



**Seattle Public Utilities & Neighborhoods Committee  
Department of Neighborhoods Director's Report  
Tuesday, December 8, 2015**

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**DIRECTOR'S PRESENTATION**

*I. DON Program Overview & Updates: (15 minutes)*

**COMMUNITY ASSETS-**

**Historic Preservation:** Responsible for the designation and protection of more than 400 historic structures, sites, objects, and vessels, as well as eight historic districts. By involving residents in maintaining high standards for rehabilitation and new construction, the program allows them to recognize and keep the quality, character, and uniqueness of their neighborhoods.

- Designating ordinance for PI Globe - scheduled for later in this meeting. The designating ordinance culminates several years of negotiation with the Hearst Corporation to preserve this iconic Seattle landmark.

**P-Patch Community Gardening Program:** Manages and promotes community –stewarded open spaces for organic urban agriculture to individuals and groups. Gardeners, individually and collectively, use small plots of land to grow organic food, flowers, fruits, and herbs. There are 90 P-Patch gardens, 3100 ploholders, and nearly 6900 gardeners.

- SPROUT – P-Patch database has gone live internally and ultimately, our P-Patch gardeners will be able to pay their plot fees on-line; our site leaders will be better able to manage their sites using SPROUT and City staff will be able to gather data more efficiently.

**Major Institutions and Schools:** Responsible for providing support to our Citizen Advisory Committees and Standing Advisory Committees for hospitals, colleges and universities. Program also convenes Departure Committees and School Use Advisory Committees for Seattle Schools.



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- University of Washington Master Plan – Staff is working closely with the University of Washington and CUCAC to begin a revision of the University's Master Plan which will take place in 2016-2017.

**OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT –**

**Neighborhood District Coordinators (NDCs)**: Work to bring city government closer to communities across Seattle. They serve as a resource and liaison, and help to encourage and assist all community members to make contributions in their communities.

- NDC have supported community outreach regarding the encampments at Interbay and Ballard

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT –**

**Public Outreach & Engagement Program (POEL)**: Supports and carries out the city's outreach and engagement efforts in a manner that is respectful and culturally appropriate to historically underserved communities. For the past several months the program has undergone an intensive assessment by request of the Director. In 2016 the program will be re-launched within DON and with the following elements:

- Ongoing outreach for historically underserved communities: At present there are a number of departments (DPD, SDOT, OCR, OED, and SPU) who have already begun the contracting process to work with the POEL program for 2016.
- POEL Institute: Beginning in January 2016, POELs will be enrolled in an "Institute" that meets monthly and helps them strengthen their existing skill set and grow their career pathway.
- CBO Capacity Building: Over the next few years, the program will begin work to build capacity within community-based organizations with the POELs. It will include targeted technical assistance and support for community-based Seattle organizations.



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**People's Academy for Community Engagement (PACE):** A civic leadership development program that builds the skills of emerging leaders who are newly engaged in the community and who would like to be more effective when empowering neighborhoods in Seattle, especially underrepresented communities.

- PACE began in September. Remainder of 2015-16 PACE Timeline:
  - December 2015 – May 2016: Sessions are 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Seattle University.
  - May 2016 – August 2016: Community projects
  
- PACE Topic Areas:
  - Approaches to Leadership
  - Accessing Government
  - Community Organizing
  - Inclusive Outreach & Public Engagement
  - Meeting Facilitation
  - Public Speaking
  - Conflict Resolution
  - Sustaining Involvement

**Seattle Youth Commission:** A group of 25 Seattleites ages 13-19 from across Seattle who are appointed by the Mayor and City Council to connect youth to their elected officials.

- The youth commission has been reevaluated this year in context of its transition to DON and districting. An amendment to the ordinance will be coming forward in early 2016 to reduce the number of commissioners to 15.
- In partnership with CM Bagshaw's office, staff have been interviewing new commissioners and will be presenting applicants for appointment. The commissioners will be coming together in early December for a retreat to begin brainstorming.

**Ethnic Media Institute:** This year DON partnered with DOIT to support their engagement efforts around diversity programming with Seattle Community Media. Based on the metrics tracked and the evaluations done





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with ethnic media outlets, the program has been reevaluated for next year (it is a two-year pilot) and will be a targeted community capacity program for ethnic media outlets. Programming is slated to begin February 2016.

**COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS –**

**Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF):** Provides matching dollars for projects that feature a high level of community participation and self-help. The beneficiaries of any proposed project are involved with shaping and implementing the project. Every award is matched by neighborhood or community resources, such as volunteer labor, donated materials, donated professional services, or cash.

- Small & Simple Projects Fund:
  - February 2 cycle: received 45 applications and awarded 29 projects totaling \$544,761 with proposed community match of \$728,878
  - June 1 cycle: received 40 applications and awarded 28 projects totaling \$467,562 with proposed community match of \$600,132
  - October 5 final 2015 cycle: received 42 applications and awarded 24 projects totaling \$464,823 with proposed community match of \$523,744
- Large Projects Fund:
  - Closed May 4
  - 32 applications received and 19 projects awarded totaling \$1,505,515 with proposed community match of \$2,961,190
- Small Sparks Awards:
  - Up to \$1,000 is year-round. To date, we have provided \$64,529 in award funding to 72 projects.

**Participatory Budgeting:** Pilot project involves a democratic process through which Seattle youth decide how to spend part of the City's budget.





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- In November, we formed a Steering Committee to guide the project in its first year with representatives from over 15 youth-led or focused organizations.
- The Steering Committee will meet in mid-December to develop the criteria for project selection and decide if there will be any issue or geographic focus areas or project dollar thresholds.

**Duwamish River Opportunity Fund:** Supports projects and programs focused on challenges faced by communities in the Greater Duwamish area, particularly those that address issues of healthy fish consumption, safe fishing, job training, affordable housing and environmental development.

- 13 community projects awarded and contracted to-date for 2015.

**INTERNAL OPERATIONS –**

**Communications Program:** Communicates the services, staff, and programs of the department to internal and external audiences, as well as publicizes opportunities to increase civic participation. The program reviews sensitive content/issues and responds to media.

- DON brand will be changing to the City's brand approach early next year. Branding will change as materials (and other applications) are updated.
- Two new staff will be joining DoN early next year. Thank you!