

Don Blakeney Executive Director, **U** District Partnership

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U District Partnership

- Place Management Organization
- Established 2015 (Greater U District Chamber of Commerce 1914 2014)
- 501(c)3 Nonprofit
- Program Manager for the U District Business Improvement Area



















Our mission

The U District Partnership is the voice for Seattle's University District neighborhood, improving and promoting its vibrancy through advocacy, public safety, cleaning, economic development, placemaking, events, marketing, and social services.

Our vision for the U District

The U District is a unique and diverse neighborhood as well as the proud home of the University of Washington. We welcome people from all over the globe to experience our vibrant small businesses, participate in our time-honored traditions, and to pursue big ideas that can change the world.

How we approach our work

Leadership: We are committed to our vision and lead with passion, professionalism, and empathy.

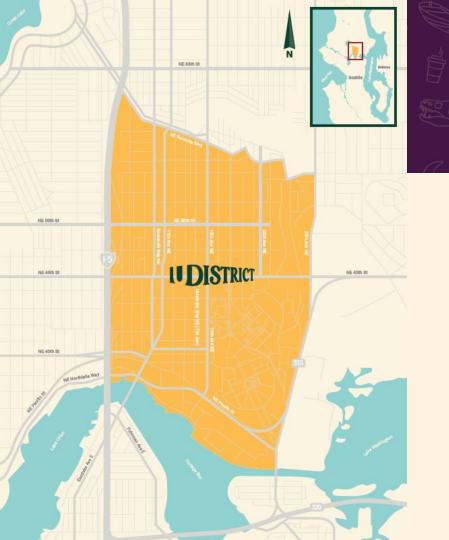
Innovation: We embrace continuous improvement, bold creativity, and change.

Collaboration: We realize that we achieve more when we work together, building partnerships based on fairness and mutual respect.

Integrity: We work hard to earn the community's trust by showing up consistently, being an honest broker, and doing the right thing.

Responsiveness: We deliver our very best in all we do, holding ourselves accountable for results.

Inclusivity: We set a big table and welcome people with diverse backgrounds, skills, and interests so that we can all prosper together.



Where is the U District?

- East of I-5
- West of 25th Ave NE
- South of Ravenna Blvd
- North of Ship Canal

NE 65th St North Cleaning Zone (2 days-per-week) South Cleaning Zone days-per-week) **UDBIA Boundaries** U District Neighborhood NE 55th S NE 50th St NE Campus Parkway

U District BIA

- Our UDBIA was founded in 1996 by property owners to clean University Way
- The UDBIA has been renewed in 2015, and once again in 2020
- The UDBIA ordinance establishes a base assessment on properties, with three service areas that receive different levels of cleaning

Why are we here today?

- 1. Removal of the RFP requirement from the ordinance A new BIA ordinance from 2020 requires the Office of Economic Development to conduct an RFP process every five years to identify a program manager. This is an unusual requirement, and has proven to be inefficient and unproductive—imposing a administrative burdens on the community and city staff without delivering public benefit.
- 2. Adjust the mandatory board seats to be recommended board seats, to make Board administration easier Highly specific seat requirements have become challenging to fulfill and maintain due in part to the realities of volunteer engagement and turnover.

UDBIA Ratepayer Advisory Board

Jennifer Antos - Neighborhood Farmers' Market

Max Blume - The Blume Company

Sally Clark - UW Campus Safety

David Cohanim - Whitefall, LLC

Lora Gastineau - *U District Resident*

Chris Giles - U District Resident

Joe Gruber - *University District Food Bank*

Mary Kay Gugerty - UW Evans School

Jeanette Henderson - UW Real Estate

Lincoln Johnson - UW Student Life

Nikole O'Bryan - Nikole O'Bryan DDS

Chris Peterson - Café Allegro

Chris Rauls - University Book Store

Brian Sellen - ACC

Sandy Sun - Compass Real Estate

Carolyn Thompson - The Neptune Building

Hui Tian - Studio 19 Architects

Polly Yorioka - University Presbyterian Church

Open Seat - fall 2025

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U District Partnership Board

Stephen Antupit - *U District Resident*

Katie Betz - Touchstone

Julie Blakeslee - UW Campus Planner

Jeremy Eknoian - UW Real Estate

John Hix - Seattle Vineyard Church

Josh Gana - UW Housing & Food Services

Aaron Hoard - UW Regional & Community Relations

Rick Jones - Schooley Mitchell

Lois Ko - Sweet Alchemy Ice Cream

Naomi Lewis - Luminati Labs

Anson Lin - Astora Construction

Maya Lu - Boba Up

Angela Mercado - *UHeights Center*

Trevor Peterson - *University Bookstore*

Jessie Quan - Ladd & Lass Brewing

Miles Richardson - Audi Seattle & University VW

Don Schulze - UDPA

Emily Scully - Shultzy's Bar & Grill

Alfred Shiga - Shiga's Imports

Anna Sorokina - U District Branch, WSECU

Paul Yunker - U District Food Bank

Open Seat - fall 2025





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