

Indigenous Advisory Council Annual Update

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- **Kolbi Monasmith** (Cherokee), Department of Neighborhoods

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What We Do

Advise local government on culturally grounded policy and systems changes that transfer power and resources to Indigenous communities.



Design by Andrea Wilbur-Sigo (Squaxin Island and Skokomish)

How We Do It

We fulfill our advisory role through **shared goals** and priority activities.

Serve as Culturally Grounded Advisors

Act as a trusted advocate, advisor, and connector on issues impacting Native communities.

Plan and Evaluate

Set goals, priorities, and action steps that drive our work forward and can be evaluated.

Set Policy Priorities

Work to fulfill trust, treaty, and racial equity obligations to Native communities.

2026 Budget and Policy Priorities

Honor Political Relationship

Codify commitment to working with Tribal Nations and urban Indian organizations

Create funding set asides

Maintain legislative focus on Tribal governments and Native communities

Consult and engage Tribal Nations and urban Indian organizations

Develop staff trainings

Advance Racial Equity

Invest in culturally responsive housing

Invest in youth and families

Invest in gender-based violence prevention and response

Invest in cultural and social service facilities

2026 Budget Priorities

- **Diversify the spectrum of culturally responsive housing** through
 - Funding for **transitional housing, technical assistance** for urban Indian organizations seeking to develop housing and shelter, and **downpayment assistance** for first-time homebuyers.
- **Support the well-being of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian families and youth** through
 - **Culturally responsive services**; and access to **third spaces for youth**.
- **Address the Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People** through
 - **Gender-based violence contracting** with culturally responsive providers; and creation of **multi-disciplinary teams** within City services to improve systems coordination for individuals impacted by violence.
- **Invest in cultural and social service facilities** that promote the health and well-being of Tribal and urban Native communities.



Native Youth and Family Engagement

- Department of Education and Early Learning consulted the IAC on increasing Native representation in Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise (FEPP) engagement.
- Co-hosted four Native community engagement sessions with multiple Indigenous service providers representing early learning and wrap around supports for school aged children.
- Key priorities included food insecurity, access to childcare, culturally specific trades and careers, and Wrap-around supports and substance abuse prevention and recovery.



FIFA Planning and Human Trafficking

- Indigenous people are disproportionately impacted by human trafficking, making it especially important that Tribal and urban Native communities stay informed, prepared, and supported.
- Indigenous Advisory Council advocated for more communication around FIFA preparations across governments.
- City of Seattle and Washington State Attorney's General's Office hosted two sessions for over 200 attendees.



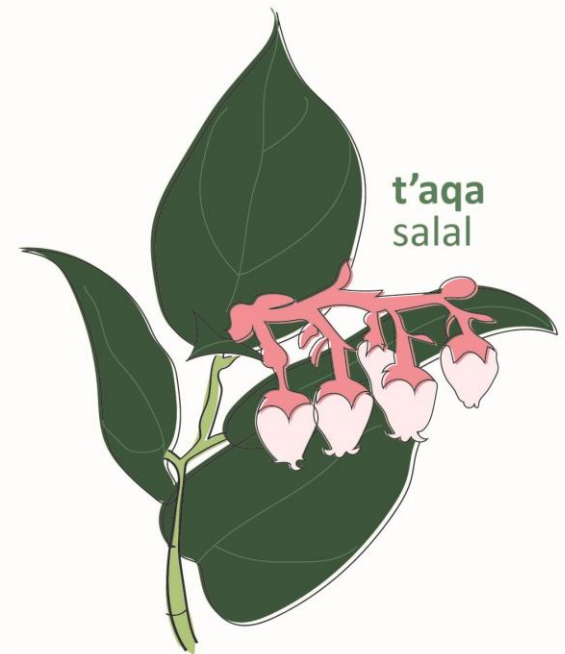
First Peoples Climate Fund

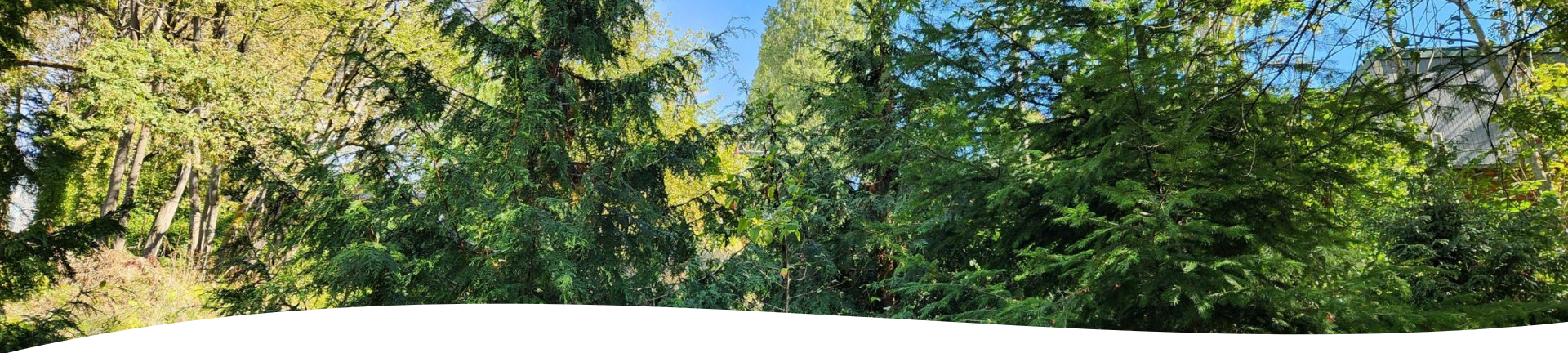
- Green New Deal Oversight Board advocacy resulted in a \$5.5 million investment in climate strategies that places Indigenous sovereignty, leadership, and ancestral knowledge at the heart of climate action.
- The Indigenous Advisory Council's feedback informed the fund's goals.
- Seven grantees including two federally recognized Tribes and five Native-led organizations.



Native Plant Policy

- In 2025, Seattle Parks and Recreation finalized updates to their Native Plant Policy for the first time in 15 years.
- Tribal governments and the Indigenous Advisory Council provided feedback to make policy more comprehensive and inclusive of traditional ecological knowledge and Indigenous values.
- Resulting in provisions to:
 - Source materials from Tribal enterprises and Native-owned businesses,
 - Recognize the cultural value, ethnobotanical use, and
 - Recognize the stewardship of native plants by Native communities.



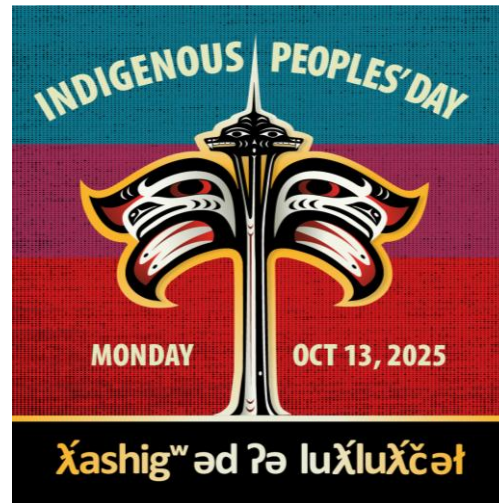


Green Seattle Partnership Strategic Plan

- In 2025, Seattle Parks and Recreation and the Green Seattle Partnership created a 10-year vision and 3-year strategic plan.
- The Indigenous Advisory Council engaged in several feedback sessions to inform the Strategic Plan. The final plan includes commitments to advance relationships and ecological knowledge sharing with Tribal Nations and urban Indian organizations.

Indigenous Peoples' Day

- Direct investment in inter-tribal community-led celebrations focused on activism, community building, and cultural expression.
- Commissioned and coordinated commemorative event poster.



2025 City of Seattle | Tribal Nations Summit

- IAC Tribal Caucus and full IAC membership advise and co-host the City's Tribal Nations Summit with the Office of Intergovernmental Relations.
- Attended by representatives of 10 Tribal Nations, five urban Indian organizations, 23 City departments, and regional partners.
- Summary Report
 - **Re-affirmed** the City's commitment from City leaders
 - **Expanded background and context** section to establish evidence and narrative to sustain our efforts
 - **20 direct quotes** from Tribal and urban Native leaders
 - **Revamped and expanded City commitments** organized by new reporting areas

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxSu8rvGZC4>



Up Next: Indigenizing Civic Engagement

- The Indigenous Advisory Council and the Department of Neighborhoods will be hosting two civic engagement events focused on American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities
 - August 2026: Native youth at City Hall in partnership with Urban Native Education Alliance
 - September 2026: Indigenous Civic Engagement Day at City Hall in partnership with Seattle Urban Native Nonprofits (SUNN) Collaborative .
- Seeking to increase awareness and understanding of civic processes, build relationships, and information share across City partners and Native communities.



Member Reflections

