SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Housing, Arts, and Civil Rights Committee

Agenda

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, City Hall
600 4th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Dionne Foster, Chair
Eddie Lin, Vice-Chair
Joy Hollingsworth, Member
Debora Juarez, Member
Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Member

Chair Info: 206-684-8809; Dionne.Foster@seattle.gov

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SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Housing, Arts, and Civil Rights Committee

Agenda

March 11, 2026 - 2:00 PM

Meeting Location:
Council Chamber, City Hall, 600 4th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

Committee Website:
https://seattle.gov/council/housing-arts-and-civil-rights

This meeting also constitutes a meeting of the City Council, provided that the meeting shall be conducted as a committee meeting under the Council Rules and Procedures, and Council action shall be limited to committee business.

Members of the public may register for remote or in-person Public Comment to address the Council. Please register in advance in order to be recognized by the Chair. Details on how to register for Public Comment are listed below:

Remote Public Comment - Register online to speak during the Public Comment period at the meeting at https://www.seattle.gov/council/committees/public-comment. Online registration to speak will begin one hour before the meeting start time, and registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting.

In-Person Public Comment - Register to speak on the public comment sign-up sheet located inside Council Chambers at least 15 minutes prior to the meeting start time. Registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting.

Please submit written comments no later than four business hours prior to the start of the meeting to ensure that they are distributed to Councilmembers prior to the meeting. Comments may be submitted at Council@seattle.gov or at Seattle City Hall, Attn: Council Public Comment, 600 4th Ave., Floor 2, Seattle, WA 98104. Business hours are considered 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Comments received after that time will be distributed after the meeting to Councilmembers and included as part of the public record.

Please Note: Times listed are estimated

A. Call To Order

B. Approval of the Agenda

C. Public Comment

Members of the public may address items on the agenda and matters within the purview of the committee. Please register in advance to be recognized by the Chair.

D. Items of Business

1. Appt 03448 **Appointment of Carlin Llorente as member, Burke-Gilman Place Public Development Authority Governing Council, for a term to December 31, 2026.**

Attachments: Appointment Packet

Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote

Presenter: Chair Foster

2. Appt 03449 **Reappointment of Avery Barnes as member, Seattle Arts Commission, for a term to December 31, 2027.**

Attachments: Appointment Packet

Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote

Presenter: Chair Foster

3. Appt 03450 **Reappointment of Yoon Kang-O'Higgins as member, Seattle Arts Commission, for a term to December 31, 2027.**

Attachments: Appointment Packet

Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote

Presenter: Chair Foster

4. Appt 03451 **Reappointment of Yolanda L. Spencer as member, Seattle Arts Commission, for a term to December 31, 2027.**

Attachments: Appointment Packet

Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote

Presenter: Chair Foster

5. Appt 03453 **Reappointment of Linda Chavez-Lowry as member, Seattle Arts Commission, for a term to December 31, 2027.**

Attachments: Appointment Packet

Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote

Presenter: Chair Foster

6. Appt 03454 **Reappointment of Diana Garcia as member, Seattle Arts Commission, for a term to December 31, 2027.**

Attachments: Appointment Packet

Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote

Presenter: Chair Foster

7. Appt 03455 **Reappointment of Ricky Graboski as member, Seattle Arts Commission, for a term to December 31, 2027.**

Attachments: Appointment Packet

Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote

Presenter: Chair Foster

8. Appt 03456 **Reappointment of Megan Kiskaddon as member, Seattle Arts Commission, for a term to December 31, 2027.**

Attachments: Appointment Packet

Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote

Presenter: Chair Foster

9. **Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections - Rental Programs Overview**

Supporting Documents: Presentation

Briefing and Discussion

Presenters: Geoff Tallent and Maureen Roat, Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI)

10. **Seattle Office of Housing - Homeownership Programs Overview**

Supporting Documents: Presentation

Briefing and Discussion

Presenters: Kelli Larsen and Joy Hunt, Office of Housing (OH)

E. Adjournment

Legislation Text

File #: Appt 03448, **Version:** 1

Appointment of Carlin Llorente as member, Burke-Gilman Place Public Development Authority Governing Council, for a term to December 31, 2026.

The Appointment Packet is provided as an attachment.

City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: *Carlin Llorente*	
Board/Commission Name: *Burke-Gilman Place Public Development Authority*	**Position Title:** *Director*
☒ **Appointment** ***OR*** ☐ **Reappointment**	**City Council Confirmation required?** ☒ Yes ☐ No
Appointing Authority: ☐ City Council ☒ Mayor ☐ Other: *Fill in appointing authority*	**Term of Position: *** 1/1/2026 **to** 12/31/2026 ☒ *Serving remaining term of a vacant position*
Residential Neighborhood: **Ballard**	**Zip Code:** **98117** / **Contact Phone No.*:*** [redacted]

Background:

Carlin Llorente is a values-driven executive with more than two decades of experience leading organizational transformation at the intersection of equity, education, and disability inclusion. As President and Chief Executive Officer of PROVAIL, a $30 million, 480-employee organization serving more than 1,000 children and adults with disabilities across Washington State, Carlin guides an integrated portfolio of programs in Mobility & Communication, Employment Services, and Home & Lifestyle. He partners closely with PROVAIL's Board of Directors to strengthen governance, advance the organization's 10-year strategic roadmap (PROVAIL 100), and expand philanthropic and corporate partnerships, including the launch of the Powering Inclusion signature event. His leadership emphasizes fiscal integrity, transparent decision-making, and cultures of belonging that empower staff and community alike.

Before joining PROVAIL, Carlin held senior roles in social-impact organizations bridging research, policy, and practice. As Senior Vice President of Programs at FareStart, he relaunched in-person training, secured $5 million in new funding, and rebuilt student support services post-pandemic. At Washington STEM, he led statewide partnerships and multimillion-dollar initiatives improving math and early-learning outcomes for students furthest from opportunity. Earlier, at SRI Education, he founded and grew a national research practice focused on equitable learning with media and technology. Across his career, Carlin has championed data-informed strategy, inclusive governance, and collaborative systems that expand access and opportunity. He holds an Ed.M. in Human Development and Psychology from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a B.A. from The Evergreen State College

Authorizing Signature (original signature): Katie B Wilson **Date Signed (appointed):** 02/10/2026	**Appointing Signatory:** *Katie B. Wilson* *Mayor of Seattle*

**Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.*

Carlin Llorente | [redacted]

Summary

Values-driven executive with a proven track record of scaling operations and driving organizational development and innovation in services for marginalized communities. Personally and professionally committed to serving people with disabilities. Demonstrated expertise in leading transformative initiatives, cultivating internal and external partnerships, and building and supporting high-performing, inclusive teams to achieve meaningful outcomes. Deeply committed to social justice and equity.

Key Skills and Expertise

- **Leadership and Advocacy:** Champion equity-centered systems that expand accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities and other marginalized communities.
- **Governance and Strategic Leadership:** Partner with boards and cross-sector leaders to strengthen governance, align mission and strategy, and drive organization-wide effectiveness.
- **Program Expansion and Innovation:** Scaled high-impact services to new regions and populations through data-informed planning and cross-program collaboration.
- **Strategic Planning and Execution:** Created multi-year strategic frameworks that position organizations for sustainable growth, equity, and measurable community impact.
- **Fundraising and Development:** Expanded philanthropic capacity by securing diversified revenue (+$40 million) through public contracts, corporate partnerships, and individual gifts.
- **Financial and Operational Oversight:** Directed large, mission-driven enterprises with complex funding structures, ensuring fiscal integrity, compliance, and operational excellence.
- **Team Building and Inclusive Leadership:** Built high-performing teams by cultivating cultures of trust, accountability, and belonging that empower people to lead from every level.

Professional Experience

PROVAIL, Seattle WA *President and Chief Executive Officer* **(2024 - Present)**

- Lead a $30M, 480-employee organization advancing inclusion, independence, and equity for 1,000+ children and adults with disabilities in Washington State.

- Provide strategic and operational leadership for three integrated service divisions—Mobility & Communication, Employment Services, and Home & Lifestyle—linking direct care, technology, and workforce inclusion.

- Drive *PROVAIL 100*, a 10-year strategic roadmap positioning the organization for its centennial, focused on sustainable growth, equity and inclusion, and stakeholder voice in governance and strategy.

- Strengthen philanthropy and partnerships, re-envisioning PROVAIL's advancement strategy, launching new alliances, and elevating *Powering Inclusion* as the organization's signature community event.

- Partnered with the Board to streamline committee structure and establish a Programs Committee and risk management framework to deepen oversight and strategic alignment.

- Foster a high-trust, collaborative culture across the executive team and Board, grounded in accountability, transparency, and shared stewardship of mission and impact.

Menlo Education Research, Menlo Park CA *Senior Strategist* **(2024 - 2025)**

- Consulted with a leading educational research firm, driving learning partnerships strategy to expand the impact and reach of a national mathematics education collaboratory bringing together educators, publishers, and researchers to advance algebra learning for Black, Lantinx, and students impacted by poverty.

FareStart, Seattle, WA *Senior Vice President, Programs* **(2022 - 2024)**

- Re-launched in-person job training and transformed student support, increasing enrollment in flagship programs by 50% year over year and secured $5M in new, multi-source funding.
- Supported individuals facing significant barriers to employment, including those with mental health challenges, developmental/physical disabilities, and substance use disorders.
- Engaged with board, community partners and the public to amplify FareStart's impact.
- Led a large, diverse division of 25-35 (6 direct) during the challenging post-pandemic period, maintaining productivity and morale while carrying out significant staff reductions (30%).

Washington STEM, Seattle, WA (2017 - 2022) *Director of Strategic Partnerships and Senior Program Officer*

- Reimagined and revitalized the state-wide, $10+ million regional network strategy. Oversaw 11 partnerships, supported expansion to new counties and supported new uses of data for equitable impact. Work ultimately provided vital support to thousands of students furthest from educational justice working towards credentials and careers with family-sustaining wages.
- Innovated and expanded statewide initiatives to support kindergarten readiness and early math learning in underrepresented communities, securing $2M for new programming statewide. Supported professional development for hundreds of early educators and improved mathematics learning for thousands of low-income children.

SRI Education, Menlo Park, CA (2006 - 2017) *Founding Program Director, Media & Learning Research Group* | *Senior Researcher \ Research Social Scientist*

- Built a new high-performing research practice focused on supporting low-income children's learning with media and technology. Quadrupled portfolio size, securing $25M+ in funding. Advanced opportunities for underserved communities through research, development, and evaluation.
- Designed and directed dozens of mixed-methods research projects in partnership with educators, families, and community leaders to close opportunity gaps in early science, mathematics, and literacy education.
- Managed 10 direct reports (early career to senior researchers) and led project teams of 50+

- Drove equity-centered DEI initiatives within the organization, fostering a collaborative, inclusive workplace culture.

Education Development Center, Newton, MA (1999 - 2006) *Associate Project Director*

- As Associate Director for the Neighborhood Networks and America Connects Consortium initiatives, managed a team of four in the context of large multi-million dollar technical assistance projects, supporting federally funded community technology centers.

Education

EdM, Human Development and Psychology – Harvard Graduate School of Education

BA, Self-Designed Liberal Arts: The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA

Focus: Life-span human development. Design of inclusive frameworks for learning and development, with an emphasis on equity, learner-centered programs leading to social and economic outcomes.

Public Speaking: Featured on The Splendid Table (Ep. 761); in local media discussing equity and inclusion initiatives; and providing public testimony and advocacy with public sector leaders.

Board Service: Tiny Trees and Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless.

Carlin Llorente is a values-driven executive with more than two decades of experience leading organizational transformation at the intersection of equity, education, and disability inclusion. As President and Chief Executive Officer of PROVAIL, a $30 million, 480-employee organization serving more than 1,000 children and adults with disabilities across Washington State, Carlin guides an integrated portfolio of programs in Mobility & Communication, Employment Services, and Home & Lifestyle. He partners closely with PROVAIL's Board of Directors to strengthen governance, advance the organization's 10-year strategic roadmap (*PROVAIL 100*), and expand philanthropic and corporate partnerships—including the launch of the *Powering Inclusion* signature event. His leadership emphasizes fiscal integrity, transparent decision-making, and cultures of belonging that empower staff and community alike.

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Burke-Gilman Place Preservation and Development Authority

9 Members: Pursuant to *RCW 35.21.730, all* members subject to City Council confirmation, *3*-year terms however, for initial terms should be as follows:

1, 4, 7, and 10 shall be for one year; initial terms for positions 2, 5, 8, and 11 shall be for two years; and initial terms for positions 3, 6, and 9 shall be for three years.

- *#* City Council-appointed
- *9* Mayor-appointed
- *#* Other Appointing Authority-appointed (specify): Commission

Roster:

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
6	M	5	1.	Director	Carlin Llorente	1/1/26	12/31/26	1	Mayor
6	F	4	2.	Director	Jennifer Kelty	1/1/24	12/31/26	1	Mayor
6	M	5	3.	Director	Joseph Brotherton	1/1/24	12/31/26	1	Mayor
6	M	4	4.	Director	David Creed	1/1/24	12/31/26	1	Mayor
6	F	4	5.	Director	Kaarin Stowell	1/1/24	12/31/26	1	Mayor
			6.						
			7.						
			8.						
			9.						
			10						
			11.						

SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART

	Male	Female	Transgender	NB/ O/ U	Asian (1)	Black/ African American (2)	Hispanic/ Latino (3)	American Indian/ Alaska Native (4)	Other (5)	Caucasian/ Non-Hispanic (6)	Pacific Islander (7)	Middle Eastern (8)	Multiracial (9)
Mayor	3	2								5			
Council													
Other													
Total	3	2								5			

Key:

***D** List the corresponding *Diversity Chart* number (1 through 9)
****G** List *gender*, **M**= Male, **F**= Female, **T**= Transgender, **NB=** Non-Binary **O=** Other **U**= Unknown
RD Residential Council District number 1 through 7 or N/A

Diversity information is self-identified and is voluntary.

Legislation Text

File #: Appt 03449, **Version:** 1

Reappointment of Avery Barnes as member, Seattle Arts Commission, for a term to December 31, 2027.

The Appointment Packet is provided as an attachment.

City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: Avery Barnes		
Board/Commission Name: *Seattle Arts Commission*		**Position Title:** *Member*
☐ **Appointment** ***OR*** ☒ **Reappointment**	**City Council Confirmation required?** ☒ Yes ☐ No	
Appointing Authority: ☐ City Council ☒ Mayor ☐ Other:	**Term of Position: *** 1/1/2026 **to** 12/31/2027 ☐ *Serving remaining term of a vacant position*	
Residential Neighborhood: Pioneer Square	Zip Code: 98104	**Contact Phone No.*:*** [redacted]

Background:

Avery Barnes is an entrepreneur, African art curator, and community advocate. Awarded in 2023 for Forbes 30 Under 30 Seattle Class, Avery owns and operates TASWIRA, Seattle's only African art gallery and event space in the heart of Pioneer Square. Avery is active in the community and is often invited to speak on panels about her work and the inspiration behind it. She also campaigns for causes that empower women, people of color, and small business owners.

Established in 2022, TASWIRA has become a neighborhood staple designed to celebrate the diaspora of African arts and culture. Inspired by her roots, Avery journeyed to Africa to work with the Bamburi Women Empowerment Center in Mombasa, Kenya. It was at this place that the vision to create a social impact company was born. Today, TASWIRA has evolved into an established art gallery and community space that not only celebrates African heritage through historical pieces but is also home to a collective of local and globally renowned contemporary artists.

Authorizing Signature (original signature): Katie B Wilson **Date Signed (appointed):** 02/10/2026	**Appointing Signatory:** *Katie B. Wilson* *Mayor of Seattle*

**Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.*

AVERY BARNES AGE, 24

ENTREPRENUER - DESIGNER - PHILANTHROPIST

CONTACT

[redacted]

[redacted]

www. TASWIRA.Org

[redacted]

SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE

- **Fundraising** (4 years)
- **Project Management** (4 years)
- **Fashion Design and Product Development** (5 years)
- **Creative Director in Fashion/Art Production** (6 years)
- **Community Events Organizer** (2 years)
- **Workplace and Youth Leadership Skills** (4 years)
- **Time Management:** Meeting Budget and Timeline Goals (6 years)
- **Arts Curator,** growing a global roster of newly discovered artist profiles.(4 years)
- **Hospitality Skills,** event space management and host. (2 years)
- **Brand Development and Marketing,** (4 years)

WORK EXPERIENCE

- **Makeup Artist and Advocate,** MAC Cosmetics + Viva Glam AIDS Fund Campaign (Dec. 2017 - May 2018)
- **Commercial Property Owner,** TASWIRA African Art & Design Gallery in Pioneer Square, Seattle (Mar. 2022 - Current)
- **Participant, Downtown Seattle Association** State of the Sector Arts and Culture Program (Aug. 2023 - Current)
- **Seattle Office of Economic Development Consultant,** Seattle Restored Small Business Research Cohort (Aug. 2023 - Sept. 2024)
- **Small Business Consultant,** Community Roots Housing Capitol Hill EcoDistrict Program (May 2022)
- **Panelist,** One Vibe Africa Kijiji Night Event at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute (Jan. 2023)
- **Participant, Waterfront Park Cultural Masterplan:** Community Partners Roundtable (Oct. 2023)
- **Featured Business,** Bill & Melinda Gates Discovery Center Giving Marketplace (Dec. 2022/2023)

AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Seattle Art Fair Cultural Partner** (July 2023)
- **Small Business Advocate - Seattle Mayor MID Bill Signing** (May 2023)
- **Awarded Forbes Inaugural 30 Under 30 Seattle Class** (Aug. 2023)
- **Awarded Best Designer,** Seattle African Fashion Week (May 2021)
- **Awarded City of Seattle Proclamation,** "TASWIRA Day" (May 4th, 2023)
- **Invitation Recipient,** Tanzania Delegation Welcome Reception at Lumen Field (May 2023)
- **Invitation Recipient,** The White House on Behalf of Vice President Harris: Inflation Reduction Act Remarks Event (Aug. 2023)
- **Grant Recipient,** Seattle Restored (Mar. 2022)
- **Grant Recipient,** U.S. Chamber of Commerce Coalition to Back Black Businesses (Nov. 2023)
- **TV Publications:** Fox13, King 5, and Converge Media, CBS
- **Online Publication:** Arte Noir, The Intentionalist
- **Printed Feature,** Seattle Met Magazine: Avery Barnes Brings African Style to Pioneer Square (Aug. 2022)
- **Launched Philanthropic Arts Campaign** with the Indigenous Maasai Tribe of Kenya (Oct. 2021)
- **Licensed For-profit Women's Empowerment Initiative** in Mombasa, Kenya (Dec. 2020)

VOLUNTEERING

- **Life Long Aids Alliance Volunteering with MAC Cosmetics** - Food Prep / $45,000 Donation (Dec. 2018)
- **2x Certified International Volunteer,** IVHQ Women's Empowerment and Small Business Development in Mombasa, Kenya (Mar. / Nov. 2019)
- **Panelist, The Seattle Public Library:** The Business of Community Open House (Oct. 2023)
  - Where small business champions from Minneapolis and Seattle came together for a unique learning and networking opportunity free for the public.
- **Panelist, The Seattle Public Library and EVOKE UPROAR:** "Banking on You" Workshop for Entrepreneurs (July 2023)
- **Panelist and Event Collaborator with REMAKE,** Nonprofit Organization for Sustainable Fashion Practices (Mar. 2023)
- **Sponsor, UW Human Centered Design & Engineering Capstone Project** (Jan. - Jun. 2023) and received the Impact Achievement Award
- **Guest Speaker, Seattle Central Community College** - School of Apparel Design and Development (Mar. 2022)

Seattle Arts Commission Roster

Seattle Arts Commission Roster

16 Members: Pursuant to ordinance 121006, all members subject to City Council confirmation, 2-year terms (Get-Engaged member serves a 1-year term):

- 7 City Council-appointed
- 7 Mayor-appointed
- 1 Commission-appointed
- 1 Get-Engaged

(Roster as of 1/30/2026)

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
2	M	2	1.	At-Large	Ed King	01/01/25	12/31/26	1st	City Council
6	F	7	2.	At-Large	Megan Kiskaddon	01/01/26	12/31/27	2nd	City Council
3	F	1	3.	At-Large	Vanessa Villalobos	01/01/25	12/31/26	3rd	City Council
3	F	1	4.	At-Large	Linda Chavez Lowry	01/01/26	12/31/27	2nd	City Council
6	M	5	5.	At-Large	Ricky Graboski	01/01/26	12/31/27	3rd	City Council
3	F	6	6.	At-Large	Diana Garcia (Dhyana)	01/01/26	12/31/27	2nd	City Council
6	F	5	7.	At-Large	Kate Nagle-Caraluzzo	01/01/25	12/31/26	1st	City Council
4	F	N/A	8.	At-Large	Yolanda Spencer	01/01/26	12/31/27	2nd	Commission
			9.	At-Large	vacant				Mayor
2 & 9	F	1	10.	At-Large	Avery Barnes	01/01/26	12/31/27	2nd	Mayor
			11.	At-Large	vacant				Mayor
			12.	At-Large	vacant				Mayor
			13.	At-Large	vacant				Mayor
1	F	N/A	14.	At-Large	Yoon Kang-O'Higgins	01/01/26	12/31/27	2nd	Mayor
1, 4, & 6	F&O	7	15.	At-Large	Jo Mikesell	01/01/25	12/31/26	1st	Mayor
6	M		16.	Get-Engaged	Jack Nash	09/01/25	08/31/26	One	Mayor

SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART

	Men	Women	Transgender	Other/ Unknown	(1) Asian	(2) Black/ African America n	(3) Hispanic/ Latino	(4) American Indian/ Alaska Native	(5) Other (Specification Optional)	(6) Caucasian / Non-Hispanic	(7) Pacific Islander	(8) Middle Eastern	(9) Multiracial
Mayor	1	3		1	2	1		1		2			1
Council	2	5				1	3			3			
Other		1						1					
Total	*3*	*9*		*1*	*2*	*2*	*3*	*2*		*5*			1

Key:

***D** List the corresponding *Diversity Chart* number (1 through 9)

****G** List *gender*, **M** = Male, **F**= Female, **T**= Transgender, **U**= Unknown, **O**= Other

RD Residential Council District number 1 through 7 or N/A

Diversity information is self-identified and is voluntary.

Legislation Text

File #: Appt 03450, **Version:** 1

Reappointment of Yoon Kang-O'Higgins as member, Seattle Arts Commission, for a term to December 31, 2027.

The Appointment Packet is provided as an attachment.

City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: Yoon Kang-O'Higgins		
Board/Commission Name: *Seattle Arts Commission*		**Position Title:** *Member*
☐ **Appointment** ***OR*** ☒ **Reappointment**	**City Council Confirmation required?** ☒ Yes ☐ No	
Appointing Authority: ☐ City Council ☒ Mayor ☐ Other:	**Term of Position: *** 1/1/2026 **to** 12/31/2027 ☐ *Serving remaining term of a vacant position*	
Residential Neighborhood: N/A	Zip Code: 98028	**Contact Phone No.*:*** [redacted]

Background:

Yoon Kang-O'Higgins is Director of Community Impact and Programs at the Friends of Waterfront Seattle. Since moving to Seattle in 2004 from New York City, she has been actively involved in the arts both professionally and personally. As Program Director with Visual Thinking Strategies, she worked closely with local museums including SAM and the Frye to provide professional development opportunities to hundreds of teachers, educators, and arts professionals. In her current role, her team has co-created over 400 programs since 2021 in close partnership with local creatives and artists. Last year, in preparation for the 2025 grand opening of Waterfront Park, her team with consultants Third Way Creative, facilitated a series of engagement sessions to create a community-centric cultural masterplan. This engagement with 148 program and community partners left her deeply inspired and affirmed her commitment to see through the shared vision of public space through cultural programming.

As a parent, Yoon's family has benefited from the rich youth offerings including Wing Luke's Youth CAN and Teensway, SAM Teen Arts Group, and Coyote Central classes. Her husband is a practicing artist and educator (Gage Academy of Art and Digipen Institute) so she understands the critical importance of a heathy creative economy.

Yoon is particularly drawn to the opportunity to advocate for equitable access to the arts and to support initiatives that celebrate the diverse voices and cultural traditions that make Seattle such a vibrant and dynamic city.

Authorizing Signature (original signature): Katie B Wilson **Date Signed (appointed):** 02/10/2026	**Appointing Signatory:** *Katie B. Wilson* *Mayor of Seattle*

**Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.*

YOON KANG-O'HIGGINS

[redacted]

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Skills:

- Program Management
- Community Engagement
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Public Programs Development
- Communications

Expertise:

- Facilitation, Coaching
- Adult Learning
- Critical Thinking, Visual Literacy
- Professional Development

Boards, Residency:

- DSA Arts & Culture Sector Steering Committee 2024
- EDGES Creative Community, CA, 2014-19
- Visual Thinking Strategies in Science Advisory Board, 2014-18
- Dublin City Council Residency, Ireland, 2017, 2020

WORK EXPERIENCE

Friends of Waterfront Seattle

- Director of Community Impact and Programs, November 2023-present
- Director of Public Programs, 2021-October 2023
  - Oversee team to curate, co-develop, and produce community centric programming at Waterfront Park Seattle. In 2022, there were over 177 events with over 80K participants with 77% BIPOC program partners. Cultivate and manage a broad network of stakeholders include city partners, cultural leaders, and community members.
- Senior Programs Manager, 2020-2021

YK Collective LLC

- Principal, Jan 2020-present
  - Design and produce professional development trainings and learning resources; advise on DEI initiatives. Clients include: Meta (Dublin, Ireland), Hawaii State Art Museum, Chester Beatty Library (Dublin, Library); VTS Nederland (Amsterdam).

New York Times Learning Network

- Contributor, 2012-2020
  - Co-curated photography selection and moderated "What's Going on in This Picture," a weekly online discussion to foster critical thinking, reflection, group process.

Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS)

- Program Director & Senior Trainer, 2017-2019
  - Managed national team of expert trainers to: design and lead multi-year professional development programs for museums, schools, and cultural organizations; created and published curriculum resources
  - Led full cycle of multi-year programs with organizations including: Seattle Aquarium; Turnaround Arts – Kennedy Center for the Arts; Dublin City Council Arts Office, Ireland; National Gallery of Helsinki, Finland; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and Hawaii State Art Museum.
  - Co-developed and implemented diversity, equity, and inclusion strategy for the organization and programs.
- Senior Trainer, Special Projects, 2015-2017
  - Led multi-year consulting contracts, partnerships and special projects focused on community focused learning in universities, museums, and schools including: University College Cork College of Medicine and Health, Ireland; Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, University Of Oregon, Eugene; and Frye Art Museum, Seattle.
- Interim Executive Director, 2014
  - Supervised four NYC-based national Directors and Program Manager during transition of independent 501(c)(3)'s move to national umbrella non-profit organization.

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Discovery Center, Community and Civic Engagement, Seattle, WA

- Educator, 2012-2019
  - Supported the development and implementation of public programs, interpretive approaches, social media, and exhibits including "Women Hold Up Half the Sky," "Design with the 90%," and "We the Future."

Previous employers include: Rubin Museum of Art (NYC); Parsons School of Design (NYC); The Fan Museum (London); Art Matters Foundation (NYC); and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (NYC).

SELECTED PROJECTS: PROJECT MANAGER/LEAD TRAINER

- "Looking to Understand Inclusion," European Union Erasmus+, 2019-2023. Co-developed and led training for 20 education and culture professionals to study social inclusion in their context and being to apply learnings in their institutions. Partners include Dublin City Council, The Finnish Museum of Photography; Du (Ireland); Museum (Denmark); VTS Nederland; Crea360 (Spain).
- Kennedy Center for the Arts – Turnaround Arts VTS program, 2017-2019. Led national team to create and implement professional development programs for school/district teams focused on community-building in the classroom and school building, in seven states. Collaborated with local artists, arts integration coaches, local museums, district specialist, and school faculty to design learner-centered experiences.
- VTS in Science, 2015-2018. Co-designed and facilitated process with science educators to create programs that foster place-based community engagement and conservation. Co-produced online toolkit for science educators. Partners: The Wild Center (Tupper Lake, NY); Seattle Aquarium (WA); Rochester Museum and Science Center (NY); Ecotarium (Worcester, MA).
- "Permission to Wonder," European Union Erasmus+, 2015-2018. Developed and led learning pathway for 24 education and culture professionals to help create programs to connect communities and local art collections/spaces. Partners: The Finnish Museum of Photography; The LAB Gallery (Ireland); The Slovenian Association of Fine Arts Societies; Museum (Denmark); VTS Nederland; Crea360 (Spain).

SELECTED WORKSHOPS, PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, "Reflections on Cross Cultural Community of Practice," Erasmus+ online Symposium, Dublin, Ireland, April 2020.
- Keynote, "Racial Equity in Arts Education: Reflecting & Processing Our Collective Work," Washington Art Education Association (WAEA), November 2019.
- Lead Trainer, "Image Selection: Art and Beyond" workshop focused on increasing diversity and representation, California African American Museum & Museum of Natural History (Los Angeles, CA), July 2019.
- Lead Trainer, Coaching Workshop, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam Museum, the Netherlands, April 2019.
- Lead Trainer, Image Selection Workshop, FOAM, Tropenmuseum, Amsterdam Museum, the Netherlands, April 2019.
- Panel Moderator, "Decentering Whiteness," Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA, July 2019.

EDUCATION

- M.Ed., Adult Learning and Global Change, University of British Columbia, Vancouver
- B.A., Art History, Barnard College, Columbia University, New York, NY
- University College London, Junior Year Abroad Program, Art History and Fine Art
- Urban Park Leadership Program, Central Park Conservancy and City University of New York. Fall 2022-Spring 2023
- Dare to Lead Course: Seattle Women of Color (Led by Certified Facilitator Aiko Bethea), March-June, 2020

Seattle Arts Commission Roster

Seattle Arts Commission Roster

16 Members: Pursuant to ordinance 121006, all members subject to City Council confirmation, 2-year terms (Get-Engaged member serves a 1-year term):

- 7 City Council-appointed
- 7 Mayor-appointed
- 1 Commission-appointed
- 1 Get-Engaged

(Roster as of 1/30/2026)

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
2	M	2	1.	At-Large	Ed King	01/01/25	12/31/26	1st	City Council
6	F	7	2.	At-Large	Megan Kiskaddon	01/01/26	12/31/27	2nd	City Council
3	F	1	3.	At-Large	Vanessa Villalobos	01/01/25	12/31/26	3rd	City Council
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3	F	6	6.	At-Large	Diana Garcia (Dhyana)	01/01/26	12/31/27	2nd	City Council
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4	F	N/A	8.	At-Large	Yolanda L. Spencer	01/01/26	12/31/27	2nd	Commission
			9.	At-Large	vacant				Mayor
2 & 9	F	1	10.	At-Large	Avery Barnes	01/01/26	12/31/27	2nd	Mayor
			11.	At-Large	vacant				Mayor
			12.	At-Large	vacant				Mayor
			13.	At-Large	vacant				Mayor
1	F	N/A	14.	At-Large	Yoon Kang-O'Higgins	01/01/26	12/31/27	2nd	Mayor
1, 4, & 6	F&O	7	15.	At-Large	Jo Mikesell	01/01/25	12/31/26	1st	Mayor
6	M		16.	Get-Engaged	Jack Nash	09/01/25	08/31/26	One	Mayor

SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART

	Men	Women	Transgender	Other/ Unknown	(1) Asian	(2) Black/ African America n	(3) Hispanic/ Latino	(4) American Indian/ Alaska Native	(5) Other (Specification Optional)	(6) Caucasian / Non-Hispanic	(7) Pacific Islander	(8) Middle Eastern	(9) Multiracial
Mayor	1	3		1	2	1		1		2			1
Council	2	5				1	3			3			
Other		1						1					
Total	*3*	*9*		*1*	*2*	*2*	*3*	*2*		*5*			1

Key:

***D** List the corresponding *Diversity Chart* number (1 through 9)

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RD Residential Council District number 1 through 7 or N/A

Diversity information is self-identified and is voluntary.

Legislation Text

File #: Appt 03451, **Version:** 1

Reappointment of Yolanda L. Spencer as member, Seattle Arts Commission, for a term to December 31, 2027.

The Appointment Packet is provided as an attachment.

City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: *Yolanda L. Spencer*		
Board/Commission Name: *Seattle Arts Commission*		**Position Title:** *Member*
☐ **Appointment** *OR* ☒ **Reappointment**	**City Council Confirmation required?** ☒ Yes ☐ No	
Appointing Authority: ☐ City Council ☐ Mayor ☒ Other: Commission	**Term of Position: *** 1/1/2026 **to** 12/31/2027 ☐ *Serving remaining term of a vacant position*	
Residential Neighborhood: Lakewood, WA	Zip Code: 98499	**Contact Phone No.:** [redacted]

Background:

Yolanda Spencer member of the Confederated Tribes of Yakama Nation and as well as Lummi Nation in Washington. She is part of the Swan Clan and carries her mother's Lummi name Cho Phosh Owet. She attended Haskell Indian Nations University where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

She has served with United Indians of All Tribes Foundation over a decade and has served as its strong leader for the past decade promoting education and employment rights, her knowledge spanned to outreach and education for both workers and employers for our Seattle Indigenous community. Yolanda has developed and administered Native Workforce Services Program since 2011.

She is currently the new Community Services Director for the Chief Seattle Club that focuses on Reentry, Housing, and Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault need within our Urban Indigenous. Chief Seattle Club non-profit organization dedicated to physically and spiritually supporting American Indian and Alaska Native people.

She previously served on the WorkSource Seattle-King County Employer Outreach Partners and King Central Local Planning Area (LPA) that focuses on best practices and outreach for our underserved job seekers. She also served as a recovery coach for the White Bison Medicine Wheel that supported the incarcerated women at Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW) and participated as a traditional dancer that attended the Department of Corrections Pow Wow's across Washington State.

She is also certified in the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) to administer personality assessment tool, facilitator in White Bison Warrior Down/Recover Coach and Survivors of Homicide. She is an avid Seattle's sports fan for the Seattle Mariners and Seahawks.

Authorizing Signature (original signature): Yoon Kang-O'Higgins Yoon Kang-O'Higgins (02/03/2026 13:04:53 PST) Megan Kiskaddon (02/03/2026 11:51:38 PST) **Date Signed (appointed):**	**Appointing Signatory:** *Megan Kiskaddon, Yoon Kang-O'Higgins* *Co-Chairs, Seattle Arts Commission*

**Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.*

Yolanda L. Spencer

Experience

Jan 2023 – Present

Community Services Director- Chief Seattle Club

- Supervised: Reentry, Housing, Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault departments to ensure program needs are met through budgets, programming, staffing and member services.
- Helped with tracking programs budgets for monthly meetings.
- Worked diligently to connect programs to appropriate services offered by Chief Seattle Club

June 2022 – January 2023

Reentry Director- Chief Seattle Club

- Managed all re-entry program grants so that services meet members needs and funder expectations, including supervising all reentry program staff.
- Established and strengthen partnerships to meet member needs in supportive services and program needs.
- supported relationships with funders around applications, reporting, and financial negotiations.
- Oversees the re-entry team, including the Re-Entry Program Manager, case managers, employment specialists, and other staff.
- Develop relationships with tribal jails, county jails, State Department of Corrections (DOC), and a network of reentry organizations to connect with providers, advocates, contracted vendors, and community resources to assess the member's status, identify needs and ensure access to appropriate services to achieve positive outcomes upon member's reentry to the community.

September 2021-June 2022

Program Director- Native Workforce Services Program

United Indians of All Tribes Foundation

Created and administered a federally funded grant Department of Labor for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act that served federally enrolled Native Americans, Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiian with employment and training program living in King County.

Administered a City of Seattle grant under Office of Labor Standards to promote community engagement/outreach to our Seattle Native Workers to understand their workers' rights under Seattle Ordinances. Spearheaded the Native Workforce Program for 10 years that drafted, edited, and reviewed grants.

JANUARY 2011 – September 2021

PROGRAM MANAGER- NATIVE WORKFORCE SERVICES PROGRAM, UNITED INDIANS OF ALL TRIBES FOUNDATION

Implemented new processes to improve current needs for urban Native Americans in search of employment and training. Assisted clients with accessing resources, such as work incentives planning, educational programs, and supportive services in King County area. Worked closely with clients to develop professional resumes and assist in search for employment. Provided advice to clients on how to advance their career or education and provided assessments to determine which career paths are best suited. Worked with Department of Labor Workforce Innovation Opportunities Act grant officer to renew grant by quarterly reports and submit grant renewal every four years. Plan and developed budget narrative for each grant period. Attended trainings related to improve needs within Native American for education and employment.

Administrative Assistant, *Puyallup Tribe, WorkSource Investment Act (WIA) Department* 2009- Present

Currently working part-time with WIA director in assisting in recruiting new applicants in the program and updating current client's files. Research job listings daily for clients looking for employment. Intake new applicants and set up interview dates for case managers. Document timesheets to update current clients file. Answer daily questions regarding the WIA program over the phone. Set up staff meeting according to director's schedule.

Teacher Assistant, *Haskell Indian Nations University 2006*

Worked directly with Social Work and Chemical Dependency Instructor. Researched and wrote weekly assignments related to weekly lessons related to social work, and peer related group projects. Played key role in preparing a presentation in awareness about Deaf Culture. Prepared weekly reports regarding my internship. Helped with grading and the posting of grades. Arranged meetings with students and faculty. Organized student contact information and messages for professors.

Education

Haskell Indian Nations University

Lawrence, Kansas

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, 2008

Pierce College

Lakewood, WA

Associates of Arts Science, 2003

Additional Experience and Certification

participated on the

- WorkSource Seattle-King County Employer Outreach Partners and
- King Central Local Planning Area (LPA) that focuses on best practices and outreach for our underserved job seekers.
- Advisor to legislative subcommittee to Washington Statewide Reentry Council.

Certifications:

- White Bison: 12 steps for Men and Women
- White Bison: Warrior Down
- White Bison: Survivors of Suicide
- Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) to administer personality assessment tool.

References

Available upon request

Seattle Arts Commission Roster

Seattle Arts Commission Roster

16 Members: Pursuant to ordinance 121006, all members subject to City Council confirmation, 2-year terms (Get-Engaged member serves a 1-year term):

- 7 City Council-appointed
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RD Residential Council District number 1 through 7 or N/A

Diversity information is self-identified and is voluntary.

Legislation Text

File #: Appt 03453, **Version:** 1

Reappointment of Linda Chavez-Lowry as member, Seattle Arts Commission, for a term to December 31, 2027.

The Appointment Packet is provided as an attachment.

City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: *Linda Chavez-Lowry*		
Board/Commission Name: *Seattle Arts Commission*		**Position Title:** *Member*
☐ **Appointment** ***OR*** ☒ **Reappointment**	**City Council Confirmation required?** ☒ Yes ☐ No	
Appointing Authority: ☒ City Council ☐ Mayor ☐ Other:	**Term of Position: *** 1/1/2026 **to** 12/31/2027 ☐ *Serving remaining term of a vacant position*	
Residential Neighborhood: West Seattle	Zip Code: 98136	**Contact Phone No.*:*** [redacted]

Background:

Linda Lowry's creative energy, enterprising spirit, and passion for the arts are evident in all her ventures whether it be the motivation that drives success in her role as Director of Opportunities at Seattle Magazine, her focus on enhancing relationships through connecting community leaders with the private and non-profit sector, or her active participation on advisory boards and committees that demonstrate her love of the arts and her initiatives for a diverse, and equitable community. Linda founded the Art Committee at the Columbia Tower Club (CTC) in 2010, whereby she has been part of a passionate group that has promoted community engagement of the arts. The annual highlight of this committee is a fundraising gala to support local artistic groups such as: Arts Fund, Cornish College of the Arts, The Film School, SANCA, The Michael J. Owens Music Foundation, to name a few. Linda studied at Chapman University where she was a collegiate athlete in Women's soccer and received her BA in Political Science/International Law. Linda remains active in the greater Seattle community as evident by her volunteer efforts with the following organizations: Executive Advisory Council for Providence O 'Christmas Trees, Chair of the DEI Committee at the Women's University Club. Linda also embraces opportunities to assist like-minded entrepreneurial efforts and women in business and currently serves on the advisory board for PartnerTap. In 2021, Linda was recognized and awarded the "Hometown Hero" award by the Seattle Mariners, for her philanthropic work Bloodworks NW during the COVID-19 pandemic. Linda is also a stroke and brain aneurysm survivor, and her story of strength and resilience has been featured in the "50/50 Friendship Flow", "Ask Yourself This" by Shari Leid and on several podcasts, including "Power Moment" with Paula Lamas. She is also part of an all-women's sailing team.

Authorizing Signature (original signature): Dionne Foster **Date Signed (appointed):** 2/26/2026	**Appointing Signatory:** *Dionne Foster* *Council Member, Seattle City Council*

**Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.*

Linda Chavez-Lowry

CONTACT

[redacted]

HOBBIES:
Painting, Sailing, Tennis
Photography

EDUCATION

Chapman University
BA – Political Science/International Law
Women's Soccer Team – 4 years
Student Government Marketing & Communications Officer
Model United Nations
International Club Government Elect
Leadership Tomorrow: Civic Leadership focused on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI). Leadership development to include skills, tools, and strategies on leadership and being a change agent, including an ability to work with others to address systemic racism and build a more resilient and equitable region.
Sports Diversity Leadership Certified
Non-Profits Essentials Certified
Non-Profit Fundraising Certified
Grant Writing Certified
Published Journalist
Seattle Sailing Club Women's Sailing Team
Latina Community Leader

Awards:

- **Seattle Mariners Hometown Hero in Healthcare Award: 2021**
- AMpowering Global Leadership Award Marketing/PR/Media Category– 2019
- Women in Cloud (WiC) Technology Leadership Award- 2018
- Girl Scouts of America Top 100 Women Business Leaders in PacNW – 2017

WORK HISTORY

- **Seattle Magazine-** Director of Opportunities: February 2022- Present
- **Year Up-** Director Corporate Engagement**:** December 2022 – Present
- **DSA Solutions (Corporate Partnerships, Community Outreach, Government Relations, Marketing, Communications, Public Relations, Firm) Vice President of Community Engagement & Public Relations:** May 2014-Febrruary 2022
- **Diversity Center of Seattle:** DEI Instructor
- **Bloodworks Northwest- Reginal Business Development Manager & Corporate Healthcare Community Partnerships Manager:** February 2020- July 2021
- **Tiger Mountain IT – Director of Marketing & Corporate Partnerships, Government Relations in SAAS Solutions:** August 2015-December 2017
- **Pitney Bowes- Corporate Healthcare Partnerships, Government Relations, Business Development:**

February 2010-2015

- **Enterprise Rideshare – Regional Rideshare Director & Government Relations:** January 1998-2010

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 10+ years' experience in community engagement corporate & government relations.
  - Fundraising and creating strategic relationships with donors.
  - Brainstorm potential partnerships and methods to engage with the local community.
  - Maintaining a calendar for outreach events and working closely with community partners to plan and execute various outreach events.
- 10+ years in business development/sales generating revenue in won multi-million-dollar contracts.
  - Negotiated & led contract negotiation with Caltrans, the state of California Transportation Department.
  - Partnered with the Department of Defense (DOD) in starting and implementing a Rideshare Program throughout the U.S.
  - Worked with Providence during their acquisition of Swedish in updating and implementing their communications system in the Pacific Northwest.
- 10+ years in Public Relations
  - Communicate with donors and the media to represent the organization.
  - Press release, brochures, social media, e-mail campaigns and attending community events.
  - Strong relationship with local journalist, influencers, community leaders and opinion makers to promote community & non-profit events and initiatives.
  - Media training to include interviewing in front of a camera, working with media to drive coverage and manage inquires, and public speaking.
  - Developed training manual, my most recent is the audio training manual for the National Women's Political Caucus on "How to Run for Office and Win".
- 10+ years in fundraising for non-profits
  - Research and collects data and information to focus on donors, events and venues that may be useful to organizations.
- 10+ years in journalism
  - Recent Publications include
    - Seattle Magazine
    - Tacoma Weekly News
    - IBUKE Magazine
    - MODE Magazine
- 10+ years in digital brand marketing & Communications
  - Develop effective digital marketing campaigns to reach fundraising goals and community initiatives.
  - Experienced in wide range of communication materials including press statements, public posts, messaging, and speeches.
- Solid leadership administrative, organizational, and project management skills.
  - Event coordination and outreach coordination
  - Supervising staff and office work to benefit the organization.
- Grant writing.
- Experienced lobbyist and knowledgeable in working with the Department of Defense (DOD) and government relations.
- Working with executives in providing communications counsel.
- Contribute key insights and interact effectively with diverse groups of people.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills with the ability to motivate, mentor and influence others.
- Proficient in Google G-Suite & Microsoft Office, including Outlook, Word, PowerPoint, Excel, SharePoint, One-drive, Canva
- CRM proficient to include Salesforce and HubSpot.
- Successfully responded to high level RFP's which resulted in large account relationships.

MEDIA EXPERIENCE:

- **Seattle Magazine:** Executive Contributor, Journalist, Public Relations
- **National Women's Political Caucus:** Co-produced an audio manual training guide on "How to Run for Office" https://www.nwpc.org/
- **King 5/Take 5**: Community Contributor
- **KOMO/Univision**: Community Contributor
- **Seattle Social**: Managing Editor
- **PATCH** Contributor
- **North America Fashion Week:** Creative Director
- **IBUKI Magazine**: Lifestyle Journalist
- **Mode Magazine**: Lifestyle Editor

Community Engagement:

- **North America Fashion Week in partnership with the City of Renton: Creative Director:** 2021-Present
- **Columbia Tower Club Art Committee Founder & Chair:** 2010 – present
- **Seattle Start-up Week Program Director for Women-in- Tech:** 2016-2019
- **WiC (Women-in-Cloud) Leadership Board Director in Marketing and PR:** 2016-2018
- **Seattle Latino Film Festival Marketing Director:** 2014-2016

Board Member Affiliates:

- **Arts Unlimited of Renton: President:** March 2018-Present
- **Providence Executive Advisory Council O 'Christmas Trees**: January 2020- Present
- **Chairwomen University Club DEI Steering Committee**: July 2022 – present
- **Seattle Rotary 4 Mariners Group Commodore:** February 2022- present
- **Columbia Tower Club Art Committee Chair:** February 2010-Janaury 2023
- **Seattle Fashion Group International (FGI) Program Director:** January 2020-December 2021
- **AmPowering Marketing and Community Engagement:** 2021-September 2022

Seattle Arts Commission Roster

Seattle Arts Commission Roster

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RD Residential Council District number 1 through 7 or N/A

Diversity information is self-identified and is voluntary.

Legislation Text

File #: Appt 03454, **Version:** 1

Reappointment of Diana Garcia as member, Seattle Arts Commission, for a term to December 31, 2027.

The Appointment Packet is provided as an attachment.

City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: *Diana Garcia (Dhyana)*		
Board/Commission Name: *Seattle Arts Commission*		**Position Title:** *Member*
☐ **Appointment** ***OR*** ☒ **Reappointment**	**City Council Confirmation required?** ☒ Yes ☐ No	
Appointing Authority: ☒ City Council ☐ Mayor ☐ Other:	**Term of Position: *** 1/1/2026 **to** 12/31/2027 ☐ *Serving remaining term of a vacant position*	
Residential Neighborhood: Ballard	Zip Code: 98107	**Contact Phone No.*:*** [redacted]

Background:

Seasoned performing and teaching artist of Mexican origin, with 23 years of living and making art in the United States. With 19 of those in Seattle performing nationally and internationally, both as solo artist and collaborating with interdisciplinary artist, scholars, and scientists. With 15 years of experience teaching in higher education and eight as an entrepreneur in the wellness and fitness industries.

Dedicated to improving the life and health of others through mindfulness and mindful movement education, uplifting communities in general and of color in particular, advocating for healthy communities and connection with nature.

Mission-oriented learner / educator, who is self-motivated, organized, driven, and collaborative, with a keen interest in bringing mindfulness, mindful movement, and wellness strategies to the workplace and advocacy groups to incentivize inclusion, equity, and equality. Certified Ayurvedic Wellness Counselor, Certified Pilates and Yoga Instructor, and promoter of Mexican and Latino culture through annual retreats to Mexico.
https://www.meditationinmotiontoday.com/

Authorizing Signature (original signature): Dionne Foster **Date Signed (appointed):** 2/26/2026	**Appointing Signatory:** *Dionne Foster* *Council Member, Seattle City Council*

**Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.*

Diana Garcia (Dhyana)
International Performing and Teaching Artist

[redacted]

Summary

Seasoned performing and teaching artist of Mexican origin, with 23 years of living and making art in the United States. With 19 of those in Seattle performing nationally and internationally, both as solo artist and collaborating with interdisciplinary artist, scholars, and scientists. With 15 years of experience teaching in higher education and eight as an entrepreneur in the wellness and fitness industries.

Dedicated to improving the life and health of others through mindfulness and mindful movement education, uplifting communities in general and of color in particular, advocating for healthy communities and connection with nature.

Mission-oriented learner / educator, who is self-motivated, organized, driven, and collaborative, with a keen interest in bringing mindfulness, mindful movement, and wellness strategies to the workplace and advocacy groups to incentivize inclusion, equity, and equality. Certified Ayurvedic Wellness Councilor, Certified Pilates and Yoga Instructor, and promoter of Mexican and Latino culture through annual retreats to Mexico.

Skills

- **Collaborating** efficiently with artist, team members and colleagues to coordinate projects
- **Teaching** movement and dance for over 20 years
- **Performing** for over 30 years
- **Organizing** successful events and projects for different communities in Chicago and Seattle
- **Passion for promoting positive health behaviors** and life-work balance
- **Experience as grant writing and grant reviewer**
- **Experienced in remote communication**
- **Mindfulness and mindful movement advocate**
- **Warm, friendly, engaging, and positive personality**
- **Currently working on anti-racism** somatic/movement-bases programs
- **Interested in learning build, and sustain wealth within communities**.

Experience

DAIPANButoh Collective| Seattle, WA
Co-founder, Performer and Graphic Designer
06/2009 - Current

Performing, teaching, touring and organizing the annual Seattle Butoh Festival

- Advocating for butoh, an avant-garde performance practice with Japanese origins (1960's) as a healing and transformative practice.
- Co-directing workshops, festivals and residencies for the collective.
- Designing various graphic design projects

MEDITATION IN MOTION Yoga and Pilates| Seattle, WA
Co-founderm Co-Director & Lead Teacher
07/2020 - Current

Mentoring clients looking for effective guidance to improve their physical and mental health.

- Crafting and leading one-on-one personalized sessions, as well as large group classes.
- Recommending exercise and created personalized movement-based programs with nutrition, mindfulness and life-stile components.

ONIXBLOOM Retreats | Seattle / Mexico
Co-founder, Co-Director & Project manager
06/2019 - Current

In charge of designing, developing, and delivered wellness retreats for 10-20 individuals in Mexico, meeting 100% enrollment goal.

- Developing open and professional relationships with team members and participants enabling more effective issue resolution and engagement.
- Leading, teaching and public speaking skills and communication abilities to facilitate highest quality experiences for participants.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON Seattle
Part-Time Faculty/ Visiting Artist
Program of Dance
09/2006 -3/2023

Leading courses and master classes on Butoh, a Japanese avant-garde practice for healing and transformation that it is my specialty

- Teaching in -person and virtually
- Monitored student performance and offered feedback to support goals. achievement, engagement and creativity
- Evaluated student progress and adjusted learning plans to foster progress.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON Bothell
Part-Time Faculty
School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences
09/2011 - -3/2022

Planned, designed and led 2-4 carefully crafted dance-based interdisciplinary courses a year for over 12 years. In-person, online and study abroad formats

- Exposed and trained 15-35 students on each curse, in various dance techniques and mindful-movement practices from the perspective of dance and performance as social technologies for healing and transformation.
- Assessed students' progress and structured lesson plans to facilitate continued learning and a an accountable growth mind

Education and Training

University of Washington | Seattle, Washington 07/2008
Master of Fine Arts: Dance Education

Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana | Mexico City, Mexico 08/1998
Bachelor's Degree: Communication Design

Shakti Vinyasa Yoga | Seattle, Washington 06/2009
Vinyasa Flow Yoga Teacher

Vitality Pilates | Seattle, Washington 06/2010
Certified Pilates Instructor

Forrest Yoga | Onalaska, Washington 06/2009
Advance Forest Yoga Teacher

Kerala Ayurveda Academy | Milpitas, California 09/2018
Level I Ayurvedic Health Counselor Certification Program (AHC)

Seattle Arts Commission Roster

Seattle Arts Commission Roster

16 Members: Pursuant to ordinance 121006, all members subject to City Council confirmation, 2-year terms (Get-Engaged member serves a 1-year term):

- 7 City Council-appointed
- 7 Mayor-appointed
- 1 Commission-appointed
- 1 Get-Engaged

(Roster as of 1/30/2026)

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
2	M	2	1.	At-Large	Ed King	01/01/25	12/31/26	1st	City Council
6	F	7	2.	At-Large	Megan Kiskaddon	01/01/26	12/31/27	2nd	City Council
3	F	1	3.	At-Large	Vanessa Villalobos	01/01/25	12/31/26	3rd	City Council
3	F	1	4.	At-Large	Linda Chavez-Lowry	01/01/26	12/31/27	2nd	City Council
6	M	5	5.	At-Large	Ricky Graboski	01/01/26	12/31/27	3rd	City Council
3	F	6	6.	At-Large	Diana Garcia (Dhyana)	01/01/26	12/31/27	2nd	City Council
6	F	5	7.	At-Large	Kate Nagle-Caraluzzo	01/01/25	12/31/26	1st	City Council
4	F	N/A	8.	At-Large	Yolanda Spencer	01/01/26	12/31/27	2nd	Commission
			9.	At-Large	vacant				Mayor
2 & 9	F	1	10.	At-Large	Avery Barnes	01/01/26	12/31/27	2nd	Mayor
			11.	At-Large	vacant				Mayor
			12.	At-Large	vacant				Mayor
			13.	At-Large	vacant				Mayor
1	F	N/A	14.	At-Large	Yoon Kang-O'Higgins	01/01/26	12/31/27	2nd	Mayor
1, 4, & 6	F&O	7	15.	At-Large	Jo Mikesell	01/01/25	12/31/26	1st	Mayor
6	M		16.	Get-Engaged	Jack Nash	09/01/25	08/31/26	One	Mayor

SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART

	Men	Women	Transgender	Other/ Unknown	(1) Asian	(2) Black/ African America n	(3) Hispanic/ Latino	(4) American Indian/ Alaska Native	(5) Other (Specification Optional)	(6) Caucasian / Non-Hispanic	(7) Pacific Islander	(8) Middle Eastern	(9) Multiracial
Mayor	1	3		1	2	1		1		2			1
Council	2	5				1	3			3			
Other		1						1					
Total	*3*	*9*		*1*	*2*	*2*	*3*	*2*		*5*			1

Key:

***D** List the corresponding *Diversity Chart* number (1 through 9)

****G** List *gender*, **M** = Male, **F**= Female, **T**= Transgender, **U**= Unknown, **O**= Other

RD Residential Council District number 1 through 7 or N/A

Diversity information is self-identified and is voluntary.

Legislation Text

File #: Appt 03455, **Version:** 1

Reappointment of Ricky Graboski as member, Seattle Arts Commission, for a term to December 31, 2027.

The Appointment Packet is provided as an attachment.

City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: *Ricky Graboski*		
Board/Commission Name: *Seattle Arts Commission*		**Position Title:** *Member*
☐ **Appointment** ***OR*** ☒ **Reappointment**	**City Council Confirmation required?** ☒ Yes ☐ No	
Appointing Authority: ☒ City Council ☐ Mayor ☐ Other:	**Term of Position: *** 1/1/2026 **to** 12/31/2027 ☐ *Serving remaining term of a vacant position*	
Residential Neighborhood: North Seattle	Zip Code: 98103	**Contact Phone No.:** [redacted]
Background: Ricky Graboski's personal and professional history are intertwined with America's underground DIY scene. He currently serves as Executive Director of The Vera Project, an all-ages music venue, arts incubator, and community center in Seattle. Before Vera, Ricky coordinated grassroots initiatives in Detroit, worked in musician engagement in New York, and ran a national community organizing training center based in Houston. During that time, he also played in terrible punk bands and volunteered at influential DIY spaces Death by Audio and Shea Stadium in Brooklyn. At Vera, Ricky has dedicated his time to advocating for the DIY scene and community-centered cultural spaces, building all-ages programming at the intersection of art and activism.		
Authorizing Signature (original signature): Dionne Foster **Date Signed (appointed):** 2/26/2026	**Appointing Signatory:** *Dionne Foster* *Council Member, Seattle City Council*	

**Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.*

Ricky Graboski

[redacted]

Experience

Executive Director – The Vera Project *October 2019 – Present*

- Oversee and contribute to all day-to-day activities at The Vera Project, including shows, classes, community organizing and engagement work, special events, and fiscal sponsorships
- Direct and operate all strategic development, fundraising, and partnership efforts for The Vera Project and affiliated programs
- Manage ten staff members, 20 event production trainees, 10 teaching artists, one-hundred members, and hundreds of volunteers.

Co-founder & Organizer – West Coast All Ages *June 2020 – Present*

- Co-lead a community-driven coalition, grant program, and advocacy network for all-ages spaces in the Western United States

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Development & Advocacy Director - The Vera Project *June 2018 – October 2019*

- Directed all community organizing, community engagement, and fundraising activities for The Vera Project

Executive Director – The Reservoir Coalition *January 2017 – August 2018*

- Directed a nationwide grassroots organizing training center for young people, offering training, resources, and partnership opportunities for emerging activists and youth community leaders
- Managed two employees, rotating interns, twelve regional volunteer leaders, advisory board, and dozens of national volunteers
- Provided consulting services to several nonprofits and activist groups working to expand their community impact

Community Engagement Manager – Volunteer Houston *June 2015 - January 2017*

- Directed and coordinated all community outreach, advocacy, and corporate service programming at Volunteer Houston
- Created and directed Sustainable Schoolyards program to engage community partners in building outdoor classrooms, planting community gardens, providing progressive educational programming, and campaigning for the environment at Title 1 schools

Organizational Development Coordinator – Jazz Foundation of America *March 2014 - June 2015*

- Led various jazz & blues community concert series to offer employment, housing, and healthcare opportunities to elder musicians
- Worked directly in musician/client outreach, operated all social media, developed database, and coordinated benefit events

Organizer – Harriet Tubman Center *February 2012 - September 2013*

- Coordinated collaborative, youth-led campaigns to promote ceasefire initiatives and fight police brutality
- Assisted in the promotion and obtainment of multi-million-dollar Ceasefire grant and associated programming for Detroit

Field Supervisor - Southwest Solutions *March 2011 - October 2011*

- Led groups of young people in Southwest Detroit to campaign for youth empowerment opportunities and ceasefire efforts, building large-scale mobilizations, canvasing for GIS data on local crises, and holding community-led town halls

Project Supervisor – Building Blocks *July 2010 - January 2011*

- Supervised a group of forty neighborhood residents and two youth employees in environmental campaigning, weatherization and neighborhood beautification projects, extensive grassroots outreach, grant management, and town hall meetings

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Education

NYU Wagner School of Public Service *August 2013- May 2015*

Master's Degree in Public and Nonprofit Management and Policy with a focus on International Development

Kalamazoo College *September 2009- June 2013*

Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology/Sociology with a concentration in Public Policy and Urban Affairs

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RD Residential Council District number 1 through 7 or N/A

Diversity information is self-identified and is voluntary.

Legislation Text

File #: Appt 03456, **Version:** 1

Reappointment of Megan Kiskaddon as member, Seattle Arts Commission, for a term to December 31, 2027.

The Appointment Packet is provided as an attachment.

City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: *Megan Kiskaddon*		
Board/Commission Name: *Seattle Arts Commission*		**Position Title:** *Member*
☐ **Appointment** ***OR*** ☒ **Reappointment**	**City Council Confirmation required?** ☒ Yes ☐ No	
Appointing Authority: ☒ City Council ☐ Mayor ☐ Other:	**Term of Position: *** 1/1/2026 **to** 12/31/2027 ☐ *Serving remaining term of a vacant position*	
Residential Neighborhood: Queen Anne	Zip Code: 98119	**Contact Phone No.:** [redacted]

Background:

Megan Kiskaddon is Executive Director of On the Boards, Seattle's home for contemporary performance. Previously, she was interim Chief Education and Community Engagement Officer at SFMOMA, where she oversaw artist driven, socially engaged, discursively inclined, and educationally focused initiatives. She served for several years on the Advisory Board for Emerging Arts Professionals, an equity-centered organization focused on empowerment and leadership in the arts. She holds a BA in Sociology from Mills College, an MA from the Institute for Curatorial Practice in Performance at Wesleyan University, and is an alumna of the NextGen Getty Leadership Institute for executive education.

Note from Megan: As a newcomer to the city, I'm interested in the Seattle Arts Commission as a way to be more deeply involved in Seattle arts and advocacy. Before moving, I served on public art panels for the San Francisco Arts Commission when I lived in the Bay Area, and have supported and admired city processes in my previous role at SFMOMA, including working on major projects in partnership with the SFAC, Public Works, the public library system, public unified school system, and city college of San Francisco. Serving on the Seattle Arts Commission would continue my energy in this realm within the city of Seattle which I lovingly now call home. Additionally, I think I could be a helpful voice for the performing arts.

Authorizing Signature (original signature): Dionne Foster **Date Signed (appointed):** 2/26/2026	**Appointing Signatory:** *Dionne Foster* *Council Member, Seattle City Council*

**Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.*

MEGAN KISKADDON

EXPERIENCE	SKILLS
• 10+ years in arts programming with local & global artists • Strategic program design of artist commissions, public programs, and educational initiatives • 10+ years complex budget planning, analysis, & reporting • 10+ years team management, staff supervision • Artist projects across in-person and digital platforms, serving diverse audiences, and championing art for social change	• Executive Leadership • Fundraising • Change Management • Public Speaking • Project Management • Advocacy and consensus building • Strategic planning • Collaborative problem solving • Working under pressure and within deadlines • Sense of humor, emotional intelligence

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Executive Director** March 2023 – Present
  On the Boards
  Lead On the Boards in fulfilling our mission to support and present cutting-edge, contemporary performance. Develop and direct organizational strategy, managing a team of 12 and a budget of 1.8m.

- **Interim Chief Officer, Education and Community Engagement** August 2021 – February 2023
  SFMOMA
  Museum executive team member. Led the division of 22 staff across Education, Public Engagement, Interpretive Media, and Publications departments as well as Board committee. Supported local and globally renowned programs through commissions, public programs, scholarship, and interpretation, serving audiences of all ages through live and digital platforms, with an emphasis on learning, engagement, and belonging.

- **Director of Strategic Initiatives** October 2019 – July 2021
  SFMOMA
  Developed and directed a portfolio of large-scale, cross-functional initiatives at the museum to fulfill top-level objectives of the Strategic Plan and establish programmatic sustainability. Worked across staff divisions, Board, and community to problem solve, define goals, and build consensus on major initiatives such as diversity, equity and inclusion, impact evaluation, community engagement, and civic partnerships.

- **Interim Director, Education and Public Practice** October 2018 – September 2019
  Assistant Director, Education and Public Practice November 2014 – October 2018
  SFMOMA
  Lead and steward museum's educational, artist-centered, and community driven priorities and programs. Oversee $2m+ operating budget as well as long-range financial planning. Manage 24 staff and create sustainable staffing models. Work interdepartmentally on major projects, such as artist initiatives, architectural expansion, and strategic planning. Manage complex analysis and reporting, measures of impact, and timelines. Direct 20 member Board Committee.

- **Coordinator, Education and Public Programs** June 2010 – October 2014
  SFMOMA
  Project management of multiple simultaneous artist commissions and public programs. Development and oversight of budgets, coordination of marketing and communications, and reporting. Supervision of staff and interns.

- **Assistant, Education and Public Programs** August 2008 – May 2010
  SFMOMA
- **Development Assistant, Individual Giving** August 2006 – July 2008
  SFMOMA

EDUCATION

- **NextGen Participant, Museum Executive Education**
  Getty Leadership Institute
  Claremont Graduate University Claremont, CA 2018

- **Master of Arts, Performance Curation**
  Institute for Curatorial Practice in Performance
  Wesleyan University Middletown, CT 2016
  Thesis: *Changing Models of Arts Organizations in San Francisco*

- **Bachelor of Arts, Sociology**
  Mills College Oakland, CA 2006
  Thesis: *The Dandy as Modern Transitional Figure*
  Awarded: Honors, Phi Beta Kappa Society, Sociology Student of the Year
  Pitzer College Claremont, CA

PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- **Emerging Arts Professionals (EAP/SFBA) – Advisory Board**
  2017-2023, Advisory Board member. Financial sustainability, fundraising and program.

- **IMLS – Grant Reviewer**
  2016-present, Museums for America, Museums Empowered, and National Leadership Grants for Museums peer reviewer.

- **Stanford University – Art Strategies Lab Think Tank**
  2019 Participant in Stanford Arts Institute's Art Strategies Lab think tank with Peggy Phelan centered on diversity and inclusion in the arts.

- **Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco – Community Advisor**
  2019 Member of the Community Advisors Group at FAMSF.

- **Racial Equity in the Arts – Member**
  2019-2020 Member of the Racial Equity in the Arts working group organized by the San Francisco Human Rights Commission.

- **Co-Founder, Bay Area Public Programmers**
  2019-2021 Co-founder of local professional network of museum peers in public programming.

- **Co-Founder, Public Programs and Engagement network**
  2019-2021 Co-founder of national network for museum professionals who work in public programming and engagement.

- **Venice Biennale – Anna Halprin Project Manager**
  2017 Organized the Anna Halprin exhibition at the Venice Biennale, including associated *Planetary Dance* public performance and catalogue essay.

- **San Francisco Arts Commission (SFAC) – Artist Selection Panelist**
  2018 Art on Market Street Poster Series selection panel
  2017 Margaret Hayward Playground artist selection panel

- **Select Speaking Engagements**
  2019 ODC *Adapting to Artist Practices*
  2018 Margaret Jenkins Dance Lab *Dance and Visual Art* with Simpson/Stulberg
  2017 SFMOMA *50 Artists: Andrea Geyer*
  2017 Stanford University *Conversations in Creativity*
  2016 YBCA *Dinner and a Movie,* 2013 YBCA *Words on Word/Play* with Hope Mohr
  2014 APAP *Trends in Curatorial Practice in Performance*

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Legislation Text

File #: Inf 2857, **Version:** 1

Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections - Rental Programs Overview

Seattle Department of Construction & Inspections

Housing, Arts, and Civil Rights Committee
March 11, 2026

SDCI Rental Programs Overview

Geoff Tallent, Code Compliance Director
Maureen Roat, Rental Programs Manager

Helping people build a safe, livable, and inclusive Seattle.

What to Expect

- SDCI Renter Programs
  - Who We Are
  - What We Do
- Our Codes
- Intersection with State Landlord-Tenant Laws
- Outreach – Renting in Seattle
- Community Partnerships & Grants
- Intersection with other City Departments
- How Customers Reach Us
- Our Numbers – 2025
- 2026 Priorities

Who We Are & What We Do

- Property Owner and Tenant Assistance (POTA) - (11 FTE – mostly General Fund)
  - Investigate complaints and enforce City rental housing regulations
  - Administer tenant relocation benefits
- Rental Housing Standards (About 4 FTE – General Fund)
  - Investigate and enforce City maintenance, habitability, and safety standards for rental housing
- Rental Registration and Inspection (RRIO) – (13 FTE – fee supported)
  - Ensure minimum safety standards are met for rental housing
- Outreach & Education
  - Respond to questions from owners and renters about rights and duties
  - Host landlord trainings
  - Maintain web and print materials in compliance with accessibility standards
- Tenant Services Grants – $2.5M in grants
  - Partner with CBOs to connect with hard-to-reach communities & provide essential services for housing stability
- Subject Matter Expertise
  - Serve as resource for City government and other jurisdictions on landlord-tenant law, front-line perspective, and research

Our Codes - Maintenance, Habitability, & Safety

Housing and Building Maintenance Code (HMBC)	Rental Registration and Inspection Ordinance (RRIO) –
Rental housing minimum standards, including: •Maintenance •Structural integrity •Heat •Ventilation •Electrical •Fire safety and security Complaint-based response	• Applies to most rental housing in the City • Based on HBMC • Registration must be renewed every 2 years • Properties are selected at random for inspection every 5-10 years • RRIO includes non-owner-occupied short-term rentals

Our Codes – Tenant Protections

Rental Agreements & Fees

- Move-In Costs
- Late & Notice Fees
- Non-Electronic Payments
- Notice of Rent Increases
- Roommates
- Security Deposits

Prohibited Acts

- Retaliation
- Rent increases when property fails RRIO inspection
- Lockouts
- Impeding tenant right to organize
- Illegal entry

Duties of Owners

- Keys/access
- Maintain clean & habitable premises
- Provide for pest extermination
- Make all repairs as required by the Code

Our Codes - Evictions

Eviction Protections

- Right to Counsel
- Just Cause Eviction Ordinance
- Right of First Refusal/Lease Renewal

Eviction Defenses

- RRIO Registration
- School Year Defense
- Winter Eviction Defense

Our Codes – Relocation Assistance

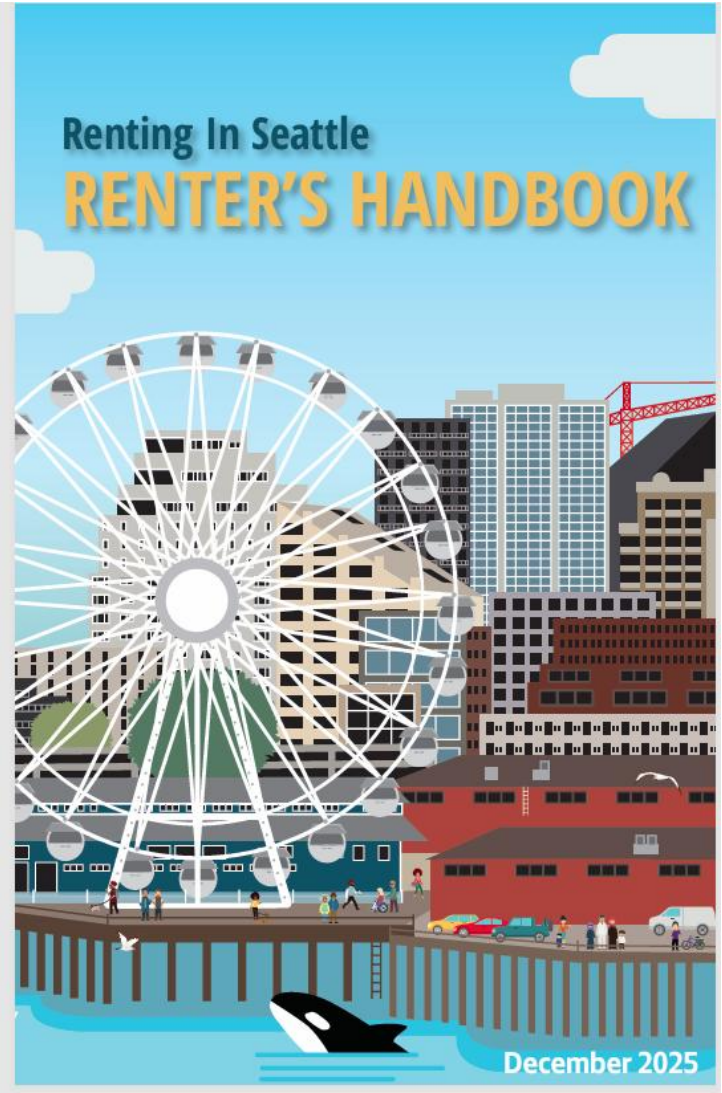
Tenant Relocation Assistance Ordinance (TRAO)	• Development, change of use, removal of rent restrictions • Provides early notice to all and $5,354 to 50% AMI or less
Economic Displacement Relocation Assistance Ordinance (EDRA)	• Rent increase of 10% or more • Provides up to 3x rent to 80% AMI or less
Emergency and Other Relocation Assistance	• Imminently hazardous housing conditions, unpermitted units • Financial assistance (varies) for situations within the owner's control or caused by owner neglect

Intersection with State Landlord-Tenant Laws

- **Rent Stabilization** – SDCI educates renters and owners on limitations in rent increases and form requirements.
- **Notices to Terminate for Cause & Lease Renewals** – SDCI refers owners to the State's requirements for language, content, and service.
- **Timeline for Repairs** – SDCI provides renters and owners with the applicable timelines for repair and alternate remedies based on the individualized situation.
- **Security Deposits** – SDCI offers guidance and self-help materials for renters seeking return of their deposits.

Outreach - Renting in Seattle

- **“Renting in Seattle”** branded to be easy to find and navigate City services for renters
- **Website** written for both renter and landlord audience – www.seattle.gov/rentinginseattle
- **Landlord Trainings** – at least four planned for 2026
- **Renter’s Handbook** – in 14 languages, partner with Rental Housing Association on distribution
- **Landlord newsletter** – sent approx. quarterly to ~19,000 email addresses
- **Partner Trainings** – community organizations, landlord organizations, etc.
- **Community events** – SDCI home fairs, SHA housing fairs, food banks, etc.



Community Partners & Grants

- SDCI looks to Community partners for:
  - Eviction & legal defense
  - Culturally relevant outreach and education
  - Supportive services - casework, dispute resolution
  - Access to hard-to-reach communities
- SDCI provides training, support, and coordination
- Annual grant solicitation (~$2.5M in 2026 and the 2027-2028 baseline)

ORGANIZATION	GRANT AMOUNT
BE:SEATTLE	$122,000
DISPUTE RESOLUTION	$143,872
HOUSING JUSTICE PROJECT	$900,000
INTERIM CDA	$86,250
QLAW	$150,000
QUEER POWER ALLIANCE	$72,143
SOLID GROUND	$145,045
TENANT LAW CTR	$435,000
TENANTS UNION	$83,000
UNITED INDIANS	$52,705
VILLA COMUNITARIA	$271,131

Intersection with Other City Departments

Seattle Office for Civil Rights – Housing discrimination laws, including Fair Chance Housing and First in Time, testing program, mediation, outreach

Department of Neighborhoods – Renters' Commission staffing

Human Services Department - Rent assistance through community organizations

Office of Housing – Rent and income restricted affordable housing development, housing weatherization

City Utilities – Utility accounts and payment, shutoffs, and the Utility Discount Program

Community-based organizations – Eviction defense, outreach & education, casework, rent and other direct assistance, renter and landlord advocacy

How Customers Reach Us

Customer submits a complaint through the Seattle Services Portal or calls Renting in Seattle – 206-684-5700

→

Intake team handles basic questions, immediate referrals, & routing

→

Complaints are triaged based on priority level (1st priority to emergency conditions, lock outs, evictions & rent increases)

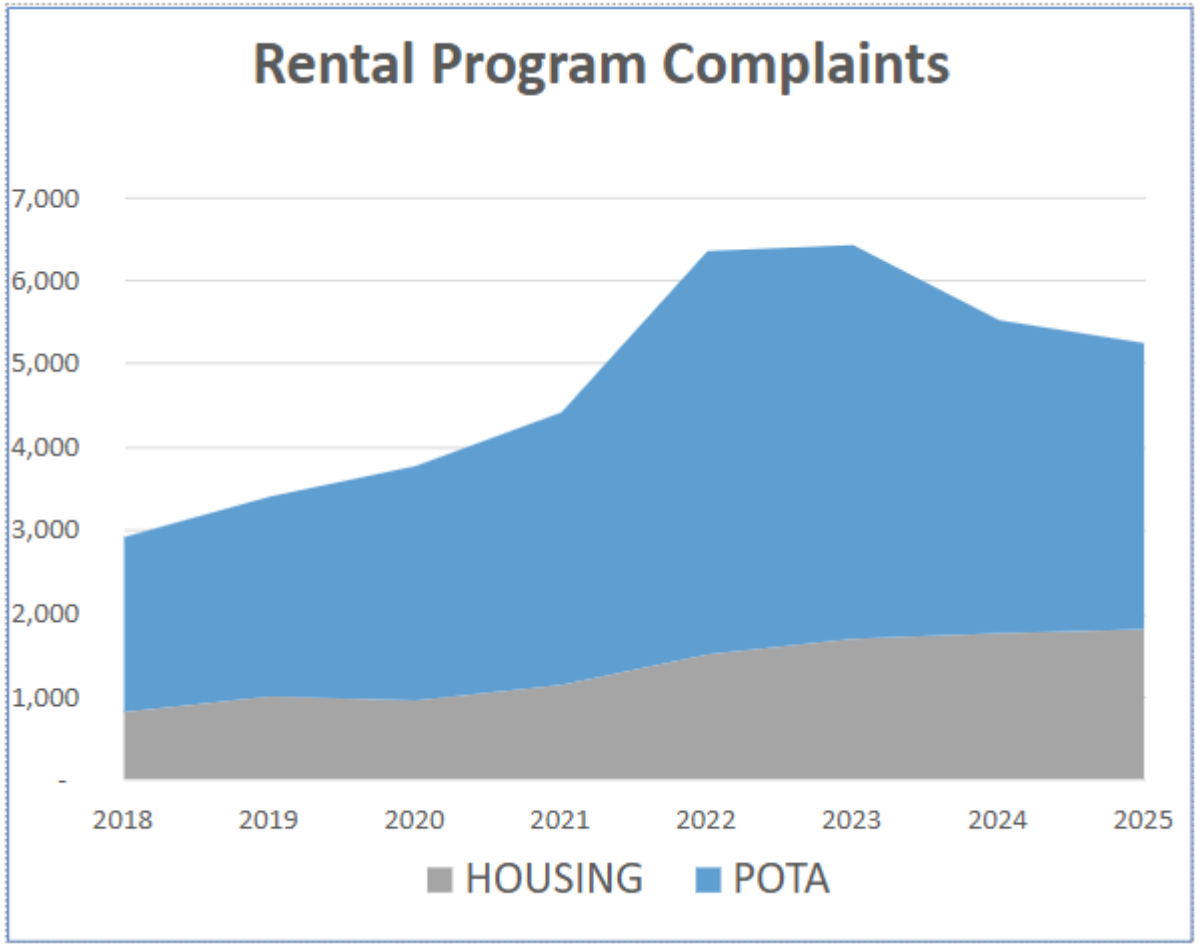
→

Specialist or Inspector contacts customer for follow up investigation

SDCI – Our Numbers

Work stabilizing after the pandemic peak?

- About 70% increase over pre-pandemic
- Rental complaints made 5,284 (2025)
- Rental complaints addressed 5,290 (2025)
- Analysis of triage system: 1-day median staff response time, 28-day average response time. (POTA complaints that came in 2024 through April 2025)
- Enforcement cases – 289
- Most complaints are resolved through coaching and voluntary compliance



2025 Outputs by Program

TRAO

- 86 Households
- $2630 avg./household

EDRA

- 75 Households
- $4738 avg./household

RRIO

- 28,452 Registered Properties
- 195,455 Units
- 3,608 property inspections

Outreach

- 22 hosted or staffed events
- Over 800 owners & property managers trained

Grants

- 9,244 direct tenant contacts
- 147,000 digital outreach contacts

2026 Priorities

- Adapt to the “new normal” for workload
- Improve Customer Experience
  - Update customer intake systems
    - EDRA intake & IT system (already underway)
  - Expand collaboration with community partners to meet unmet needs
  - Complete accessibility work for all public facing materials
- Improve RRIO IT system
- Provide subject-matter expertise and support to policy makers

Contact Information

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SDCI Renter Programs -
www.seattle.gov/rentinginseattle

Legislation Text

File #: Inf 2858, **Version:** 1

Seattle Office of Housing - Homeownership Programs Overview

Homeownership and Homeowner Supports

Housing, Arts, and Civil Rights Committee

Joy Hunt, Interim Manager of Homeownership Programs
Kelli Larsen, Director of Policy & Planning

Agenda

1. The Need for Homeownership
2. The Office of Housing's Role in Homeownership
3. HomeWise Home Repair and Weatherization Programs
4. Permanently Affordable Homes For-Sale
5. Opportunities and Challenges

The Need for Homeownership

Affordable Homeownership Changes Lives

- Stable housing prevents displacement and creates diverse neighborhoods.
- Key strategy to address the racial wealth gap.
- Permanently affordable homes maintain affordability at resale for 50+ years.

Seattle Needs 112,000 Homes by 2044

Housing Unit Needs by AMI and Funding Source

0-30% AMI PSH	0-30% AMI non-PSH	30-50% AMI	50-80% AMI	80-120% AMI	120% AMI+
15,024	28,572	19,144	7,986	11,572	29,702

Affordable

Private Market

OH-Funded Homeownership (40%–80% AMI)

OH-Funded PSH and non-PSH (0-30% AMI)

OH-Funded Rental Housing (0-60% AMI)

MFTE Restr. (50–90% AMI)

MFTE Unrestricted (90% AMI+)

Overlap in Income-Restricted and Private Market Rents

Notes: Assumes 2.4 person household
Source: Countywide Planning Policies, King County Growth Management Planning Council, 2023

OH's Role in Homeownership

Forms of Support

- HomeWise home repair programs.
- HomeWise weatherization and energy efficiency programs.
- Funding for acquisition and construction of permanently affordable homes.
- Homeowner stabilization services.
- Down payment assistance.
  - 36 income eligible households supported since 2020 with over $1.9M in assistance.

2026 OH Homeownership Investments

	JumpStart / PET	2023 Levy	MHA	Grants/Other	**Total**
Homeownership	$8m	$7m	$1m		$16m
Weatherization & Home Repair	$2m			$7m	$9m
Total	$10m	$7m	$1m	$7m	**$25m**

HomeWise Home Repair and Weatherization Programs

Home Repair Loan & Grant Program

Loan Program

- Provides affordable loans to income-qualified homeowners to address critical health, safety, and structural issues.

Grant Program

- Income-qualified and your repair presents a more urgent health or safety issue.

Weatherization and Oil-to-Electric Client

Weatherization Program

Provides **FREE** energy efficient improvements to income-qualified homes by decreasing energy bills, increasing comfort, and saving money.

Weatherization & Oil-to-Electric Client

Oil-to-Electric Program

- Free oil-to-electric conversion for homeowners and renters.
- Partnership between Office of Housing, Office of Sustainability and Environment, and Seattle City Light.
- Creates safe and healthy homes for low-income renters and homeowners.
- Addresses high living costs and displacement.

Mitsubishi Electric Heat Pump

HomeWise Helps Seattle Residents

- Over 1,150 single family and multi-family homes weatherized.
- Converted 263 low-income homes from oil/gas to electric heat through Clean Heat Program.
- Over 85 home repair loans and grants.

Permanently Affordable Homeownership: For-Sale Homes

Origins of Permanently Affordable Homeownership

- Habitat for Humanity founded at Koinonia Farm in Americus, Georgia, in 1942.
- Community Land Trusts (CLTs) founded in 1969 with the establishment of New Communities, Inc. in Albany, Georgia.
- Created to secure land for African American farmers facing discrimination and to provide affordable, community-controlled housing.

How Permanently Affordable Homeownership Works

- Eligibility below 80% AMI.
- Home prices aim to meet 65% AMI.
- To calculate price: 35% of pre-tax income used for housing cost.
- Housing cost includes principal, interest, property taxes, insurance, HOA dues, and stewardship fee.
- Current permanently affordable home prices for buyers: $250-$350K.

How Permanently Affordable Homeownership Works

HOME

- Homebuyer purchases home.
- Homeowner leases the land in a long-term, renewable lease.
- Homeowner agrees to sell homes at restricted prices.

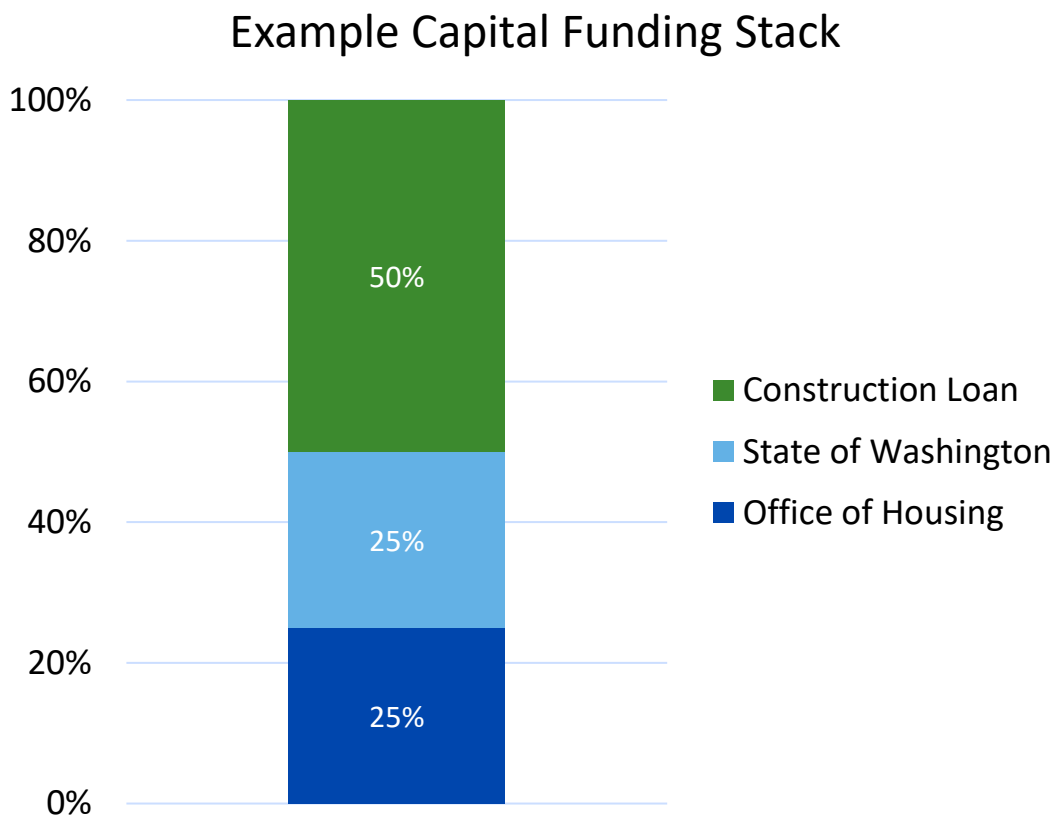
LAND

- Owned by a nonprofit.
- Nonprofit provides long-term stewardship.
- Ensures homes are sold at affordable prices to income eligible buyers in perpetuity.

Typical Homeownership Capital Funding

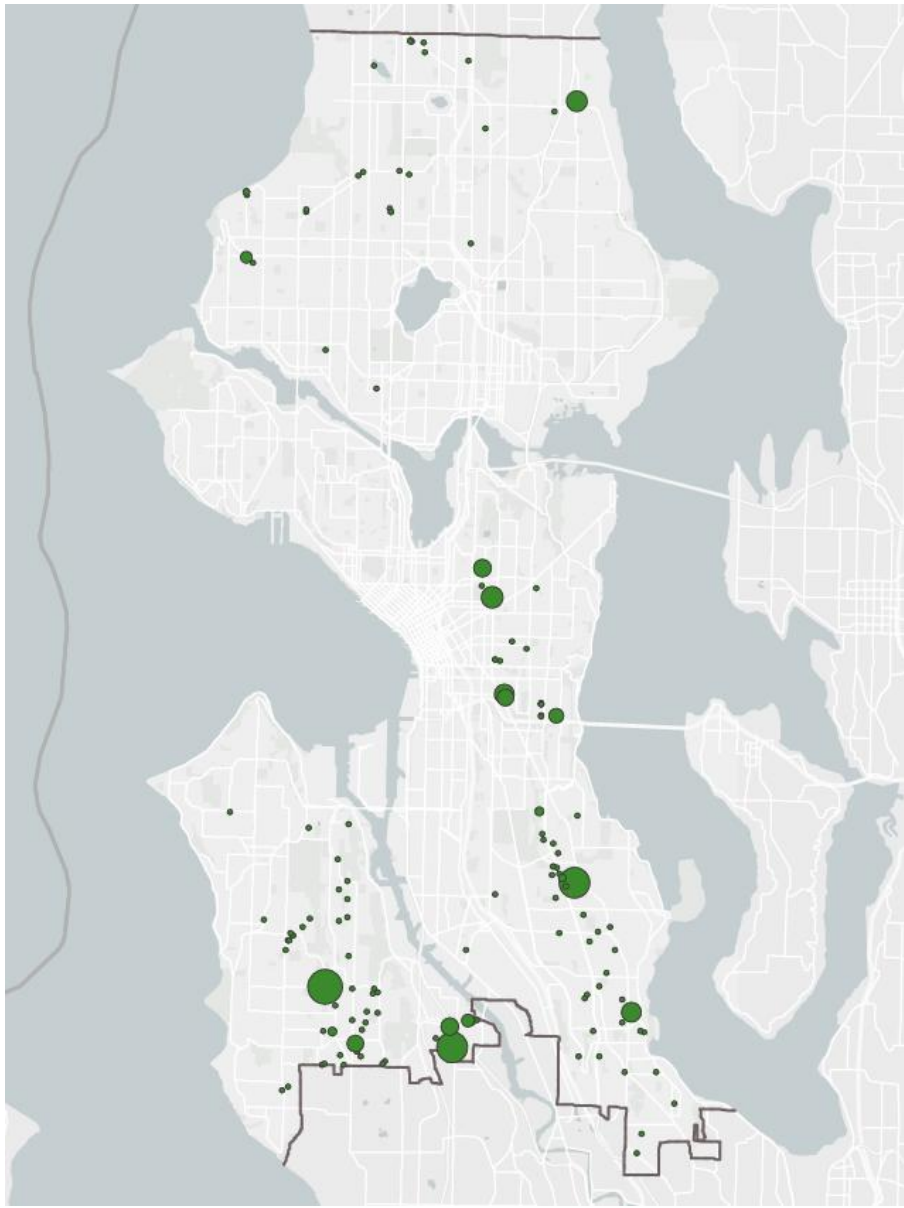
Every $1 of Seattle OH homeownership capital investment leverages $3 of state and private investment.

Projects face long delays for state funding needed to match local investment.



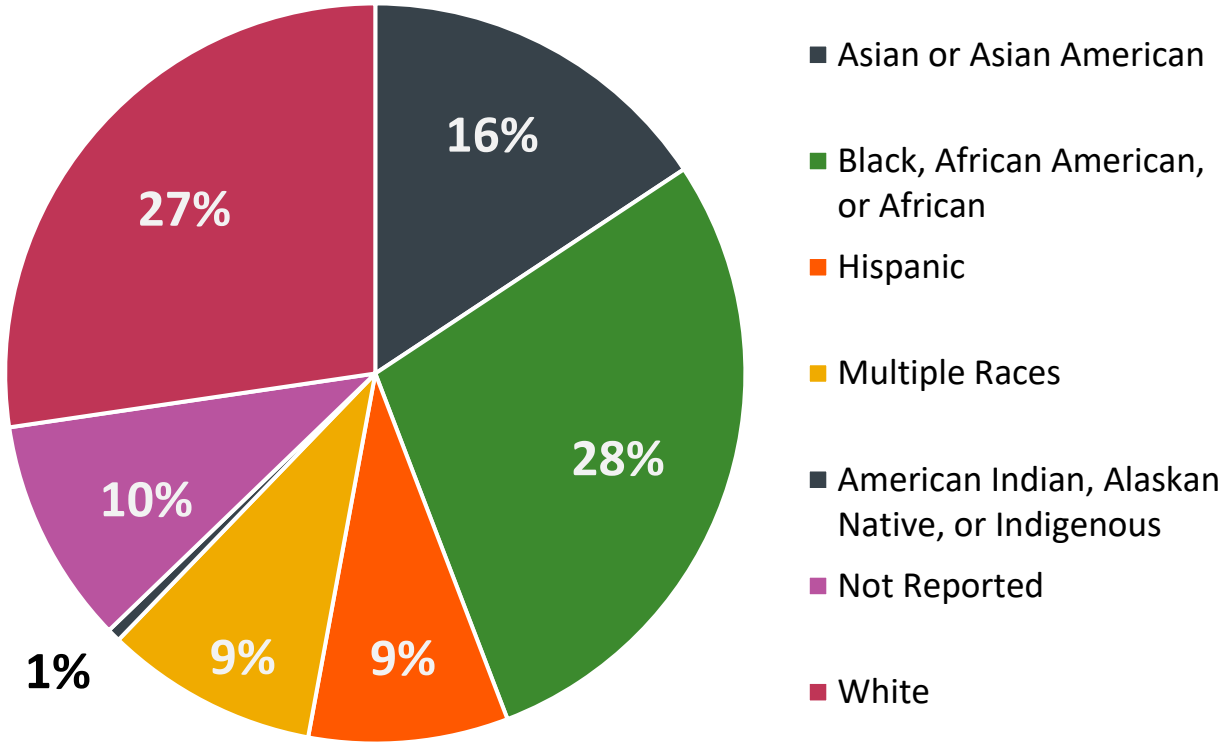
Existing Investments

- To date, over 350 permanently affordable homes completed in Seattle.
- Over 85% of our homes are in South Seattle, and over 85% of homes are 2-bedrooms or larger.
- Majority family housing:
  - 47% 2-bedroom
  - 39% 3-bedroom+

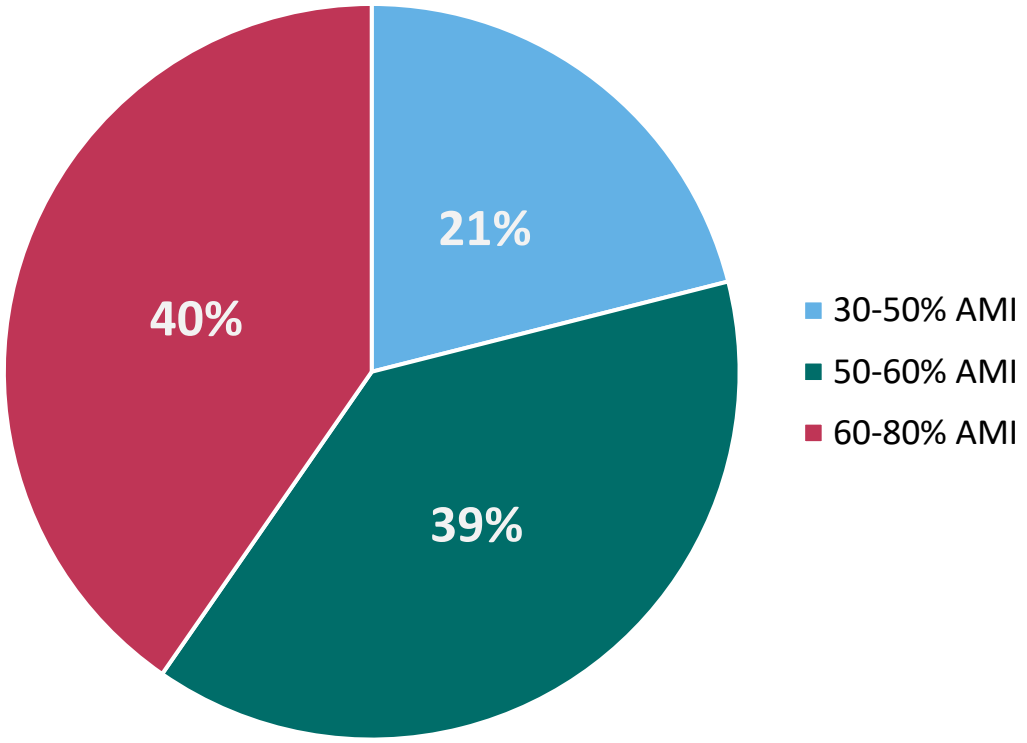


OH Supports BIPOC and Low-Income Homeownership

OH Homebuyer Demographics by Race



OH Homebuyer Demographics by Income



Project Spotlight: Liberty Commons

- 58 new homes in Columbia City by Habitat for Humanity.
- Largest single-building Habitat for Humanity project in the US.
- Community Preference policy applied to prevent displacement.
- Opening July 2026.
- Habitat has over 200 homes in their pipeline in Seattle.

Project Spotlight: Woodland View

- Homestead Community Land Trust
- 19 permanently affordable homes with ground-floor retail
- 1- and 2-bedroom homes
- Priced between $245,000 - $315,000
- Opening Spring 2026

Project Spotlight: Goodwill Baptist

- Goodwill Missionary Baptist Church
- Homestead Community Land Trust to build an underground parking lot for the church with 34 homes above
- 1, 2 and 3-bedroom homes
- Priced between $245,000 - $315,000
- Opening late 2028

Project Spotlight: Rainier Valley Affordable Homeownership Initiative

- Ten sites of Sound Transit surplus land from light rail construction.
- Goals:
  - Build 100 new homes (already met through nine sites).
  - Mitigate displacement.
  - Build capacity of community-based organizations.

Developers include: Habitat for Humanity, Homestead Community Land Trust, and African Community Housing and Development.

Opportunities and Challenges

Opportunities

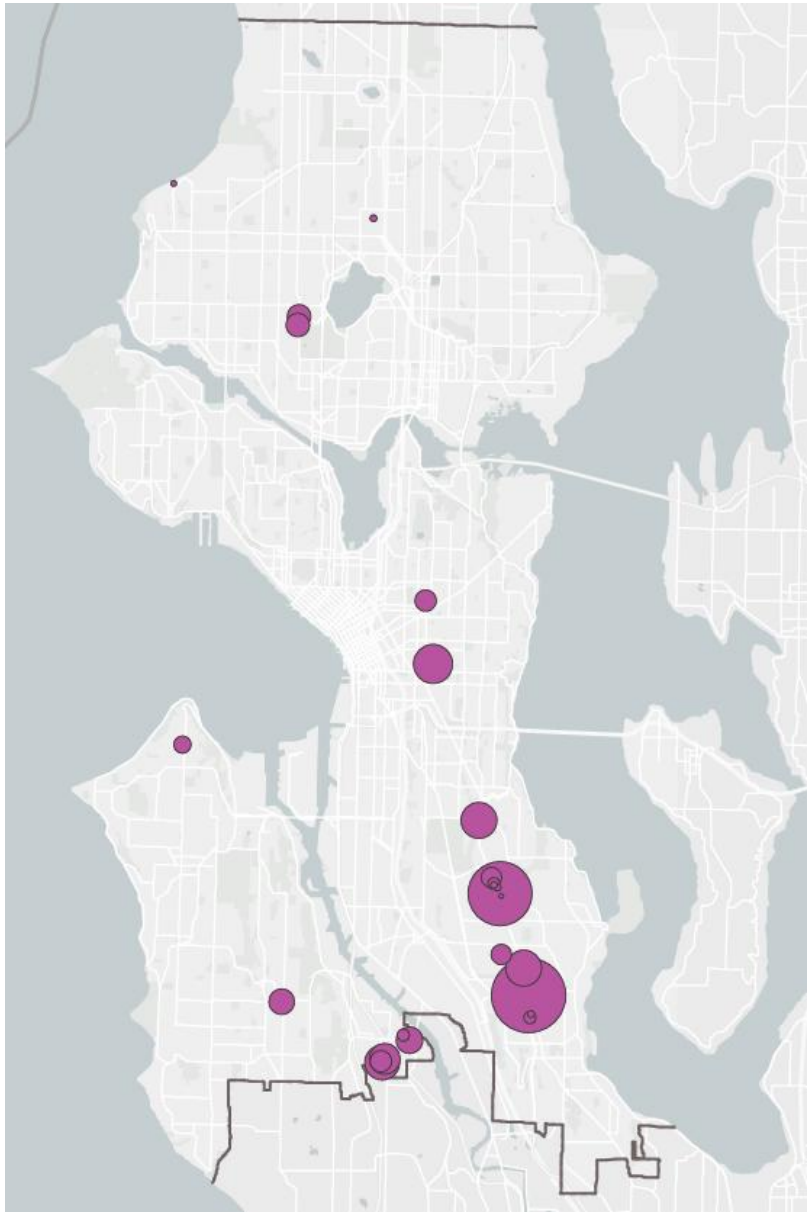
- Flexible, first-in local resources: Housing Levy, MHA, and PET.
- Utilizing public land for new homes.
- Flexible model: Large condos and small lot infill.
- Shared goals with Social Housing.
  - Free from market speculation.
  - Permanently affordable.
  - Affordable asset in perpetuity.
- New programs and policies to assist market-rate homeowners.

Challenges

- Managing demand for our homes.
- Consistent and reliable access to leveraged funds.
  - Long delays for state funding needed to match local investment.
  - High interest rates for construction loans.
- Funding for ongoing stewardship.

Robust Future for Homeownership

- 455 permanently affordable homes in the OH pipeline.
- Over 20 projects ranging from 2-68 homes.
- Majority of homes are family housing.
  - 49% 2-bedrooms
  - 20% 3-bedrooms
  - 3% 4-bedrooms
- Fort Lawton will add approximately 200 additional homeownership homes.



Thank you