



BOARD MEETING AGENDA

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

September 19, 2023

*The UW Tower, Floor 22**

I.	Welcome & Introductions	Rob	11:30 a.m.
II.	Public Comment	Public	11:35 a.m.
III.	Approval of June Meeting Minutes	Rob	11:40 a.m. (Vote)
IV.	Finance Committee Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Acceptance of August Financials (Vote)	Trevor	11:45 a.m.
V.	WA Department of Commerce Grant Update	Daniel	11:55 a.m.
VI.	UDP Arts Grant Update	Katy	12:10 p.m.
VII.	Clean/Safe/Outreach Program Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Volunteer Clean-Up Event● Weekend Late-Night Security Patrols● Case Conferencing● Homeless Census	Marcus	12:20 p.m.
VIII.	U District \$4 Food Walk Update	Polly	12:35 p.m.
IX.	New Business	Rob	12:45 p.m.
X.	Governance Committee Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Board Handbook Updates & Signatures● Board Pulse Survey● Nomination to the Board: Daniel Blue	Josh	12:50 p.m. (Vote)
XI.	Adjourn	Rob	1:00 p.m.

**The UW Tower is located at 4333 Brooklyn Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98105. Board members can also access the hybrid option via this [zoom link](#).*

THE U DISTRICT

PARTNERSHIP

Board Meeting Minutes

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

June 6, 2023

Remote Meeting

UDP Board Members in Attendance

Rob Lubin, UW Housing – Co-Chair
Lois Ko, Sweet Alchemy – Co-Chair
Trevor Peterson, UW Bookstore – Treasurer
Kate Barr, Scarecrow Video/Grand Illusion
Sally Clark, UW External Affairs/Campus Safety
Jeremy Eknoian, UW Real Estate
John Hix, Seattle Vineyard Church
Rick Jones, University Business Center

Kristine Kenney, UW Planning
Anson Lin, Astora Construction
Maya Lu, Boba Up
Santhi Perumal, UW School of Education
Don Schulze, Shultzzy's/UDPA
Alfred Shiga, Shiga's Imports
Anna Sorokina, WSECU
Josh Stabenfeldt, University YMCA

UDP Board Members Not in Attendance

Stephen Antupit, Resident – Secretary
Moe Kahn, Cedars Restaurant

Miles Richardson, Audi Seattle/University VW

UDP Staff

Don Blakeney, Executive Director; Marcus Johnson, Clean, Safe & Outreach Manager; Phil Lloyd, Financial Manager (by phone); Daniel Lopic, Economic Development Manager; Katy Ricchiuto, Urban Vitality Manager; Polly Yokokawa, Marketing & Communications Manager

Guests*

Daniel Blue – Branch Manager, HomeStreet Bank (Prospective Board Member); Michael Reid - Banker, HomeStreet Bank; Aaron Hoard – Interim Director of Regional & Community Relations (prospective board member); **Please note, there may have been other guests but due to the zoom format and people entering and leaving at different times, we were unable to track all guests.*

Welcome and Introductions

Lois started the meeting and Don Blakeney led the introductions for the Board, staff and guests.

Approval of April UDP Board Meeting Minutes

Lois introduced the April UDP Board meeting minutes.

Motion: Trevor moved to accept the April 2023 meeting minutes.

Second: Kate seconded the motion.

Approval: The motion was approved unanimously.

Finance Committee Update and Approval of the Financials

Trevor shared an update with the Board on the financials. He noted that the balance sheet looks a little 'out of whack' because the Department of Commerce grant has pushed an unusually large sum of money through the organization's books. To track this spending, independently of other program expenses, UDP has created a new column on the budget report for the grant. All in all, the spending is on track and the Committee reports that they are very comfortable with the condition of the financials. *These updates can be found in the finance committee narrative included in the April Board packet.*

Motion: The Finance Committee moved to accept the April 2023 financials as presented at the June 6, 2023 Board Meeting.

Second: No second was required because this motion came from the Finance Committee.

Approval: The motion was approved unanimously.

2024 Budget Proposal

Don walked through the context and timeline for the development of the FY 2024 budget. There were several budget visioning sessions through the spring that informed the proposed budget presented at the meeting. He offered a quick overview of some of the accomplishments from the organization in the last fiscal year:

Spring / Summer 2022

- Launch of U District Arts and Culture Initiative
- Summer Movies by the Bay at Fritz Hedges Waterway Park
- New cleaning contract with Seattle Surface Cleaners
- Redistricting advocacy (U District stays in D4)

Fall 2022

- New weekend late-night security in response to October shootings
- Expanded outreach program now 7 days a week
- Tree lights on University Way from NE 47th to NE 50th and along NE 45th
- \$5M Department of Commerce grant awarded to UDP

Winter 2023

- Winter storm snow removal on University Way NE
- \$5M Department of Commerce grant implementation
- New flowers and plant maintenance for NE 43rd Street dining area
- Launch of Lid I-5 North Coalition

Spring 2023

- \$5M Department of Commerce grant implementation: 140+ awardees
- \$80K Office of Arts & Culture grant implementation
- Cherry Blossom Festival, Boba Fest & U District Street Fair
- New clean/safe operations center at NE 43rd Street
- New UDP website launches June 6, 2023

Don then walked through the team's fundraising achievements over the past year:

Grants - \$5,115,500

- \$4,976,000 - Washington State Department of Commerce - Tenant Improvements
- \$80,000 - Seattle Office of Arts & Culture - Arts & Culture Programming
- \$25,000 - Seattle Office of Economic Development - Economic Recovery
- \$27,500 - Seattle Public Utilities - Cleaning
- \$7,000 - Rotary - New Hot Water Pressure Washer

Sponsorships/Partnerships - \$203,000

- \$123,000 - UW, KUOW, UHeights, Target - Expanded Ambassador Hours and Security
- \$100,000 - King County Regional Homeless Authority - Homeless Outreach Staffing
- \$80,000 - Sponsors - Food Walk, Cherry Blossom Fest, Boba Fest, Street Fair

Don then reviewed priorities elevated by the Board in the previous priority setting meetings from earlier in the spring:

Safe Streets: sustaining 7 day/week safety ambassador services; new trainings

Nightlife Security: first four weekends of fall and winter quarters

Clean District: streamlining/solidifying operations and responsiveness

Homeless Support: case conferencing, outreach team collaboration with UW

Thriving Retail: new retail recruitment/activation for chronic vacancies

Enhanced Public Realm: new physical improvements across entire district

Small Business Support: grants, broader outreach, and technical assistance

Vibrant Arts & Culture Scene: carry forward arts and culture initiative plans

U District Awareness: paid advertising, earned media and promotions

Signature Events: annual events, explore winter events/collaborations with UW

Advocacy: continuing to advocate for neighborhood resources

Don reviewed the budget assumptions which include a \$250K increase in BIA assessment collections, a continued spend-down of the BIA surplus, fundraising for placemaking and safety services, and income from sponsorship of events & festivals. Because of new construction and CPI adjustments, the assessment has increased over time:

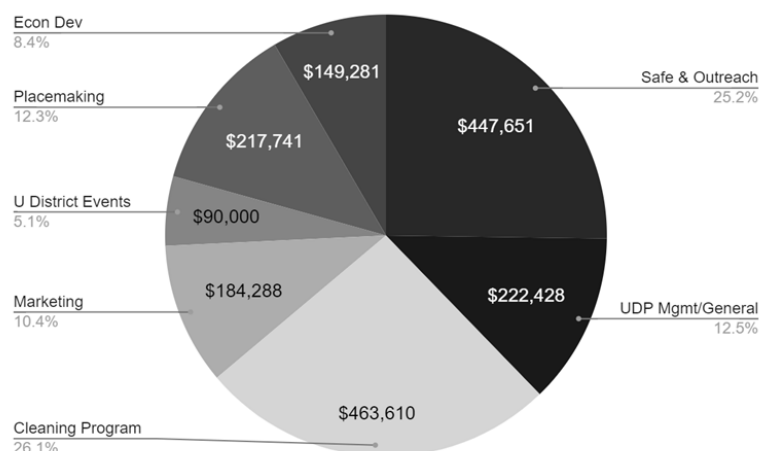
2020-2021: \$1,215,847

2021-2022: \$1,271,712

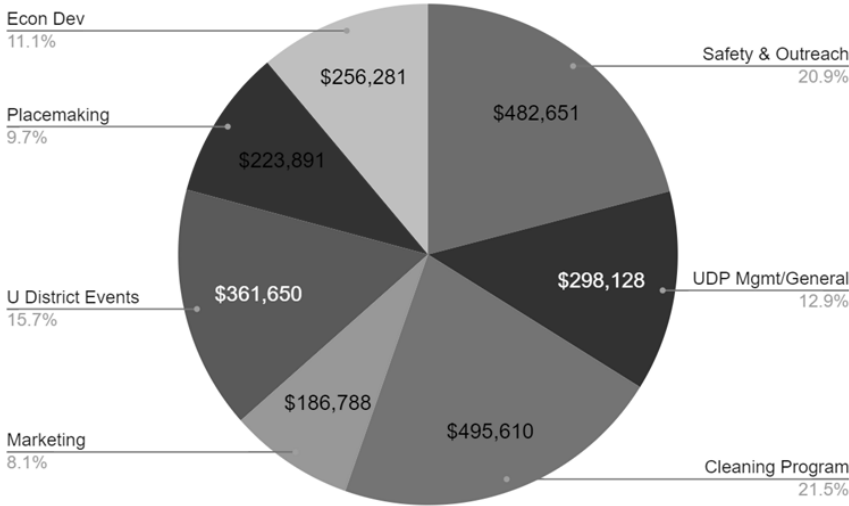
2022-2023: \$1,325,847

2023-2024: \$1,625,000

Don presented a **BIA spending** proposal that reflected the following areas:



With grant, partner and outside funding, Don presented an **FY 2024 UDP budget** with spending in the following areas:



The full budget and workplan proposal can be found in the June UDP Board meeting packet.

Because there were many moving parts in the budget, due to the Commerce grant and some outstanding BIA collections (currently roughly \$250,000) the Board asked to schedule a mid-year check-in on the budget. The Finance Committee will check-in on the status of spending in November and update the Board at their meeting in December.

Board members asked questions about the collection process and why there were outstanding bills, and the potential impacts to cash flow for the organization. Don and Phil explained that cash flow would not be an issue, and that there was a strong likelihood that the organization would collect at least \$75,000 of the outstanding dollars. Instead of presenting a negative projected budget, the Board asked to include the projected back-assessment collections in the FY 2024 budget.

Motion: Trevor moved to approve the proposed FY 2024 budget as amended at the June 6, 2023 Board Meeting, and to present it to the BIA Board for acceptance at the Annual Meeting.

Second: Alfred seconded the motion.

Approval: The motion was approved unanimously.

WA Department of Commerce Grant Update

Daniel offered an update on the Washington State Department of Commerce grant. The deadline has been extended through the end of June. As of today \$1.6 M has been distributed, that number will jump quickly this summer as people wrap up their improvement projects. He reviewed several before-and-after pictures from the 140 projects.

Alfred shared some design concepts for a new entry way upgrade to Shiga's Imports that incorporates cut-paper-style artwork, which was an artistic response to what was essentially a security issue.

Anson raised the question about the cumulative impact of many awnings being removed. Some of the grant recipients talked about the benefit of adding light into the windows of the building. The team talked about a few of the buildings putting back awnings, and noted that all new buildings that have been built since 2015 are required to have permanent built-in awnings.

U District Street Fair Report

Polly offered an update on the recent U District Street Fair which attracted over 50,000 people for the weekend and featured 177 arts and craft booths (which was double from the previous year). In addition, over 25 businesses participated in the Street Fair with activations in front of their buildings. There was terrific media coverage of the event and positive feedback from the community through the event surveys. Only 34% of attendees are UW students. Alfred said he thought it was a very successful event, and he saw a big bump in traffic through his family's store. John talked about the major surplus of garbage from the food vendors on NE 42nd Street, and how it ended up in the alley and in the flower beds near the Vineyard Church. Don committed to reviewing the cleaning protocols to ensure those food courts have sufficient trash removal at the end of the event.

Governance Committee Report

The Committee nominated two new Board members: Jared Clouse, Executive Director of the ROOTS Young Adult Shelter and Aaron Hoard, Interim Director of UW Regional and Community Affairs.

Motion: The Governance Committee moved to nominate Aaron Hoard to the UDP Board of Directors for a three-year term.

Second: No second was required because this motion came from the Governance Committee.

Approval: The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion: The Governance Committee moved to nominate Jared Clouse to the UDP Board of Directors for a three-year term.

Second: No second was required because this motion came from the Governance Committee.

Approval: The motion was approved unanimously.

The following Board members have been approached by the Governance Committee and have expressed their willingness and interest in staying on for an additional three-year term:

John Hix – Pastor, Seattle Vineyard Church

Lois Ko – Owner, Sweet Alchemy

Rob Lubin – Director of Housing and Food Services, UW

Miles Richardson – General Manager, Audi Seattle/University VW

Don Schulze – President, U District Property Associates

Alfred Shiga – Owner, Shiga's Imports

Moe Khan – Owner, Cedars Restaurant

Motion: The Governance Committee moved to approve the slate of returning Board members for another three-year term.

Second: No second was required because this motion came from the Governance Committee.

Approval: The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion: The Governance Committee moved to nominate Lois Ko as Co-Chair and Aaron Hoard as Secretary for two year terms.

Second: No second was required because this motion came from the Governance Committee.

Approval: The motion was approved unanimously.

The following Board members have been approached by the Governance Committee and have expressed their interest in leading the following committees:

Governance Chair: Josh Stabenfeldt – Executive Director, University YMCA

Governance Vice Chair: Rick Jones – U District Business Center

Urban Vitality Chair: Stephen Antupit – Resident

Clean & Safe Chair: Don Schulze – President, UDPA

Economic Development Chair: Miles Richardson – GM, Audi Seattle University VW

Motion: The Governance Committee moved to nominate the slate of committee chairs for the FY 2024 year.

Second: No second was required because this motion came from the Governance Committee.

Approval: The motion was approved unanimously.

New Business

Lois called for new business, and thanked the Board for a productive meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m..

UDP FINANCE COMMITTEE NARRATIVE

Prepared for the Finance Committee on 9/8/23

This month, UDP is still ramping up on FY 2024 spending. There are two open positions that will be filled within the month along with COLA adjustments for the team, which should help get things back on track. There were a couple of variables that were in the budget for this year and this underspend offers a little padding. As in August, the Department of Commerce grant still represents a lot of the organization's spending. Some of the variances in this month's reports are mostly a timing issue.

Balance Sheet Report

The balance sheet is still distorted by the Department of Commerce Grant, which has been pushing millions of dollars through UDP's books as the organization receives payments and reimburses grant beneficiaries. There are also new reporting requirements that call for recording future lease payment obligations. Phil will share how this shows up going forward on the balance sheet.

Budget Report

Spending is off to a slow start. Consultant spending and staff costs will pick up pace as projects unfold and new hires join the team in the weeks ahead. This underspend shows up as an under collection of income, as there have been fewer expenses for which UDP needs to be reimbursed. The Department of Commerce remains the exception. Income and spending for this \$5 million grant is being tracked in a separate class. The comments below add context and details to variances seen in the budget report. The numbers along the left side of the page correspond with the numbers on the budget report:

Income:

44300 – BIA Income: *BIA spending is down because the year has just begun and there are two open staff positions that will be filled in the weeks ahead.*

44530 – Grants Income: *UDP continues to spend down the Department of Commerce grant, which is tracked in the "DOC" column. Most of this spending will wind down by the beginning of October. Other grant income variances relate to project timing issues and should level off later in the year.*

Expense:

60000 – Staffing: *With two open positions, FY 2024 is off to a slow start on staffing spending. This is expected to catch up soon, and the committee can take a look in a few months to monitor where this lands.*

70320 – Contracted Services: *With the year just underway, each manager has a budget to hire consultants to support their work. This spending will come in lumps throughout the year and have previously supported facilitation, graphic design and other services.*

DOC Grant

August 31 was a major cut-off for projects, so it's likely that the grant activity in this column will calm down significantly by November. UDP should be able to disburse most of the \$5 million grant by early

October, with a small amount of funding that will support grant administration, special projects and the new vacant space grant that will wrap up by the end of the year.

BIA Budget Tracker

Looking at BIA spending alone, the year is off to a slow start, but that's normal for UDP's fiscal year. BIA spending will pick up in the fall.

The U District Partnership
Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
 As of August 31, 2023

	Aug 31, 23	Aug 31, 22	\$ Change
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
10100 · Operating Bank Accounts			
10110 · WSECU Checking	69,685.66	39,846.89	29,838.77
10111 · WSECU Savings	160,126.61	160,221.27	-94.66
Total 10100 · Operating Bank Accounts	229,812.27	200,068.16	29,744.11
Total Checking/Savings	229,812.27	200,068.16	29,744.11
Accounts Receivable	145,409.11	136,354.22	9,054.89
Other Current Assets			
12026 · Lease Rights	91,046.06	0.00	91,046.06
12022 · Prepaid Expense	8,897.33	7,883.39	1,013.94
12021 · Employee Advances	669.37	79.98	589.39
12000 · Undeposited Funds	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
Total Other Current Assets	100,612.76	8,963.37	91,649.39
Total Current Assets	475,834.14	345,385.75	130,448.39
Fixed Assets			
15000 · Furniture and Equipment	11,013.05	0.00	11,013.05
Total Fixed Assets	11,013.05	0.00	11,013.05
Other Assets	3,235.87	3,235.87	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	490,083.06	348,621.62	141,461.44
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	17,149.98	46,850.53	-29,700.55
Credit Cards	27,701.39	21,148.89	6,552.50
Other Current Liabilities			
20220 · Lease Liability	91,046.06	0.00	91,046.06
20210 · Deferred Revenue	57,962.06	0.00	57,962.06
24000 · Payroll Liabilities	58,203.62	31,518.69	26,684.93
Total Other Current Liabilities	207,211.74	31,518.69	175,693.05
Total Current Liabilities	252,063.11	99,518.11	152,545.00
Total Liabilities	252,063.11	99,518.11	152,545.00
Equity			
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	235,837.26	248,880.08	-13,042.82
Net Income	2,182.69	223.43	1,959.26
Total Equity	238,019.95	249,103.51	-11,083.56
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	490,083.06	348,621.62	141,461.44

The U District Partnership Budget Report August 2023

	Jul - Aug 23	DOC Grant	YTD Budget	\$ Over Budget	Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
44430 · BIA Contract	231,101.08	0.00	293,393.71	-62,292.63	1,845,000.00
44530 · Grants Income	1,618.00	1,407,537.04	15,000.00	-13,382.00	144,149.94
47000 · Program Fees Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	175,000.00
47213 · Retail Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00
47215 · Sponsorships	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	105,000.00
43400 · Donations/Partnerships	4,780.24	0.00	6,000.00	-1,219.76	36,000.00
46400 · Interest and Other	51.68	0.00	0.00	51.68	0.00
Total Income	237,551.00	1,407,537.04	314,393.71	-76,842.71	2,307,649.94
Expense					
60000 · Staffing	115,724.34	19,801.85	166,985.01	-51,260.67	1,001,909.51
61000 · Professional & Contract Expense	5,000.00	548.00	5,916.60	-916.60	65,000.00
62000 · Office and Overhead	25,395.52	0.00	32,740.00	-7,344.48	252,590.00
70000 · Direct Program Expenses	89,248.45	1,387,187.19	108,750.10	-19,501.65	980,500.00
Total Expense	235,368.31	1,407,537.04	314,391.71	-79,023.40	2,299,999.51
Net Income	2,182.69	0.00	2.00	2,180.69	7,650.43

2023-24 University District BIA

Budget Tracker - August 2023

ACCOUNTS	Budget	TO DATE	REMAINING	% Expended	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Program Management	268,028	25,693.28	242,335	9.6%	\$ 13,465.09	\$ 12,228.19		
Clean Environment	488,010	67,167.74	420,843	13.8%	\$ 30,431.93	\$ 36,735.81		
Public Safety	447,651	70,635.34	377,016	15.8%	\$ 37,422.25	\$ 33,213.09		
Urban Vitality	217,741	32,326.02	185,415	14.8%	\$ 15,654.15	\$ 16,671.87		
Economic Development	149,281	8,768.44	140,513	5.9%	\$ 4,382.31	\$ 4,386.13		
Marketing	184,288	26,246.65	158,042	14.2%	\$ 13,761.78	\$ 12,484.87		
Food Walkk	30,000	143.88	29,856	0.5%	\$ -	\$ 143.88		
Cherry Blossom	15,000	0.00	15,000	0.0%	\$ -			
Bobafest	15,000	0.00	15,000	0.0%	\$ -			
Street Fair	30,000	119.73	29,880	0.4%	\$ 68.45	\$ 51.28		
Total Requested	1,845,000	231,101.08	1,613,899	12.5%	\$ 115,185.96	\$ 115,915.12	\$ -	\$ -

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Program Management								
Clean Environment								
Public Safety								
Urban Vitality								
Economic Development								
Marketing								
Food Walkk								
Cherry Blossom								
Bobafest								
Street Fair	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	-	-	-	-	-	-

PROGRAM REPORTS

September 2023

URBAN VITALITY

First Roosevelt Roundtable Meeting Held in June

UDP gathered stakeholders from along Roosevelt Way in the U District this past June to discuss short-term needs and long-term visions for the corridor. The meeting started with a walking tour of the northern part of Roosevelt, from Ravenna to NE 52nd. Then, 25 Roosevelt stakeholders gathered at University Child Development School for a group discussion followed by breakout sessions to talk about emerging issues. UDP compiled notes from the meeting and identified some immediate actions. These actions include working with Seattle Public Utilities to address private garbage cans blocking sidewalks along the street, as well as researching the cost of installing tree lights along part of the corridor. The second of three Roosevelt group meetings will be on Wednesday, October 11, 2023.

Lid I-5 North Seattle Group Working with Graduate Student Studio this Fall

UDP has been working within a coalition of North Seattle stakeholders to advance a conversation around a highway lid over Interstate 5 between NE 45th and 50th Streets. The coalition has been meeting regularly as a small steering committee, with some members participating in the Downtown Lid I-5 Coalition's bi-monthly meetings. This fall, a UW graduate landscape architecture studio led by Professor Nancy Rottle will use the North Seattle lid concept as a focus for their work. The Lid I-5 North Coalition will also be hosting a Community Vision Charrette on Thursday, November 9.

U District Arts Recovery Grant Awards Wrapping Up

UDP has received a grant from the City of Seattle Office of Arts and Culture to support arts and culture activations and events in the U District. This past spring, UDP awarded \$75,000 to 13 organizations to support their events and programming through the end of this month. The grant period is wrapping up. UDP will be compiling data from grantee reports to share the impact of the grant on the neighborhood. A few examples of programs we funded are:

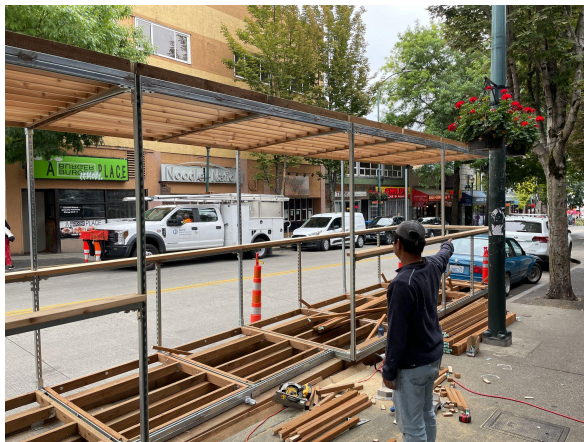
- Concerts on the Ave during Street Fair and the \$4 Food Walk (U District Advocates)
- A stand-up comedy training for LGBTQIA+, BIPOC, disabled, and women comics from Seattle (Laughs Comedy Club)
- An art exhibit by artist Sarah Cain, "day after day on this beautiful stage" (Henry Art Gallery)
- Jack Straw Artist exhibits and showcases (Jack Straw Cultural Center)
- Summer Park Pop Ups (U Heights)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

\$3.5M in UDP Grants Disbursed to U District Businesses

Since the beginning of 2023, The U District Vitality Grants Program has injected nearly \$3.5M into the U District business community, and committed an additional \$1M to businesses in the coming months. Over 130 businesses have leveraged these funds to make significant exterior improvements, interior upgrades, and purchase critical equipment.

While a majority of these projects have been completed, remaining funds are primarily allocated to assist eight more businesses in implementing active and unique outdoor dining structures - which are expected to be completed by October 2023. These businesses include Boba Up, Sizzle & Crunch, Mama's Viet Kitchen, Pho Shizzle, Call a Chicken, Nuodle Express, Kai's Thai Street Food, and Shawarma King.



Construction of Pho Shizzle's Outdoor Dining Structure



Construction of Boba Up's Outdoor Dining Structure

UDP will be partnering with the Washington State Department of Commerce to unveil many of these 130+ storefront improvement projects at a press event on Friday, 9/29 in the district. The event will be a press gathering with elected officials speaking, followed by a walking tour with small businesses.

UDP Launches Vacant Spaces Revival Grants

Earlier this month, UDP launched a Vacant Spaces Revival Grant program to attempt to reduce these barriers. These grants will provide funding for entrepreneurs and current business operators to invest in fixed asset improvements such as the purchase of specialized equipment and exterior/interior renovations necessary to operate in a ground-floor commercial space.

The purpose of this fund is to support entrepreneurs locating in Seattle's U District by defraying the significant costs associated with opening a new ground-floor commercial business. While the vacancy rate is relatively low in the U District, several high-profile vacancies persist because of the costs associated with upgrading the spaces for new businesses, specifically food service.

Grants of up to \$100,000 are available to businesses and nonprofit organizations that have occupied a vacant ground-floor commercial space (after January 1, 2023) or secured a lease (by

October 15, 2023). The aim of this one-time funding is to support the start-up costs of operating/expanding/relocating into a vacant ground-floor commercial space in the U District. The first review of applications will take place on September 18th, 2023.

Supporting an Active Ground-Floor Economy

With several notable high-profile spaces for lease and the ability to leverage the recently launched Vacant Spaces Revival Grant Program, UDP is actively seeking new and exciting tenants and business concepts to fill commercial spaces in the U District. Utilizing a relationship-based approach, UDP continues to engage property owners, brokers, and entrepreneurs to match business concepts to specific ground-floor spaces. While this effort spans available spaces community-wide, finding unique tenants for high-profile spaces like the Bartell's and CVS space are key priorities in supporting an active ground-floor economy.

CLEAN, SAFE & OUTREACH

Ramping Up Cleaning For the New School Year

As the students begin to return to campus, they will notice a neighborhood that's been transformed by new storefront improvements and investments in the public realm. To support this momentum, the UDP Clean Team remains dedicated to managing litter, and removing graffiti, stickers and biohazards.

Unfortunately, this summer has presented a significant challenge in the form of a graffiti surge. Additional shifts, a growing paint library and coordination with private property owners has enabled the team to be more proficient in their work.

Sustaining the Safety Ambassadors While Adding Late Night Security Patrols on Weekends

The UDP Ambassador Program has successfully maintained its seven-day-a-week operation, a continuity initiated last year. This sustained effort has provided a dependable level of support to businesses, residents, and visitors. Given the escalating demand for the program's services, reducing this level of support would prove challenging.

As the student population returns, the UDP is reinstating the Late Night Security Patrols for the first four weeks of the fall quarter. Last year, the beginning of the fall quarter was marred by two incidents of gun violence. In response, the UDP, with funding from University of Washington, introduced a new Late Night Security Patrol shift operating from 10 pm to 3 am on Friday and Saturday nights. This initiative aimed to gain insights into the factors contributing to these unfortunate events within the community's ecosystem and allowed UDP to share real-time information with stakeholders and city/state officials and led to substantial progress in addressing and understanding the challenges posed by such activities in the area.

Minimizing Impact of People Suffering from Unaddressed Behavioral Health Issues

The UDP remains committed to mitigating the challenges posed by people who are suffering from deep and unaddressed behavioral health issues. UDP's ambassador and outreach teams actively engage in efforts to connect individuals with vital resources, deescalate behavioral health episodes, and facilitate the distribution of prescribed mental health medication through our contracted outreach workers from REACH.

In addition, the University of Washington has initiated a partnership with REACH to designate a dedicated outreach worker to serve their campus community. This dedicated UW Outreach Worker is instrumental in connecting individuals experiencing homelessness on campus with the necessary resources and support.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

UDP & U District Email Templates

As part of the ongoing branding project UDP has continued into a new phase of improving email communication brand implementation through email templates for UDP newsletters, announcements, and calls to action; in addition to templates to promote activities and blog posts via the U District Seattle website look and feel. Look forward to seeing these templates roll out in the coming months!

EVENTS

U District Food Walk



The third annual [U District \\$4 Food Walk](#) returns on Saturday, September 30 and will be the largest celebration yet! With over 70 businesses participating across the neighborhood, attendees will enjoy a world of cuisine with an array of bites and drinks available for just \$4 each.

The food walk itself will run from 11am-8pm, with a main stage hosting performances from 11am-6pm.

Entertainment acts include:

- Tomo Nakayama
- Neon Brass Party
- Battlestar Kalakala
- Rainbow City Jazz Band

An evening stage at Bulldog News, hosted by Outdoors on the Ave, will keep people entertained and dancing in the street with performances from Colorworks and Reposado from 7pm-9pm

Attendees will enjoy a bevy of new outdoor seating, thanks to the U District Vitality Grants, in addition to expanded outdoor seating at Big Time Brewery and Shultzzy's Bar & Grill.

Sponsors and media partners have also come out in support of the event and we're also excited to feature local business event partners in prominent ways on the event guide and posters. Thank you to: American Campus Communities, KUOW, The Stranger, Chili's Southern Indian Cuisine, Call a Chicken, North Noodles N Dumplings, Donut Factory, Thanh Vi, Sizzle&Crunch, Big Mario's Pizza, Big Time Brewery, Mr. Lu's Burgers and Fries, Sip House, Shawarma King, Sweet Alchemy, and Boba Up!

GENERAL PROGRAM UPDATES

UDP Hires New Office Manager

As UDP continues to grow, there is an increasingly large body of work that requires attention and oversight in order to keep the organization functioning optimally. UDP is thrilled to announce that Nikki Somers will be joining the organization as the new Office Manager. Nikki brings to this role a wealth of experience, having served as the office manager for the Alliance for Pioneer Square for seven years, and before that running operations and programming for a foundation and events company. Nikki will begin as a full-time employee in October.

Program Specialist Hiring Process Update

UDP is in the process of hiring a part time Program Specialist to support the Urban Vitality and Economic Development programs. The Program Specialist will focus on data collection and analysis in areas such as business and property vacancies, new business tracking, new development tracking, and inventories of our neighborhood's arts and culture organizations and spaces. They will also support business outreach for events and economic development information, and data collection and tracking for public realm and engagement programming. This position will report to the Urban Vitality Manager, and is currently planned to be staffed through June 2024.