

Chinatown International District Community Capacity Building

Libraries, Education, & Neighborhoods Committee
Presentation

July 25, 2024

Presented by:

Jenifer Chao, DON Director

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Seattle
Neighborhoods

Chinatown International District (CID)

The CID is a historically significant and culturally rich community that has experienced decades of insufficient investment, harmful public policies, and institutional racism.

- In recent years, the community has faced new development pressures, the devastating impacts of COVID-19, and a rise in anti-Asian hate crimes and violence.
- In 2023, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named the CID to its list of "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places."
- The City of Seattle acknowledges the harmful and cumulative impact of government policies and projects on the CID.



Department of Neighborhoods in the CID

- Community Engagement Coordinator
- CID Community Safety Contracts
- International Special Review District (ISRD)
- Community Liaisons and Equity & Engagement Advisors
- CID Community Capacity Building

CID Visioning Advisory Group

In 2019, a group of CID organizations came together informally as the **CID Visioning Advisory Group** to identify how the community can have a stronger voice and influence in the face of multiple pressures. With funding from the City of Seattle, the group sponsored a community process to:

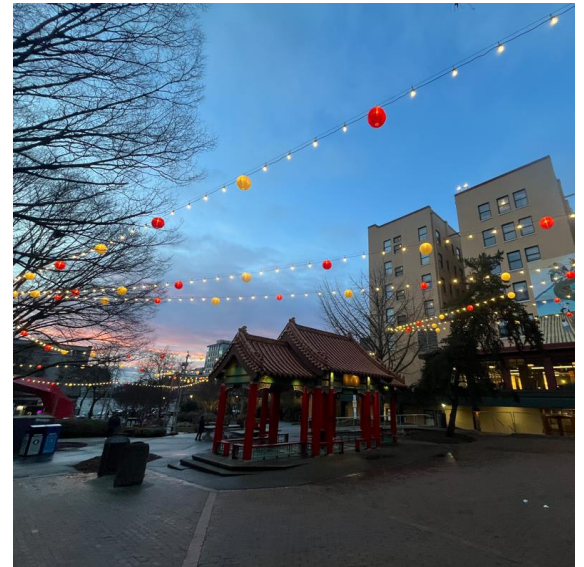


- Build infrastructure for inclusive community engagement and decision-making.
- Ensure community self-determination in projects that impact the CID.
- Create a 10-year community vision and plan.

Learn more at: seattle.gov/neighborhoods/community-connections/chinatown-international-district

CID Visioning Advisory Group Subcommittees

- Housing
- Business and Economic Strength
- Neighborhood Culture, Character, and History
- Community Safety and Health
- Transportation



CID Visioning Advisory Group Membership

- API Coalition Advocating Together for Health
- Chinatown International District Business Improvement Association
- Chinese Information & Service Center
- Chong Wa Benevolent Association
- Denise Louie Education Center
- Friends of Chinatown-Seattle
- Friends of Japantown
- Friends of Little Saigon
- Hop Sing Top
- InterIm Community Development Association
- International Community Health Services
- Japanese American Museum
- Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority
- Seniors in Action
- Wing Luke Museum
- Yee Fung Toy

CID Visioning Advisory Group Funding & Deliverables

- **Phase I: CID Community Engagement Framework (2019-2020: \$133,000)**
 - Community convenes to build Decision-Making and Community Engagement Frameworks.
- **Phase II: CID Community Engagement Toolkit (2020-2021: \$175,000)**
 - A tool that can be used by stakeholders and CID community to collectively engage, make decisions about, and advocate for community interests.
- **Phase III: CID Neighborhood Strategic Plan (2022-2023: \$800,000)**
 - The CID Neighborhood Strategic Plan, based on input from CID community members, shares community concerns and strengths, while outlining a 10-year vision, goals, and strategies for the CID.
- **Phase IV: Implementation of Strategic Plan (2024-2025: \$300,000)**
 - Translate and implement the CID Neighborhood Strategic Plan into actionable items and accountable tasks.

CID Visioning Advisory Group

A Community-led, Ongoing City Partnership

The City of Seattle's partnership with the CID Visioning Advisory Group is vital to understand the needs, priorities, and impacts of our work in the CID.

DON is supporting the efforts of the CID community by convening the City's internal CID teams, piloting new neighborhood-based tools, connecting learning and innovation across neighborhoods, providing information and decision-making for transparency, and supporting the CID community in amplifying their work and the CID Implementation Plan.



CID Visioning Advisory Group

CID Visioning Advisory Group has met with the following City Directors in 2024:

- Jenifer Chao, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods
- Rico Quirindongo, Office of Planning and Community Development
- Maiko Winkler-Chin, Office of Housing
- AP Diaz, Seattle Parks and Recreation
- Nathan Torgelson, Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections
- Greg Spotts, Seattle Department of Transportation

CID 2024-2025 PRIORITIES

- Implement CID Neighborhood Strategic Plan
- Increase Community Capacity Building
- Continue Interdepartmental Coordination
- Local & Regional Partnerships & Investments

P-Patch Community Gardening

Libraries, Education, & Neighborhoods Committee
Presentation

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Presented by:

Jenifer Chao, DON Director

*Kenya Fredie, P-Patch Community Gardening
Program Supervisor*



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P-Patch Community Gardening Overview



P-Patch Community Gardens are spaces where neighbors come together to build community and grow organic food, flowers, and herbs.

These gardens serve as gathering places that strengthen community networks, create sources of pride among residents, demonstrate visible results of land stewardship, and foster a healthier urban environment.

P-Patch Community Gardening Philosophy

The P-Patch Community Gardening Program believes that “community” is the most important word in “community gardening.”

Just as a diversity of plants leads to healthy gardens, strong communities are built when gardens are inclusive and representative of the neighborhoods in which they are located.



City of Seattle Program Legacy

- The first garden, Picardo Farm, was created in 1973 by a group of community residents and the City of Seattle.
- Last year, the program celebrated its 50th anniversary.
- The Seattle P-Patch program is the largest municipally managed gardening program west of New York.
- Gardens are built on public property owned by various city departments and other public and private owners.

P-Patch Community Gardening: In the Weeds

- There are **90 P-Patch community gardens**, encompassing **3,676 plots** on **14.9 acres** of land, with more than **3,500 gardeners**.
- Over **150,000 volunteer hours** have been completed.
- In 2023, a total of **32,144 lbs** of organic produce was donated to local feeding programs.



P-Patch Community Gardening: Equity

- The P-Patch Program is committed to food justice, environmental justice, and equity by prioritizing under-represented communities.
- Based on a community survey, priority placement was established in January 2020 to provide broader access to BIPOC, immigrant and refugee communities, seniors, youth, low-income, and people with disabilities.

P-Patch Community Gardening: Equity

- In 2023, **42%** of gardeners were assigned plots through priority placement.
 - **24 gardeners** were assigned accessible garden beds.
 - New gardeners included speakers of **11 languages**.
- Across the program, **860 low-income families** received fee assistance totaling \$68,974 in 2023.

P-Patch Community Gardens in Demand

- **1,930 neighbors** on P-Patch wait lists as of July 2024.
- Waiting time for individual gardens is between **0-6 months** and **3-5 years**.
- Annual turnover across entire program averages **15%**.



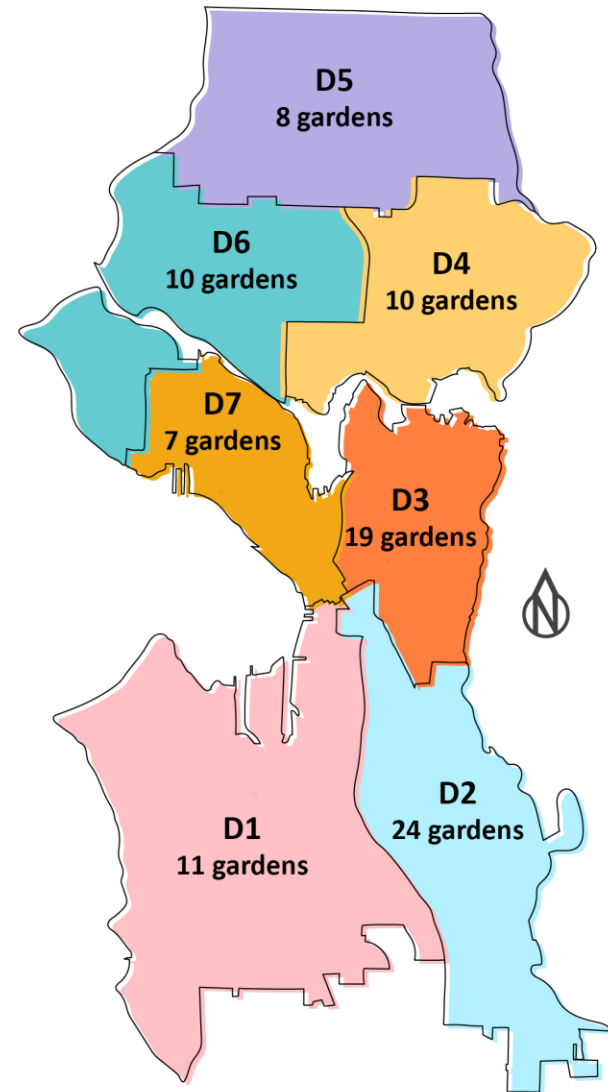
P-Patch Community Gardens by Council District

Oldest Site: Established in 1973, Picardo Farm spans 2.5 acres in District 4

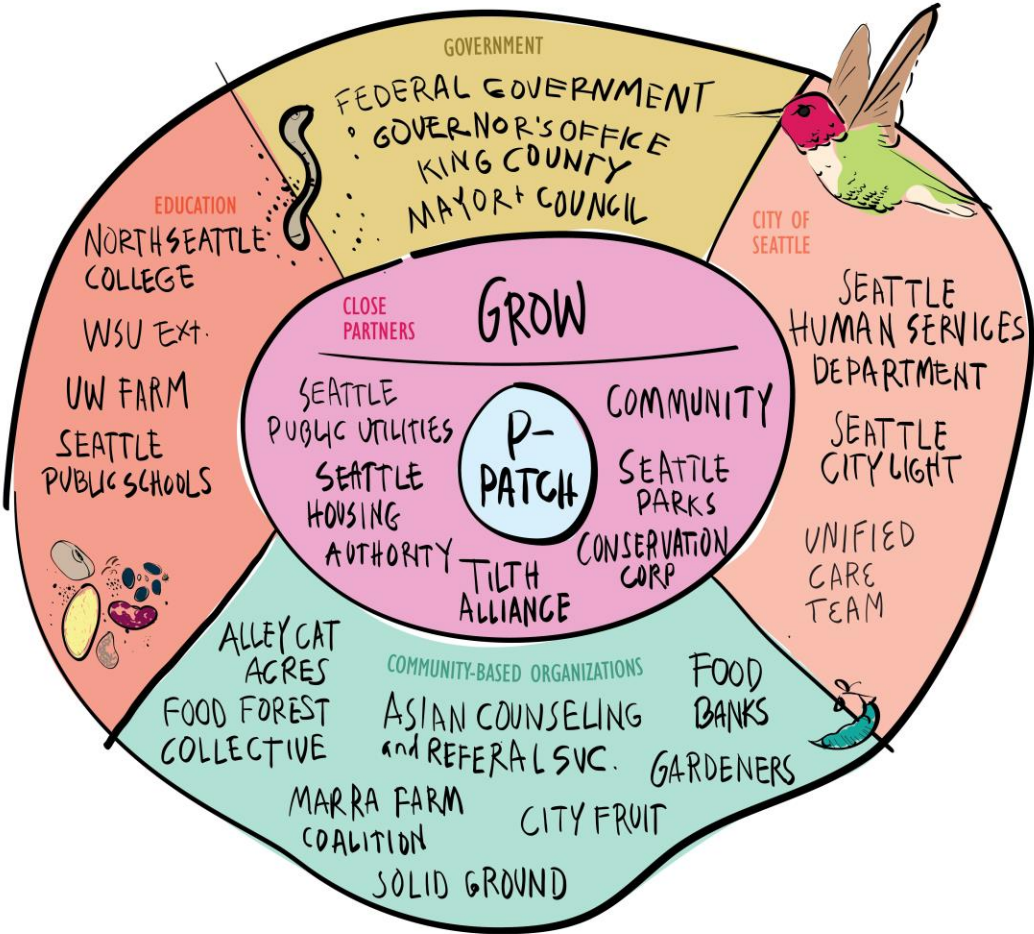
Newest Site: Hinoki, located in District 3

Largest Site: Beacon Food Forest, occupying over 3.5 acres in District 2

Smallest Site: Ida Mia, covering 700 square feet in District 3



Success Through Partnerships



P-Patch Community Gardening: 2024 Priorities

- Continue to improve the experiences of P-Patch gardeners.
- Offer anti-racism training and strategies to all P-Patch gardeners.
- Enhance outreach and engagement with BIPOC communities.
- Develop strategic partnerships and collaborations located in historically underserved communities.

Meet the P-Patch Community Gardening Team



Apply to be a P-Patcher

There are gardens all over Seattle. Our website will walk interested gardeners through all the steps to get involved so you can start growing flowers, herbs, and food alongside your neighbors.



Sign up at: seattle.gov/neighborhoods/p-patch-gardening

THANK YOU!



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