for more effective Tribal Relations needs to be planned for, budgeted, and resourced

Emerging Progress

Increased frequency and consistency of Tribal engagement and consultation with at least 10 Tribal Nations

Increased collaborative and proactive approaches to cultural resource stewardship

Investment in partnerships for culturally responsive services

Effective Tribal Relations & Indigenous Engagement

- Increased frequency and consistency of Tribal engagement and consultation with at least 10 Tribal Nations.
- Six Indigenous Advisory Council briefings to Seattle City Council committees to share the vision and work of a culturally grounded public commission
- Internal workgroup to improve communication, coordination, and relationship building among staff that engage with Tribal governments and urban Indian organizations



Effective Tribal Relations & Indigenous Engagement

- Government-to-Government training for City staff from the Washington State Governor's Office of Indian Affairs.
- Grant to develop eLearnings on Tribal and urban Indian engagement.
- Increased opportunities to learn about Tribal histories, governments, and priorities.



Cultural Visibility and Vitality

Completion of the Seattle Waterfront includes several new public projects in partnership with Tribal governments:

- Welcome figures and other carvings,
- Traditional placename and interpretative signage,
- Native plantings,
- Access to water,
- Upcoming Tribal Interpretative Center and public art installments from Native artists or in collaboration with Native communities

Above Right: *Honoring Our Muckleshoot Warriors*, 2025
Tyson Simmons, Keith Stevenson, Oscar Tuazon
Seattle Department of Transportation Central Waterfront 1% for Art funds, Administered by the Office of the Waterfront and Civic Projects and the Office of Arts & Culture
Photo: Tim Durkan



Cultural Visibility and Vitality

Interdepartmental coordination on 18 public art opportunities featuring Tribal and urban Native artists in 2025, in addition to grant awards for 6 Indigenous arts & cultural organizations. These projects have a diverse geographic reach and are tailored to site specific needs, such as:

- Tiny home village mural in partnership with Chief Seattle Club
- Tribal partnerships at Boundary Dam in Eastern Washington
- Intertribal coordination for artwork at a culturally significant site in North Seattle

Right: Coyote and the Monsters Yet to Slay I-v1, 2022
RYAN! Feddersen
Seattle City Light 1% for Art Portable Works Collection,
administered by Seattle Office of Arts & Culture
Photo: RYAN! Feddersen

Collaborative Cultural Resource Stewardship

- Expansion of Tribal engagement request in culvert removal strategies to address fish passage barriers in urban watersheds.
- Partnerships with several urban Indian organizations and educators from Tribal communities to lead land and habitat restoration in City parks and open spaces.



Collaborative Cultural Resource Stewardship

- 2024 Tribal Nations Gathering resulted in six commitments to improve Tribal Relations within SPR that are addressed in coordination with an internal workgroup. Progress report shared with Tribal partners and the IAC in February 2025.
- Ongoing coordination of a \$5 million investment in Indigenous-Led Climate Initiatives Fund under Seattle's Green New Deal.



Culturally Attuned Systems of Care

- Partnered to make two vacant properties available to an urban Indian organization for Tiny House Villages.
- \$2 million to urban Indian organizations for homelessness prevention programs that support households at risk of experiencing homelessness.
- Approximately \$6.9 million in KCRHA investments to urban Indian organizations for downstream homeless services including diversion, emergency shelter, rapid re-housing, transitional housing, and day centers.

Right: *Trilateral Luminescence*, 2023, Devin Finley. Funded by the Seattle City Light 1% for Art Fund



Culturally Attuned Systems of Care

- HSD's Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit (MODVSA) provides funding to three urban Indian organizations.
- Between 2023 and 2024, the percentage of American Indian and Alaska Native clients receiving Gender-Based Violence services increased from 4% to 8%.
- In 2023 MODVSA started funding specialized services through urban Indian organizations, including two-spirit advocacy and services, cultural workshops, and healing activities.

Questions?

