

September 14, 2020

MEMORANDUM

To: Community Economic Development Committee
From: Lish Whitson, Analyst
Subject: Council Bill 119887: Equitable Development Initiative Advisory Board

On Tuesday, September 15, the Community Economic Development Committee will consider [Council Bill \(CB\) 119887](#), which would create a permanent [Equitable Development Initiative \(EDI\) Advisory Board](#). The EDI Advisory Board would be charged with advising the City on its equitable development strategies and goals and the allocation of the EDI fund. The Advisory Board would replace an interim advisory board, which has supported the work of the EDI program since its creation in 2017.

This memorandum describes the EDI and the proposed structure and duties of the EDI Advisory Board under CB 119887. If this Committee acts on this legislation at the meeting on September 15, final Council action could occur as early as September 21.

The Equitable Development Initiative

EDI originated in communities in the Central Area, Southeast Seattle and the Chinatown/International District that were experiencing the harmful effects of displacement and lack of opportunity on their communities. Organizations in these communities came together to advocate for resources for community-initiated projects that would directly address displacement of people, businesses and cultural anchors and that would increase opportunity for those communities. As a result of their advocacy, the City has allocated over \$31 million of one-time funding and \$5.5 million in ongoing funding for community-initiated projects. These funds are used to build capacity in community-based organizations and to help to finance capital projects to address six equity drivers:

- Advance economic mobility and opportunity
- Prevent residential, commercial, and cultural displacement
- Build on local cultural assets
- Promote transportation mobility and connectivity
- Develop healthy and safe neighborhoods
- Enable equitable access to all neighborhoods

EDI is managed by the Office of Planning and Community Development (OPCD) in coordination with other City departments. The program, since its beginning, has relied on the advice of an interim advisory committee to help guide program priorities and to review grant applications.

Council Bill 119887

CB 119887 would create a permanent EDI Advisory Board to replace the interim advisory board. The duties of the new Advisory Board would be to:

- A. Elevate the voices and needs of communities that have historically been marginalized within the City's political process;
- B. Serve on a subcommittee to advise and assist the City in connection with the development and implementation of equitable development strategies and policies;
- C. Develop funding criteria and create recommendations for the allocation of funds from the Equitable Development Initiative Fund;
- D. Review annual equitable development monitoring plans;
- E. By March 31 of each year, submit a written report to the Director of the Office of Planning and Community Development on the Board's priorities for the Equitable Development Initiative Fund;
- F. Develop equitable development and anti-racist policies and practices to better help the City eliminate institutional and systemic racism;
- G. Convene stakeholders to build knowledge of and capacity around equitable development goals;
- H. Comply with the requirements of Section 4.16.070;
- I. Make appointment recommendations and evaluate letters of interest of individuals wishing to serve on the board to determine whether they meet the membership criteria; and
- J. Meet on a monthly basis.

The board would be composed of 13 members with three-year terms. Eight members would be appointed by the Mayor and five would be appointed by the other members of the board. Five of the original appointees would be required to come from the interim advisory board. The Council would confirm all appointments. Membership priority would be given to people recommended through a community selection process or represent organizations accountable to community and:

- represent a geographic location among high risk displacement and low access to opportunity areas as defined by the City's Equity Analysis and Displacement Risk Index;
- represent geographic neighborhoods that have already experienced significant displacement and histories of discriminatory policies or practices;
- have lived experience with involuntary displacement from Seattle; and
- have lived experience being targeted by racially discriminatory policies and practices.

The intent of the bill is to create a board with members who:

1. Have a connection to Seattle and Puget Sound's Indigenous communities;
2. Have a connection to Seattle and Puget Sound's Black and other communities of color;
3. Have a relationship within LGBTQ communities, particularly those communities that encounter intersectional oppressions;
4. Demonstrate knowledge of barriers to opportunity for people living with disabilities;
5. Commit to the principles of equity and social justice articulated in the Equitable Development Implementation Plan as well as commit to evaluate and make potential decisions through an equity and social justice lens;
6. Have broad perspectives on community development (e.g. Arts and Culture, Food Sovereignty, Affordable Housing, Social Services, Economic Development);
7. Have previous or current participation in the Race and Social Equity Taskforce; and
8. Have a track record of organizing and collaboration within and among communities of color, particularly those that have experienced specific historical discrimination within Seattle.

The Director of OPCD would be authorized to pay board members for their time and expertise.

Amendments

Councilmember Morales has proposed an amendment to shift the appointing authority of five of the board positions from the Mayor to the Advisory Board and City Council. This would result in three members being appointed by the Mayor, three by the City Council, and five by the board itself. See Attachment 1 for more details.

Attachments:

1. Amendment 1: Provide for Council and additional Board appointments (Sponsor: Chair Morales)

cc: Dan Eder, Interim Director
Aly Pennucci, Supervising Analyst

Amendment 1

to

CB 119887 - OPCD Equitable Development Initiative Advisory Board ORD

Sponsor: CM Morales

Provide for Council and additional Board appointments

Amend proposed Section 3.14.996 as follows:

3.14.996 Appointment and removal process

A. The Board will consist of 13 members, appointed to positions numbered 1 through 13. Members in positions 1 through ~~8~~3 shall be appointed by the Mayor, members in positions 4 through 6 shall be appointed ~~and confirmed~~ by the City Council, and members in positions ~~9~~7 through 13 shall be appointed by the Board, ~~and confirmed~~ All members shall be subject to confirmation by the City Council. Initial members in positions 3, 6, 9, 12, and 13 shall be members of the Equitable Development Initiative's Interim Advisory Board as of the effective date of this ordinance.

B. The initial terms for positions 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 13 shall be one year; the initial terms for positions 2, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 12 shall be two years; all subsequent terms shall be for three years. With the exception of initial positions 3, 6, 9, 12, and 13 no member shall serve more than two consecutive three-year terms; for the purpose of calculating consecutive terms, serving at least 18 months of a term counts as serving a term. Initial positions 3, 6, 9, 12, and 13 shall serve no more than one additional term. A member whose term is ending shall continue on an interim basis as a member with voting rights until such time as a successor for that position has been appointed by the appointing authority and confirmed by the City Council.

C. Board members may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the Board.

Lish Whitson

Date: September 14, 2020

Version: 2

Memo Attachment 1

Effect:

The proposed amendment would shift appointment authority for three of the Equitable Development Initiative (EDI) Advisory Board members from the Mayor to the City Council. Appointing authority for two of the appointments would shift from the Mayor to the Advisory Board. The following table shows the appointment authority under the proposed bill and this amendment.

Appointing Authority	Number of Board members	
	Bill as introduced	Under this Amendment
Mayor	8	3
City Council	0	3
EDI Advisory Board	5	7
Total	13	13

Five of the initial appointees (1 mayoral, 1 Council, and three board appointees) will be selected from the Interim Advisory Board's membership. Two of the Mayor's, two of the City Council's, and three of the EDI Advisory Board's initial appointees would have an initial term of one year. The remaining eight initial appointees would have an initial term of two years. After the initial terms, all terms would be for three years.