

## Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board (CAB)

<b>MEETING SUMMARY</b>	<b>Date:</b> January 23, 2026 <b>Time:</b> 9am – 11am <b>Location:</b> Virtual (MS Teams)
<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>Joey Lu</b> (Food Access, #1), <b>Barbara Baquero</b> (Food Access, #2), <b>Nurhazila Mohamath</b> (Food Access, #3), <b>Bilan Aden</b> (Community, #4), <b>Tanika Thompson Bird</b> (Community, #5), <b>Angie S. Wood</b> (Public Health, #6), <b>Yamila Sterling</b> (Public Health, #7), <b>Jen Moss</b> (Public Health, #8), <b>Dan Torres</b> (Early Learning, #10)
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	<b>Laura Nicholson</b> (Early Learning, #11)
<b>VACANT SEATS:</b>	Public Health, Position #9
<b>GUESTS:</b>	Bridget Igoe, Office of Sustainability & Environment Hannah Pascual, Office of Sustainability & Environment Seán Walsh, Human Services Department Jenny Crooks, Department of Neighborhoods
<b>VOTES AND DECISIONS:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CAB unanimously approved its 2026 Executive Committee: T. Thompson Bird, co-chair; D. Torres, co-chair; and Y. Sterling, at-large member.</li> <li>The CAB will take time to discuss additional edits to the vision and values in the upcoming meeting.</li> <li>The CAB is interested in a future discussion with the FEPP Levy Oversight Committee and DEEL.</li> </ul>

## Welcome and Introductions

No public comment.

T. Thompson Bird, CAB Co-Chair, opened the meeting, facilitated introductions, and reviewed the agenda.

## Department Updates

**B. Igoe (Office of Sustainability & Environment) provided the following updates:**

- Hannah Pascual, OSE B&C Advisor, will help support the CAB in 2026.
- OSE is co-planning the [2026 Good Food Connections x Food Action Plan Summit](#) to be held on March 9.
  - One day event for people to come together to discuss food issues – link buyers and suppliers together to serve the community together.
  - Focus on Food Action Plan implementation, especially the City's new [Buying with Purpose](#) initiative.

- Noted that community leaders/CAB members are invited and OSE is sponsoring free tickets. Bridget will follow-up with more information via email.
- There are many food-related bills being introduced in the 2026 session of the state legislature. The CAB reviewed a list of bills that Rep. Reeves and Rep. Farivar are sponsoring related to food security, food access, and access to grocery stores, including:
  - Grocery Store Tax Incentives (HB 2297)
  - Grocery Store Covenants (HB 2294)
  - WA State Food Security Strategy/WSDA Authorizing Bill (HB 2238)
  - Medically Tailored Meals (HB 2211/SB 5966)
  - Farm to Food Banks (HB 2463)
  - Includes several items regarding SNAP Funding
  - Farm to Food (HB 2369)– Jen Moss also noted the importance of this one

**S. Walsh (Human Services Department) provided updates on HSD SBT-funded food and meal programs.**

- [Click here to access the presentation slides.](#)
- Questions/comments:
  - *Are the increases in HSD funding for food access one-time/2026 only?* Yes, most of the funding increases in 2026 are one-time added by Council.
  - *Regarding the one-time nature of the funding, we as a CAB will want to think about how our budget recommendations can address this issue. How do we make sure this work can be continued beyond 2026.*
  - *It is disheartening to see a decline in attendance of immigrant populations participating in farmers markets due to fears around immigration enforcement actions. I am worried about how food access sites are going to be able to provide support. It's a very difficult situation and there is a lot of fear.*

**Jenny Crooks (Department of Neighborhoods) provided updates on the [2026 grant process for the SBT-funded Food Equity Fund.](#)**

- In 2026, the Department of Neighborhoods will not run an open, competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Food Equity Fund (FEF). Instead, next year's cycle will renew selected contracts with current partners and FEF Alternates previously identified through a community review process. This approach ensures continuity for programs while allowing staff capacity and time to design and launch a first of its kind [Participatory Budgeting: Urban Farming](#) grant.
- Questions/comments:
  - CAB member expressed support for the approach to renew contracts, citing how difficult it is for community organizations to find sustained funding. There was

appreciation for Food Equity Fund staff who take the time to listen and be responsive to the community feedback.

- Bridget: Note that Robyn Kumar is giving Fresh Bucks update in upcoming meeting and flagged that an email that was sent out earlier about it.

## **CAB Executive Committee Elections**

The CAB voted for its 2026 Executive Committee. There are three spots on the Executive Committee and three nominations:

- T. Thompson Bird for co-chair;
- D. Torres for co-chair; and
- Y. Sterling for at-large member.

The vote was all in favor (green) to approve these CAB members to serve as the 2026 Executive Committee.

## **CAB Updates to Vision, Values, 2026 Workplan**

The CAB reviewed a second round of drafts to its [vision and values documents](#).

Under the budget principles section of the document, the CAB discussed adding a statement about the original intent of the SBT revenue to supplement—not supplant—revenue with the goal of expanding programs. This is especially important since the “no supplantation clause” and policy was removed in 2025. The CAB will review a draft no supplantation budget principle at the next meeting.

The CAB also reviewed, discussed, and finalized its [2026 workplan document](#).

**-END-**