

# Community Engagement Summary

Date: December 19, 2025

Prepared for: Seattle Downtown Regional  
Center Plan

Prepared by: Agency Landscape + Planning

# **Downtown Seattle Urban Center**

## Engagement Summary

10.08.2024

# The Downtown plan has engaged with several different audiences

## Phase One Engagement

- 1 youth work session
- 4 pop-up events
- 4 small-group discussions (+ Tahoma Peak conversations underway)
- 2 artist-led event documentations
- 1 community workshop + survey

## Phase Two Engagement

- 3 pop-up events
- 5 follow-up small-group discussions
- 1 draft plan workshop





Emerging Downtown Themes

More Collective  
Community  
Support

"PEOPLE NEED MORE HOUSING AND SHELTERS. IT IS DANGEROUS TO LIVE OUTSIDE AS AN UNHOUSED PERSON"

"LOVE AND CARE"

"THERE IS A HIGH MENTAL COST TO HAVING TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT KINDS OF INTERACTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE ON A DAILY BASIS"

"MAKE SURE DOWNTOWN IS NOT A FOOD DESERT"

"CRIME, ESPECIALLY ALONG 3RD AVENUE IS BAD"

"NEIGHBORHOODS SUCH AS PIONEER SQUARE FEEL A SENSE OF WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER"

"SUPPORT FOR HOMELESS AND NEEDY"

"MORE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR DRUG USERS"

Keep Growing  
Downtown  
Activations

"MORE ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES, NOT JUST IN THE SUMMER"

"NOT ENOUGH KIDS PROGRAMMING"

"THERE IS A LOT OF ACTIVATION HAPPENING AND I WANT TO SEE MORE OF THAT"

"MORE CELEBRATION"

"MORE ARTS PROGRAMMING"

"FOCUS ENERGY AND VITALITY AT TRAIN STATIONS. FERRIES"

"PEOPLE NEED A REASON TO COME DOWNTOWN"

"HAVE STUFF DOWN HERE!"

"MORE ENTERTAINMENT, MORE BARS"

"MORE ACTIVITY!"

Put People First

"THERE ARE FEWER PEOPLE AROUND WHICH HAS DOMINO EFFECTS FOR SAFETY AND LIVABILITY"

"WE NEED TO HAVE CLEAN STREETS SO THAT IT IS INVITING FOR FOLKS TO WANT TO COME IN"

"IT'S GREAT TO SEE PEOPLE UTILIZING THE SIDEWALKS AND TAKING TRANSIT"

"THE NEIGHBORHOODS FEEL LIKE THEIR OWN SMALL TOWNS"

"MORE PEOPLE FOCUSED!"

"WOULD LIKE TO WALK MORE"

"POLICE ARE NOT RESPONSIVE"

"NOT EVERYONE IS WELL-SERVED BY TRANSIT AT THE MOMENT"

"[WE NEED] A SENSE OF SAFETY FOR US TO ALLOW OUR CHILDREN TO ROOM FREELY ABOUT OUR NEIGHBORHOODS & DOWNTOWN"

"CENTRAL PARK OVER 1-5 / PLAY GROUNDS, LAWN WATER FEATURES, BALL FIELDS, RUNNING PATHS"

Go Big in Arts +  
Culture

"MANY AVAILABLE SPACES ARE TOO BIG FOR SMALL SHOPS"

"THE THING THAT I NEED MOST IS SPACE TO CREATE OUR ART"

"MORE SPACE FOR PEOPLE TO CREATE ART AND GATHER"

"I WOULD LIKE TO SEE OUR CITY BECOME MORE VIBRANT"

"WE NEED SOMETHING REALLY GENEROUS AND BIG AND IMPRESIVE"

"NOT JUST FOR BUSINESS"

"WE NEED PERMANENT SPACE THAT WE CAN ACTUALLY OWN AND NOT JUST BE KICKED OUT OF WHEN A NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVES"

"THERE IS A LOT OF EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS, AND TOOLS THAT GO INTO THE THINGS THAT WE MAKE AND WE NEED SPACE FOR THOSE THINGS"

"MORE ART AND RETAIL OPPORTUNITIES TO BRING VIBRANCY TO THESE AREAS"

"ART WALK MAP ACROSS THE ENTIRE CITY"

Make Processes  
Easier

"BUSINESSES CAN SIT ON EMPTY SPACE FOR UP TO A YEAR BC THEY ARE WAITING FOR PERMITS"

"LONG PERMIT LINES WITHOUT A CENTRAL POINT OF CONTACT"

"CULTURAL AREAS LIKE CID HAVE MANY BIPOC BUSINESSES, BUT THE REGULATIONS IN CULTURAL AREAS FEEL LIKE A CONCENTRATION OF BARRIERS"

"TOO MANY BOARDED UP BUSINESS SPACES"

"REDESIGN STREETS FOR LOW SPEED"

"WE NEED SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS PUT IN PLACE FOR ARTISTS THROUGHOUT THE CITY"

"LAND ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT COSTS ARE JUST TOO HIGH TO MAKE MANY PROJECTS DOWNTOWN SEEM FEASIBLE"

Housing Downtown  
Leaves People Out

"DOWNTOWN SHOULD BE A LIVEABLE PLACE"

"MISSING SOME DIVERSITY IN THE TYPES OF PEOPLE WHO QUALIFY FOR HOUSING ASSISTANCE"

"IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE"

"COST OF LIVING MAKES IT HARD TO SET ANYTHING ASIDE"

"WE ARE LEAVING BEHIND AGING, REFUGEE, ELDERLY AND LOW-INCOME WORKFOCE (50-80% AMI)"

"WE NEED MORE AND BETTER IDEAS ABOUT WHAT TO DO FOR [THE CITY'S] HOMELESS SITUATION"

"THERE ARE A LOT OF UNOCCUPIED UPSTAIRS SPACE THAT WOULD MAKE GREAT HOUSING"

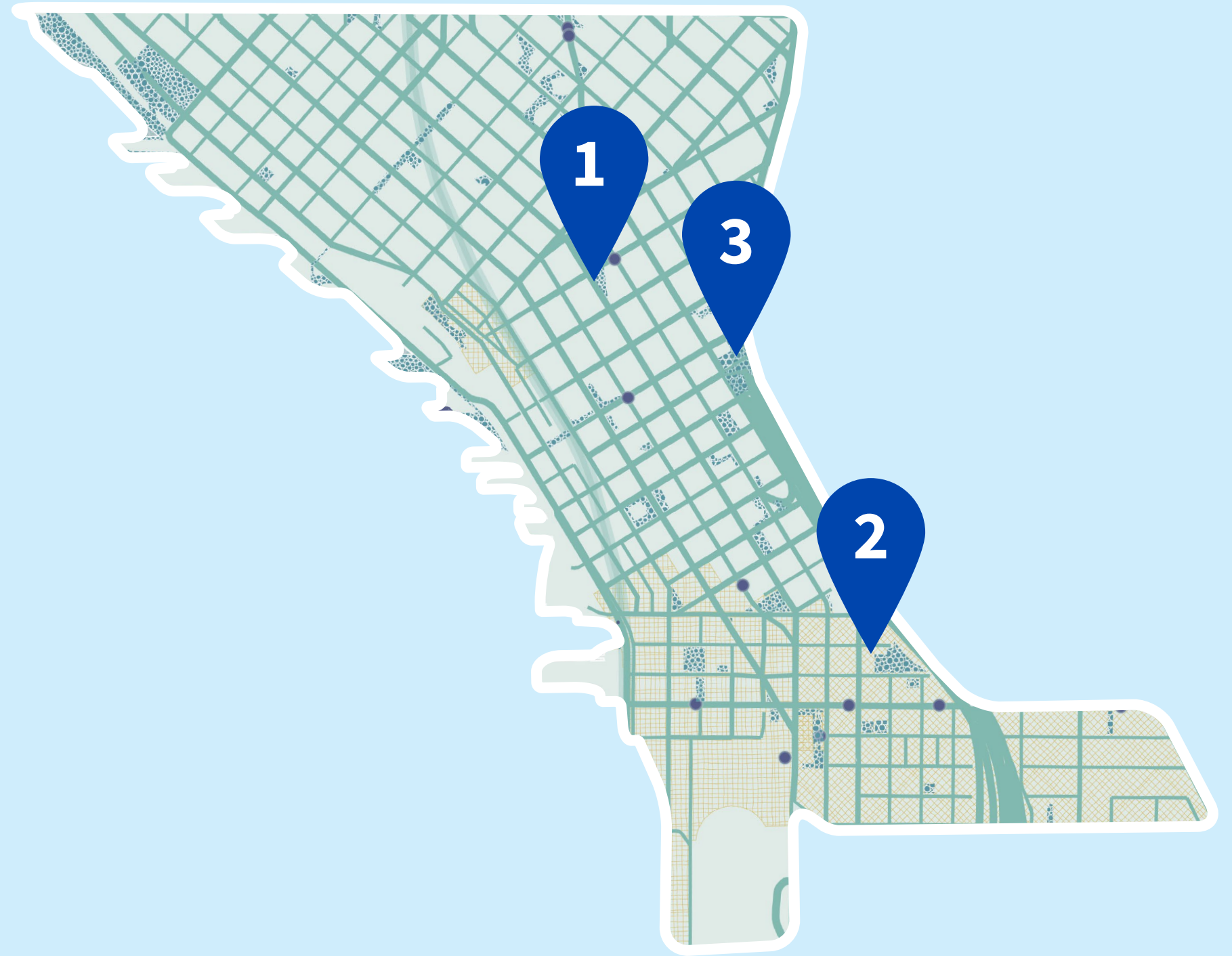
"CONVERT VACANT OFFICE SPACE INTO AFFORDABLE HOUSING!"



# Pop-Up Events

Pop-up events at Westlake Park<sup>1</sup>, Hing Hay Park<sup>2</sup> and the Lantern Festival<sup>3</sup> drew in **91** community comments.

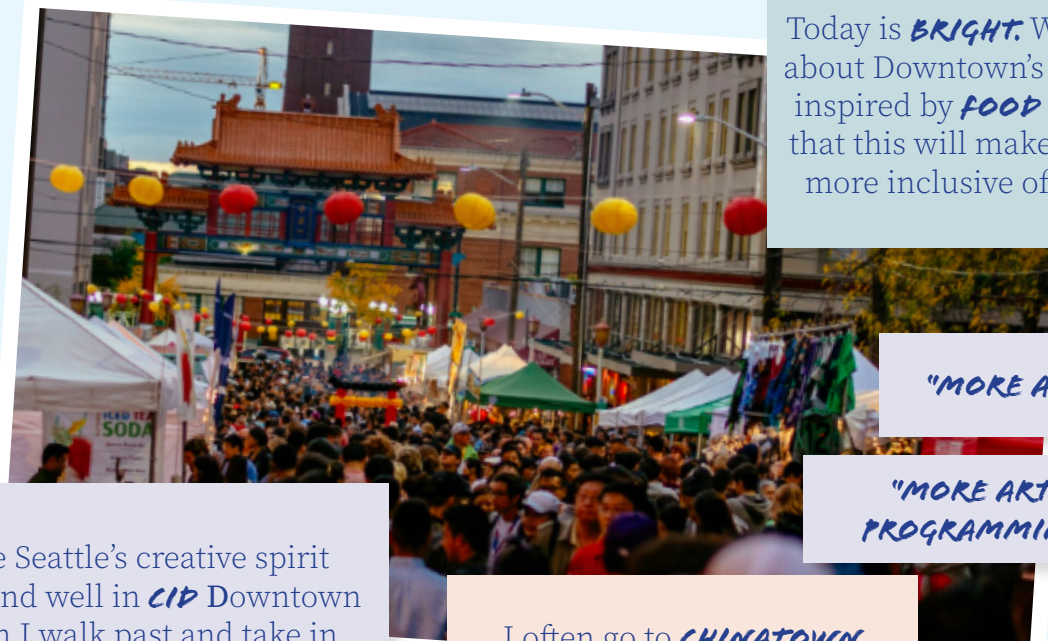
Conversations with community members focused on the need for **more arts & culture programming**, **support services for unhoused people**, the **high cost of living**.



1

# Westlake Park Pop-Up

- ▶ Downtown should have more support for unhoused people
- ▶ There should be programming and activities year-round
- ▶ Downtown needs more culturally-inclusive spaces
- ▶ This should be an actionable plan



I see Seattle's creative spirit alive and well in **CID** Downtown when I walk past and take in **WINGLUKE MUSEUM**. If only we had more **CULTURALLY ROOTED GALLERIES** to celebrate our history, art, and culture more!

I often go to **CHINATOWN** because it has the best **NOODLES**. Downtown could use more **NIGHTLIFE** to support residents, workers, and visitors alike.

Today is **BRIGHT**. When I think about Downtown's future, I am inspired by **FOOD** and believe that this will make Downtown more inclusive of **CULTURE**.

"MORE ACTIVITY!"

"MORE ARTS PROGRAMMING"

"MORE ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES, NOT JUST IN THE SUMMER"

Today is **STRUGGLING**. When I think about Downtown's future, I am inspired by **BUSINESS RE-OPENING** and believe that this will make Downtown more inclusive of **ALL PEOPLE**.

I Live with my **FAMILY + DOG** in **BALLARD**. My home is **COMFORTABLE**. I wish Downtown had **MORE** housing for **EVERYONE TO HELP SOLVE THE CRISIS**.

"PEOPLE NEED MORE HOUSING AND SHELTERS. IT IS DANGEROUS TO LIVE OUTSIDE AS AN UNHOUSED PERSON"



"SUPPORT FOR HOMELESS AND NEEDY"

"LOVE AND CARE"

"MORE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR DRUG USERS"

I often go to **THEATRE** because it has the best **PRODUCTIONS**. Downtown could use more **CLENUP OF STREETS AND HOMELESS/DRUG ADDICT SUPPORT SERVICES** to support residents, workers, and visitors alike.

I often go to **PIKE PLACE** because it has the best **SPIRIT**. Downtown could use more **HUMAN SERVICES AND SUPPORT** to support residents, workers, and visitors alike.

"THIS SHOULD BE A PLAN FOR ACTION"

Jobs Economy

Housing

Process

Arts/Culture



2

# Hing Hay Park Pop-Up

- Cost of living/housing is too high
- Downtown feels focused on business
- There should be more entertainment, especially for kids
- Downtown is too car-centric

Today is **CAR CENTRIC** When I think about Downtown's future, I am inspired by **COPENHAGEN** and believe that this will make Downtown more inclusive of **BIKERS, WALKERS, ALL PEOPLE.**



"NOT JUST FOR BUSINESS"

"SHARE THE WEALTH"

"MORE PEOPLE FOCUSED!"

I see Seattle's creative spirit alive and well in **CHINATOWN** Downtown when I walk past and take in **FREE MOVIE NIGHTS.** If only we had more **MORE CULTURAL FOOD FESTIVALS AND PERFORMANCES** to celebrate our history, art, and culture more!

"HAVE STUFF DOWN HERE!"

"MORE ENTERTAINMENT, MORE BARS"

"NOT ENOUGH KIDS PROGRAMMING"

"I CURRENTLY GO OUT OF THE CITY TO DO FUN THINGS WITH KIDS"

"THE VIBE BRINGS PEOPLE HERE - DIVERSITY AND INNOVATION"

I Live with **MY PARENTS, SISTER, AND DOG** in **SINGLE-FAMILY HOME.** My home is **SPACIOUS WITH OUTDOOR SPACE.** I wish Downtown had **AFFORDABLE** housing for **EVERYONE.**

I Live with **6 ROOMMATES** in **A HOUSE.** My home is **BUSTLING.** I wish Downtown had **MORE AFFORDABLE** housing for **EVERYONE.**

"COST OF LIVING SHOULD BE LOWER"

"DOWNTOWN SHOULD BE A LIVEABLE PLACE"

"COST OF LIVING MAKES IT HARD TO SET ANYTHING ASIDE"

I Live with **ALONE** in **APARTMENT.** My home is **SAFE SPACE/COMFORT.** I wish Downtown had **MORE WALKABLE AND GATHERING SPACE** housing for **ALL INCOMES, ESPECIALLY LOW-INCOME.**

"ITS TOO EXPENSIVE"



Jobs Economy

Housing

Process

Arts/Culture



# The Lantern Festival Pop-Up | Freeway Park

- ▶ Downtown could be more pedestrian-friendly
- ▶ More festivals/programing would draw people Downtown
- ▶ Downtown should be more inclusive of low-income people



"SEATTLE  
NEEDS COVERED  
WALKWAYS"

"WOULD LIKE TO  
WALK MORE"

Today is **GROWING** When I think about Downtown's future, I am inspired by **POTENTIAL** and believe that this will make Downtown more inclusive of **PEOPLE OF ALL SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUNDS**.

I often go to **QFC** because it has the best **GROCERIES** Downtown could use more **FESTIVALS** to suport residents, workers, and visitors alike.



Today is **VIBRANT** When I think about Downtown's future, I am inspired by **ARTIST + CREATORS** and believe that this will make Downtown more inclusive of **VISITORS + LOCALS ALIKE**.

I Live with **GIRLFRIEND AND DOG** in **3-BEDROOM HOME**. My home is **GREEN**. I wish Downtown had **ABUNDANT** housing for **LOW-INCOME PEOPLE**.

I often go to **PIKE STREET PRESS** because it has the best **STUFF!** Downtown could use more **SOCIAL WORKERS** to suport residents, workers, and visitors alike.

Jobs Economy

Housing

Process

Arts/Culture



# Transportation Plan Meeting Pop-Up

- ▶ Pedestrian friendly and transit accessible streets are a priority for residents
- ▶ Free public events and food trucks will help draw people in
- ▶ We are in a housing crisis and need to prioritize those that are unhoused in new development



I see Seattle's creative spirit alive and well in **PIKE PLACE** Downtown when I walk past and take in **MARKET**. If only we had more **HISTORIC AREAS** to celebrate our history, art, and culture more!

"MORE FOOD TRUCKS"

"ZONING CODE IS TOO COMPLICATED"

I see Seattle's creative spirit alive and well in **CENTRAL DISTRICT** Downtown when I walk past and take in **SMALL BUSINESSES + ART**. If only we had **BETTER SERVICE FOR STREETS** to celebrate our history, art, and culture more!

I often go to **PIKE PLACE** because it has the best of **EVERYTHING** Downtown could use more **FOOD TRUCKS AND OPEN MARKETS** to support residents, workers, and visitors alike.

"GAPS IN BIKE NETWORK AROUND THE WATERFRONT"

I often go to **THE PIER** because it has the best **PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY** Downtown could use more **HOUSING** to support residents, workers, and visitors alike.



I see Seattle's creative spirit alive and well in **THE CID** Downtown when I walk past and take in **ALL THE STREET ART** If only we had **HOUSING FOR ALL** to celebrate our history, art, and culture more!

I often go to **CID** because it has the best **TRANSIT, FOOD, EVENTS** Downtown could use more **ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC EVENTS** to support residents, workers, and visitors alike.

I often go to **SAM** because it has the best **ART** Downtown could use more **SAFETY** to support residents, workers, and visitors alike.

Jobs Economy  
Housing  
Process  
Arts/Culture



Youth visited the City of Seattle Planning Office and created a mood map of how they were feeling about specific parts of Downtown.





# Artist-Led Event Documentations

LeLeita McKILL conducted interviews at the Seattle Arts Fair 2023 and Vivid Matter Collectives “Subway Cypher” Event in Occidental Square.

Conversations with artists focused on the need for more permanent space to create art, system-wide city investments, and the importance of activations to draw people in.





# Seattle Arts Fair

Jobs Economy

Housing

Process

Arts/Culture

- ▶ Street activation is important to drawing people into the patron the arts
- ▶ We need more creative solutions to help house people
- ▶ Downtown's arts scene is really important to the larger artistic community in Seattle
- ▶ Artists are currently supporting each other, but the City could do more to engage with this group

"WE NEED TO HAVE CLEAN STREETS SO THAT IT IS INVITING FOR FOLKS TO WANT TO COME IN"

"IT'S GREAT TO SEE PEOPLE UTILIZING THE SIDEWALKS AND TAKING TRANSIT"

"THERE ARE SO MANY FOLKS WHO ARE OUT THERE ... SUPPORTING THE ARTS AND SUPPORTING COMMUNITY"

"I LIVE AND WORK IN PIONEER SQUARE"

"EVEN ARTISTS THAT DON'T HAVE A STUDIO IN PIONEER SQUARE CAN STILL THINK OF IT AS THEIR ARTISTIC HOME"

"I DON'T FEEL THAT THE CITY IS ABLE TO TAP INTO THE ARTIST ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT"

"WE NEED SOMETHING REALLY GENEROUS AND BIG AND IMPRESIVE"

"WHY NOT HOUSE PEOPLE IN SOME OF THESE [EMPTY] SPOTS?"

"WE NEED MORE AND BETTER IDEAS ABOUT WHAT TO DO FOR [THE CITY'S] HOMELESS SITUATION"

"THERE IS A LOT OF ACTIVATION HAPPENING AND I WANT TO SEE MORE OF THAT"

"PEOPLE NEED A REASON TO COME DOWNTOWN"

"I WOULD LIKE TO SEE OUR CITY BECOME MORE VIBRANT"



# Vivid Matter Collective

- ▶ Artists need more permanent space
- ▶ Artists need more space to actually create and build their artworks
- ▶ Art is what draws people into the city and it should be invested in at a system-wide level

"WE NEED SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS PUT IN PLACE FOR ARTISTS THROUGHOUT THE CITY"

"WE NEED SPACE"



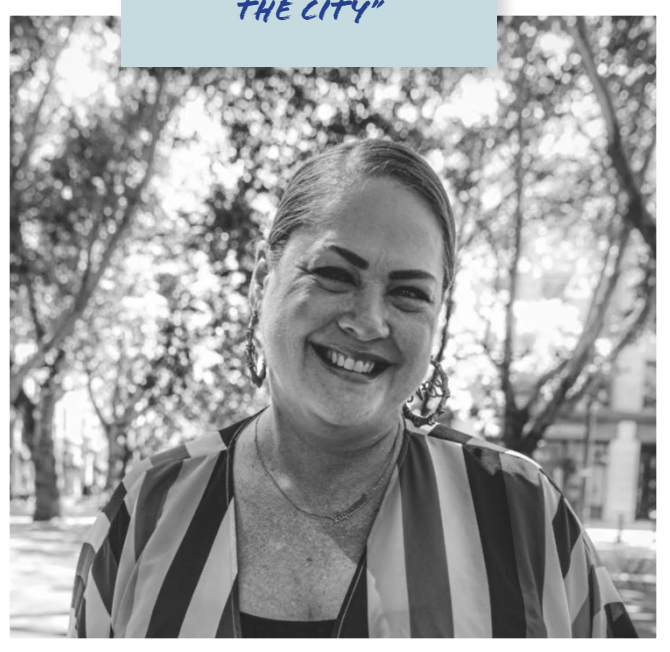
"WE NEED PERMANENT SPACE THAT WE CAN ACTUALLY OWN AND NOT JUST BE KICKED OUT OF WHEN A NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVES"

"MORE CELEBRATION"



"MORE SPACE FOR PEOPLE TO CREATE ART AND GATHER"

"LET'S SPEND SOME MONEY ON WHAT DRAWS PEOPLE INTO THE CITY"



"THE THING THAT I NEED MOST IS SPACE TO CREATE OUR ART"



"THERE IS A LOT OF EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS, AND TOOLS THAT GO INTO THE THINGS THAT WE MAKE AND WE NEED SPACE FOR THOSE THINGS"

"ARTISTS ARE THE BEST TENANTS BECAUSE WHEN WE FIND A PLACE THAT WE FEEL SAFE, WE WILL STAY THERE FOREVER"



"WHEN THEY TAKE AWAY MY PIECES THE WALLS LOSE PROTECTION"

- Jobs Economy
- Housing
- Process
- Arts/Culture



# Small-Group Discussions

Small-group discussions took place around each of the Draft RET Outcome topics, as well as additional sessions around youth and indigenous perspectives.

These conversations focused on Downtown safety and perceptions of safety, need for different types of housing, strong community ties, and barriers to business operations.



# Housing

- ▶ Safety for Downtown residents is a concern
- ▶ Improved neighborhood quality and nearby-services are needed to attract more families
- ▶ There is a need for many types of housing
- ▶ Preparing for seismic retrofits in the CID will be important
- ▶ We need to add more affordable housing in the areas with the best concentrations of resources

## Housing Draft RET

**Downtown offers diverse housing options that support where people are in their lives without creating a cost burden**

## What has worked well for you and your organization as you've looked to build or promote housing Downtown?

"PIKE PLACE MARKET AREA AND HOUSING HAVE BEEN WORKING WELL"

"THE DEVELOPMENT BONUS IS HELPFUL HERE"

"WE HAVE SOME PRESERVED SUBSIDIZED HOUSING UNITS IN SLU THAT FEEL IMPORTANT"

"IN THE CENTRAL AREA, LIHI PARTNERED WITH A CHURCH TO DO A TINY HOUSE VILLAGE, WHICH THEN TURNED INTO A PROJECT FOR MORE PERMANENT TRANSITIONAL HOUSING"

## What challenges does your organization face?

"WE TALK TO A LOT OF PEOPLE AROUND 30% AMI FACING DISPLACEMENT RISK IN THE CID"

"NOT ENOUGH HEALTHY HOUSING OPTIONS: SOBRIETY FOCUSED OR FOR REFUGEE / IMMIGRANT GROUPS"

"LAND ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT COSTS ARE JUST TOO HIGH TO MAKE MANY PROJECTS DOWNTOWN SEEM FEASIBLE"

"IT IS DIFFICULT TO GET FUNDING FOR 30% AMI HOUSING IF YOU AREN'T ADDRESSING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS SPECIFICALLY"

"MISSING SOME DIVERSITY IN THE TYPES OF PEOPLE WHO QUALIFY FOR HOUSING ASSISTANCE"

"WE ARE LEAVING BEHIND AGING, REFUGEE, ELDERLY AND LOW-INCOME WORKFORCE (50-80% AMI)"

"THERE ARE FEWER PEOPLE AROUND WHICH HAS DOMINO EFFECTS FOR SAFETY AND LIVABILITY"

"CRIME, ESPECIALLY ALONG 3RD AVENUE IS BAD"

"POLICE ARE NOT RESPONSIVE"

"EVERYTHING IS TIED TO LIHTC BUT THAT DOESN'T MEET ALL NEEDS"



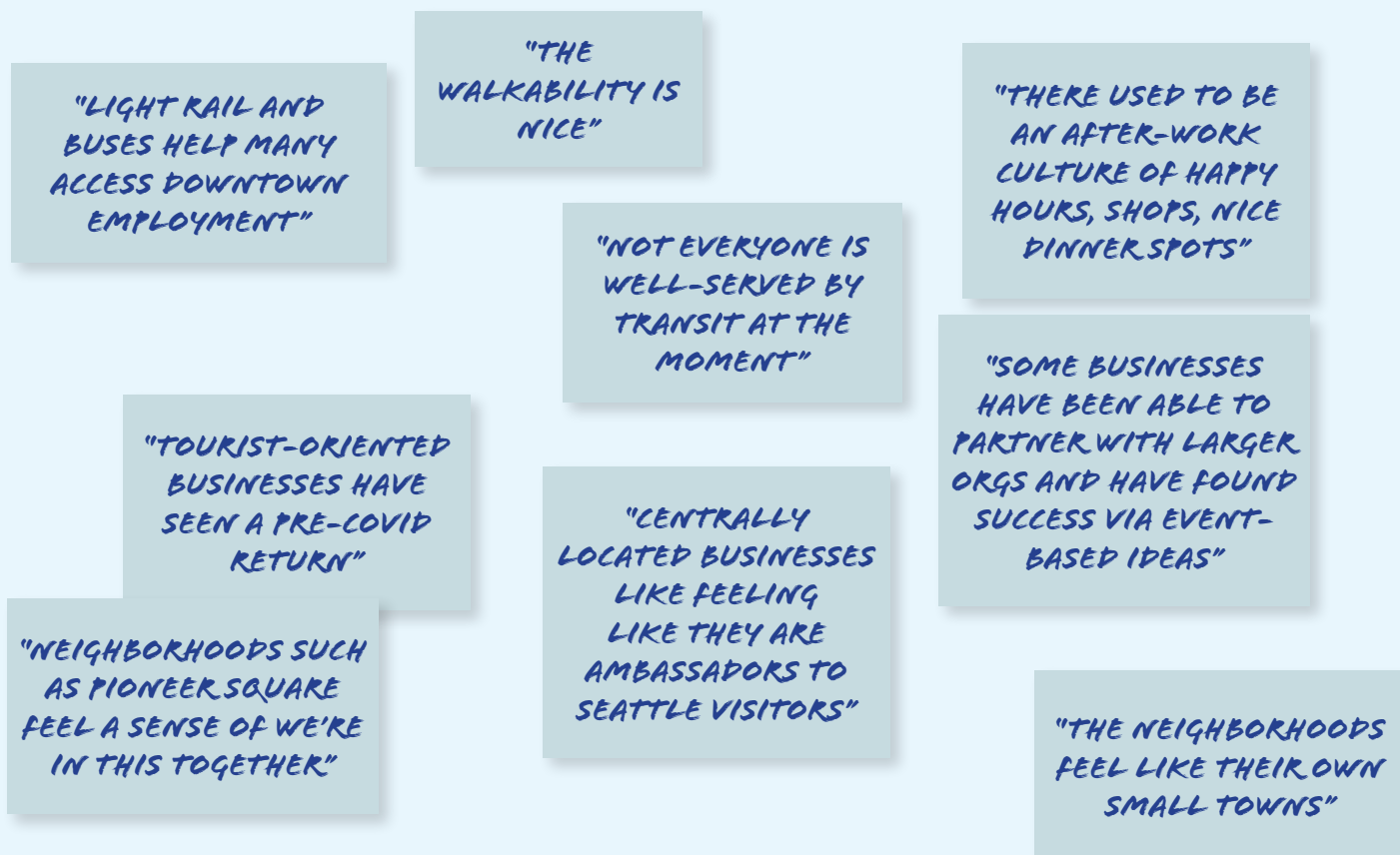
# Employment Access

- ▶ Health and safety, as well as transportation into Downtown are concerns for businesses
- ▶ The City should review it's own barriers to starting and opening businesses
- ▶ Various Downtown neighborhoods operate under different regulatory frameworks and varying levels of access to capital
- ▶ There is a strong sense of community support among business owners
- ▶ Foot-traffic of office workers has not returned
- ▶ The City should be strategic around priority corridor investments

## Employment Access Draft RET

**Downtown is a center for businesses - of all sizes - that create financial opportunity and stability for entrepreneurs, owners and employees.**

### What aspects of Downtown make it a good place to work or do business?



### What makes Downtown a challenging place to work or do business?





# Arts and Culture

- ▶The City needs to demonstrate a sustained, increased, and coordinated commitment to the arts world
- ▶Space is needed - all kinds, all sizes
- ▶Artists aren't fairly compensated for their work
- ▶Safety concerns are growing
- ▶Construction projects are long and disruptive
- ▶Center racial equity and bring Black, Indigenous, and Brown artists back home Downtown

## Arts and Culture Draft RET

**A thriving, creative community lives in, works in, and shapes the Downtown experience.**

### What has worked well for your organization as you have promoted/created/experienced art Downtown?



### What challenges does your organization face?



# Youth

- ▶ More spaces where kids can just hang out
- ▶ Youth are a transit-dependant population
- ▶ Safety for kids, both experienced and perceived is important
- ▶ If we want families to live Downtown, we need mixed-income housing and public schools
- ▶ Youth need to see themselves Downtown
- ▶ Downtown has many identities

## Process Draft RET

**There are clear and direct connections between diverse lived experiences of Downtowners and the plan recommendations.**

**The Downtown Plan policies and projects prioritize historically excluded communities.**

## What has worked well for your organization as you've worked Downtown?

"DOWNTOWN IS THE CENTER FOR MANY WRAPAROUND SOCIAL SERVICES AND THERE IS HOPE FOR CONTINUING TO BUILD OUT SPACES FOR YOUTH, WHO RELY ON THESE SERVICES TO JUST HANG OUT"

"DOWNTOWN LOCATIONS ARE GOOD CONVENING LOCATIONS"

"MANY DOWNTOWN LOCATIONS FEEL FANCY AND INSPIRE STUDENTS TO THINK OF THEMSELVES WORKING IN SKYSCRAPERS"

"TRANSPORTATION ACCESS IS STRONG, WHICH ALLOWS FOR A WIDER REACH FOR YOUTH AND VOLUNTEERS"

"TEENS AND FAMILIES TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FREE/LOW COST PROGRAMMING - LIKE THE WATERFRONT CONCERT SERIES, LIBRARY EVENTS, TEEN TIX, AND KING ST EVENTS"

## What challenges does your organization, or the youth you serve, face?

"TEENS JUST WANT TO STAND IN A CIRCLE AND TALK. IN MANY PLACES, THEY ARE RUN OUT AND MADE TO FEEL UNWELCOME"

"[WE NEED] SAFE SPACES THAT ARE FREE AND DECRIMINALIZED"

"SPACES NEED TO BE YEAR-ROUND (AKA INDOOR AND/OR COVERED AND HAVE BASIC FACILITIES"

"THINGS LIKE BETTER WAYFINDING AND FREE TRANSIT IS IMPORTANT"

"THE TIME AFTER SCHOOL, BUT BEFORE PARENTS ARE HOME FROM WORK IS AN IMPORTANT WINDOW - WE NEED SPACES WHERE KIDS WHO ARE NON-CULTURE CONFORMING FEEL WELCOME"

"FEELS LIKE SO MANY ORGS ARE FIGHTING OVER THE SAME, SMALL NUMBER OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES"

"WHO IS AT THE TABLE IS REALLY IMPORTANT SO THAT IT'S NOT JUST THE SAME ORGS GETTING RECOGNIZED ALL THE TIME"

"PARENTS OF YOUTH, PARTICULARLY OF IMMIGRANT BACKGROUNDS ARE NOT COMFORTABLE SENDING THEIR KIDS DOWNTOWN"

"NEED MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET UP IN AN INTENTIONAL AND FACILITATED WAY"



# Downtown Workshop 03

On February 15th, more than **120 participants** gathered to exchange ideas and establish priorities that will shape the Downtown Seattle Plan.

The workshop was structured around “a day in the life”. Participants walked through activity stations based on different times of the day and how they move thorough the city at those times.

**540 ideas** were shared with post-it notes and flags!

**1. Intro Station**  
Information about what a Subarea plan is, Downtown 101, Plan timeline.  
(Process)

**2. Morning**  
What is your home like?  
Who do you live with?  
(Housing)  
What is your daily routine and destination?  
(Transportation)

**4. Evening**  
Where is your favorite place to eat or shop? Do you like to see shows?  
(Arts + Culture)

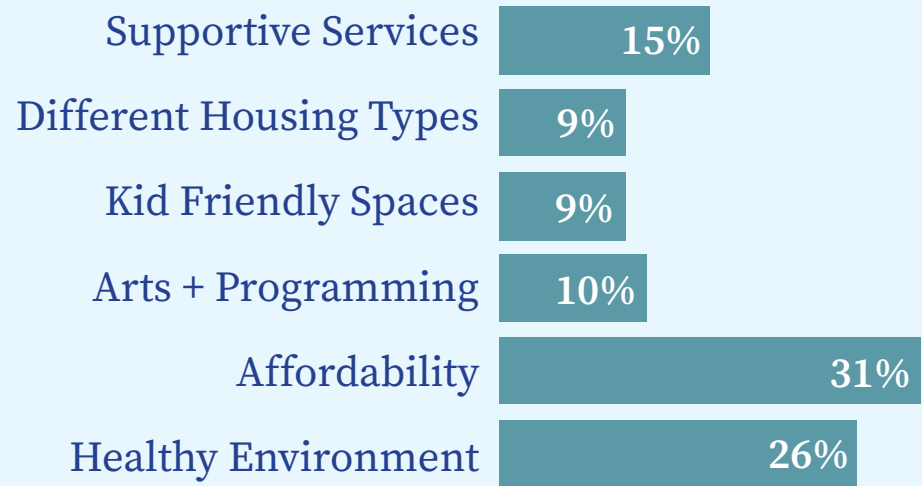
**3. Daytime**  
Where do you work?  
(Employment) Do you run errands at the library, post office, play at the park?  
(City Services)



# Morning Station (Housing/Transportation)

- ▶ Ensuring that housing in Downtown is affordable is a primary concern
- ▶ Everyday amenities, such as grocery stores are needed to support Downtown housing
- ▶ More programming, activities, and green space are needed to draw families to live Downtown
- ▶ There are empty spaces in Downtown that are not being fully utilized and could be better used for housing
- ▶ More services for unhoused people, such as day shelters are needed
- ▶ Families with children do not currently feel safe Downtown
- ▶ Support is needed for the diverse populations that currently live Downtown

What does Downtown need to be a great place to live?





(Land Use, Employment, City Services)

- ▶ There is a lot of interest and support for the I-5 lid project
- ▶ More places for passive recreation
- ▶ A community center that can operate regardless of the weather
- ▶ Pedestrian-first streets and traffic calming would make people feel safer
- ▶ Excitement for increased transit connections and worries about lack of a CID station
- ▶ Perception of Downtown vitality is tied to ground floor retail activity



"USE UNDER-UTILIZED SPACES FOR POP-UP BUSINESSES. REDUCE PERMITTING BARRIERS"

"FOCUS ENERGY  
AND VITALITY AT  
TRAIN STATIONS.  
FERRIES



"DOWNTOWN  
NEEDS A FULL-  
SIZE COMMUNITY  
CENTER"

"CENTRAL PARK OVER 1-5  
! PLAY GROUNDS, LAWN  
WATER FEATURES, BALL  
FIELDS, RUNNING PATHS"

"REDESIGN  
STREETS FOR  
LOW SPEED"

"TOO MANY  
BOARDED UP  
BUSINESS SPACES"



# Evening Station (Arts + Culture)

- ▶ Increase the availability of public facilities, such as public restrooms
- ▶ Expand opportunities to explore Seattle's diverse history and culture
- ▶ Provide more temporary retail options, such as food trucks, night markets, and sidewalk busking
- ▶ Establish sustainable funding and support mechanisms for artists and small businesses
- ▶ Enhance Downtown's nighttime economy
- ▶ Activate public spaces through concerts, performances, markets, and community events

"OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL BIZ/ARTISTS SOLOPRENEURS TO SHARE RETAIL SPACE"

"BUSKER PROGRAM"

"ART WALK MAP ACROSS THE ENTIRE CITY"

"MORE PUBLIC RESTROOMS"

"DOWNTOWN SHOULDN'T FEEL CLOSED AT 8 PM"

"MORE ART AND RETAIL OPPORTUNITIES TO BRING VIBRANCY TO THESE AREAS"

"HISPANIC PIONEER SQUARE & CHINATOWN ARE SEATTLE TREASURES"

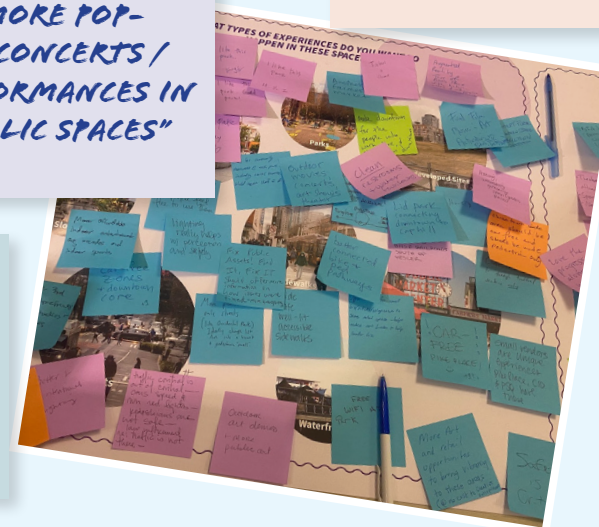
"STORE FRONT REPAIR PROGRAM + MAXIMIZE PUBLIC SPACE ACTIVATION"

"ACTIVITIES - WELL LIT"

"MORE POP-UP CONCERTS / PERFORMANCES IN PUBLIC SPACES"

"SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR DOWNTOWN ARTS ORG THAT BRING VISITORS AND BOLSTER DOWNTOWN'S AFTER-WORK ECONOMY!"

"MAKE IT WORK FOR PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN DOWNTOWN"





# Downtown Outreach

## Arts and Culture

- Design in Public
- Seattle Art Museum
- Seattle Parks Foundation
- Washington Multicultural Services
- Seattle Urban Natives Nonprofits
- Visit Seattle
- Friends of Waterfront Seattle
- Seattle Symphony
- Arte Noire
- Good Arts Building
- Path with Art
- Shunpike
- The Cultural Space Agency
- Totem Star
- Urban Artworks
- Whipsmart

- Freeway Park Association
- The Stadiums
- Visit Seattle
- Seattle Center/ Office of The Waterfront
- Friends of Waterfront Park

## Community Groups

- FANHs Seattle
- Hmong Association of Washington
- Friends of Little Sài Gòn
- Ethiopian Community in Seattle
- EchoX
- Feet First
- Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDpda)

- Economic Development + Employment**
- CIDBIA
- Commute Seattle
- Pike Place Market PDA/Downtown District Leadership Tomorrow
- Belltown Housing and Land Use Committee
- Pioneer Square Community Association
- Pike Place Market Foundation
- Alliance for Pioneer Square
- CIDBIA
- Pastry Project
- Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDPDA)
- Seattle Restored
- Pay Up Campaign
- The Chamber
- Safco Field

# Downtown Outreach

## Housing

Senior Services  
Seattle Works  
AIA  
Downtown Seattle Families  
Compass Housing Alliance  
Housing Development Consortium  
CDA  
Low Income Housing Institute  
Pike Place PDA - Senior Housing

## Indigenous Groups

Chief Seattle Club  
Seattle Indian Health Board  
Urban Indian Health Institute  
Red Eagle Soaring  
Potlatch Fund  
Muckleshoot Fishers and Food Producers

## Land Use + Development

Office of the Mayor  
Downtown Seattle Association  
Forterra  
Museum Development Authority  
Sightline  
PSRC Regional Equity Network  
APA  
Historic Seattle PDA  
King County  
ULI  
Seattle Chinatown/International District PDA  
UW Runstad Center  
Historic South Downtown  
Seattle University Center for Community Engagement

## Religious Groups

Seattle Choeizan Enkyoji Buddhist Temple

Diamond Way Buddhist Center  
Christ Our Hope Catholic Church  
Trinity Episcopal Parish  
Chabad of Downtown Seattle  
Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
Downtown Muslim Association of Seattle  
Muslim Association of Puget Sound

## Transportation

Seattle Transit Blog  
Commute Seattle  
Washington Bus The Port  
WSDOT

## Youth

Creative Advantage  
Minds Matter Seattle  
Skate like a girl  
YMCA



# Media + Communications

## News + Blogs

Seattle Chinatown International District  
DSA News  
PubliCola  
OPCD Blog/News  
Junglecity.com  
Events12 - Seattle  
Seattle Weekly / Onebox Scene Think  
The Seattle Medium  
Northwest Asian Weekly  
North American Post  
Crossings TV Seattle  
The Facts  
International Examiner  
Converge Media  
SEAToday  
Fil Am Chronicle

## Social Media + Bulletins

South Seattle Emerald Events Page  
Japanese in Seattle!  
Friends and Neighbors in Cap Hill/Central District/Downtown Facebook  
Downtown Dwellers Facebook  
SLU, Lower Queen Anne, Uptown, Cap Hill, Belltown, Downtown Facebook  
Vietnamese in Seattle Facebook Group  
Somali Bridge - WA  
Nextdoor - Downtown Seattle  
The Evergrey  
Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Newsletter  
Friends of the Market Newsletter  
Alliance for Pioneer Square BIA Newsletter  
Seattle Polish News Newsletter  
Seattle Housing Authority: The Voice

Tu Decides/You Decide  
Alzagil Media  
Oromia Freedom Media  
OPCD Meetings & Events  
Seattle.gov Submit Events



# Downtown Workshop 02

On September 24th, more than **120 participants** gathered help craft goals and policy directions for Downtown Seattle.

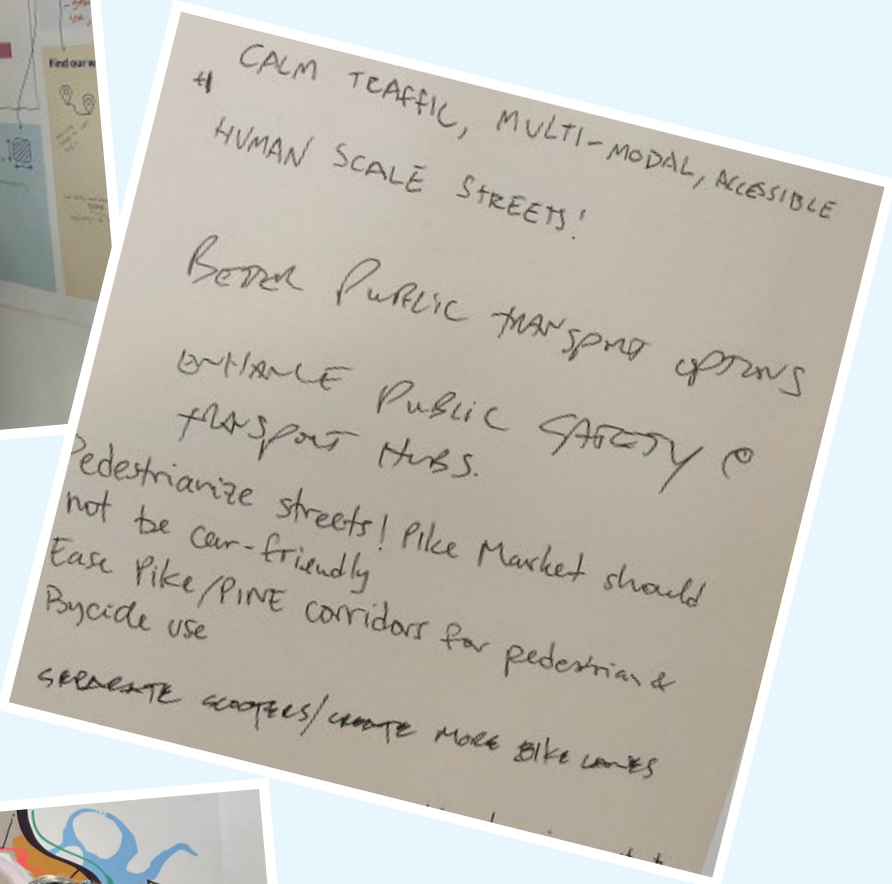
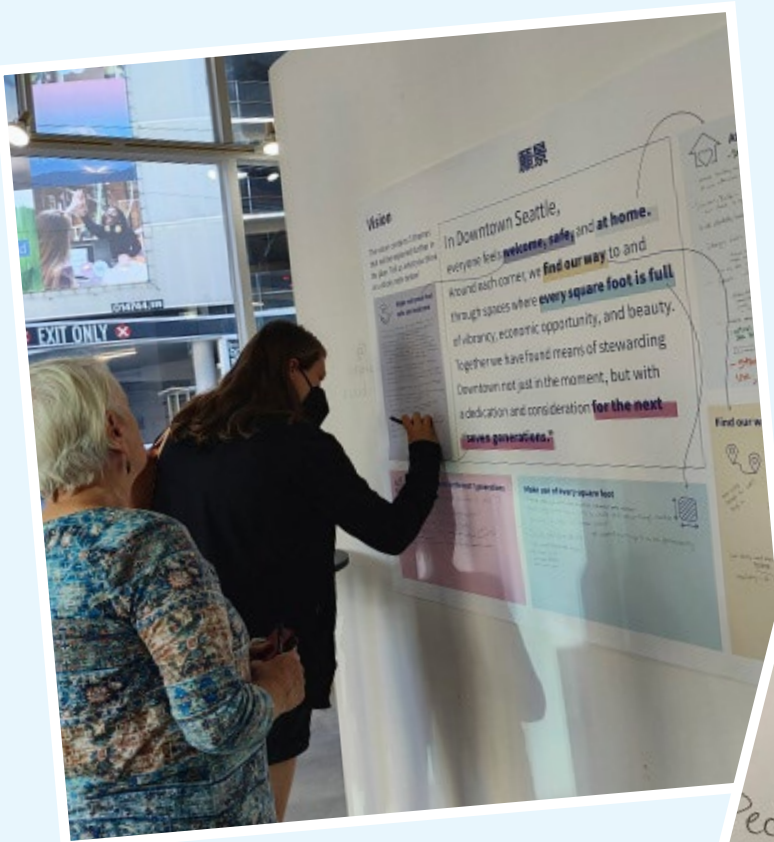
The workshop led participants through a several stations that centered around the 5 main components of the draft vision. Over **355** comments were shared.



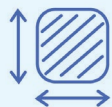


# Vision

In Downtown Seattle,  
everyone feels **welcome, safe,** and **at home.**  
Around each corner, we **find our way** to and  
through spaces where **every square foot is full**  
of vibrancy, economic opportunity, and beauty.  
Together we have found means of stewarding  
Downtown not just in the moment, but with a  
dedication and consideration **for the next**  
**“seven generations.”**



**Make everyone feel  
safe and welcome**



**Make use of every  
square foot**



**At home Downtown**



**Find our way**



**Steward our home for  
the next 7 generations**

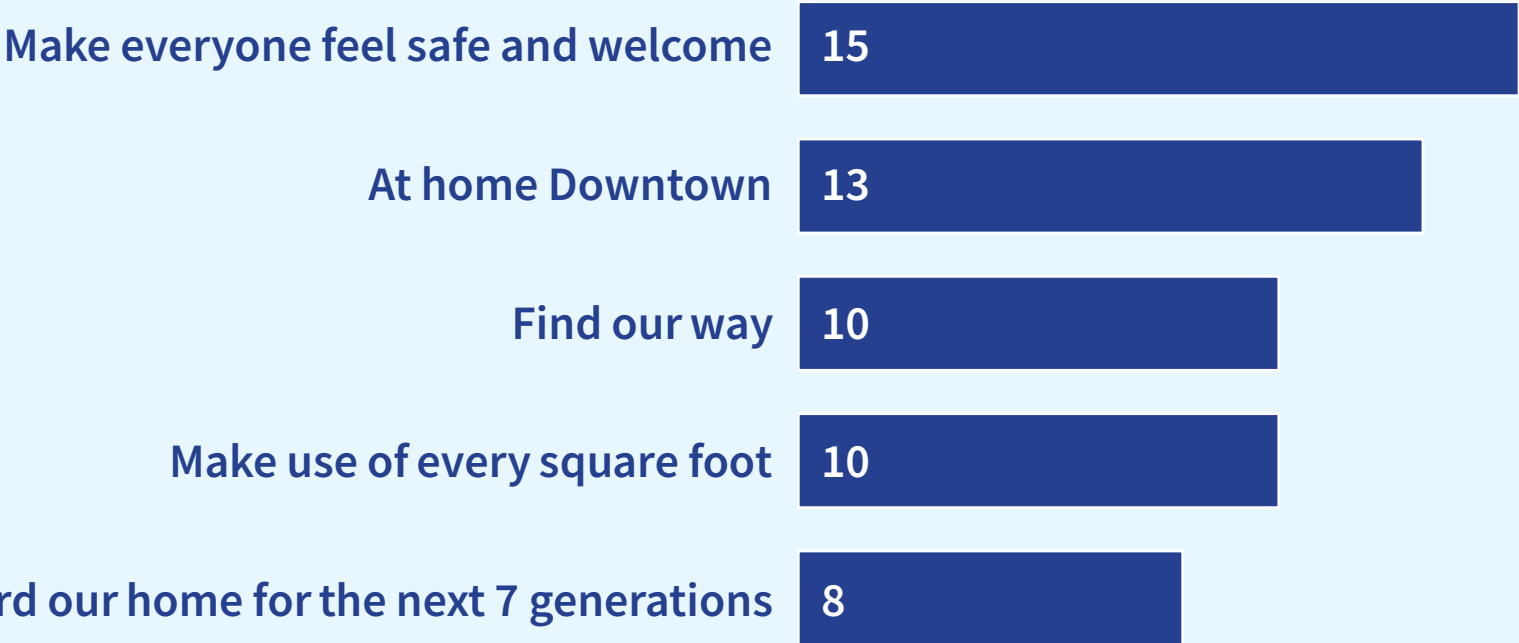
Source: City of Seattle and Tahoma Peak  
Solutions, Indigenous Inclusivity Guide



# Vision

- ▶ Participants shared constructive ideas to ground the vision statement, often sharing how they imagined each theme could be successful.
- ▶ The most commented themes on the vision board were welcome, safe and at home Downtown.
- ▶ Ideas ranged from policies to encourage balanced, affordable development, to projects that amplify indigenous voices and programs to support the unhoused.

## Most Comments on Vision Board



"EXPAND ACCESS TO RESOURCES SO OUR UNHOUSED NEIGHBORS CAN GET SUPPORT"

"ENCOURAGE MORE LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS PERMITTING"



# Vision

## Make everyone feel safe and welcome

- ▶ In order for people to feel safe Downtown, it needs to be activated
- ▶ Unhoused people need supportive services and help, rather than regulation
- ▶ Street ambassadors are an important community safety resource
- ▶ A public realm that is cared for (well-lit and maintained) would make people feel safer Downtown
- ▶ Representation of cultures, especially Indigenous culture, would make more people feel welcome

### Top voted goals:

1. Activate Downtown parks for community-wide events [10]
2. Make Downtown safe for everyone, all hours of the day [9]
3. Provide recreation amenities for Downtown residents [8]



"MORE NATIVE AMERICAN  
PRESENCE - ART, CULTURE,  
BUSINESS"

"WE NEED MORE SOCIAL  
WORKERS, NOT ARMED POLICE  
TO DE-ESCALATE CONFLICT IN  
NON-VIOLENT WAYS SO THAT  
EVERYONE ACTUALLY FEELS  
SAFE"

"WE NEED  
MORE STREET  
AMBASSADORS"

"MAKE IT MORE LIVABLE  
BY IMPLEMENTING MORE  
COMMON SPACE + PARKS"

"THERE IS A DIRE NEED  
TO ACTIVATE DOWNTOWN  
AGAIN"



# Make everyone feel safe and welcome



## ●● 9 Make Downtown safe for everyone, all hours of the day

- 14 Continued to implement a focused approach to respond to safety and environmental concerns along 3rd Ave
- 10 Improve accessibility, lighting, and safety
- 9 Adopt an inclusive management approach to Downtown public spaces, with the intention to accommodate everyone's needs within a public health framework (such as providing access to drinking water, public restrooms, and safe needle disposal.)
- 8 Enhance community policing services and alternative response programs

NEED FOR 3RD AVENUE APPROACH TO BE INCLUSIVE AND SUPPORTIVE OF UNHOUSED COMMUNITY

"INVEST IN THE NIGHT TIME ECONOMY! NURSES, WORKERS, MUSICIANS!"

## ● 5 Wrap Downtown in a Green Embrace

- 18 Advance the vision for the I-5 Lid Park [Continue to explore the lidding of I-5 to create park spaces and pedestrian connections from Capitol Hill to Downtown (DAP)]
- 10 Adapt land use regulations to further support activation of ground floors adjacent to the waterfront along Alaskan Way
- 8 Reduce the impacts of steep slopes between the waterfront and other neighborhoods
- 6 Complete the full construction of the Seattle Waterfront by 2025 (DAP)

LOTS OF SUPPORT FOR THE I-5 LID!

"EMBRACE THAT MOMENT TO CONNECT TO CAPITOL HILL."

"MORE DISABLED ACCESS!"

# Make everyone feel safe and welcome



## 2 Make Downtown welcoming and inclusive to all

- 17 Provide all-gender public restrooms in Downtown parks
- 11 Expand the role of arts in public spaces Downtown
- 9 Provide multilingual signage and communications in Downtown spaces, with an emphasis on indigenous naming

NEED FOR RESTROOMS  
TO BE MAINTAINED AND  
CLEANED AS WELL.

"DON'T FORGET EXERCISE  
AND PROGRAMMING FOR  
THE OLDER FOLKS"

## 8 Provide recreation amenities for Downtown residents

- 10 Provide new neighborhood gathering spaces (indoor and outdoor)
- 9 Increase youth and all ages park amenities in existing and new Downtown parks, focusing first on areas that are taking on more residential units
- 7 Complete planned improvements to Downtown parks (DAP)
- 6 Increase access to community growing spaces or farmers' markets
- 5 Improve public water access and cooling areas by installing spray pads or water features in existing parks and plazas close to residential areas.
- 3 Partner to offer free, family-friendly programming at the Waterfront and in neighborhood spaces (DAP)

"DOWNTOWN WILL  
NOT BE FAMILY-  
FRIENDLY UNTIL  
[THERE IS A SCHOOL  
DOWNTOWN]"

"MORE 3RD  
PLACES  
"PLACE  
MAKING""

## 5 Reveal, celebrate, and protect Downtown's history and culture

- 11 Preserve Downtown's built history while enabling contemporary evolution
- 8 Add expand opportunities for musical performances across Downtown
- 5 Communicate and share Downtown's untold and unique stories, people and places





# Make everyone feel safe and welcome



## ● 4 Increase park access as Downtown grows

- ▶ ● 7 Expand park access in areas with gaps: the CID, Belltown, and Denny Triangle (Seattle PR)
- ▶ ● 7 Create and advance new Gateway Parks, proximate to transit stations and gateways from other neighborhoods into Downtown.
- ▶ ● 7 Create a placemaking strategy to activate neighborhood alleyways
- ▶ 2 Explore partnerships to provide indoor recreation spaces
- ● ▶ 1 Seek opportunities to repurpose right of way for recreational opportunities, and advance the SDOT “Pavements to Parks” program Downtown

"WITH OUT PARKS, YOU DON'T HAVE A CITY THAT SUPPORTS FAMILIES"

IMPROVED PARKS AND RECREATION ARE NEEDED FOR FAMILIES

## ● ● 10 Activate Downtown parks for community-wide events

- ▶ ● ● 13 Continue to partner with non-profit organizations to deliver events and programming
- ● 9 Support community-driven activations and cultural celebrations Downtown (DAP)
- ▶ ● 7 Adapt and develop parks with flexible programming and events infrastructure (access to power, lawns, or flexible space)

AGREEMENT THAT FUNDING IS NEEDED FOR PARKS

"FUND THE PORTAL PARK"

"PARTNER WITH FOR PROFITS, TOO"

# Vision

## At home Downtown

- ▶ Remove barriers to development (including height and lot size restrictions)
- ▶ Support development of buildings with a mix of affordable and market rate units, as well as mixed uses on the ground floor
- ▶ Support for more daily services and amenities (grocery, school, parks)
- ▶ Desire for more unit types (that support families) and ownership opportunities

### Top voted goals:

1. Support Downtown's unhoused residents with services, shelter and permanent housing [26]
2. Preserve and expand affordable and workforce housing [25]
3. Grow housing across all Downtown neighborhoods [23]



"REMOVE ROADBLOCKS  
IMMEDIATELY - FAST  
TRACK CONSTRUCTION"

"DESIGN FROM A CHILDREN  
AND FAMILY FIRST  
APPROACH"

"CREATE AFFORDABLE /  
MARKET RATE / MIDDLE  
INCOME HOUSING IN THE  
SAME BUILDING"

"DOWNTOWN / BELLTOWN IS  
A FOOD DESERT AND ALL CVS  
AND RITE-AID HAVE CLOSED"

"SUPPORT  
RESIDENTS LIVING  
IN DOWNTOWN"

"CREATE SPACES FOR  
CHILDREN TO PLAY"



# At home Downtown



## ●●●●● 23 **Grow housing across all Downtown neighborhoods**

- 15 Simplify the housing production process and incentivize the creation of more diverse downtown residential units where appropriate
- 15 Allow more flexibility for residential development in areas of Downtown currently zoned “Downtown Office Core”
- 13 Reduce the regulatory and financial burdens of frequent energy code updates and seismic and energy upgrades in historic buildings through incentives and regulatory changes.
- 11 Encourage shared, district-level garage parking strategies to reduce project development costs and manage parking holistically
- 9 Convert existing commercial buildings to housing, with an emphasis on securing long-term affordable units

DISAGREEMENT ABOUT ROLE OF DESIGN REVIEW AND IF IT IS HELPFUL OR IF IT SLOWS HOUSING CREATION

“PROTECT HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN THE PROCESS”

“INCLUDE CULTURAL SPACES AND PROGRAMS WITHIN LIVING SPACES”

## ●●●●● 25 **Preserve and expand affordable and workforce housing**

- 13 Work with foundations, major employers, community-based organizations, and Community Development Financial Institutions to explore the feasibility of new grant and/or loan funds for affordable housing developments serving areas of Downtown with the highest socioeconomic needs
- 11 Support new forms of affordable and workforce housing ownership (community land trusts, cooperative or shared equity models, and co-housing)
- 7 Focus housing resources and programs toward protecting lower-income households in areas with high displacement risks, such as the CID and Pioneer Square



# At home Downtown



## Continued - **Preserve and expand affordable and workforce**

- 7 Expand the funding tools available to assist in creating long-term affordable housing, such as TIF districts
- 6 Retain existing affordable housing that exists Downtown today
- 4 Assess MHA requirements to support bringing additional larger scale housing units online

DIFFERING OPINIONS ABOUT  
MHA AND ITS IMPACT

"MHA NEEDS TO  
ENCOURAGE MIXED-  
INCOME HOUSING  
REGARDLESS OF A  
DEVELOPER."

## **Evolve Downtown neighborhoods to be inclusive of the diverse needs of all residents and families.**

- 12 Support the creation of housing that provides a mix of units that support residents in different life stages (work-live housing, accessible senior housing, and family housing)
- 12 Work with development projects to provide publicly accessible private open space that meets each neighborhood's goals and needs
- 9 Expand family-focused services and programming around housing clusters and transit, including childcare, basic neighborhood-serving retail, and play experiences.
- 7 Reinforce what makes each neighborhood Downtown special or unique

"MAKE THE MHA  
REAL WHAT IS IT  
DOING NEEDS A  
LARGER IMPACT"

"ELIMINATE  
MHA!"

"THE CURRENT MHA  
IS TOO CHEAP!"

NEED FOR MORE PARKS  
AND BASIC AMENITIES  
DOWNTOWN



# At home Downtown



## Support Downtown's unhoused residents with services, shelter and permanent housing

●●●●● 26

- 8 Increase permanent housing assistance and transitional housing to support the need to rapidly rehouse people and help them stay housed.
- 8 Support the creation of a drop-in center or crisis services center.
- 6 Ensure that emergency shelter and day centers are safe and accessible for those who need it.
- 5 Ensure that housing alternatives are available for people who may not be candidates for traditional shelter accommodations (families, those with significant medical needs, people with pets, and others).
- 3 Collaborate with King County and Health Services to connect people to intensive services promoting housing and job stability.

SUPPORT FOR MORE ACCESS  
TO SOCIAL SERVICES  
AND FEAR OF OVER  
CONCENTRATION DOWNTOWN

"WORK WITH SOME OF THE  
NEEDS OF THE HOMELESS  
COMMUNITY TO ENSURE THAT  
THEIR VOICES ARE HEARD  
AND NEEDS ARE MET, SO THAT  
NEIGHBORHOODS ARE TRULY  
INCLUSIVE OF ALL RESIDENTS"

## Partner with the private sector to advance innovations in new construction

●●●●● 14

- 16 Encourage construction techniques and materials that are cost-effective and efficient to build (Cross-laminated Timber buildings, volumetric modular, pre-fab)
- 11 Work with SDCI to increase the financial feasibility of sustainable building practices
- 8 Promote emerging green building and sustainable development practices

WORRY THAT  
PRIVATE SECTOR  
IS NOT PROVIDING  
QUALITY DESIGNED  
BUILDINGS

"DO NOT ELIMINATE  
DESIGN REVIEW  
FOR DOWNTOWN  
NEIGHBORHOODS"

"MATERIALS AND  
TECHNIQUES SHOULD  
NOT BE BOTTOM OF THE  
BARREL IF WE WANT THE  
CITY TO LAST"

# Vision

## Steward our home for the next 7 generations

Source: City of Seattle and Tahoma Peak Solutions, Indigenous Inclusivity Guide

- ▶ Support building electrification
- ▶ Incentivize retrofitting historic buildings for natural disasters
- ▶ Need more access to green spaces and an increased tree canopy
- ▶ De-carbonization efforts need to happen across multiple sectors (construction, transportation, waste)

### Top voted goals:

1. Celebrate Downtown's unique connection to water [17]
2. Ensure all Downtowners have access to resilient spaces [15]
3. Care for Downtown's water, land and natural resources [12]
4. Ensure Downtown assets are resilient to natural disasters and climate change impacts [12]



*"DECARBONIZE /  
ELECTRIFY BUILDINGS  
IN DOWNTOWN"*

*"RETROFITTING / UPGRADING  
HISTORIC FOR EARTHQUAKE  
/ FLOOD / HEAT / NATURAL  
DISASTER SAFETY"*

*"GREEN ROOFS AND  
COMMUNITY GARDENS"*

*"7 GENERATIONS IS A  
NATIVE TEACHING"*

*"PROVIDE CREDITS FOR  
MICROMOBILITY IN  
EXCHANGE TO RESIDENTS  
GIVING UP THEIR  
AUTOMOBILE HABITS"*

*"PRESERVE OUR LANDMARK  
BUILDINGS - GIVE THEM  
SPACE / LIGHT TO CONTINUE  
TO SERVE AS AFFORDABLE  
HOUSING AND SMALL  
BUSINESS INCUBATORS FOR  
THE NEXT GENERATION"*



# Steward our home for the next 7 generations

Source: City of Seattle and Tahoma Peak Solutions, Indigenous Inclusivity Guide



## 17 Celebrate Downtown’s unique connection to water

- 15 Collaborate with Indigenous Tribes and local non-profits to broaden Downtown’s historic and future engagement with water
- 11 Amplify and protect Downtown views of the water and surrounding mountain ranges
- 11 Effectively maintain existing water based design features and integrate water based design features and play into public space investment whenever possible
- 9 Leverage the waterfront’s economic development value by balancing maritime industry needs with public waterfront access and experiences
- 5 Communicate the value of water resources, urban habitat, and ecological systems

"CONNECT WATERFRONT INITIATIVES WITH OTHER EFFORTS. ARTS + CULTURE, PUBLIC SAFETY"

"INCLUDE DUWAMISH TRIBE"

## 12 Care for Downtown’s water, land and natural resources

- 19 Reimagine Downtown streets as green corridors
- 18 Protect and expand Downtown’s tree canopy
- 9 Manage stormwater responsibly to clean and minimize run-off into the Puget Sound
- 9 Reduce the strain on Downtown’s combined sewer overflow and stormwater overflow facilities
- 5 Raise awareness about water quality through public art and resident programs
- 4 Explore ways to translate existing stormwater mitigation partnership programs with landowners to Downtown’s unique, urban context

LOTS OF AGREEMENT TO CARE FOR WATER + NATURAL RESOURCES!



# Steward our home for the next 7 generations

Source: City of Seattle and Tahoma Peak Solutions, Indigenous Inclusivity Guide



## ●●● 10 Reduce Downtown’s reliance on fossil fuels

- 13 Address buildings in need of seismic retrofits
- 12 Increase participation in the programs that reduce individual emissions (e.g. composting program, heating and cooling conversions)
- 11 Explore a local power generation/district energy model and low pollution neighborhood model.
- 11 Implement and expand sustainable building practices, including promotion of adaptive reuse.
- 10 Ensure new buildings achieve high environmental and emissions standards
- 9 Work with the Port to continue shifting to an electrified fleet and facilities.

NOTE THAT THIS POLICY  
ALTERNATIVE SHOULD  
NOT IMPACT FEASIBILITY  
OF HOUSING PRODUCTION

## Ensure Downtown assets are resilient to natural disasters

### ●●● 12 and climate change impacts

- 14 Support electrification of WSDOT fleet as additional waterfront transportation options are explored
- 5 Collaborate with the Port to support the industrial maritime strategy

## ●●● 15 Ensure all Downtowners have access to resilient spaces

- 15 Expand resilience hubs beyond libraries, with a focus on increasing access in the CID and SODO
- 13 Integrate green stormwater and traditional land management alternatives in new development
- 9 Address flooding in low-lying, flood prone streets and public spaces

"RECOGNIZE THAT AS  
SEATTLE'S DENSEST  
DISTRICT, DOWNTOWN HAS  
THE POTENTIAL TO BE THE  
GREENEST AS WELL"

"MULTI-FAMILY  
RESIDENTIAL IS THE MOST  
EFFICIENT ENERGY USER  
FOR HOUSING"

"BE CREATIVE  
ABOUT THIS!"



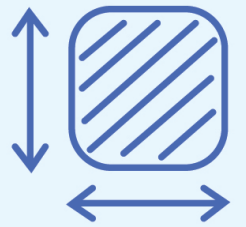
# Vision

## Make use of every square foot

- ▶ Encourage private property owners to create public spaces
- ▶ Matchmaking for small businesses and pop-up retail opportunities that support entrepreneurship
- ▶ Flexibility in zoning and permitting to allow spaces to change use
- ▶ More general support for small business (there are some existing programs that we can build off of and better fund)

### Top voted goals:

1. Unlock development or open space opportunities on vacant/underutilized sites [19]
2. Fill Downtown spaces with a mix of commercial uses [15]
3. Attract, grow and make the creative economy visible Downtown [14]



"ENCOURAGE PRIVATE  
PROPERTY OWNERS TO  
CREATE PUBLIC SPACES  
THROUGH INCENTIVES"

"ACTIVATE UNDERUTILIZED  
SPACES DOWNTOWN"

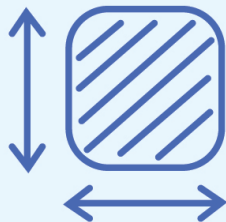
"MORE EVENTS AT  
WESTLAKE AGAIN"

"MORE SEATTLE  
RESTORED"

"ENCOURAGE MORE  
LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS  
PERMITTING"

"EASY CHANGE OF USE"

# Make the most of every square foot



## ●●● 15 Fill Downtown spaces with a mix of commercial uses

- 17 Support and grow Downtown jobs and small businesses
- 16 Retain and expand access to affordable retail rents and scales for cultural arts uses
- 14 Adapt underutilized Downtown office spaces and upper floors to alternate uses
- 13 Remove barriers to pop-up businesses and new small business starts.
- 7 Retain and increase the diversity of industries and opportunities Downtown
- 5 Bolster education and workforce training in support of growing Downtown industries

THIS POLICY ALTERNATIVE SHOULD INCLUDE EASY CHANGE OF USE PROCESSES

## Attract, grow and make the creative economy visible

### ●●● 14 Downtown

- 15 Grow and support Downtown's arts and culture, entertainment, and sports districts.
- 15 Expand opportunities for public art to be appreciated and celebrated in public gathering spaces.
- 14 Expand placemaking and activation in public and private spaces around the cultural hubs in each neighborhood (such as continued support for the Belltown Mural Festival or short term activations around festivals and conferences).
- 11 Simplify the process for special events requirements or funding opportunities to help BIPOC and emerging artists and performers participate more.
- 7 Implement the Cultural Strategies for Downtown Revitalization action plan.
- 1 Create a coalition focused on action from many recent planning efforts.

CONTINUED PROGRAMMING AND MONETARY SUPPORT IS NEEDED

"ENCOURAGE POSITIVE ACTIVITIES (OR EDUCATION) BY YOUTH IN DOWNTOWN"

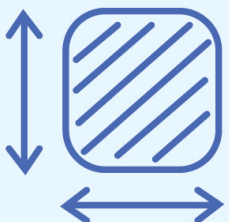
"MONEY NEEDED HERE AS INVESTMENT"

"INCENTIVES FOR SPECIAL EVENTS AND FILM PERMITS"

"WE HAVE SO MANY PLANS! START TESTING WITH GOOD PARTNERS"



# Make the most of every square foot



## ● 4 **Preserve or reposition key retail destinations**

- 14 Continue placemaking events centered on the Downtown commercial and retail core, including Pioneer Square, the mall clusters, and Third Avenue.
- 11 Partner with BIPOC business and organizations to implement retail and business support services
- 11 Support retail areas with enhanced community policing services and alternative response program
- 8 Focus on small business support for existing and future retailers in hubs like Pioneer Square
- 6 Partner with Pike Place Market to implement the Pike Place Strategic Plan

"CONSIDER INCENTIVE TO RETAIN HISTORICAL VENUES"



SUPPORT FOR ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE PROGRAMS - SUCH AS "WE DELIVER CARE"

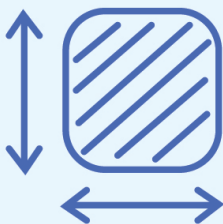
## ●● 11 **Ensure growth is equitable and aligned with community goals**

- 11 Leverage underutilized commercial spaces to support community groups and cultural agencies
- 7 Direct additional resources and civic service investments to Downtown areas that rank highest on the City's Racial and Social Equity Composite Index (designate these areas as Community Resource Areas)
- 5 Explore new TIF opportunities to align future development with investment in community needs, including long-term affordable housing
- 4 Expand language access for all planning and development processes Downtown
- 3 Ensure each project achieves potential co-benefits through transportation/utility projects, job creation, and public space creation
- 0 Explore ways to leverage community benefits agreements and other public benefit tools for major developments

"INCLUDE UNHOUSED"



# Make the most of every square foot



**Support existing and future key industry clusters including maritime, tourism, information technology, professional services, arts, and green economy**

- 8 Increase local education and workforce training resources, including access to locally driven non-traditional educational routes
- 7 Connect pathways to middle income jobs, particularly opportunities in healthcare, education, life sciences, and technology sectors
- 6 Partner with large employers in maritime, tourism, information technology to create job pathways
- 5 Elevate the quality of roads and water infrastructure in the CID and Pioneer Square
- 4 Connect educational institutions with employers and low-income residents
- 4 Plan for the needed expansion or accommodation of large scale, regional serving uses (major destinations, large employers)

CRIMINAL HISTORY OR DRUG CHARGES CAN BE BARRIERS TO ENTERING THE WORKFORCE

"ENTRY-LEVEL JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS FOR FOLKS WITH CRIMINAL HISTORY IS NECESSARY!"

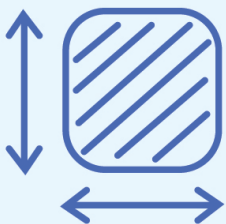
NEED FOR SCHOOLS AND EXISTING EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO HAVE MORE PARTNERSHIPS

"JOB TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES ARE ESSENTIAL!"

"ENCOURAGE HYPER-LOCAL EMPLOYMENT"



# Make the most of every square foot



## Unlock development or open space opportunities on vacant/

### ●●●●● 19 underutilized sites

- 19 Create “vertical neighborhoods” with increased density and mixed-use buildings around transit stations.
- 13 Use underutilized publicly owned land to realize community benefits through development, open space, or infrastructure projects
- 10 Enact needed infrastructure improvements and regulatory changes to enable privately owned vacant land to reach its full potential, including potential taxes on long-standing vacancies
- 8 Provide Downtown parking that is sufficient, but not excessive, to meet the needs of visitors

SUPPORT FOR LEVERAGING PUBLIC LAND FOR COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC USES

"THERE SHOULD BE NO SURFACE PARKING DOWNTOWN"

"CONSIDER PUBLIC SPACE OPTIONS IN VACANT LOCATIONS - URBAN GARDENS, PARKS, AND PLAYGROUNDS"

"EXPLORE OPTIONS FOR REDISTRIBUTION OF UNDERUTILIZED LAND. RETURN LAND TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN DISPLACED AND SUBSIDIZE LOCAL COMMUNITY OVER CORPORATE LAND."



# Vision

## Find our way



- ▶ Activation and events need to be more visible/easy to find in the public realm
- ▶ Wayfinding systems are needed to help people move through Downtown (maps at bus stops, markers for important places)
- ▶ Separation of mobility types would make people feel safer to walk and bike
- ▶ Feeling that cars are prioritized and Downtown would benefit from a pedestrian -first mindset
- ▶ Using transportation should feel safe and be enjoyable

### Top voted goals:

1. Rethink and re-allocate space on streets to put people first [13]
2. Make traveling through Downtown a safe and comfortable experience [11]
3. Create a sustainable and resilient Downtown transportation system [9]

"MORE VISIBLE SIGNAGE  
FOR EVENTS GOING ON"

"CALM TRAFFIC, MULTI-  
MODAL STREETS,  
ACCESSIBLE AND HUMAN  
SCALE STREETS"

"MORE WAY FINDING LIKE  
THE RECENT CHANGES  
/ UPDATES IN PIONEER  
SQUARE"

"PEDESTRIAN FIRST  
MINDSET"

"WE DON'T NEED MANY  
CARS DOWNTOWN"

"MORE BIKE LANES"

"REMOVE SOME OF THE BUSES  
OFF 3RD TO REDUCE THE  
CHAOTIC FEELING"



# Find our way



## ●●● 13 Rethink and re-allocate space on streets to put people first

- 17 Advance a mix of seasonal, weekend, and in some cases, permanent restrictions for personal vehicle traffic to make areas of Downtown car-free or “car-lite”
- 12 Pursue street transformations to create more space for walking, rolling, biking, transit and lingering or gathering
- 8 Co-create and implement innovative People Streets and Public Spaces concepts, such as community and mobility hubs and a pilot “Low Pollution Neighborhood”
- 8 Pursue major expansions of car-free gathering spaces in partnership with local venues, such as Lumen Field and T-Mobile Park, and alongside community groups, such as the Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority
- When providing maintenance, update the street to reflect right-of-way allocation needs that support adjacent land uses and planned transportation networks



SUPPORT FOR CAR-LITE PROGRAMS, AS LONG AS CURB LOGISTICS ARE FIGURED OUT

"CARS AREN'T NEEDED ON SO MANY STREETS. AT LEAST RESTRICT THROUGH TRAFFIC"

"WE MUST ALLOW FOR TRUCK LOADING AND BUILDING LOGISTICS"

"LET'S CREATE A SAFE, HUMAN-SCALED CITY WHERE WE CAN WALK TO WORK, TO THE PARK, AND OUR KIDS CAN CYCLE TO SCHOOL!"

## Make traveling through Downtown a safe and comfortable

### ●●● 11 experience

- 12 Focus investment to make Downtown more navigable to children, the elderly, and disabled populations, through solutions like seating, hill-climb assists, pedestrian lighting, shade, and more
- 9 Use High Injury Network (HIN) + Bike Pedestrian Safety Analysis (BPSA) data to inform investments and programming to calm traffic, reduce collisions, and slow down vehicles

# Find our way



## Continued - Make traveling through Downtown a safe and comfortable experience

- 9 “Daylight” every intersection in Downtown, supported by programming such as micromobility parking, greenery, and others
- 9 Pilot creative forms of emergency response and access such as through smaller vehicles and mountable infrastructure
- 7 Apply new policies to reduce the number of vehicle travel lanes on multi-lane streets with excess capacity, to “right-size” them for slower speeds and safer outcomes
- 1 Expand successful No Turn on Red pilot program to the entirety of Downtown, and continue to pursue “daylighting” opportunities, to eliminate confusion and make all intersections safer
- 0 Separate pedestrians from vehicles by physical barriers such as trees, parklets, and vehicle or bike parking

## Create a sustainable and resilient Downtown transportation

- 9 system
- 12 Implement more green streets designations with a particular focus on areas deficient in park space and tree canopy, such as Chinatown and the International District
- 11 Install pilots to de-pave streets, and pursue a strategy to increase tree canopy and green stormwater infrastructure

“ALL DOWNTOWN STREETS HAVE EXCESS CAPACITY”

NEED FOR BETTER PUBLIC TRANSIT ACCESSIBILITY ACROSS SEATTLE (AND INTO DOWNTOWN)

“WHAT’S MISSING? TRANSIT PRIORITY AT NIGHTS, ON/OFF RAMP REMOVAL, COMMERCIAL BIKE PARKING LOTS, FIX THE ROUTE AND BUS LANE”

“IT’S NOT HARD TO TRAVEL ACROSS DOWNTOWN, IT’S HARD TO TRAVEL FROM OTHER PLACES TO DOWNTOWN (+1)”



# Find our way



## Continued - Create a sustainable and resilient Downtown transportation system

- 8 Influence Downtown commuters to “flip their trips” away from personal vehicles to more efficient and sustainable travel options through existing and new programs
- 4 Explore mobility partnerships among public organizations, private firms, and foundations to accelerate sustainable mobility innovations
- 3 Reduce off-street parking capacity and manage it holistically at a district level, to reduce demand for car trips and reimagine spaces for sustainable investment
- 3 Leveraging the designation of a Low Pollution Neighborhood in Downtown to co-create sustainable mobility solutions with local communities

WANT TO MAKE SURE  
THAT REDUCTION COMES  
WITH ALTERNATIVES

"PAIR WITH CAFE SEATING  
AND PUBLIC BENEFITS"

## Design Downtown streets to support innovation and a

### ●● 7 thriving local economy

- 10 Continue to reduce permit requirements, with more flexibility for outdoor dining, food trucks, and other vending
- 5 Pilot adaptations of curb lanes for the benefit of local commerce, such as café seating, vending, and other programming – including in areas vacated by transit lanes (due to bus service changes with Link expansion)
- 5 Repurpose “slip lanes”, dead ends, and other irregular street grid locations for local activities
- 5 Use right-sized vehicles, such as e-cargo bikes, to showcase innovation in freight movement and pilot new curb uses for new methods for “last 50 feet” urban deliveries

"EMBRACE SEATTLE'S  
UNIQUE SHIFTING  
GRID AND AWKWARD  
INTERSECTIONS"



# Find our way



## Continued - Design Downtown streets to support innovation and a thriving local economy

- 4 Partner with developers, private sector businesses, and event organizers on major street activations
- 4 Ensure the important roles of the Port of Seattle and related freight movement and logistics are considered as upgrades are made Downtown
- ▶ 3 Avoid expensive repair of “Areaways” for heavy vehicle use but instead provide more space to lighter delivery solutions and other gathering space

“EXPLORE/EXPERIMENT AND SUPPORT BUSINESSES TO UTILIZE NON-CARBON MEANS OF LAST MILE DELIVERIES. IKEA IS ALREADY DOING THIS.”

## Celebrate the many unique cultures and histories of Downtown – especially its Indigenous population –

### ▶ ● 8 throughout its transportation system and public spaces

- ▶ ● ● 13 Reflect Indigenous art, culture, language, and gathering spaces throughout Downtown’s streets and public spaces, especially on the shoreline to honor Native cultures and our deep relationship with the water
- ▶ ● ● 13 Transform Pier 48 for public use for waterborne transportation, community space including a native space (cultural center or museum), and an installation that honors the history of Ballast Island
- ● ● 9 Expand passenger-only ferry and small boat travel options, furthering our connection to the water
- ▶ ● 7 Use transportation and public space investments to help repair past and current harms to BIPOC groups, in concert with Seattle’s transportation equity strategy
- ● 5 Advance People Streets and Public Spaces concepts, encouraging self-expression and neighborhood identity in the right-of-way conjunction with large events

“PARK WITH AMENITIES”

“THE CONSTRAINT IS TERMINAL SPACE”



# Find our way



## Use streets to help people navigate and find their way

### ● 5 through a legible Downtown

- 12 Stitch neighborhood divides through ground floor activations, re-design of space under I-5 at S Jackson, S King, and S Dearborn streets, and potential lidding of I-5 and BNSF railway tracks
- 10 Create frequent and reliable transit service corridors as bus service is restructured downtown in concert with light rail system expansion, with transit consolidated on certain streets, and in creating great public spaces for folks transferring or waiting for transit
- 5 Make approaches to the land from the water feel welcoming and clear through wayfinding, and provide safe opportunities for recreational canoeing and kayaking
- 4 Continue to install Seamless Seattle wayfinding columns and kiosks to aid navigation Downtown, and identify and expand publicly accessible “hill climbs”
- 3 Capitalize on the Downtown street grid’s views of the Puget Sound, and pursue new pocket parks and enhance view corridors
- 2 Test pilots of sustainable, zero-emission autonomous vehicle technology in conjunction with large events

SUPPORT FOR MORE ADA  
ACCESSIBLE HILL CLIMBS AND  
GENERAL WAY FINDING

"STEEP SLOPE" - CONSIDER  
WAYS TO MAKE EXISTING  
ESCALATORS FROM 1ST-5TH  
AVAILABLE TO ALL / FOR  
LONGER HOURS (AND TO  
WATERFRONT!)"

"KEEPING ZONING  
STAIR STEPS SO VIEWS  
ARE MAINTAINED"

"KAYAK/CANOES  
PARKING  
DOWNTOWN"

"NEIGHBORHOOD  
GUIDES"

"NEED LIGHTING  
ON DOWNTOWN  
SIDEWALKS"

# Community Engagement Survey #1 Report

Date:	December 19, 2025
Prepared for:	Seattle Downtown Regional Center Plan
Prepared by:	Agency Landscape + Planning



# **Downtown Seattle Urban Center**

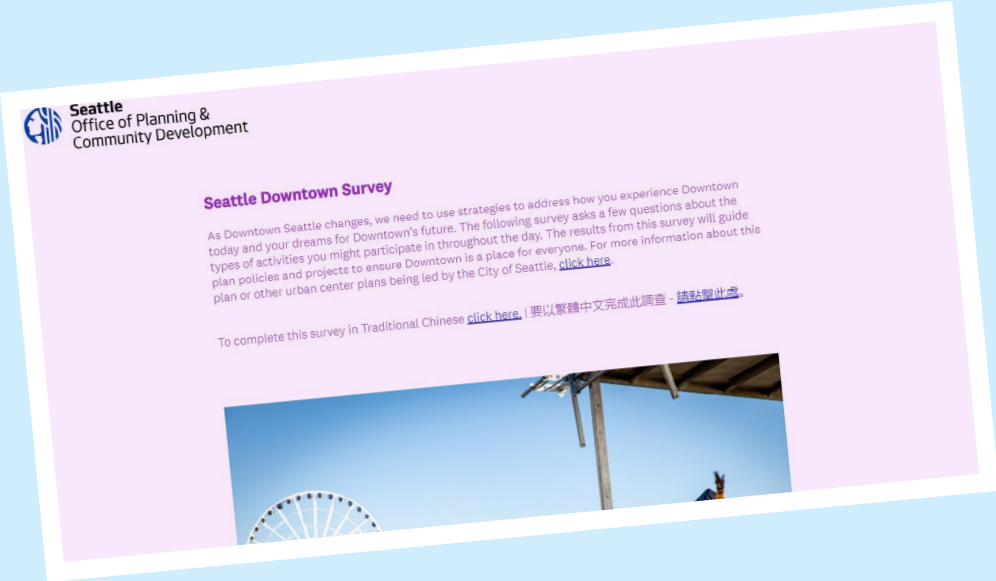
## Survey Summary

10.08.2024

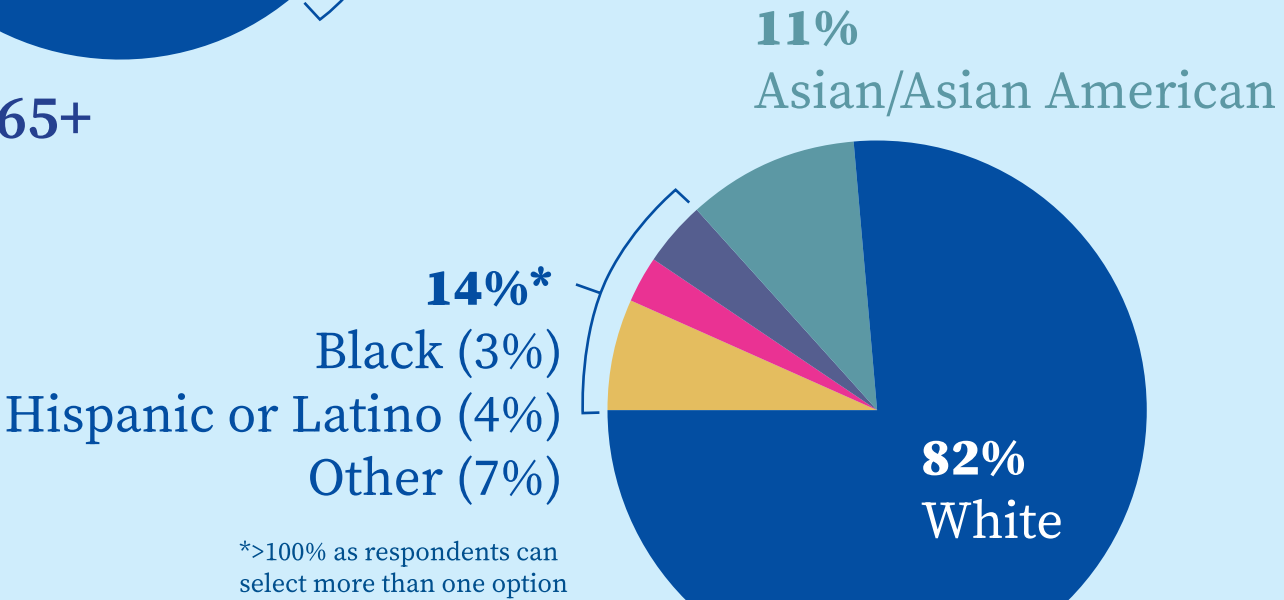
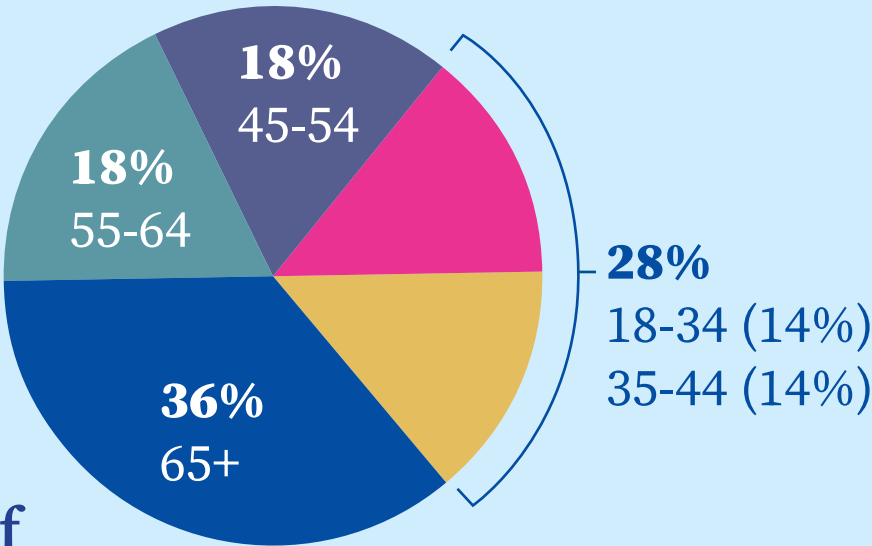
# Online Survey

Between 22 Feb and 10 May, **609 respondents** completed an online survey to share their experiences in Downtown Seattle.

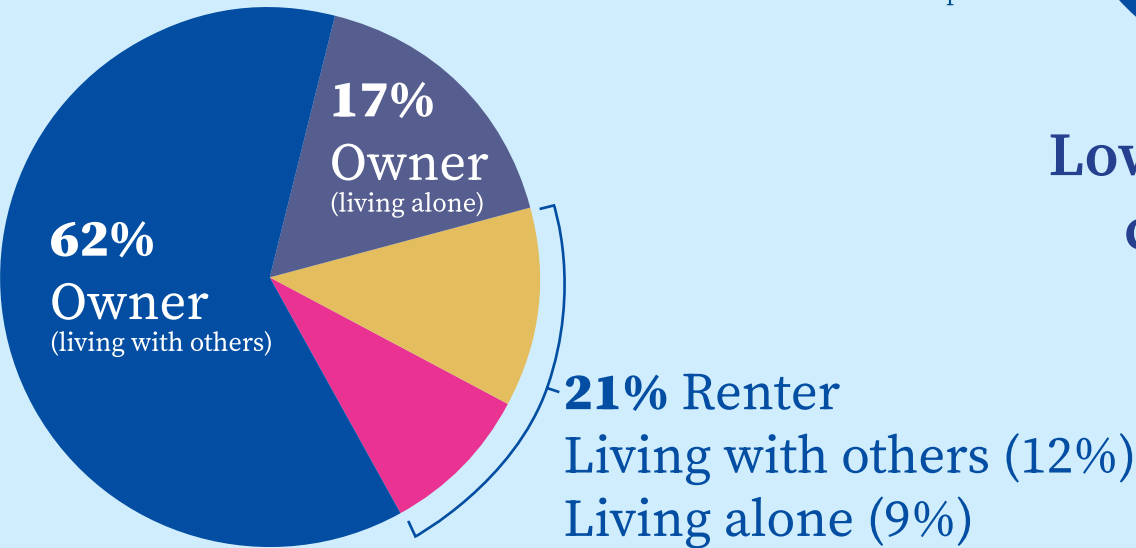
The survey asked respondents about their relationship to the Downtown, what they loved, and what they would change.



One third of respondents are 65+



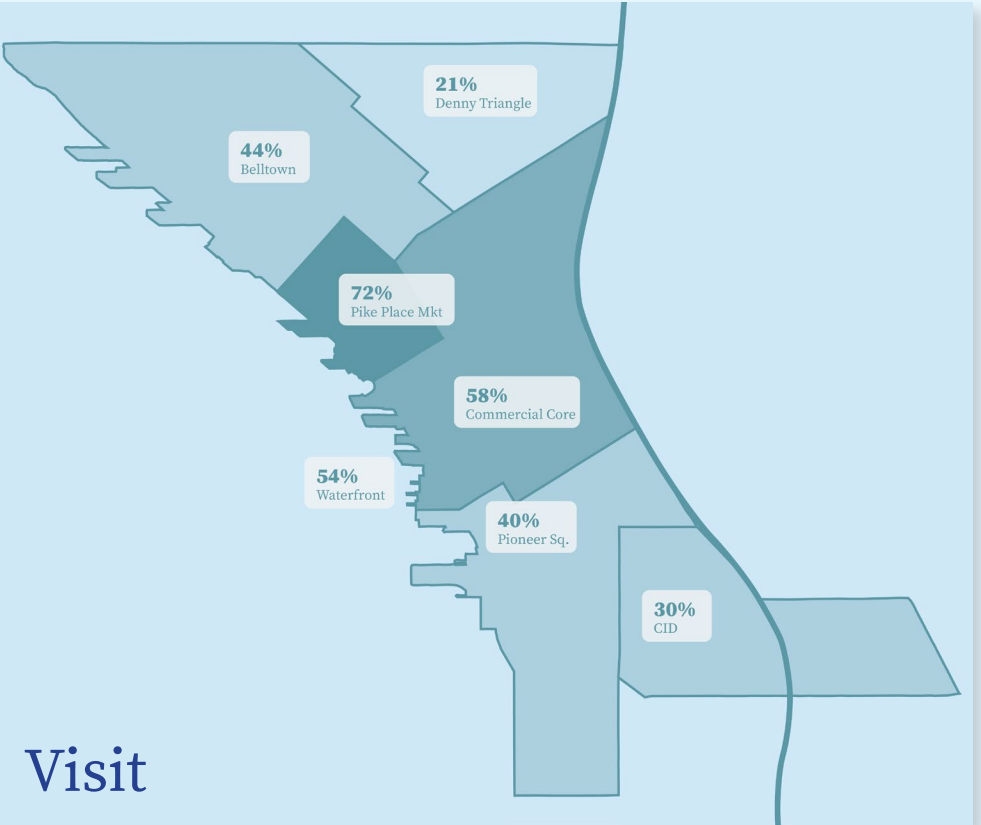
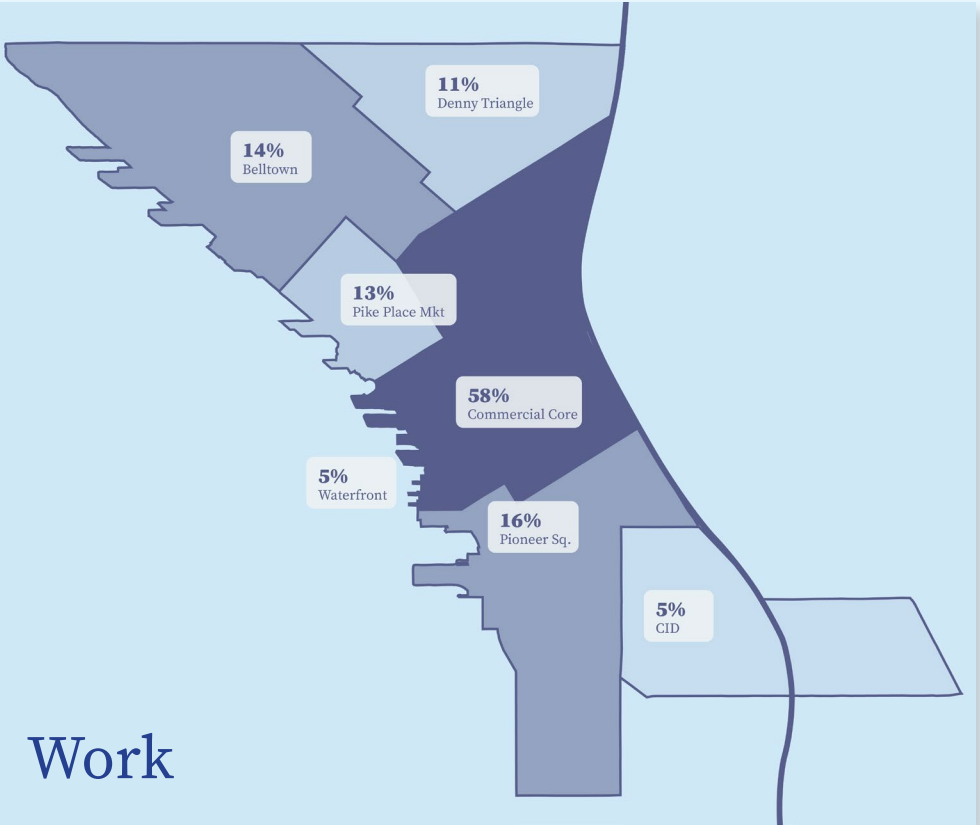
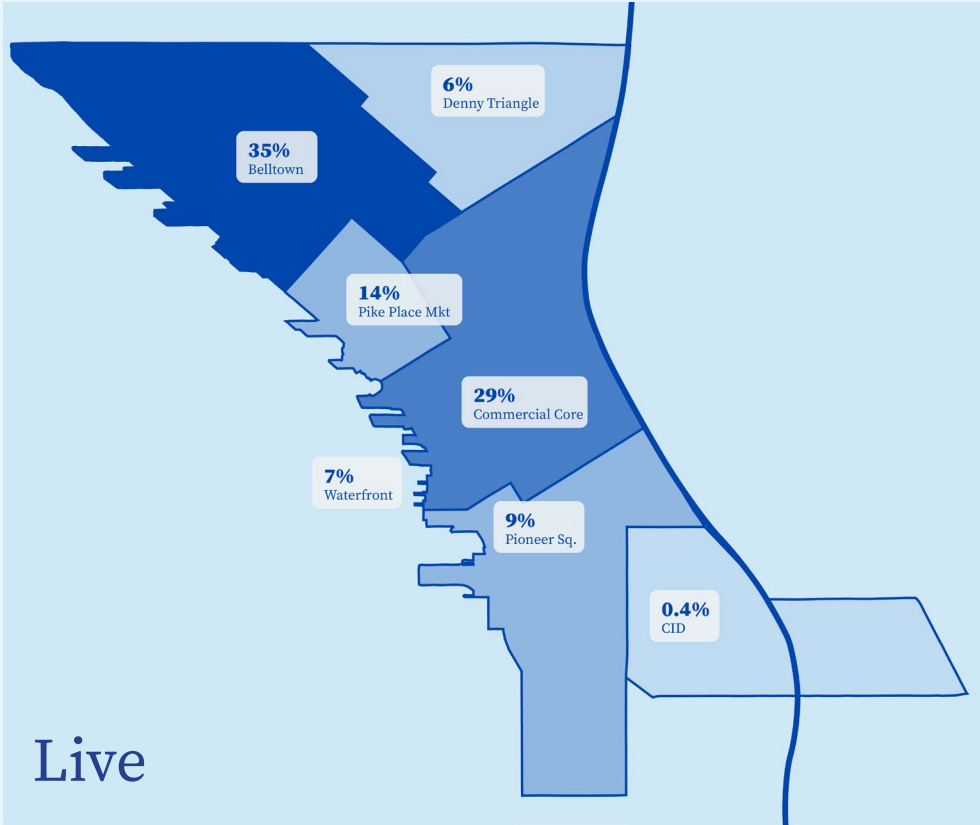
Lower representation of communities of color



Most repondents are home owners



# Where do you go in the Downtown?



# Theme 1: Safety

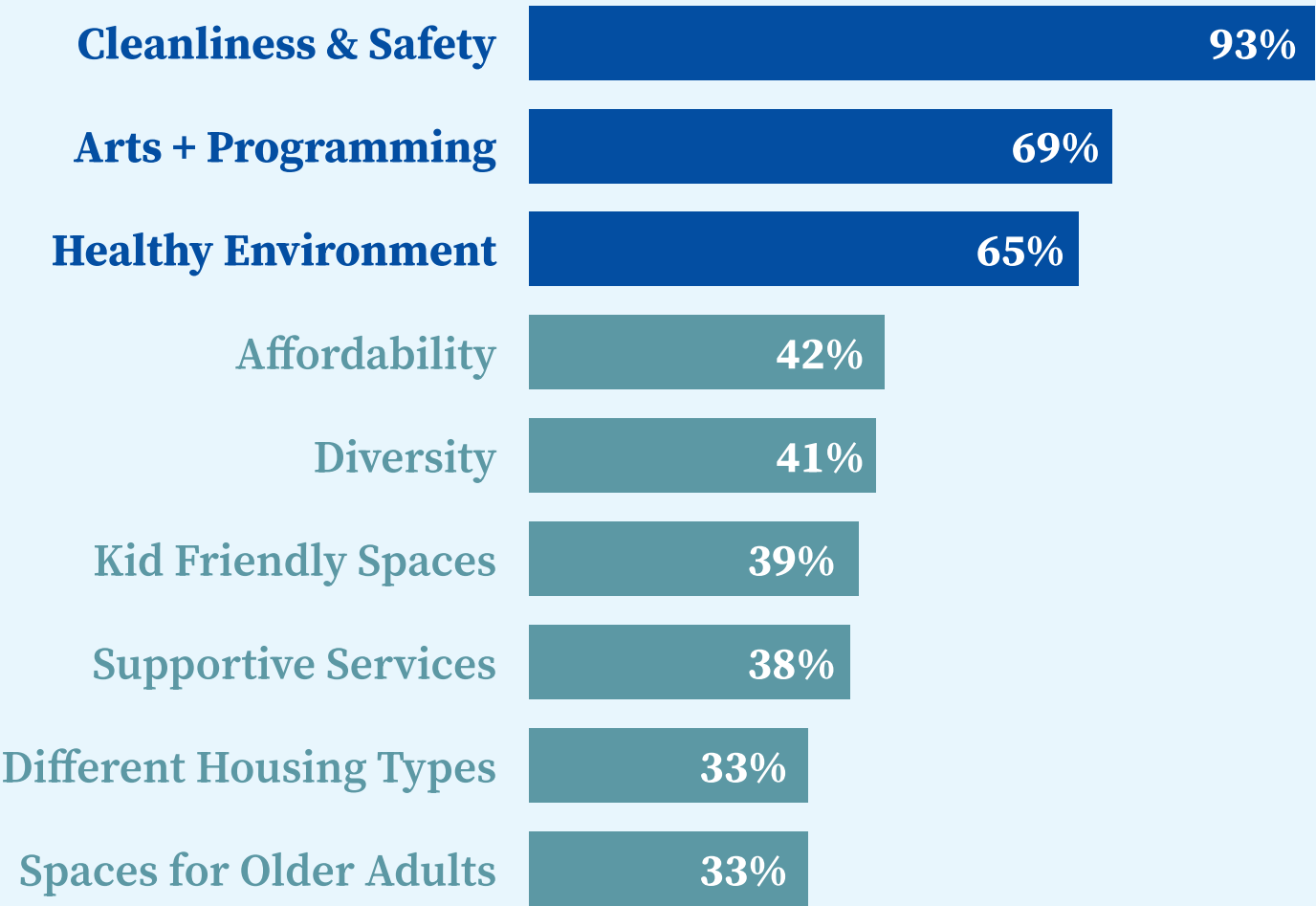
Jobs Economy
Housing
Process
Arts/Culture

Many parts of Downtown feel unsafe because of drug use and crime.

Street-level vacancies, hostile public spaces, and a lack of greenery amplify this feeling.



What does Downtown need to be a great place to live?





# Theme 2: Vibrant Retail

Retail, arts, and culture were a historic draw to the Downtown, but vibrancy and variety of retail has subsided post-COVID. Despite this, Pike Place and the Waterfront remain important draws to the Downtown.

A lack of parking makes it harder to visit the retail that remains.

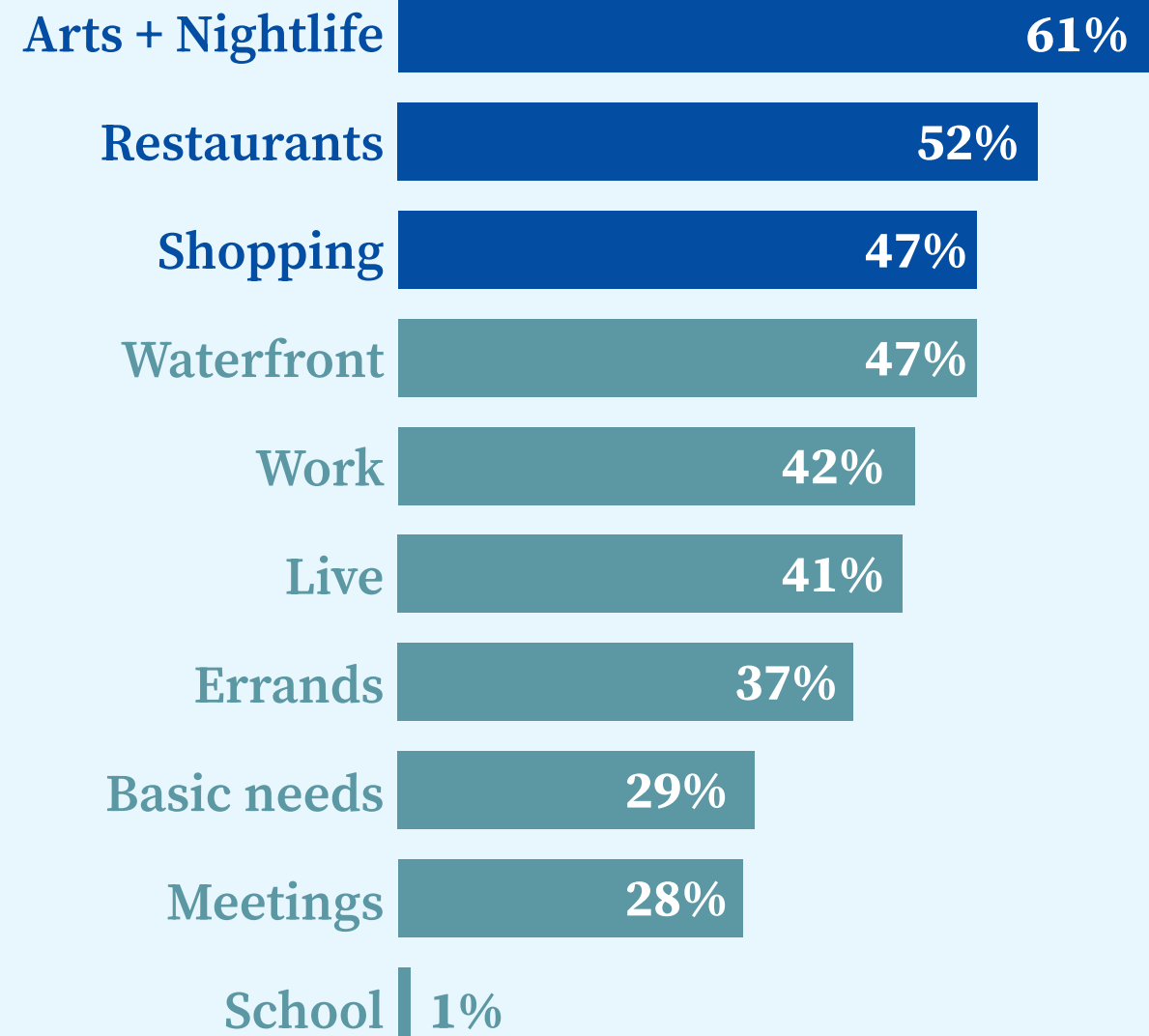
"WATERFRONT AND PIKE PLACE HAVE GREAT ENERGY AND LOVE SEEING THE WATER AND MOUNTAINS"

"SHOPPING IS NOT VERY EXCITING DOWNTOWN"

"LOVE THE NEW WATERFRONT IMPROVEMENTS!"

"I USED TO SHOP AND VISIT MORE IN THE COMMERICAL CORE AND PIONEERSQUARE, BUT NOT SO MUCH NOW DUE TO LACK OF SAFETY AND VIBRANCY"

What brings you to the Downtown?



# Theme 3: Housing Diversity

Jobs Economy

Housing

Process

Arts/Culture

Affordable housing important to attract and retain a diverse community in the Downtown

"WE NEED MORE DIVERSITY IN THE KINDS OF PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE CITY"

"THE LACK OF HOUSING AND INCOME DIVERSITY AND SMALL BUSINESS IS VERY CONCERNING."

"MORE HOUSING IN DOWNTOWN WILL LEAD TO INCREASED ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN THE REGIONAL CENTER"

"WE NEED HOUSING FOR THE WORK FORCE, NOT EVERYONE IS MAKING HIGH WAGES OR IS IN THE TECH INDUSTRY"

"EVERYTHING BEING BUILT TODAY IS LUXURY CONDO TOWERS, OUT OF REACH FOR MOST"

"THE HOUSING SHOULD BE FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND BACKGROUNDS TO CREATE A MORE EQUITABLE DOWNTOWN"



# Theme 4: Opportunity Areas

Jobs Economy

Housing

Process

Arts/Culture

Third Avenue, Pike, and Pine are commonly cited areas of opportunity, with a focus on improving safety, pedestrianizing, and activating

"THE AREA BETWEEN PIONEER SQUARE AND PIKE PLACE HAS A REMARKABLY HIGH CONCENTRATION OF EMPTY STORE FRONTS"

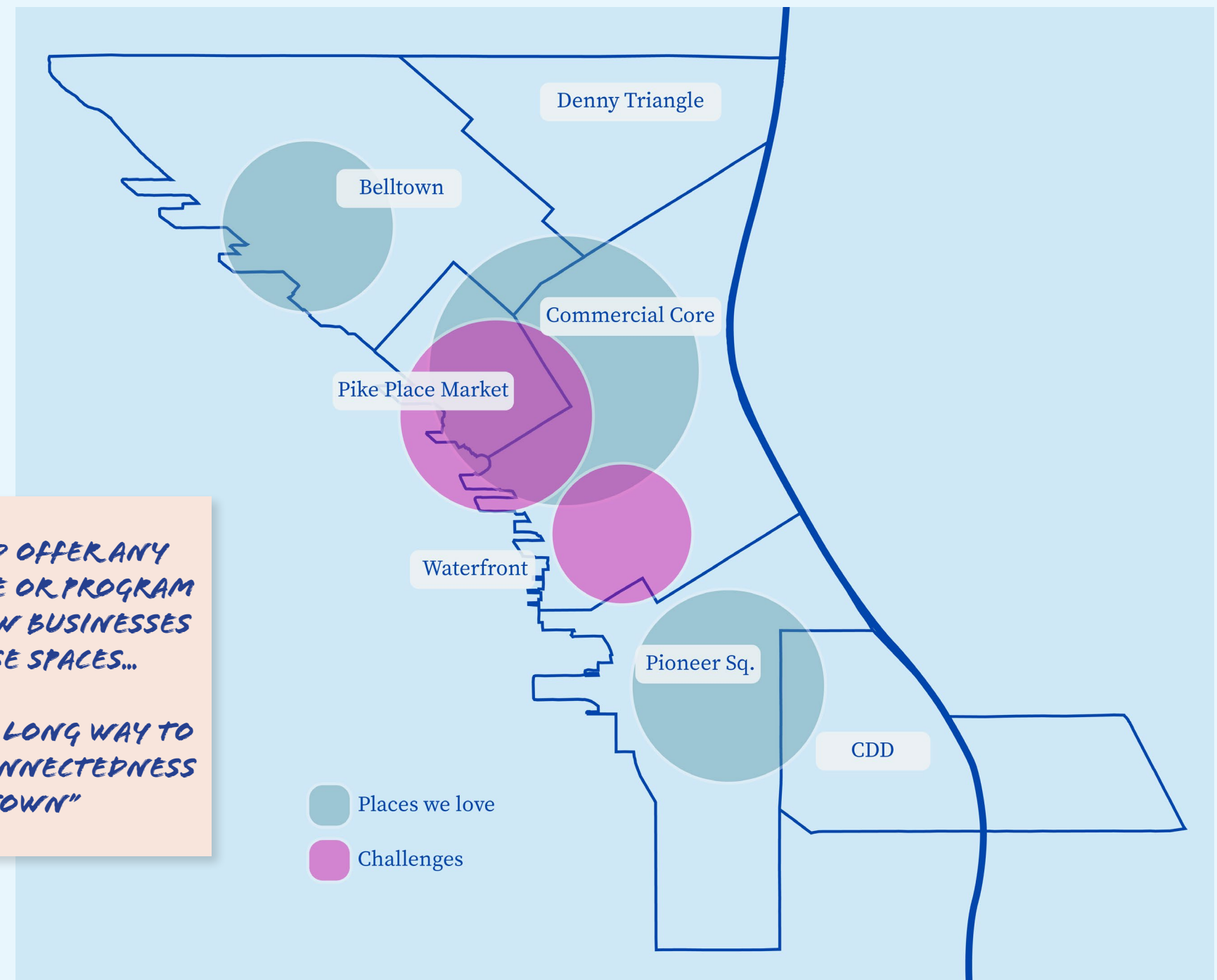
"WITH THE IMPROVEMENTS HAPPENING TO THE WATERFRONT AND THE PIKE/PINE CORRIDOR, THIS IS A PRIME SPACE TO GET RETAIL BACK INTO"

"THE CITY COULD OFFER ANY SORT OF INCENTIVE OR PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE NEW BUSINESSES TO ENTER THESE SPACES..."

... THIS COULD GO A LONG WAY TO IMPROVING THE CONNECTEDNESS OF DOWNTOWN"

"THIRD AVENUE NEEDS MORE LOVE AND ATTENTION SO IT CAN FEEL SAFE AND CLEAN."

IT'S DESIGNED TO BE A TRANSPORTATION HUB, BUT NOT ONE WANTS TO WAIT FOR BUSES ON THAT STREET"



# Community Engagement Survey #2 Report

Date:	December 19, 2025
Prepared for:	Seattle Downtown Regional Center Plan
Prepared by:	Agency Landscape + Planning

# **Downtown Seattle Urban Center**

Online Survey - Vision & Goals Summary

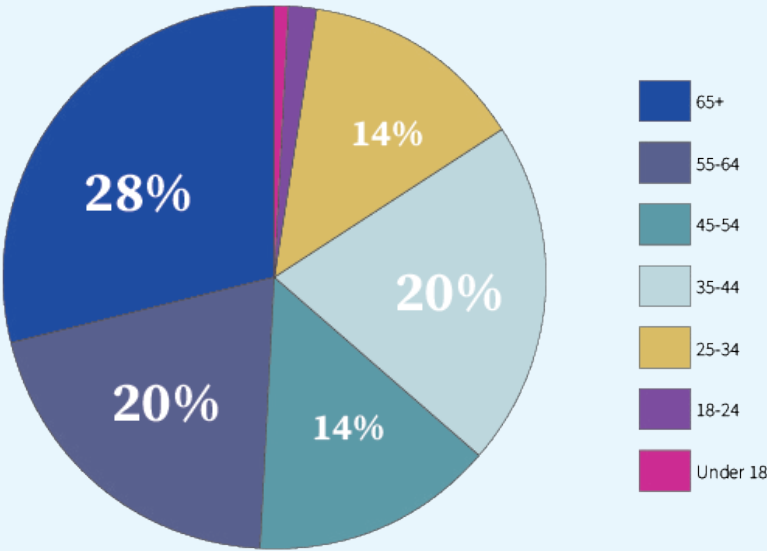


# ONLINE SURVEY – VISION + GOALS

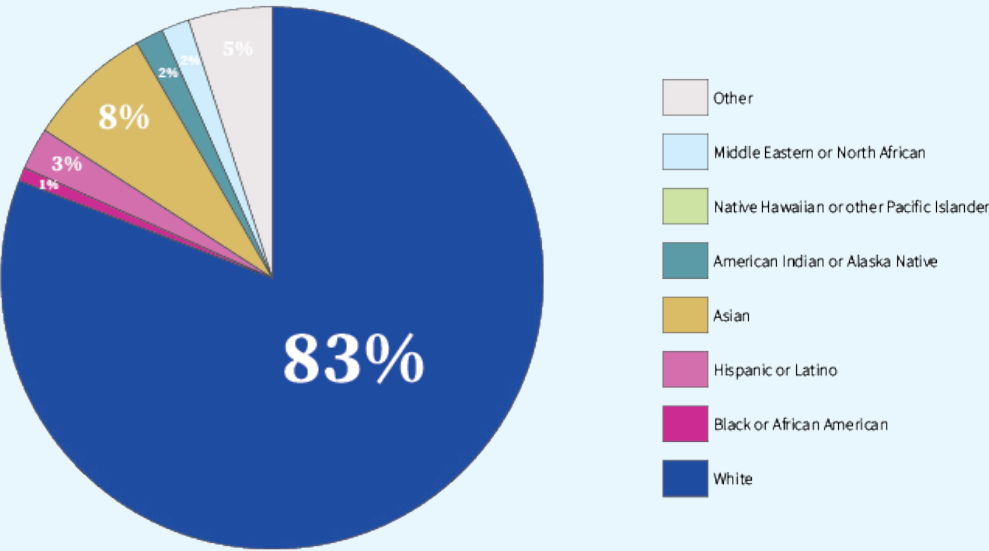
Between September and December 2024, **180 respondents** completed an online survey about Downtown Seattle.

The survey asked respondents about the **draft vision, goals, and policy directions** for the Downtown Seattle Regional Plan.

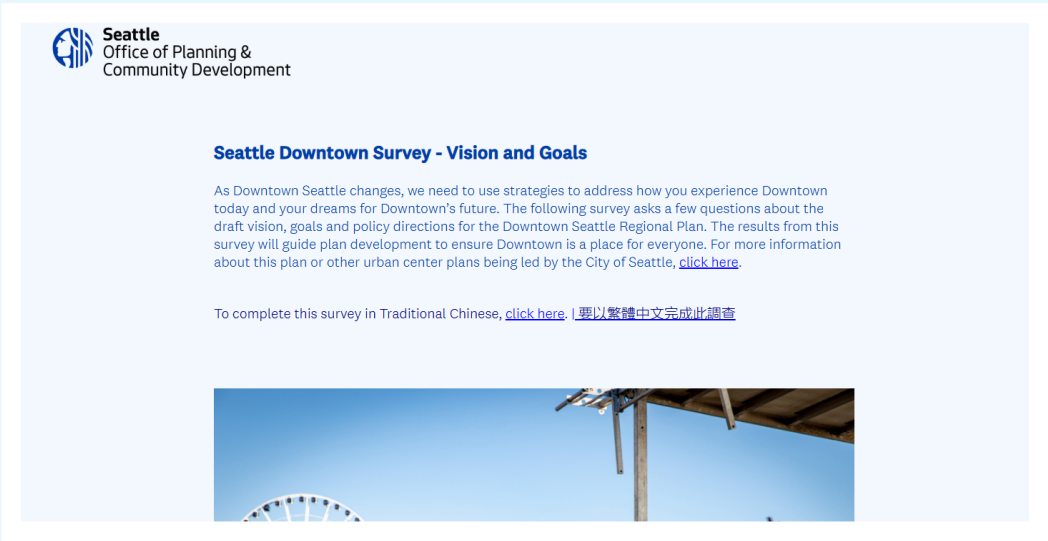
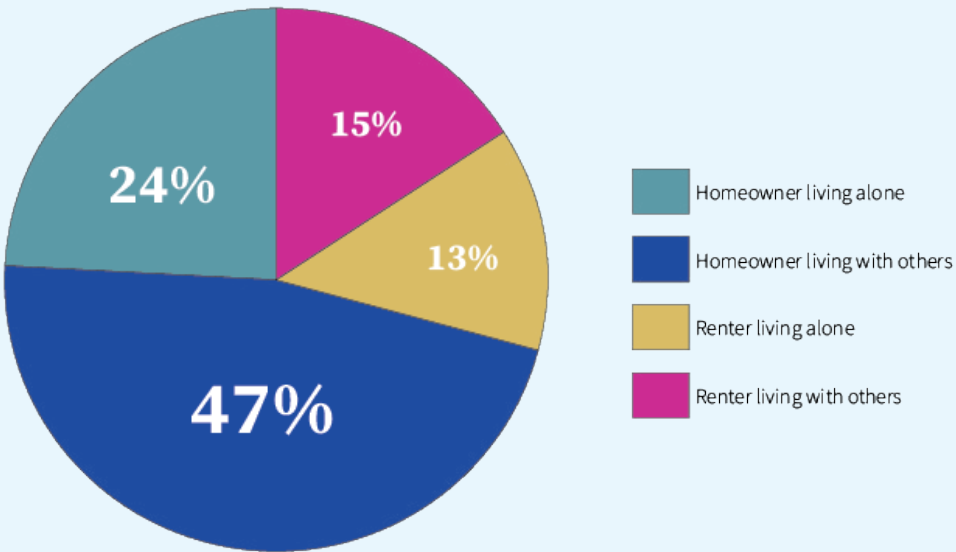
Half of respondents are over 55



A large majority of respondents are White  
Lower representation of people of color



3/4 of Respondents are Homeowners



# Vision

In Downtown Seattle,  
everyone feels **welcome, safe,** and **at home.**  
Around each corner, we **find our way** to and  
through spaces where **every square foot is full**  
of vibrancy, economic opportunity, and beauty.  
Together we have found means of stewarding  
Downtown not just in the moment, but with a  
dedication and consideration **for the next**  
**“seven generations.”**



**Make everyone feel  
safe and welcome**



**Make use of every  
square foot**



**At home Downtown**



**Find our way**



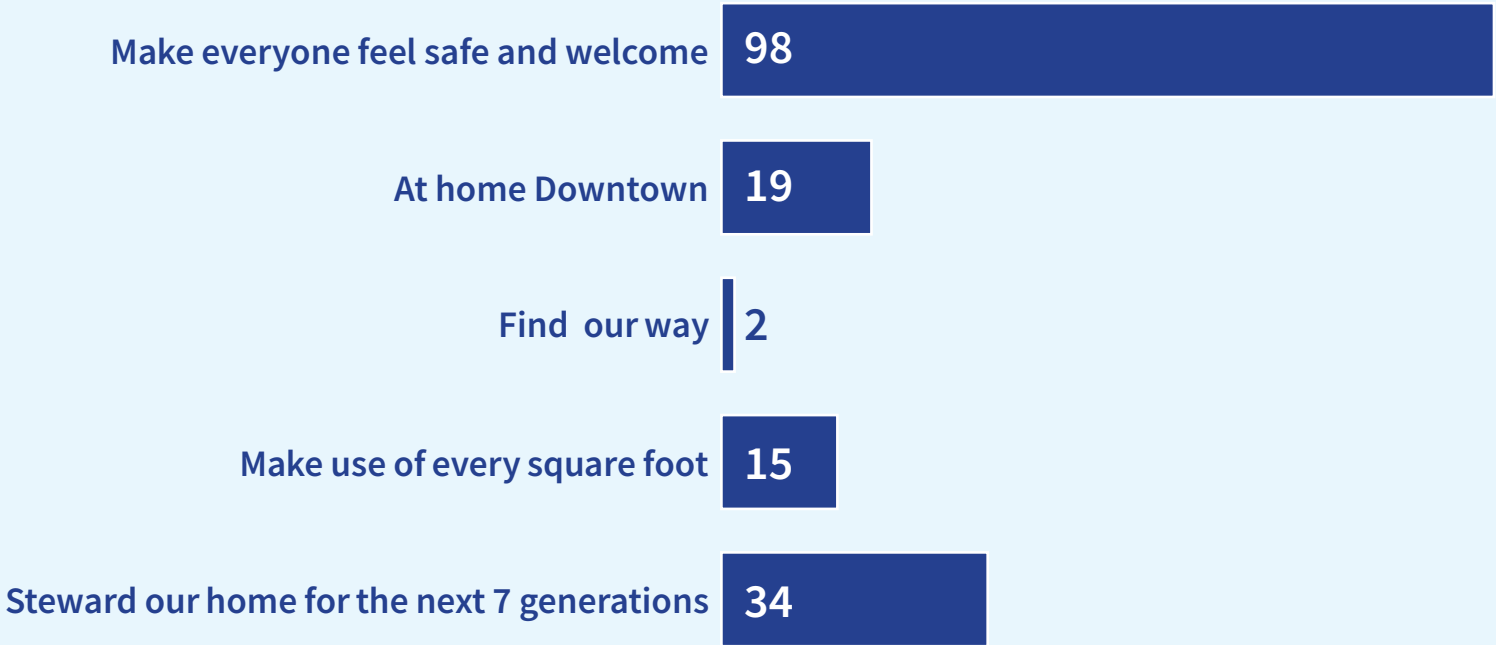
**Steward our home for the next 7 generations**  
Source: City of Seattle and Tahoma Peak Solutions, Indigenous Inclusivity Guide

# ONLINE SURVEY

Does this vision resonate with you?



Which theme is most important to you for Downtown’s future?



# Vision

**Make everyone feel safe and welcome**



## ONLINE SURVEY

### Top voted goals:

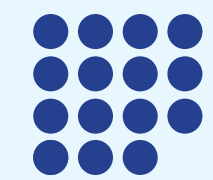
1. Make Downtown safe for everyone, all hours of the day [75 votes]
2. Make Downtown welcoming and inclusive to all [26 votes]
3. Wrap Downtown in a Green Embrace [11 votes]
4. Increase park access as Downtown grows [11 votes]

### Takeaways

- In order for people to feel safe Downtown, it needs to be activated
- Unhoused people need supportive services and help, rather than regulation
- A public realm that is cared for (well-lit and maintained) would make people feel safer Downtown
- Representation of cultures, especially Indigenous culture, would make more people feel welcome



# Make everyone feel safe and welcome *ONLINE SURVEY*



## 75 **Make Downtown safe for everyone, all hours of the day**



36 Continued to implement a focused approach to respond to safety and environmental concerns along 3rd Ave



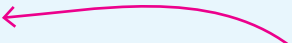
43 Improve accessibility, lighting, and safety



35 Adopt an inclusive management approach to Downtown public spaces, with the intention to accommodate everyone's needs within a public health framework (such as providing access to drinking water, public restrooms, and safe needle disposal.)



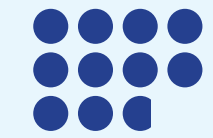
51 Enhance community policing services and alternative response programs



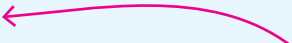
*ADDRESS SAFETY AND  
DRUG USE*



## 11 **Wrap Downtown in a Green Embrace**



54 Advance the vision for the I-5 Lid Park [Continue to explore the lidding of I-5 to create park spaces and pedestrian connections from Capitol Hill to Downtown (DAP)]



*LOTS OF SUPPORT  
FOR THE I-5 LID!*



31 Adapt land use regulations to further support activation of ground floors adjacent to the waterfront along Alaskan Way



22 Reduce the impacts of steep slopes between the waterfront and other neighborhoods



34 Complete the full construction of the Seattle Waterfront by 2025 (DAP)

*"MAKE MORE SPACES  
CAR-FREE"*

# Make everyone feel safe and welcome *ONLINE SURVEY*



## 26 **Make Downtown welcoming and inclusive to all**



47 Provide all-gender public restrooms in Downtown parks



49 Expand the role of arts in public spaces Downtown



31 Provide multilingual signage and communications in Downtown spaces, with an emphasis on indigenous naming

*"DON'T DO THINGS  
JUST FOR TOURISTS"*



## 8 **Provide recreation amenities for Downtown residents**



29 Provide new neighborhood gathering spaces (indoor and outdoor)



29 Increase youth and all ages park amenities in existing and new Downtown parks, focusing first on areas that are taking on more residential units



40 Complete planned improvements to Downtown parks (DAP)



15 Increase access to community growing spaces or farmers' markets



13 Improve public water access and cooling areas by installing spray pads or water features in existing parks and plazas close to residential areas.



25 Partner to offer free, family-friendly programming at the Waterfront and in neighborhood spaces (DAP)

*"DON'T DO THINGS  
JUST FOR TOURISTS"*

# Make everyone feel safe and welcome *ONLINE SURVEY*



## ●● 8 **Reveal, celebrate, and protect Downtown’s history and culture**

- 48 Preserve Downtown’s built history while enabling contemporary evolution
- 41 Add expand opportunities for musical performances across Downtown
- 44 Communicate and share Downtown’s untold and unique stories, people and places

"COMMITMENT TO  
MAINTAINING +  
ADDING TREE CANOPY

## ●●● 11 **Increase park access as Downtown grows**

- 37 Expand park access in areas with gaps: the CID, Belltown, and Denny Triangle (Seattle PR)
- 25 Create and advance new Gateway Parks, proximate to transit stations and gateways from other neighborhoods into Downtown.
- 23 Create a placemaking strategy to activate neighborhood alleyways
- 14 Explore partnerships to provide indoor recreation spaces
- 42 Seek opportunities to repurpose right of way for recreational opportunities, and advance the SDOT “Pavements to Parks” program Downtown

"DOWNTOWN NEEDS A  
PEDESTRIAN SPINE"



# Make everyone feel safe and welcome *ONLINE SURVEY*



●●	10	<b>Activate Downtown parks for community-wide events</b>
●●●●	44	Continue to partner with non-profit organizations to deliver events and programming
●●●●	43	Support community-driven activations and cultural celebrations Downtown (DAP)
●●●●	38	Adapt and develop parks with flexible programming and events infrastructure (access to power, lawns, or flexible space)

# Vision

## At home Downtown



## ONLINE SURVEY

### Top voted goals:

1. Grow housing across all Downtown neighborhoods [38 votes]
2. Support Downtown's unhoused residents with services, shelter and permanent housing [36 votes]
3. Evolve Downtown neighborhoods to be inclusive of the diverse needs of all residents and families [25 votes]

### Takeaways

- ▶ Simplify & and make development more flexible
- ▶ Support development of buildings with a mix of affordable and market rate units
- ▶ Support alternative ownership models
- ▶ Build housing everywhere, especially in high displacement areas
- ▶ Create housing for different stages of life, especially around families
- ▶ Increase assistance to rehouse

# At home Downtown *ONLINE SURVEY*



## ●●●●● 38 **Grow housing across all Downtown neighborhoods**

●●●●● 36 Simplify the housing production process and incentivize the creation of more diverse downtown residential units where appropriate

●●●●● 40 Allow more flexibility for residential development in areas of Downtown currently zoned “Downtown Office Core”

●●● 14 Reduce the regulatory and financial burdens of frequent energy code updates and seismic and energy upgrades in historic buildings through incentives and regulatory changes.

●●● 15 Encourage shared, district-level garage parking strategies to reduce project development costs and manage parking holistically

●●●●● 34 Convert existing commercial buildings to housing, with an emphasis on securing long-term affordable units

AGREEMENT TO BUILD  
EVERYWHERE + REMOVE  
RED TAPE

“BUILD MORE  
HOUSING. FASTER”

## ●●●●● 16 **Preserve and expand affordable and workforce housing**

●●●●● 22 Work with foundations, major employers, community-based organizations, and Community Development Financial Institutions to explore the feasibility of new grant and/or loan funds for affordable housing developments serving areas of Downtown with the highest socioeconomic needs

●●●●● 40 Support new forms of affordable and workforce housing ownership (community land trusts, cooperative or shared equity models, and co-housing)

●●●●● 37 Focus housing resources and programs toward protecting lower-income households in areas with high displacement risks, such as the CID and Pioneer Square

CONSIDER SOCIAL HOUSING



# At home Downtown *ONLINE SURVEY*



## Continued - **Preserve and expand affordable and workforce housing**

●●	8	Expand the funding tools available to assist in creating long-term affordable housing, such as TIF districts
●●●●●	26	Retain existing affordable housing that exists Downtown today
●●●	12	Assess MHA requirements to support bringing additional larger scale housing units online

DIFFERING OPINIONS ABOUT  
MHA AND IT'S IMPACT



●●●●●	25	<b>Evolve Downtown neighborhoods to be inclusive of the diverse needs of all residents and families.</b>
●●●●●	56	Support the creation of housing that provides a mix of units that support residents in different life stages (work-live housing, accessible senior housing, and family housing)
●●●	13	Work with development projects to provide publicly accessible private open space that meets each neighborhood's goals and needs
●●●●●	44	Expand family-focused services and programming around housing clusters and transit, including childcare, basic neighborhood-serving retail, and play experiences.
●●●●	17	Reinforce what makes each neighborhood Downtown special or unique

"REQUIRE NEW  
TOWERS TO BUILD  
A CERTAIN % OF  
3-BEDROOMS FOR  
FAMILIES"

# At home Downtown *ONLINE SURVEY*



## 36 **Support Downtown’s unhoused residents with services, shelter and permanent housing**



52 Increase permanent housing assistance and transitional housing to support the need to rapidly rehouse people and help them stay housed.



17 Support the creation of a drop-in center or crisis services center.



17 Ensure that emergency shelter and day centers are safe and accessible for those who need it.



36 Ensure that housing alternatives are available for people who may not be candidates for traditional shelter accommodations (families, those with significant medical needs, people with pets, and others).



32 Collaborate with King County and Health Services to connect people to intensive services promoting housing and job stability.



*SUPPORT FOR MORE ACCESS  
TO SOCIAL SERVICES  
AND FEAR OF OVER  
CONCENTRATION DOWNTOWN*

*"HOUSING FIRST SHOULD  
BE A PRIORITY"*



## 14 **Partner with the private sector to advance innovations in new construction**



35 Encourage construction techniques and materials that are cost-effective and efficient to build (Cross-laminated Timber buildings, volumetric modular, pre-fab)



32 Work with SDCI to increase the financial feasibility of sustainable building practices



35 Promote emerging green building and sustainable development practices

# Vision

## Steward our home for the next 7 generations

Source: City of Seattle and Tahoma Peak Solutions, Indigenous Inclusivity Guide



## ONLINE SURVEY

### Top voted goals:

1. Care for Downtown's water, land and natural resources [43 votes]
2. Ensure Downtown assets are resilient to natural disasters and climate change impacts [34 votes]
3. Celebrate Downtown's unique connection to water [20 votes]

### Takeaways

- ▶ Support building electrification
- ▶ Incentivize retrofitting historic buildings for natural disasters
- ▶ Need more access to green spaces and an increased tree canopy
- ▶ De-carbonization efforts need to happen across multiple sectors (construction, transportation, waste)



# Steward our home for the next 7 generations *ONLINE SURVEY*

Source: City of Seattle and Tahoma Peak Solutions, Indigenous Inclusivity Guide



## ●●●●● 20 **Celebrate Downtown’s unique connection to water**

●●●●● 38 Collaborate with Indigenous Tribes and local non-profits to broaden Downtown’s historic and future engagement with water

●●●●● 26 Amplify and protect Downtown views of the water and surrounding mountain ranges

●●●●● 22 Effectively maintain existing water based design features and integrate water based design features and play into public space investment whenever possible

●●●●● 35 Leverage the waterfront’s economic development value by balancing maritime industry needs with public waterfront access and experiences

●●●●● 17 Communicate the value of water resources, urban habitat, and ecological systems

## ●●●●● 43 **Care for Downtown’s water, land and natural resources**

●●●●● 29 Reimagine Downtown streets as green corridors

●●●●● 39 Protect and expand Downtown’s tree canopy

●●●●● 44 Manage stormwater responsibly to clean and minimize run-off into the Puget Sound

●●●●● 20 Reduce the strain on Downtown’s combined sewer overflow and stormwater overflow facilities

● 3 Raise awareness about water quality through public art and resident programs

●● 10 Explore ways to translate existing stormwater mitigation partnership programs with landowners to Downtown’s unique, urban context

● = 5 upvotes

*"BEAUTIFYING THROUGH GREEN IMPROVEMENTS WILL GIVE PEOPLE A SENSE OF PRIDE THEY WILL WANT TO MAINTAIN FOR THE FUTURE"*

# Steward our home for the next 7 generations *ONLINE SURVEY*

Source: City of Seattle and Tahoma Peak Solutions, Indigenous Inclusivity Guide



## ●●● 11 **Reduce Downtown’s reliance on fossil fuels**

●●●● 24 Increase participation in the programs that reduce individual emissions (e.g. composting program, heating and cooling conversions)

●●●● 32 Explore a local power generation/district energy model and low pollution neighborhood model.

●●●● 39 Implement and expand sustainable building practices, including promotion of adaptive reuse.

●●●● 32 Work with the Port to continue shifting to an electrified fleet and facilities.

← *LOTS OF AGREEMENT TO REDUCE CARS*

*"MENTION THE EVOLUTION OR ELIMINATION OF THE CRUISE INDUSTRY"*

## ●●●● 34 **Ensure Downtown assets are resilient to natural disasters and climate change impacts**

●●●● 53 Address buildings in need of seismic retrofits

●●●● 32 Ensure new buildings achieve high environmental and emissions standards

●●●● 26 Support electrification of WSDOT fleet as additional waterfront transportation options are explored

●●●● 18 Collaborate with the Port to support the industrial maritime strategy

*"EXPAND THE WA STATE HEAT PUMP PROGRAM FOR 80%AMI+"*

## ●●● 12 **Ensure all Downtowners have access to resilient spaces**

●●●● 36 Expand resilience hubs beyond libraries, with a focus on increasing access in the CID and SODO

# Steward our home for the next 7 generations *ONLINE SURVEY*

Source: City of Seattle and Tahoma Peak Solutions, Indigenous Inclusivity Guide



## Continued - Ensure all Downtowners have access to resilient spaces

 46 Integrate green stormwater and traditional land management alternatives in new development

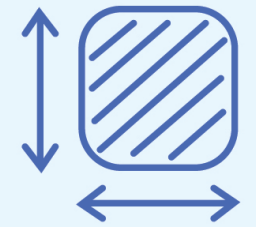
●●●●<sup>35</sup> Address flooding in low-lying, flood prone streets and public spaces

● = 5 upvotes



# Vision

Make use of every square foot



## ONLINE SURVEY

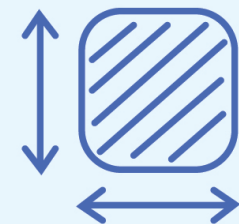
### Top voted goals:

1. Unlock development or open space opportunities on vacant/underutilized sites [32 votes]
2. Support existing and future key industry clusters including maritime, tourism, information technology, professional services, arts, and green economy [20 votes]
3. Attract, grow and make the creative economy visible Downtown [20 votes]

### Takeaways

- Encourage private property owners to create public spaces
- Matchmaking for small businesses and pop-up retail opportunities that support entrepreneurship
- Flexibility in zoning and permitting to allow spaces to change use
- More general support for small business (there are some existing programs that we can build off of and better fund)

# Make the most of every square foot *ONLINE SURVEY*



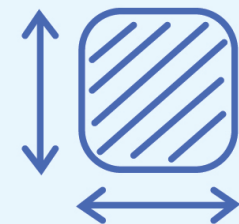
●●●●●	18	<b>Fill Downtown spaces with a mix of commercial uses</b>
●●●●●	30	Support and grow Downtown jobs and small businesses
●●●●●	16	Retain and increase the diversity of industries and opportunities Downtown
●●●●●	39	Adapt underutilized Downtown office spaces and upper floors to alternate uses
●●●●●	28	Remove barriers to pop-up businesses and new small business starts.
●●●●●	34	Retain and increase the diversity of industries and opportunities Downtown
●●	10	Bolster education and workforce training in support of growing Downtown industries
●●●●●	20	<b>Attract, grow and make the creative economy visible Downtown</b>
●●●●●	37	Grow and support Downtown’s arts and culture, entertainment, and sports districts.
●●●●●	20	Expand opportunities for public art to be appreciated and celebrated in public gathering spaces.
●●●●●	26	Expand placemaking and activation in public and private spaces around the cultural hubs in each neighborhood (such as continued support for the Belltown Mural Festival or short term activations around festivals and conferences).
●●●●●	21	Simplify the process for special events requirements or funding opportunities to help BIPOC and emerging artists and performers participate more.
●●●	14	Implement the Cultural Strategies for Downtown Revitalization action plan.
●●●	11	Create a coalition focused on action from many recent planning efforts.

*"MORE EVENTS LIKE THE BELLTOWN MURAL FESTIVAL"*

*"MORE PUBLIC PLACES, PEDESTRIAN ONLY SPACES"*

*"MORE STREET CAFES IN OCCIDENTIAL PARK"*

# Make the most of every square foot *ONLINE SURVEY*

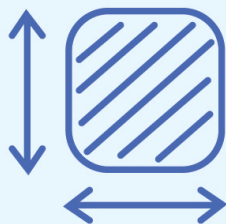


●●●●●	11	<b>Preserve or reposition key retail destinations</b>
●●●●●	31	Continue placemaking events centered on the Downtown commercial and retail core, including Pioneer Square, the mall clusters, and Third Avenue.
●●●●●	19	Partner with BIPOC business and organizations to implement retail and business support services
●●●●●	39	Focus on small business support for existing and future retailers in hubs like Pioneer Square
●●●●●	26	Partner with Pike Place Market to implement the Pike Place Strategic Plan
●●●●●	17	<b>Ensure growth is equitable and aligned with community goals</b>
●●●●●	31	Leverage underutilized commercial spaces to support community groups and cultural agencies
●●●●●	24	Direct additional resources and civic service investments to Downtown areas that rank highest on the City’s Racial and Social Equity Composite Index (designate these areas as Community Resource Areas)
●●●●●	22	Explore new TIF opportunities to align future development with investment in community needs, including long-term affordable housing
●●●●●	6	Expand language access for all planning and development processes Downtown
●●●●●	24	Ensure each project achieves potential co-benefits through transportation/utility projects, job creation, and public space creation
●●●●●	19	Explore ways to leverage community benefits agreements and other public benefit tools for major developments

*"PEDESTRIANIZE PIKE PLACE MARKET"*



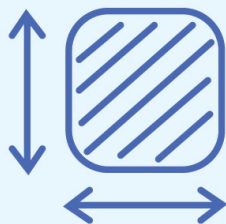
# Make the most of every square foot *ONLINE SURVEY*



**Support existing and future key industry clusters including maritime, tourism, information technology, professional services, arts, and green economy**

●●●●● <sup>20</sup>	
●●●●● <sup>34</sup>	Increase local education and workforce training resources, including access to locally driven non-traditional educational routes
●●●●● <sup>30</sup>	Connect pathways to middle income jobs, particularly opportunities in healthcare, education, life sciences, and technology sectors
●●●●● <sup>24</sup>	Partner with large employers in maritime, tourism, information technology to create job pathways
●●●●● <sup>17</sup>	Elevate the quality of roads and water infrastructure in the CID and Pioneer Square
●●●●● <sup>18</sup>	Connect educational institutions with employers and low-income residents
●●●●● <sup>8</sup>	Plan for the needed expansion or accommodation of large scale, regional serving uses (major destinations, large employers)

# Make the most of every square foot *ONLINE SURVEY*



●●●●●

32

**Unlock development or open space opportunities on vacant/underutilized sites**

●●●●●

32

Create “vertical neighborhoods” with increased density and mixed-use buildings around transit stations.

●●●●●

39

Use underutilized publicly owned land to realize community benefits through development, open space, or infrastructure projects

●●●●●

33

Enact needed infrastructure improvements and regulatory changes to enable privately owned vacant land to reach its full potential, including potential taxes on long-standing vacancies

●●●●●

16

Provide Downtown parking that is sufficient, but not excessive, to meet the needs of visitors

*DIFFERING OPINIONS ON PARKING  
FOR RETAIL AND TOURISTS*

# Vision

## Find our way



## ONLINE SURVEY

### Top voted goals:

1. Rethink and re-allocate space on streets to put people first [37 votes]
2. Make traveling through Downtown a safe and comfortable experience [34 votes]
3. Create a sustainable and resilient Downtown transportation system [22 votes]

### Takeaways

- Activation and events need to be more visible/easy to find in the public realm
- Wayfinding systems are needed to help people move through Downtown (maps at bus stops, markers for important places)
- Separation of mobility types would make people feel safer to walk and bike
- Feeling that cars are prioritized and Downtown would benefit from a pedestrian -first mindset
- Using transportation should feel safe and be enjoyable



# Find our way *ONLINE SURVEY*



- ●●●●●

37

Rethink and re-allocate space on streets to put people first
- ●●●●●

32

Advance a mix of seasonal, weekend, and in some cases, permanent restrictions for personal vehicle traffic to make areas of Downtown car-free or “car-lite”
- ●●●●●

38

Pursue street transformations to create more space for walking, rolling, biking, transit and lingering or gathering
- 9

Co-create and implement innovative People Streets and Public Spaces concepts, such as community and mobility hubs and a pilot “Low Pollution Neighborhood”
- ●●●●●

16

Pursue major expansions of car-free gathering spaces in partnership with local venues, such as Lumen Field and T-Mobile Park, and alongside community groups, such as the Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority
- ●●●●●

23

When providing maintenance, update the street to reflect right-of-way allocation needs that support adjacent land uses and planned transportation networks

SUPPORT FOR CAR-LITE PROGRAMS, AS LONG AS CURB LOGISTICS ARE FIGURED OUT

"WE'VE TRIED TO MAKE PIONEER SQUARE CAR-LITE AND IT'S IMPACTED BUSINESS DELIVERIES."

- ●●●●●

34

Make traveling through Downtown a safe and comfortable experience
- ●●●●●

27

Focus investment to make Downtown more navigable to children, the elderly, and disabled populations, through solutions like seating, hill-climb assists, pedestrian lighting, shade, and more
- ●●●●●

17

Use High Injury Network (HIN) + Bike Pedestrian Safety Analysis (BPSA) data to inform investments and programming to calm traffic, reduce collisions, and slow down vehicles

"RETURN TO FREE TRANSIT DOWNTOWN"

# Find our way *ONLINE SURVEY*



## Continued - **Make traveling through Downtown a safe and comfortable experience**

●●	8	“Daylight” every intersection in Downtown, supported by programming such as micromobility parking, greenery, and others
●●●	14	Pilot creative forms of emergency response and access such as through smaller vehicles and mountable infrastructure
●●●●	17	Apply new policies to reduce the number of vehicle travel lanes on multi-lane streets with excess capacity, to “right-size” them for slower speeds and safer outcomes
●●●	14	Expand successful No Turn on Red pilot program to the entirety of Downtown, and continue to pursue “daylighting” opportunities, to eliminate confusion and make all intersections safer
●●●●●	35	Separate pedestrians from vehicles by physical barriers such as trees, parklets, and vehicle or bike parking

●●●●●	22	<b>Create a sustainable and resilient Downtown transportation system</b>
●●●●●	28	Implement more green streets designations with a particular focus on areas deficient in park space and tree canopy, such as Chinatown and the International District
●●●●●	27	Install pilots to de-pave streets, and pursue a strategy to increase tree canopy and green stormwater infrastructure

# Find our way *ONLINE SURVEY*



## Continued - Create a sustainable and resilient Downtown transportation system

- <sup>19</sup> Influence Downtown commuters to “flip their trips” away from personal vehicles to more efficient and sustainable travel options through existing and new programs
- <sup>12</sup> Explore mobility partnerships among public organizations, private firms, and foundations to accelerate sustainable mobility innovations
- <sup>17</sup> Reduce off-street parking capacity and manage it holistically at a district level, to reduce demand for car trips and reimagine spaces for sustainable investment
- <sup>10</sup> Leveraging the designation of a Low Pollution Neighborhood in Downtown to co-create sustainable mobility solutions with local communities

## Design Downtown streets to support innovation and a

- <sup>16</sup> **thriving local economy**
- <sup>25</sup> Continue to reduce permit requirements, with more flexibility for outdoor dining, food trucks, and other vending
- <sup>23</sup> Pilot adaptations of curb lanes for the benefit of local commerce, such as café seating, vending, and other programming – including in areas vacated by transit lanes (due to bus service changes with Link expansion)
- <sup>14</sup> Repurpose “slip lanes”, dead ends, and other irregular street grid locations for local activities
- <sup>18</sup> Use right-sized vehicles, such as e-cargo bikes, to showcase innovation in freight movement and pilot new curb uses for new methods for “last 50 feet” urban deliveries



# Find our way *ONLINE SURVEY*



Continued - **Design Downtown streets to support innovation and a thriving local economy**

- 9 Partner with developers, private sector businesses, and event organizers on major street activations
- 18 Ensure the important roles of the Port of Seattle and related freight movement and logistics are considered as upgrades are made Downtown
- 6 Avoid expensive repair of “Areaways” for heavy vehicle use but instead provide more space to lighter delivery solutions and other gathering space

**Celebrate the many unique cultures and histories of Downtown – especially its Indigenous population – throughout its transportation system and public spaces**

- 3
- 27 Reflect Indigenous art, culture, language, and gathering spaces throughout Downtown’s streets and public spaces, especially on the shoreline to honor Native cultures and our deep relationship with the water
- 24 Transform Pier 48 for public use for waterborne transportation, community space including a native space (cultural center or museum), and an installation that honors the history of Ballast Island
- 23 Expand passenger-only ferry and small boat travel options, furthering our connection to the water
- 22 Use transportation and public space investments to help repair past and current harms to BIPOC groups, in concert with Seattle’s transportation equity strategy
- 14 Advance People Streets and Public Spaces concepts, encouraging self-expression and neighborhood identity in the right-of-wayconjunction with large events

# Find our way *ONLINE SURVEY*



## Use streets to help people navigate and find their way

- 7

through a legible Downtown
- 
- 29

Stitch neighborhood divides through ground floor activations, re-design of space under I-5 at S Jackson, S King, and S Dearborn streets, and potential lidding of I-5 and BNSF railway tracks
- 
- 37

Create frequent and reliable transit service corridors as bus service is restructured downtown in concert with light rail system expansion, with transit consolidated on certain streets, and in creating great public spaces for folks transferring or waiting for transit
- 
- 8

Make approaches to the land from the water feel welcoming and clear through wayfinding, and provide safe opportunities for recreational canoeing and kayaking
- 
- 12

Continue to install Seamless Seattle wayfinding columns and kiosks to aid navigation Downtown, and identify and expand publicly accessible “hill climbs”
- 
- 18

Capitalize on the Downtown street grid’s views of the Puget Sound, and pursue new pocket parks and enhance view corridors
- 
- 5

Test pilots of sustainable, zero-emission autonomous vehicle technology in conjunction with large events
- 

*"IT'S DIFFICULT TO NAVIGATE  
DOWNTOWN WITHOUT  
ELECTRONIC ASSISTANCE"*