

Tribal Nations Summit Progress Update

**Cultural Visibility and Vitality and Effective Tribal
Relations and Indigenous Engagement**

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Shaping Shared Priorities

- Summits are an important forum to understand top Tribal and urban Native priorities
- Office of Intergovernmental Relations coordinates summits, summary reporting, and updated City commitments
- Interdepartmental coordination supports more effective Tribal Relations and Native engagement



City Commitments

Cultural Visibility and Vitality

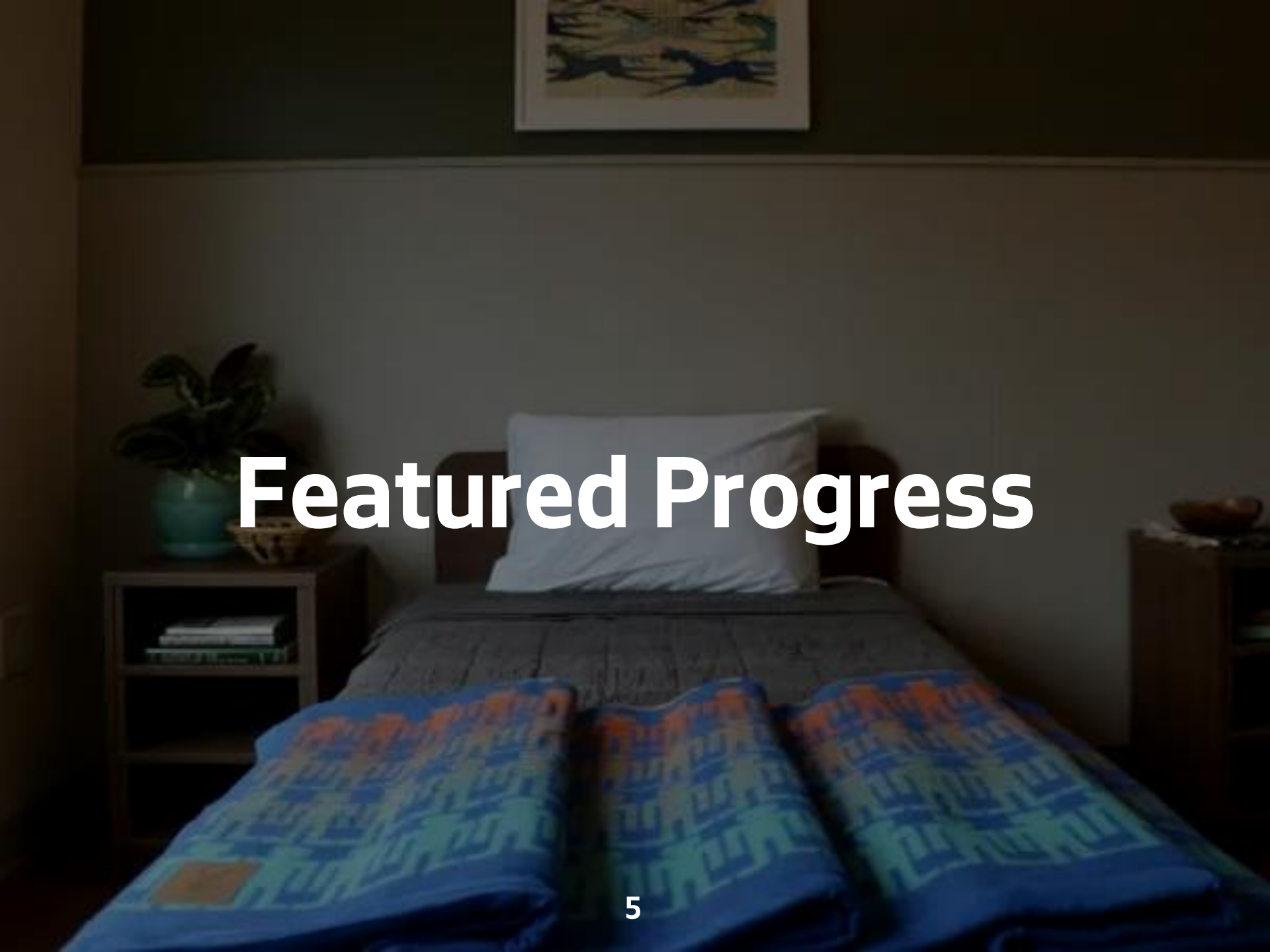
Status	Commitment	Key Departments
Planning and on track	Engage Tribal and urban Native partners in cultural planning to include Native priorities, values, and cultures in creative placemaking strategies.	OAC
Ongoing and on track	Invest in cultural spaces that increase the visibility and vitality of Native cultures, traditions, values, and languages in the urban landscape, such as: • Tribal Interpretative Center partnership with Seattle Center and Muckleshoot Indian Tribe; • Northwest Native Canoe Center partnership with Seattle Parks and Recreation and United Indians of All Tribes Foundation; and • Investments in culturally attuned housing, healthcare, youth development, cultural facilities, and other facilities operated by urban Indian organizations.	DON, FAS, HSD, OH, OPCD, OWCPST, SC, SPR
Planning and on track	Convene Tribal and urban Native partners around economic development issues and identify areas of shared interest in advancing Tribal economic development in Seattle and supporting Native entrepreneurs, Indigenous creatives, and Tribal enterprises.	OED
Ongoing and on track; several items in planning	Consult Tribal Nations and engage urban Indian communities in the development and implementation of City plans, such as: • Food Action Plan; • Comprehensive Plan and Subarea Plans; • Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy Implementation and Evaluation Plan; • Parks and Open Space Plan; and • Climate Action Plan.	DEEL, OPCD, OSE, SPR

City Commitments

Effective Tribal Relations and Indigenous Engagement

Status	Commitment	Key Departments
Planning and on track	Co-develop a policy that outlines the City's commitment to working with Tribal governments and urban Indian organizations to better fulfill trust and treaty obligations.	MO, SCC, OIR
Ongoing and on track	Increase the frequency and scope of Tribal consultation and early engagement, and urban Native engagement across City projects, plans, and policies.	All
Ongoing and on track	Improve interdepartmental collaboration and coordination of engagement and consultation that better serves Tribal and urban Native partners.	OIR
Ongoing and on track	Provide training, advisory support, and learning opportunities for City staff that engage with Tribal governments and Native communities.	OIR
Ongoing and on track	Prioritize opportunities for City leaders to meet with Tribal governments to learn directly from Tribal Nations about Tribal priorities and interests.	All
Ongoing and on track	Increase the City's outreach and engagement with Tribal Nations to visit Tribal communities and invite Tribal leaders to more City policy and decision making spaces.	All
Ongoing and on track	Support the Indigenous Advisory Council to fulfill their role as a culturally grounded advisory body of Tribal and urban Native leaders. Support other boards and commissions to include Tribal and urban Native leaders to further integrate Indigenous representation in local decision-making processes.	DON
Ongoing and on track	Seek understanding to elevate shared Tribal-City priorities through regional advisory bodies and boards, such as the Washington Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 8 Salmon Recovery Council.	MO, SCC, OIR
Ongoing and on track	Meet with Tribal governments to learn about local, regional, state, and federal priorities.	OIR



A bedroom interior with a bed, nightstands, and a plant. The bed has a white pillow and a blue and orange patterned blanket. A potted plant sits on the left nightstand, and a bowl is on the right nightstand. A framed picture hangs on the wall above the bed.

Featured Progress

Indigenous Placemaking

- Construction begins on the Tribal Interpretive Center along the Seattle Waterfront in summer 2026 in partnership with Finance and Administrative Services, Seattle Center, and Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
- Northwest Native Canoe Center is anticipated to open in fall 2026 in partnership with Seattle Parks and Recreation and United Indians of All Tribes Foundation
- **Next Actions for FAS, CEN, and SPR:**
 - Interior build out and public art development of the Tribal Interpretive Center
 - Grand openings and ongoing programming



Indigenous Placemaking

- Delivering a community-led redesign of a public plaza in Pioneer Square into an Indigenous-focused gathering place
- Design developed in partnership with the Chief Seattle Club and the Alliance for Pioneer Square, centering Coast Salish culture, art, and storytelling
- Features a central gathering circle for community programming, native plantings, and a carved welcome figure by Squaxin Island artist Andrea Wilbur-Sigo
- **Next Actions for OAC SDOT and SCC:**
 - Renaming in coordination with Tribal governments and Native communities
 - Additional public art by Andrea Wilbur-Sigo coordinated by OAC



Indigenous Placemaking

- Office of Arts and Culture (OAC) invested in three Native-led FIFA World Cup activations featuring Native arts and cultural programming, including:
 - Duwamish Tribal Services
 - Native Action Network
 - United Indians of All Tribes Foundation
- Office of the Waterfront, Civic Projects, and Sound Transit (OWCPST) finalized interpretive signage along Seattle Waterfront
- **Next Actions for OAC:**
 - Outreach and engagement of Native artists, urban Indian organizations and Tribal governments in future funding cycles for OAC programs



Indigenous Planning

- Office of Planning and Community Development completed Indigenous Planning elements for two Regional Center Plans:
 - Downtown
 - Northgate
- **Next Actions for OPCD:**
 - Development of Ballard and University District Regional Center Plans
 - Ongoing implementation of Regional Center Plans across City departments



Citywide Plans

- Office of Sustainability and Environment continued implementation of the Food Action Plan, including exploring opportunities to expand land access for Coast Salish and urban Native communities to steward, restore, and grow Native food systems.
- Department of Education and Early Learning partnered with Indigenous Advisory Council and four urban Indian organizations to inform Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy Implementation and Evaluation Plan
- **Next Actions for DEEL, OAC, OSE, and SPR:**
 - Seattle Parks and Recreation Parks and Open Space Plan update and Office of Arts and Culture's CANVAS cultural planning process is in planning and development in 2026
 - OSE launch of Climate Action Plan engagement in 2026
 - Community engagement is underway, highlighted by a cross-sector convening at the Seattle Regional Partners Forum and a briefing to the Indigenous Advisory Council on the Climate Action Plan with additional Tribal engagement in Fall 2026

Economic Development

- Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and Suquamish Tribe parties to the South Downtown Interagency Planning Group convened by the Office of Planning and Community Development (OPCD)
- The Office of Economic Development (OED) engaged in Native Infrastructure Careers & Education (NICE) Project, part of United Indians of All Tribes Foundation's Native Workforce Services Program
- OPCD and OED partnership to support community-led research for an Indigenous Economic Development Center concept
- Seattle Film Commission organized government-to-government training with Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
- **Next Actions for OPCD and OED:**
 - Participation in Indigenous Civic Engagement Day
 - Ongoing relationship-building

Training and Advisory Support

- Seattle City Light collaborated with Tribes to create a Cultural Resources Awareness training video for utility staff engaged in hydroelectric relicensing projects
- Office of Intergovernmental Relations developing an introductory three-module curriculum to assist City staff in engaging Tribal and urban Native communities
- Office of Intergovernmental Relations routinely engages with 21 City departments to inform Tribal and urban Native engagement strategies
- **Next Actions for DON and OIR:**
 - Finalize internal eLearnings accessible to all City staff
 - Ongoing advisory support



Culturally Grounded Advisory Support

- Department of Neighborhoods staffs and resources the Indigenous Advisory Council, who provide culturally grounded advisory support to City departments
- In 2025, advised eight departments on 16 City plans, programs, and services to ensure Tribal and urban Native priorities are elevated among City partners
- Mayoral and City Council meetings to discuss policy and budget priorities
- **Next Actions for DON:**
 - Indigenous Civic Engagement events
 - 2025-2026 Annual Report
 - Ongoing engagement with City departments



Tribal-City Relations

- In 2026, Mayoral and City leadership meetings with seven Tribal governments and two urban Indian organizations
- At least 58 Tribal engagement or consultation efforts underway with 10 Tribal governments
- Three elected leaders serving on the Indigenous Advisory Council
- Two meetings with Tribal governments on state legislative priorities
- OIR engagement around policy tool options for Tribal-City relations
- **Next Actions for MO, SCC, and City departments :**
 - Seek ongoing relationship building, and initiate engagement and consultation efforts



A photograph of four people (three women and one man) standing in front of a large poster. The poster features the text 'JOURNEY-JOY' in large, bold, white letters, with 'SEATTLE FOUNDATION' in smaller text below it. The background of the poster shows a person holding a large, white, textured object. The four people are smiling and looking towards the camera. The woman on the far left is wearing a yellow blazer over a black top and grey pants. The man in the center is wearing a black zip-up jacket over a grey shirt and blue jeans. The woman next to him is wearing a black and white patterned top and a black blazer. The woman on the far right is wearing a grey cardigan over a white top and a patterned skirt. The word 'Questions?' is overlaid in large, white, bold letters in the center of the image.

Questions?