

# **Downtown Seattle Urban Center**

## Engagement Summary

02.28.2024

# The Downtown plan has engaged with several different audiences

- 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"

"MORE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR DRUG USERS"

"SUPPORT FOR HOMELESS AND NEEDY"

"CRIME, ESPECIALLY ALONG 3RD AVENUE IS BAD"

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

## Keep Growing Downtown Activations

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

"NOT ENOUGH KIDS PROGRAMMING"

"MORE CELEBRATION"

"MORE ARTS PROGRAMMING"

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

"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!"

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

## 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"

"ART WALK MAP ACROSS THE ENTIRE CITY"

"NOT JUST FOR BUSINESS"

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

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

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

## 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"

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

"CONVERT VACANT OFFICE SPACE INTO AFFORDABLE HOUSING!"

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

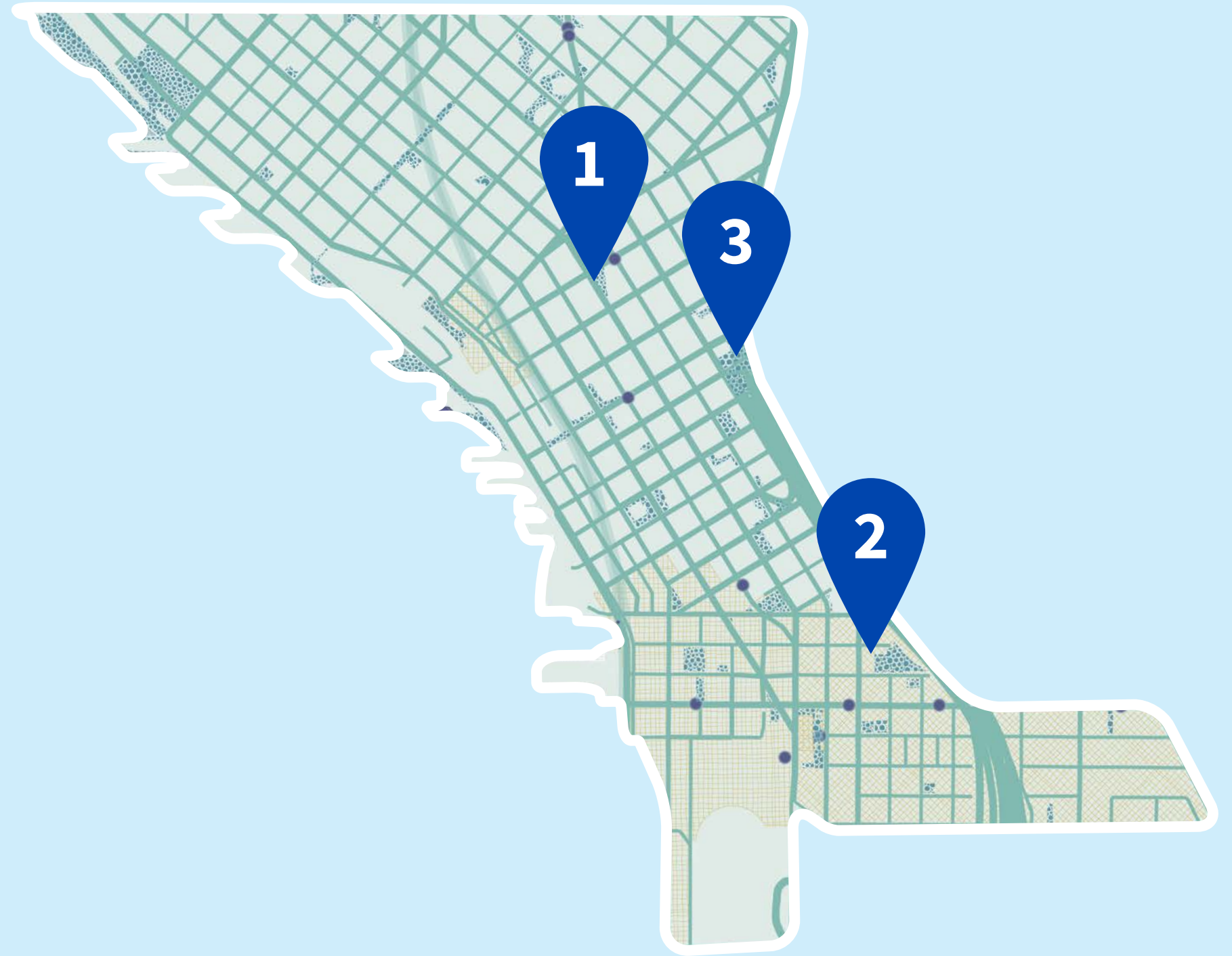
"COST OF LIVING MAKES IT HARD TO SET ANYTHING ASIDE"

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

# 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**.



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# 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



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"

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.

"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"

"THIS SHOULD BE A PLAN FOR ACTION"

I often go to **THEATRE** because it has the best **PRODUCTIONS** Downtown could use more **CLEUP 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.

Jobs Economy

Housing

Process

Arts/Culture

# 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.**

"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.**

"COST OF LIVING SHOULD BE LOWER"

"ITS TOO EXPENSIVE"

"DOWNTOWN SHOULD BE A LIVEABLE PLACE"



Jobs Economy

Housing

Process

Arts/Culture

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# 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.

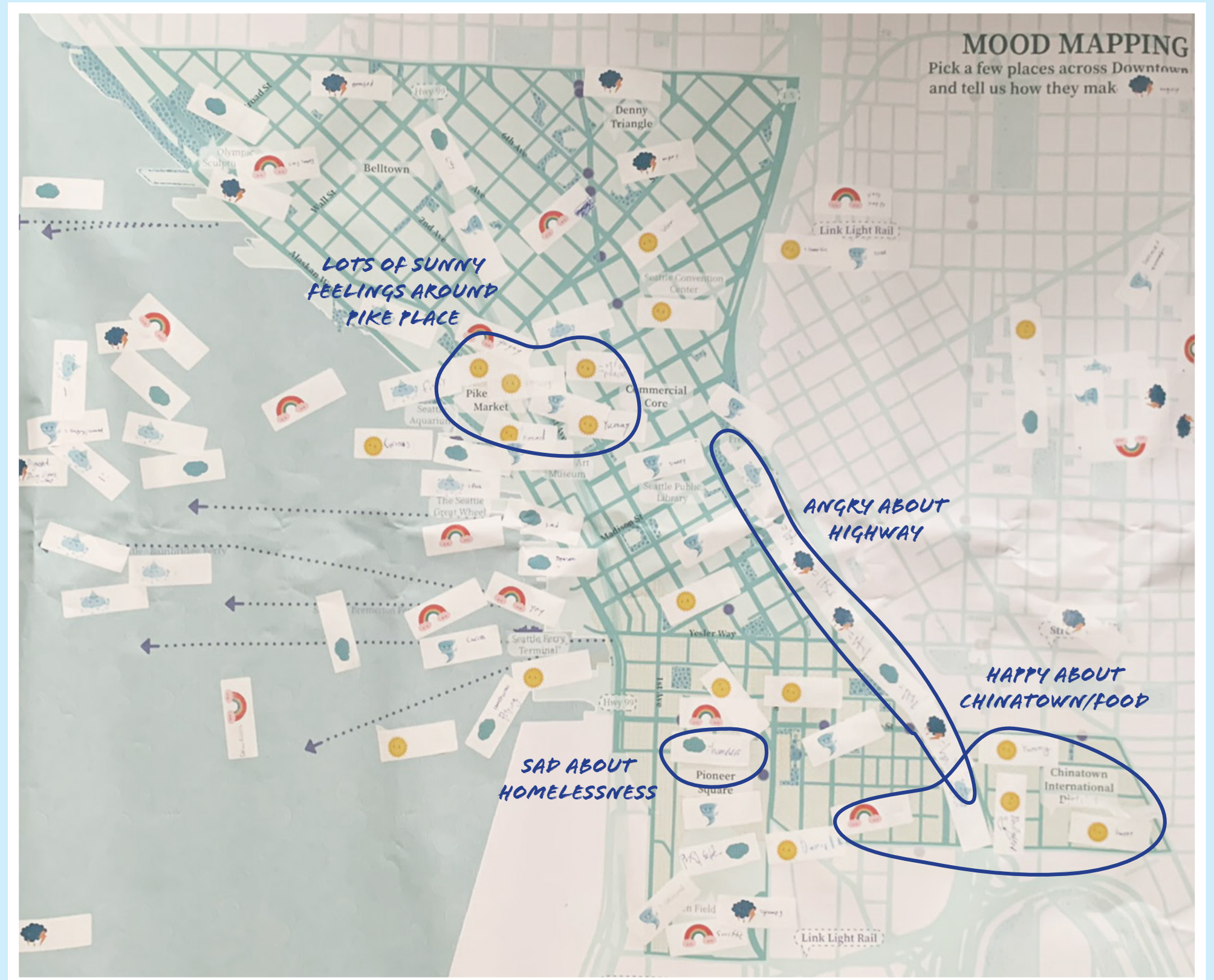
I often go to **SAM** because it has the best **ART** Downtown could use more **SAFETY** to support residents, workers, and visitors alike.

- Jobs Economy
- Housing
- Process
- Arts/Culture



# Youth Workshop

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

- ▶ 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"



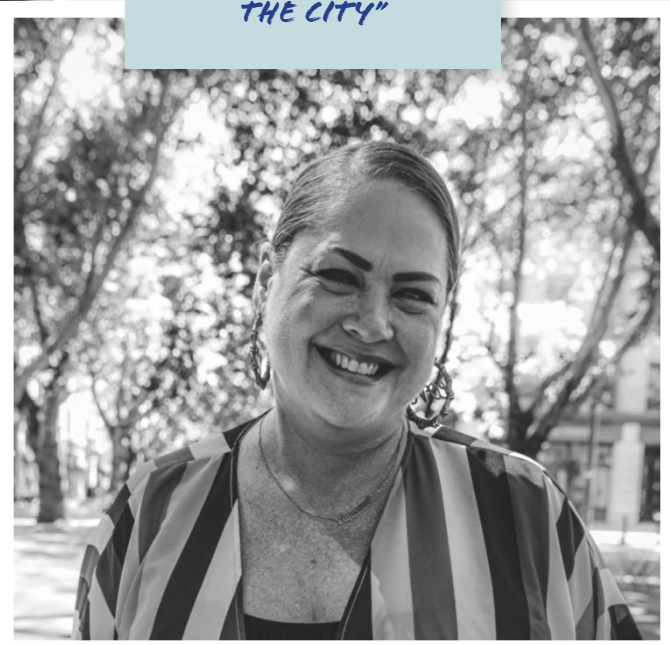
"WE NEED PERMANENT SPACE THAT WE CAN ACTUALLY OWN AND NOT JUST BE KICKED OUT OF WHEN A NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVES"

"MORE CELEBRATION"



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

"LETS SPEND SOME MONEY ON WHAT DRAWS PEOPLE INTO THE CITY"



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

"MORE SPACE FOR PEOPLE TO CREATE ART AND GATHER"

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



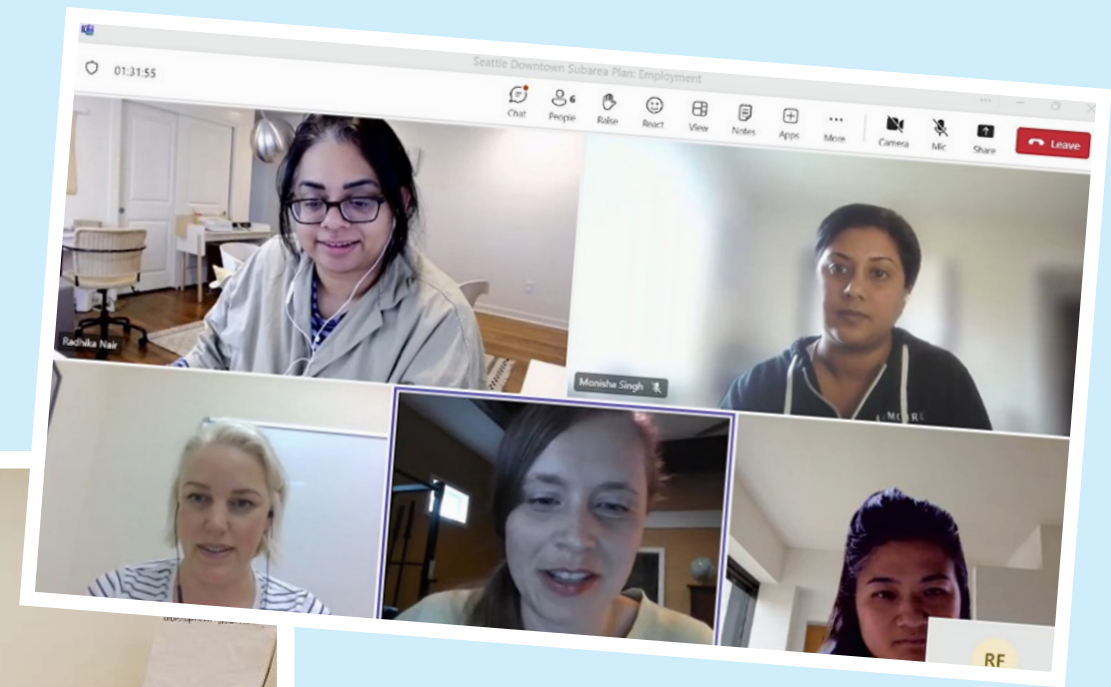
"WHEN THEY TAKE AWAY MY PIECES THE WALLS LOSE PROTECTION"

- 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"

"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"

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

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

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

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

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

"THINGS LIKE BETTER WAYFINDING AND FREE TRANSIT IS IMPORTANT"

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

# Downtown Workshop

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.

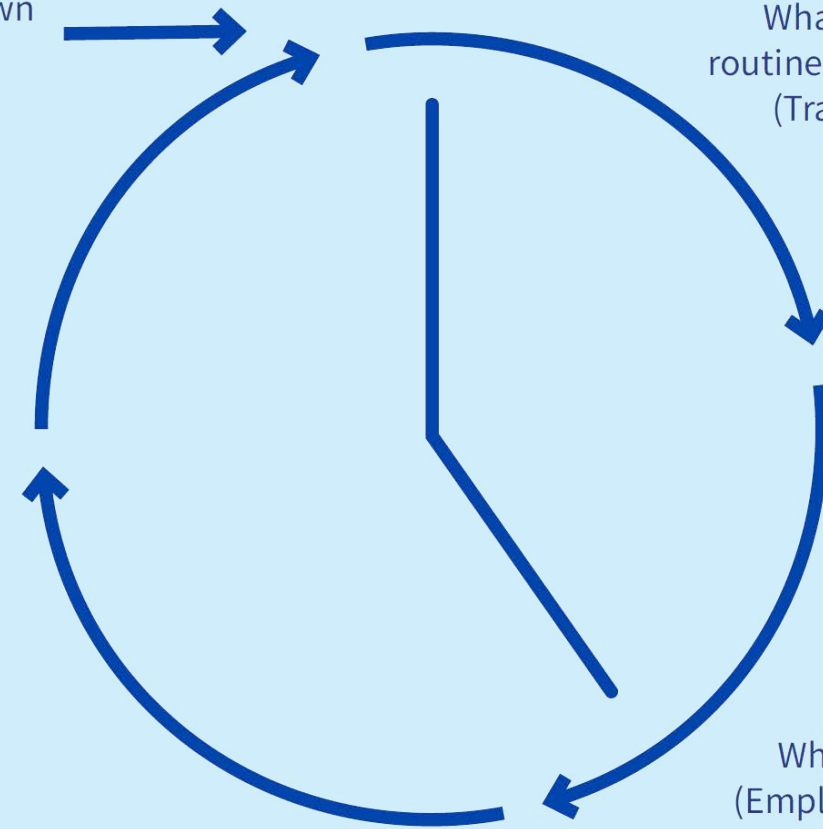
**540 ideas** were shared with post-it notes and flags!

**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)

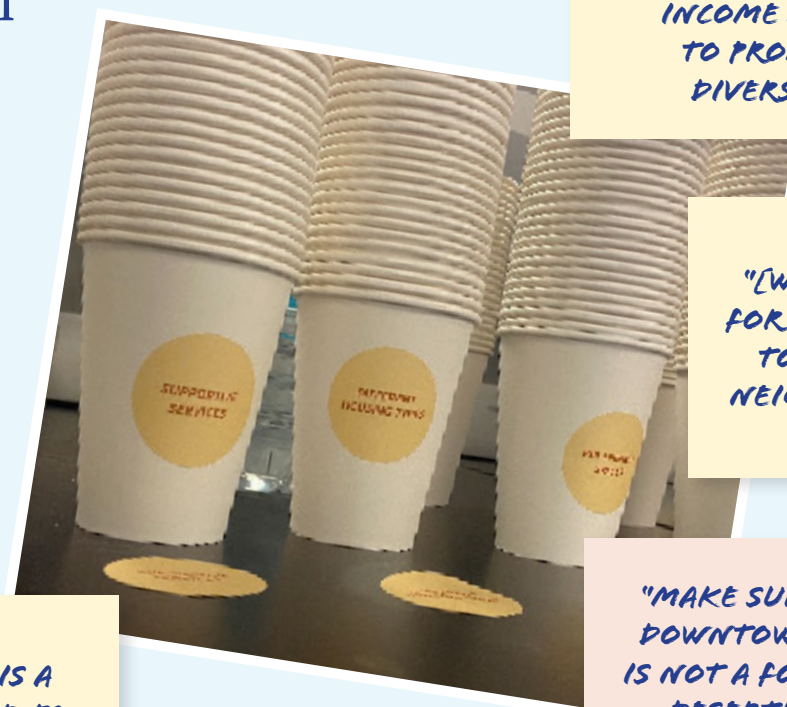
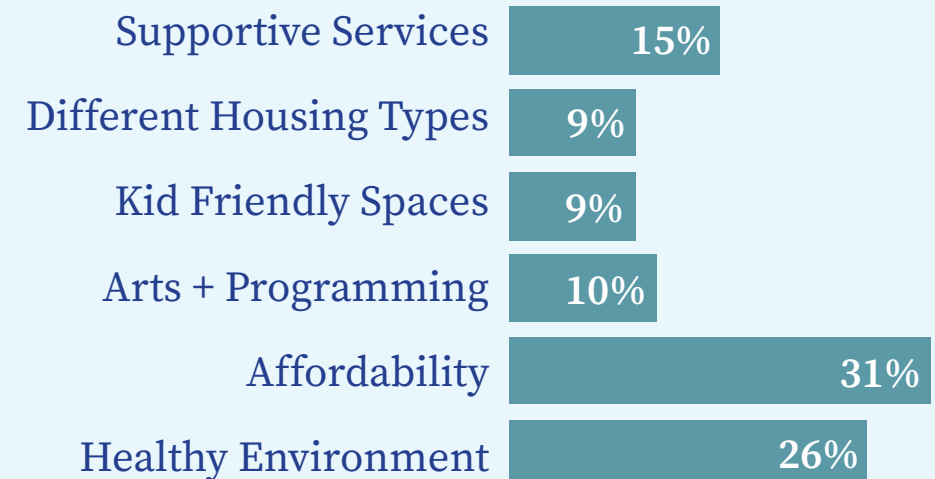
**3. Daytime**  
Where do you work?  
(Employment) Do you run errands at the library, post office, play at the park?  
(City Services)



# 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?



"AVOID TOO MANY HIGH-INCOME DEVELOPMENTS. LOW INCOME SEEMS TO PROMOTE DIVERSITY."

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

"CONVERT VACANT OFFICE SPACE INTO AFFORDABLE HOUSING!"

"MORE PLAY GROUNDS AT GROUND LEVEL AND SKY LEVEL. PLUS MORE DAYCARE SERVICES AFFORDABLE FOR EVERYONE."

"COST IS A BARRIER TO LIVING HERE"

"MAKE SURE DOWNTOWN IS NOT A FOOD DESERT"

"THERE ARE A LOT OF UNOCCUPIED UPSTAIRS SPACE THAT WOULD MAKE GREAT HOUSING BUT NEEDS INCENTIVES FROM LANDLORDS"

# Daytime Station

(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 I-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 OPPORTUNITES TO BRING VIBRANCY TO THESE AREAS"

"HISPANIC PIONEER SQUARE & CHINATOWNID 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!"

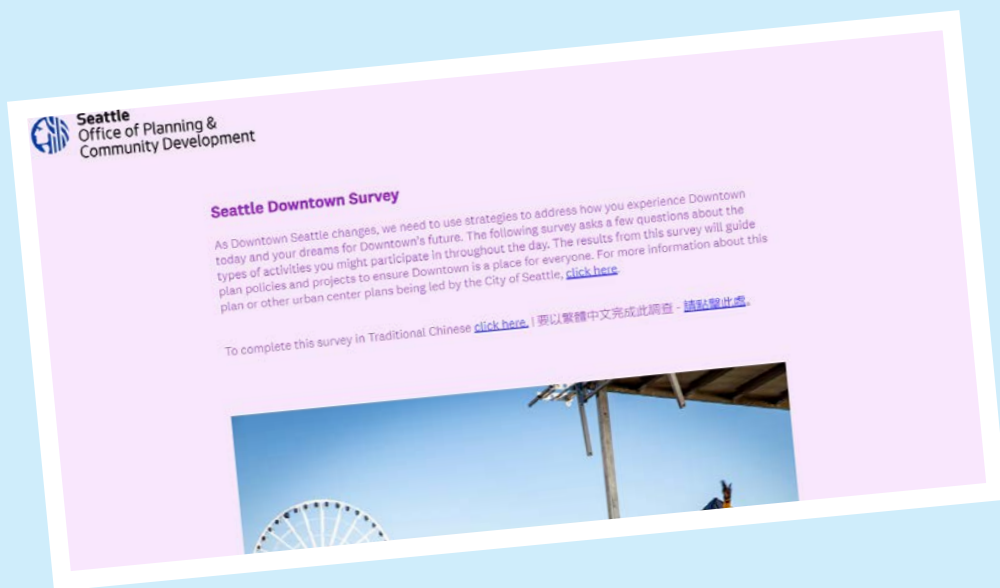
"MAKE IT WORK FOR PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN DOWNTOWN"



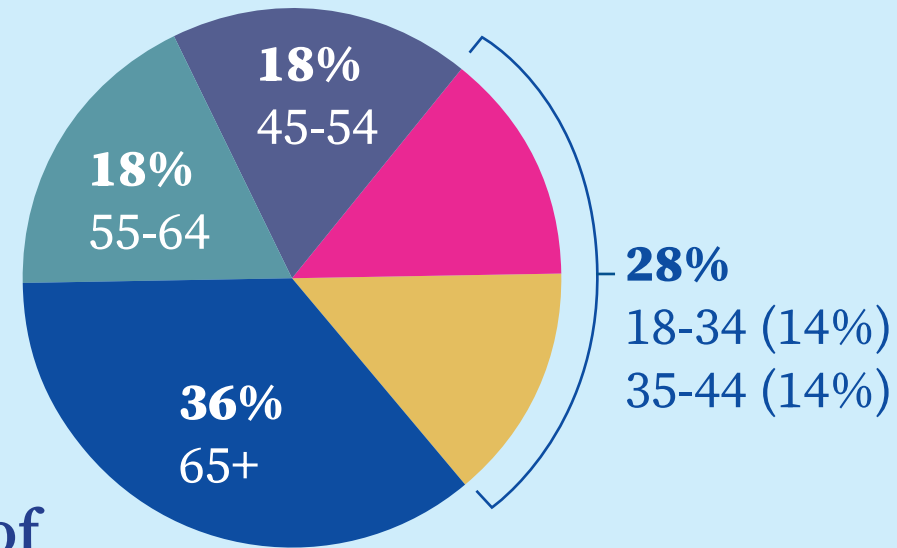
# Online Survey

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.



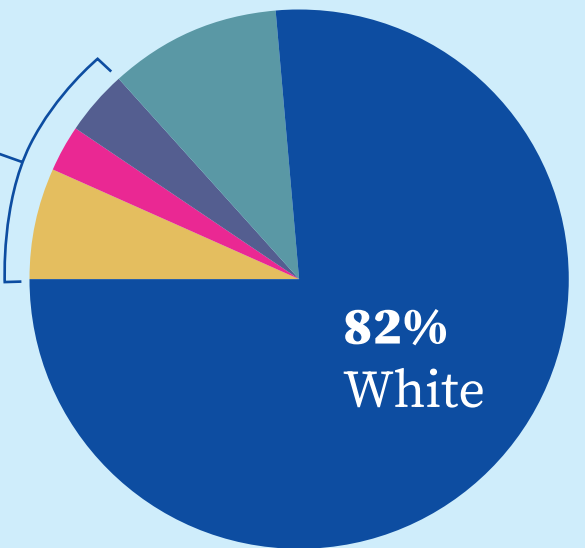
One third of respondents are 65+



11% Asian/Asian American

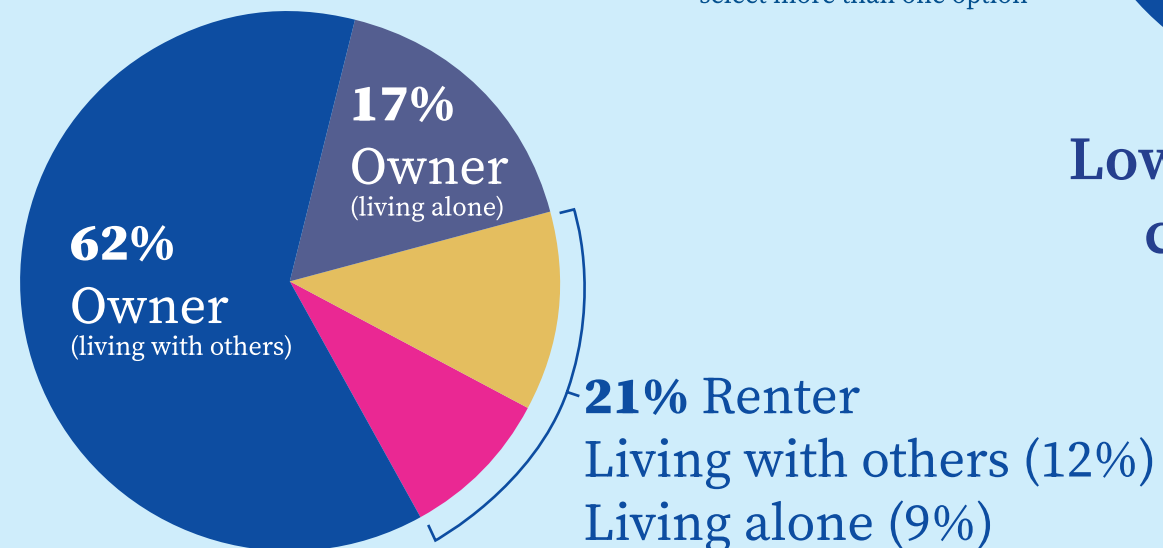
14%\*  
Black (3%)  
Hispanic or Latino (4%)  
Other (7%)

\*>100% as respondents can select more than one option

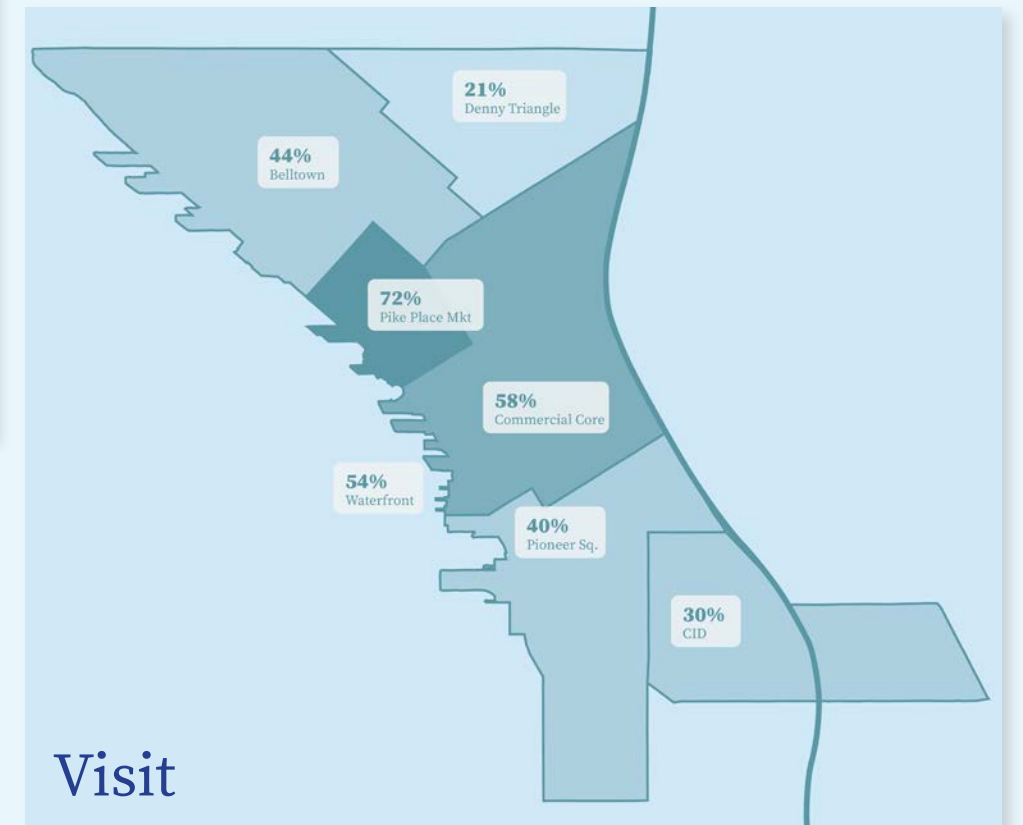
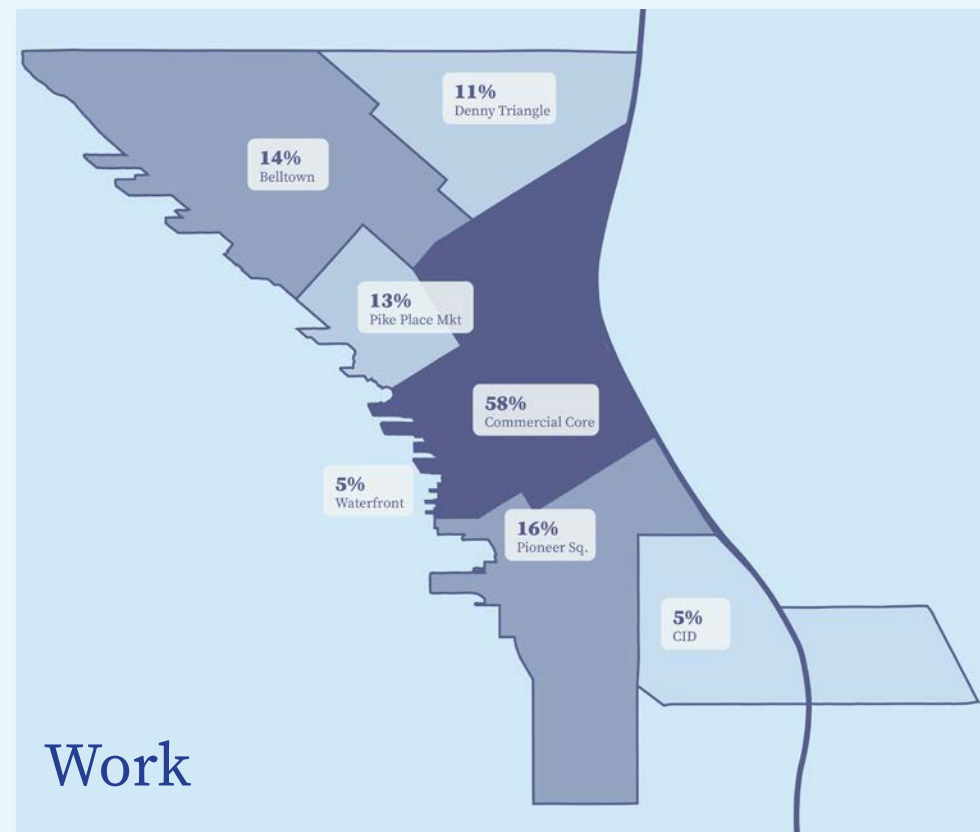
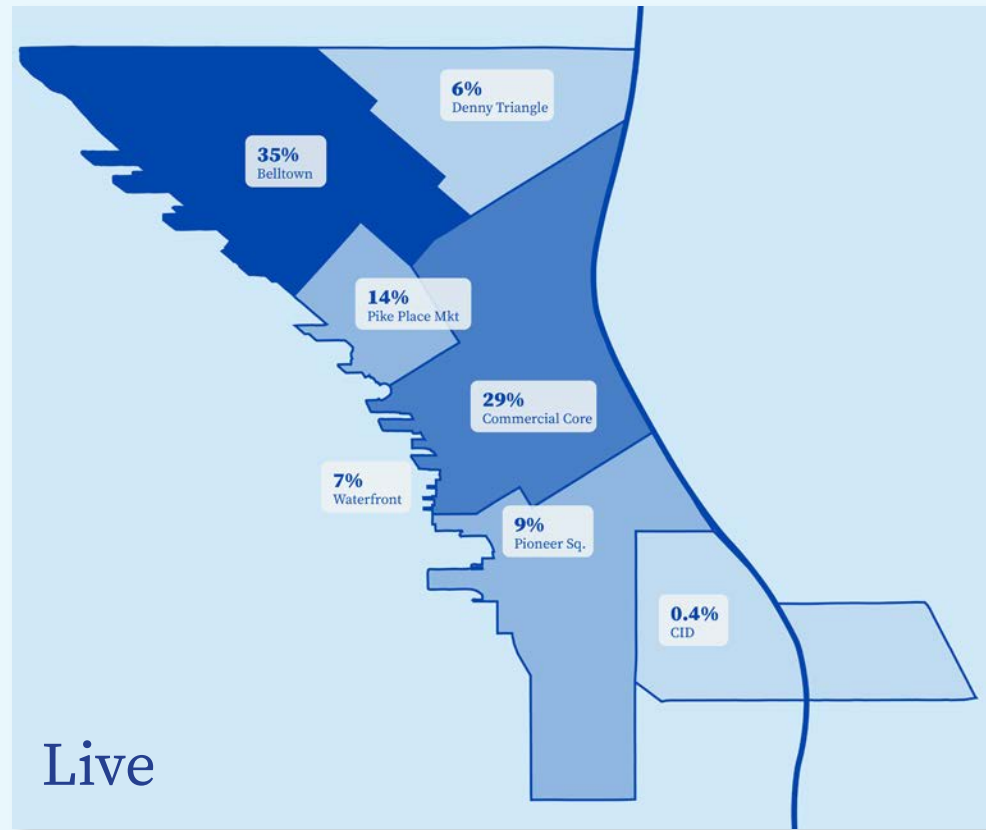


Lower representation of communities of color

Most respondents 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.

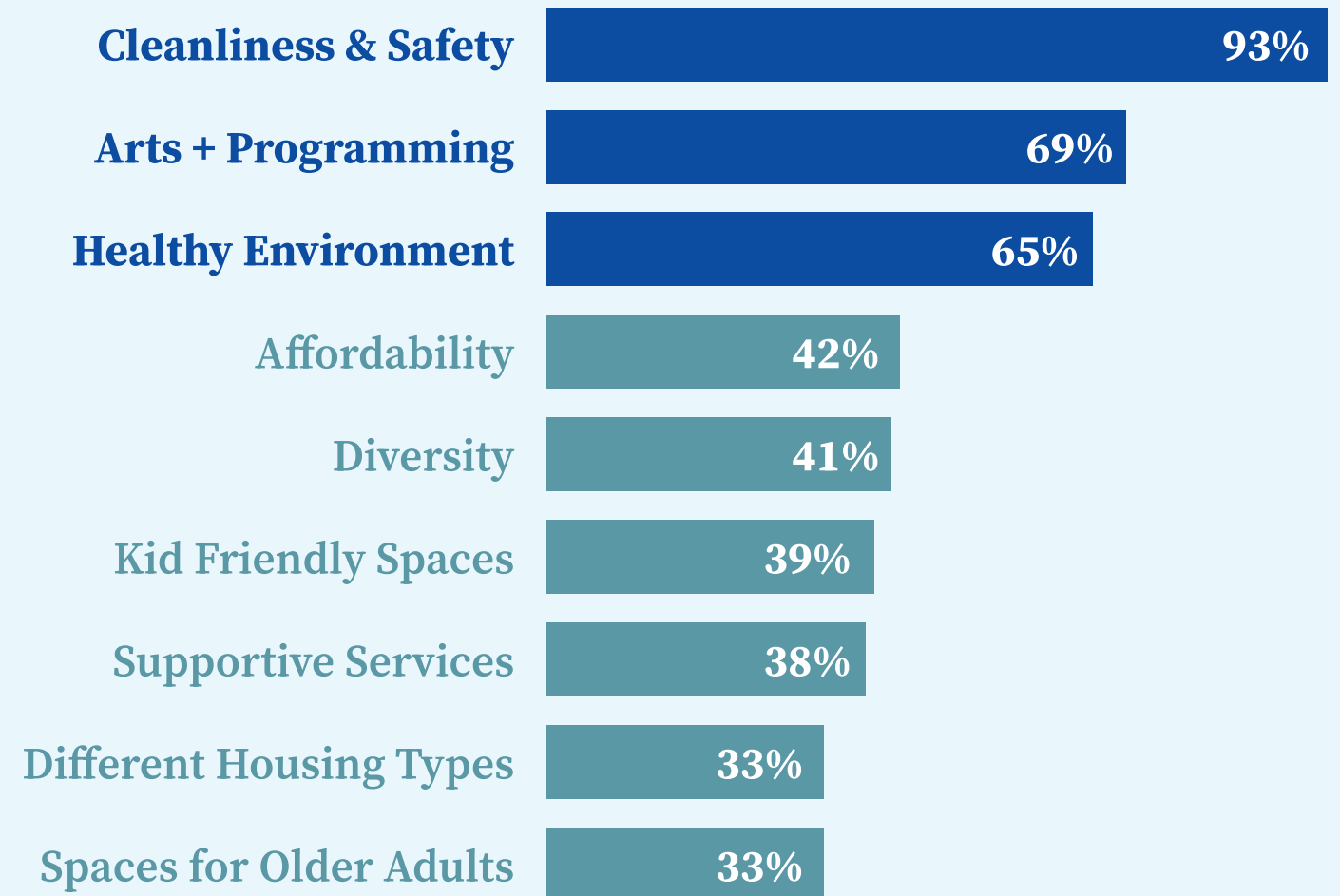
"MORE ARTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND SPACES THAT PEOPLE WANT TO BE IN"

"I USED TO LOVE BEING DOWNTOWN, BUT NOW I'M CONSTANTLY CONCERNED FOR MY SAFETY"

"THE CRIME - I DON'T FEEL SAFE, PEOPLE ON DRUGS - AGAIN I DON'T FEEL SAFE"

"SPORTING EVENTS, SHOWS AT THE THEATER VENUES AND RESTAURANTS"

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.

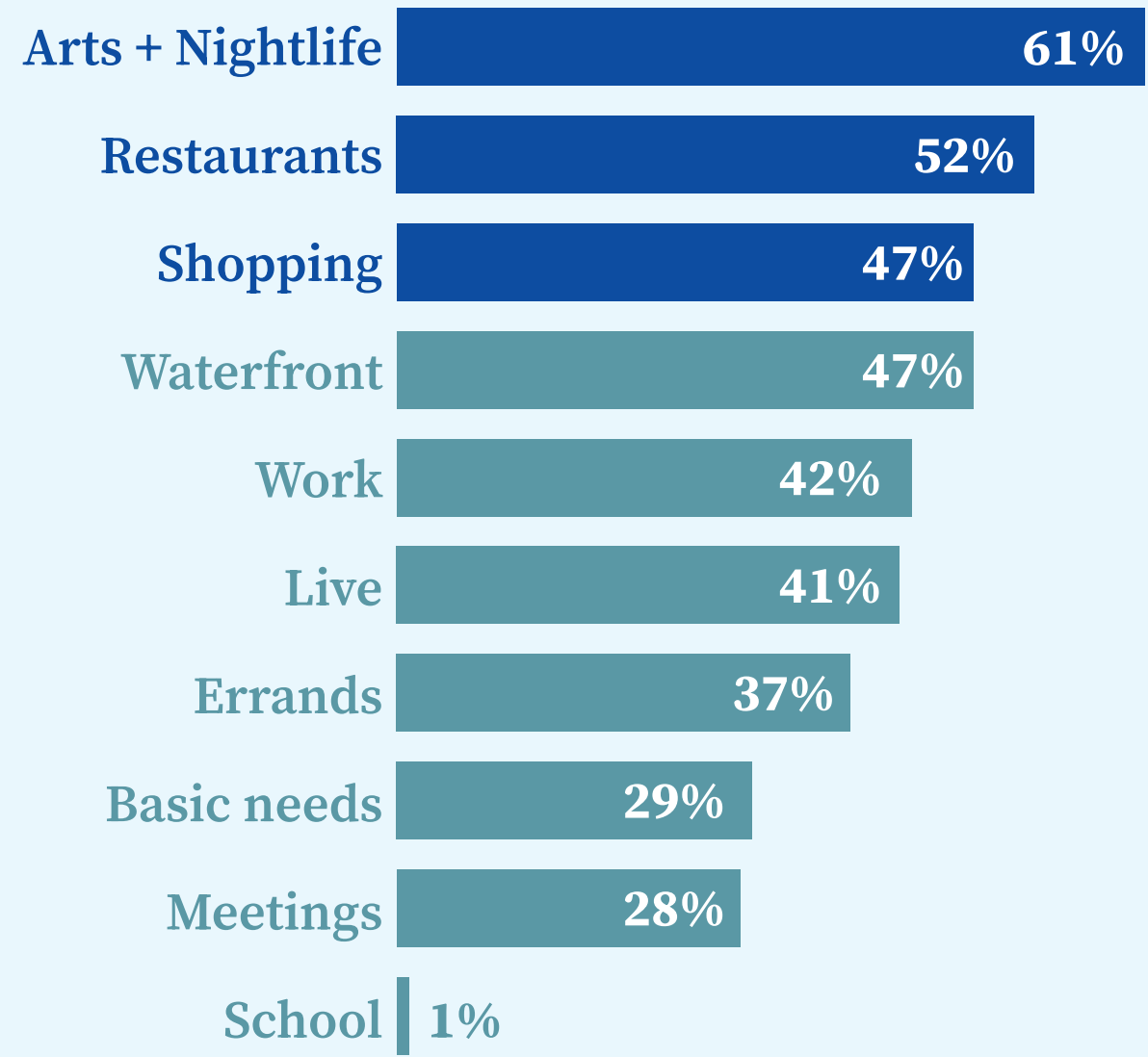
"WATERFRONT AND PIKE PLACE HAVE GREAT ENERGY AND LOVE SEEING THE WATER AND MOUNTAINS"

"SHOPPING IS NOT VERY EXCITING DOWNTOWN"

"LOVE THE NEW WATERFRONT IMPROVEMENTS!"

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

What brings you to the Downtown?



# Theme 3: Housing Diversity

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

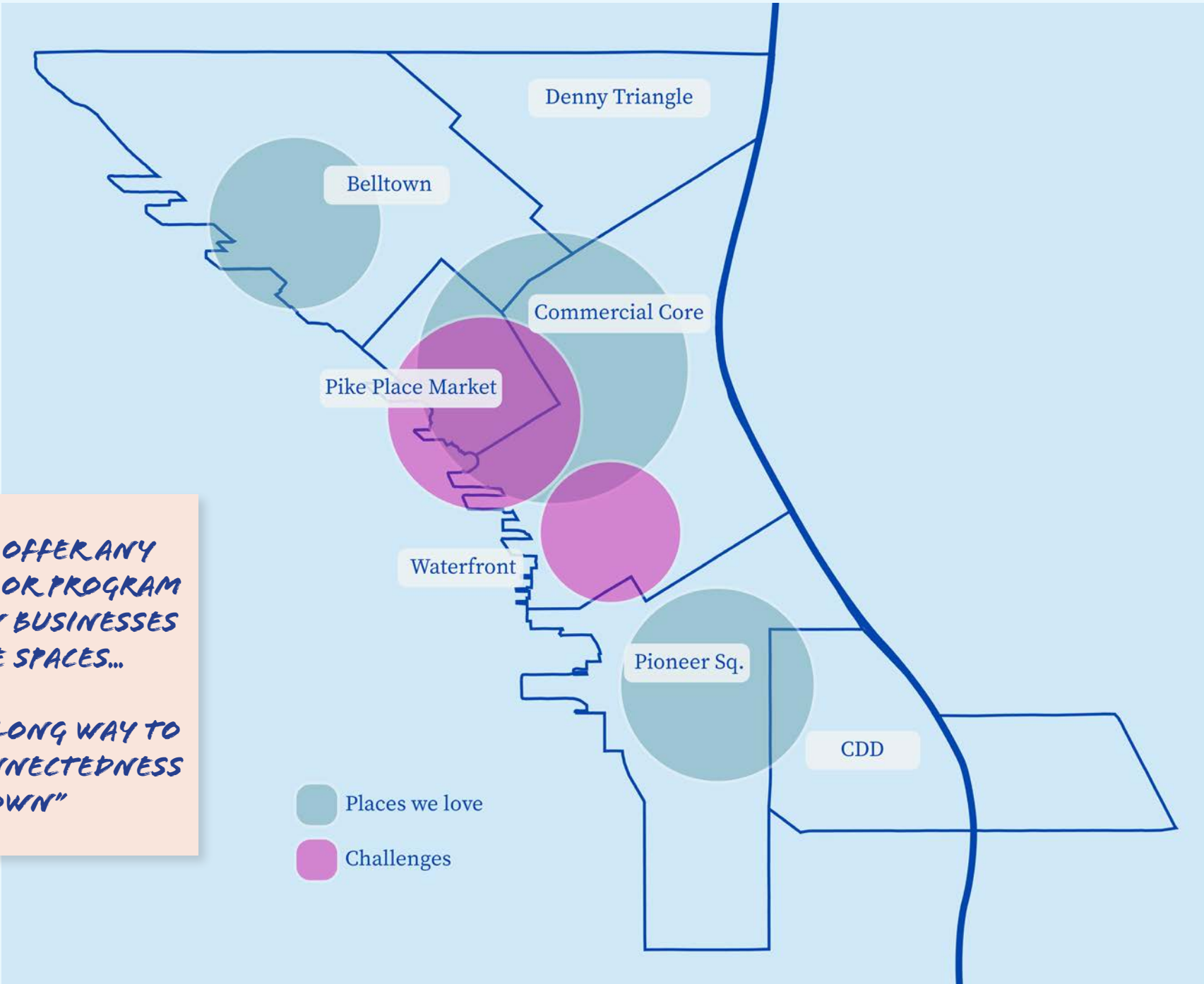
Third Avenue, Pike, and Pine are commonly cited areas of opportunity, with a focus on improving safety, pedestrianizing, and activating

*"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"*

*"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"*

*"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"*



# 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

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

# 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

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