



# U District Business Improvement Area Ratepayer Advisory Board Meeting Agenda

4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

April 4, 2024

[Zoom Virtual Meeting](#)

## RATEPAYER ADVISORY BOARD

**Jennifer Antos**  
*Seattle Neighborhood  
Farmers Markets*

**Maria Barrientos**  
*Barrientos/Ryan*

**Max Blume**  
*The Blume Company*

**Sally Clark**  
*CampusSafety,  
University of Washington*

**David Cohanim**  
*Whitefall, LLC*

**Lora Gastineau**  
*U District Resident*

**Chris Giles**  
*U District Resident*

**Joe Gruber**  
*U District Food Bank*

**Mary Kay Gugerty**  
*The Evans School,  
University of Washington*

**Jeanette Henderson,**  
*UW Real Estate,  
University of Washington*

**Lincoln Johnson**  
*Student Life,  
University of Washington*

**Nikole O'Bryan**  
*Nikole O'Bryan, DDS*

**Chris Petersen**  
*Café Allegro*

**Brian Sellen**  
*American Campus  
Communities*

**Sandy Sun**  
*Compass Real Estate*

**Hui Tian**  
*Studio 19 Architects*

**Polly Yarioka**  
*University Presbyterian*

1. Welcome and Introductions Sally
2. Public Comment Sally
3. Approval of February 2024 Meeting Minutes Sally
4. Acceptance of the February 2024 Financials Joe
5. Nominations to the Ratepayer Advisory Board Sally
  - *Carolyn Thompson, Neptune Building*
  - *Braedyn Reed, UW Student*
6. Clean & Safe Report Marcus
7. Urban Vitality Report Katy
8. Economic Development Report Daniel
9. Spring Event Update Lauren
10. 2025 Budget Preview Don
11. New Business Sally
12. Adjourn Sally



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## **Board Meeting Minutes**

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

February 8, 2024

*Meeting Via Zoom*

### **RAB Members in Attendance**

Maria Barrientos, Barrientos / Ryan  
Max Blume, The Blume Company  
Sally Clark, UW CampusSafety  
David Cohanim, Whitefall LLC  
Lora Gastineau, Nobel Condominiums  
Chris Giles, Resident  
Joe Gruber, University District Food Bank

Mary Kay Gugerty, UW Evans School  
Jeanette Henderson, UW Real Estate  
Chris Peterson, Cafe Allegro  
Sandy Sun, Corbit Building  
Hui Tian, Studio 19  
Polly Yorioka, University Presbyterian

### **RAB Members Not in Attendance**

Jennifer Antos, U District Farmers Market  
Brian Sellen, American Campus Communities

Lincoln Johnson, UW Student Affairs  
Nikole O'Bryan, Nikole O'Bryan, DDS

### **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

Nikki Somers, Operations Manager  
Polly Yokokawa, Marketing & Communications  
Manager  
Lauren Carey, Events Manager

### **Guests Present\***

Daniel Lim, Property Owner

*\*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**

Don led a round of introductions

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Approval of November 2, 2023 RAB Meeting Minutes**

Sally called for the following motion: “The UDBIA Ratepayer Advisory Board approves the November 2, 2023 meeting minutes as presented at the February 8, 2024 RAB Meeting.”

**Motion:** Chris P. moved to accept the November 2023 meeting minutes.

**Second:** Chris G. seconded the motion.

**Approval:** Sally called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

### **Finance Committee Update and Approval of the Financials**

Don offered an update on the Finances. Heading into the third quarter of the fiscal year, spending and income is largely on track. BIA collections are steady, but Nikki and Don are working on back-billing delinquent ratepayers as planned in the budget. Looking back to 2018, there is over \$135,000 in delinquent payments. The team is confident that they can proactively collect at least \$75,000 of that amount with some additional outreach. The BIA is just under 50% of the spending target, which tracks with the budget report. *These updates can be found in the finance committee narrative included in the April Board packet.*

**Motion:** On behalf of the UDP Finance Committee, Joe moved to accept the December 2023 financials as presented at the February 8, 2024 RAB Meeting

**Second:** No second.

**Approval:** The motion was approved unanimously

### **Executive Director Report**

Don introduced the new Events Manager, Lauren Carey and Roushan Kwatra, Economic Development Intern, and Don shared Lauren’s background and experience in event management, and Katy shared Roushan’s as well. Don then moved on to discuss the upcoming office refresh which included new flooring, updated kitchen, and signage.

### **Clean & Safe Report**

Marcus gave an update on the UDP uniforms. Implemented in December 2023, both the clean team and the ambassador team have their own UDP branded uniforms. Marcus also discussed the January 2024 homeless census, which showed stagnant numbers for tents, however the trash accumulation had increased. Subsequently, in late January the City of Seattle, along with WSDOT with the HOPE team, had begun cleaning up the tents along the freeway between 45th and 50th. They were able to find housing and shelter for roughly 30 individuals. The sites along the freeway are now closed and monitored by WSDOT. The hygiene center was removed as well.

### **Urban Vitality**

Katy gave an update on the lid I-5 charette which was held at Gould Hall in the U District. This was a community workshop to explore community priorities for a highway lid over I-5 between NE 45th and NE 50th. There were over 100 people that attended to come and share their ideas and thoughts. UDP worked with the UW Master Studio to design 11 activities and 8 table stations. The lidded site itself could encompass up to 14 acres. Next steps include students finalizing websites/digital reports, funding requests made to the State, City of Seattle transportation levy for a feasibility study, and a walking tour with elected officials in Spring/Summer 2024.

Next Katy shared information about the upcoming Roosevelt Roundtable in which stakeholders would discuss the state of Roosevelt and its near-term needs, determine additional investments and

long-range planning goals. The Roundtable also hopes to foster a network for stakeholders along the corridor..

Lastly, Katy offered an update on upcoming Urban Vitality work such as public restroom advocacy & funding, Seattle comprehensive plan advocacy, public realm maintenance, and development reporting with Economic Development programs.

### **Economic Development**

Daniel shared a list of 11 new businesses that recently opened in the neighborhood. Another 9 will be opening in 2024. Daniel also chatted about grant support UDP will be offering for outdoor dining structure enhancements. There are 11 completed outdoor dining structures on University Way.

Lastly Daniel discussed the new data collection software (CoStar, Implan & Placer AI) the UDP has started using that allows for accurate tracking of critical neighborhood data, trends in vacancies, foot traffic, as well as economic impacts and tourism.

### **Events**

Lauren shared the upcoming spring events which includes the Cherry Blossom Festival in late March, and over 85 businesses are involved. Other events include Boba Fest, which is April 27, and the U District Street Fair from May 18-19. Lauren chatted about the ability to sponsor each and every one of the events. The 2024 Street Fair already has over 194 accepted vendors, which is the most this early ever. UDP has taken over the vendor management of the Street Fair from Bold Hat, who is still producing the day-of aspects of the event.

### **Marketing & Communications**

Don shared that Polly is out on parental leave and with that all UDP team members will be jumping in to help keep information flowing - Katy will be handling the newsletter, Daniel will be keeping the website updated, and Don will work with our consultant for branding.

### **New Business**

Katy shared information about a City Hearing for buildings that have Unreinforced Masonry taking place on February 27, 2024 from 1:30pm to 3:30pm at the Bertha Landes Room in City Hall. The meeting will discuss the proposed transfer of development rights (TDR) program to support funding of seismic retrofit. This meeting is an informational meeting for future meetings regarding URM. Katy encouraged any/all to share thoughts with the city.

### **BIA Meeting Adjournment**

Sally noted the next meeting is April 4, 2024 which will include budget information for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

# UDP FINANCE COMMITTEE NARRATIVE

*Prepared for the Finance Committee on 3/8/24*

Spring is here, and with the cherry blossoms arriving next week, our event season will be off and running. Spending is largely on track for the year, with variances attributable to new grant income and some technology investments in equipment for a new team member.

## **Budget Report**

With a couple of exceptions related to grant-funded activities, UDP spending is largely tracking the budget. Spending on staffing has finally started to catch up now that the Events Manager position is filled. 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 catching up, but still a little slow due to additional admin fees from grant funding and two open staff positions that persisted until October and November.*

**44530 – Grants Income:** *The variance shown in the Budget Report is offset by an increase in associated spending related to the grants—neither of which were in the budget for the year. With new grant income to support administrative work of the organization, we will begin to see a positive impact to the organization’s bottom line.*

**47000 – Program Fees Income:** *The U District Street Fair has sold out for vendors and the booth fees are nearly all collected at this point. This will continue to move around a little until the event in May.*

**47215 – Sponsorships Income:** *This variance represents lower-than anticipated sponsorship numbers for food walk. The team cut some spending to compensate—bringing the event within about \$5,000 of the initial target. Don and Polly have engaged a sponsorship consultant to develop new sponsor strategies for 2024 and 2025.*

**43400 – Donations/Partnerships:** *UW sponsored additional late night security last fall and in January. UHeights also engaged UDP to provide afternoon security for their learning programs during the pick-up hour.*

### Expense:

**60000 – Staffing:** *The Event Manager, Lauren Carey, joined UDP last month, which has helped bring the staffing spending closer to what was budgeted. For months, this variance was associated with two open positions from last fall due to a slow start on staffing spending.*

**62000 – Office & Overhead Expense:** *Insurance (62200) is a timing issue. The budget anticipated a lease renegotiation and a renovation of the current offices. For a few reasons, these activities have been delayed until this winter, so the variances associated with Office Equipment (62300) and Rent, Parking, Utilities (62100) represent a timing issue. Clean and Safe spending on supplies (62400) is down, but could pick up in the spring or roll-forward to FY25. Technology and Software (62700) is up in part due to a coding issue, which can be solved and planned for next year.*

**70000 – Direct Program Expenses:** *Advertising and Marketing (70300), Contracted Services (70320), and Website Design (70330) are all timing issues that will catch up as marketing and*

*urban vitality projects wrap up this year. Other Program Expenses (70360) is seeing an uptick in spending related to grant income, and represents the expanded programming associated with each grant. Repairs and Maintenance (70380) is a timing issue that resolves late in the year.*

### **BIA Budget Tracker**

The BIA Budget Tracker shows BIA spending is a little behind, which harmonizes with the budget report.

### **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.

### **DOC Grant**

UDP continues to spend down the Department of Commerce grant, which is tracked in the "DOC" column on the Budget Report. The final remaining grant that is open is focused on attracting new retailers to vacant spaces in the U District. Daniel has also negotiated another extension to implement this grant that will last through the end of this fiscal year in June.

## The U District Partnership Budget Report February 2024

	<u>Feb 24</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>Jul '23 - Feb 24</u>	<u>DOC Grant</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>								
<b>Income</b>								
44430 · BIA Contract	141,715.27	146,696.78	-4,981.51	1,083,993.74	0.00	1,201,933.45	-117,939.71	1,845,000.00
44530 · Grants Income	20,572.71	0.00	20,572.71	97,214.30	2,271,226.30	21,649.94	75,564.36	37,149.94
47000 · Program Fees Income	56,789.95	50,000.00	6,789.95	157,722.13	0.00	85,000.00	72,722.13	175,000.00
47213 · Retail Income	555.00	0.00	555.00	908.73	0.00	500.00	408.73	2,500.00
47215 · Sponsorships	12,000.00	15,000.00	-3,000.00	30,033.66	0.00	55,000.00	-24,966.34	105,000.00
43400 · Donations/Partnerships	3,717.00	3,000.00	717.00	45,701.85	0.00	24,000.00	21,701.85	36,000.00
46400 · Interest and Other	20.42			181.33	0.00	0.00	181.33	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>235,370.35</u>	<u>214,696.78</u>	<u>20,673.57</u>	<u>1,415,755.74</u>	<u>2,271,226.30</u>	<u>1,388,083.39</u>	<u>27,672.35</u>	<u>2,200,649.94</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<u>235,370.35</u>	<u>214,696.78</u>	<u>20,673.57</u>	<u>1,415,755.74</u>	<u>2,271,226.30</u>	<u>1,388,083.39</u>	<u>27,672.35</u>	<u>2,200,649.94</u>
<b>Expense</b>								
60000 · Staffing	76,928.70	77,909.12	-980.42	533,026.72	86,273.07	623,273.03	-90,246.31	934,909.51
61000 · Professional & Contract Expense	1,742.48	2,708.34	-965.86	33,239.98	6,817.00	34,166.64	-926.66	45,000.00
62000 · Office and Overhead	39,521.06	19,395.00	20,126.06	172,860.44	424.00	142,335.00	30,525.44	252,590.00
70000 · Direct Program Expenses	88,955.38	84,708.32	4,247.06	535,793.23	2,177,712.23	515,166.72	20,626.51	960,500.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>207,147.62</u>	<u>184,720.78</u>	<u>22,426.84</u>	<u>1,274,920.37</u>	<u>2,271,226.30</u>	<u>1,314,941.39</u>	<u>-40,021.02</u>	<u>2,192,999.51</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>28,222.73</u>	<u>29,976.00</u>	<u>-1,753.27</u>	<u>140,835.37</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>73,142.00</u>	<u>67,693.37</u>	<u>7,650.43</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>28,222.73</u></u>	<u><u>29,976.00</u></u>	<u><u>-1,753.27</u></u>	<u><u>140,835.37</u></u>	<u><u>0.00</u></u>	<u><u>73,142.00</u></u>	<u><u>67,693.37</u></u>	<u><u>7,650.43</u></u>

2023-24 University District BIA

Budget Tracker - February 2024

ACCOUNTS	Budget	TO DATE	REMAINING	% Expended	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Program Management	268,028	189,714.16	78,314	70.8%	\$ 13,465.09	\$ 12,228.19	\$ 30,394.29	\$ 26,832.85
Clean Environment	488,010	282,307.14	205,703	57.8%	\$ 30,431.93	\$ 36,735.81	\$ 33,016.32	\$ 30,782.90
Public Safety	447,651	276,791.63	170,859	61.8%	\$ 37,422.25	\$ 33,213.09	\$ 29,385.43	\$ 37,867.46
Urban Vitality	217,741	128,965.05	88,776	59.2%	\$ 15,654.15	\$ 16,671.87	\$ 10,125.96	\$ 12,447.04
Economic Development	149,281	47,579.43	101,702	31.9%	\$ 4,382.31	\$ 4,386.13	\$ 4,740.81	\$ 6,253.64
Marketing	184,288	126,167.42	58,121	68.5%	\$ 13,761.78	\$ 12,484.87	\$ 14,289.99	\$ 17,545.40
Food Walk	30,000	35,253.46	-5,253	117.5%	\$ -	\$ 143.88	\$ 31,974.98	\$ 12,921.36
Cherry Blossom	15,000	-8,653.88	23,654	-57.7%	\$ -		\$ 750.00	\$ -
Bobafest	15,000	1,500.74	13,499	10.0%	\$ -		\$ 750.00	\$ -
Street Fair	30,000	4,368.59	25,631	14.6%	\$ 68.45	\$ 51.28	\$ 3,516.00	\$ 16.00
<b>Total Requested</b>	<b>1,845,000</b>	<b>1,083,993.74</b>	<b>761,006</b>	<b>58.8%</b>	<b>\$ 115,185.96</b>	<b>\$ 115,915.12</b>	<b>\$ 158,943.78</b>	<b>\$ 144,666.65</b>

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Program Management	\$ 21,847.88	\$ 27,156.62	\$ 24,597.26	\$ 33,191.98				
Clean Environment	\$ 32,277.13	\$ 45,940.19	\$ 34,847.67	\$ 38,275.19				
Public Safety	\$ 36,470.43	\$ 32,651.26	\$ 32,505.17	\$ 37,276.54				
Urban Vitality	\$ 29,334.14	\$ 13,617.30	\$ 12,224.42	\$ 18,890.17				
Economic Development	\$ 8,349.82	\$ 4,553.09	\$ 6,952.21	\$ 7,961.42				
Marketing	\$ 17,469.03	\$ 13,155.87	\$ 22,093.71	\$ 15,366.77				
Food Walk	\$ (795.00)	\$ (8,006.75)	\$ (985.01)	\$ -				
Cherry Blossom	\$ 35.00	\$ 11.82	\$ -	\$ (9,450.70)				
Bobafest	\$ 535.00	\$ 11.84	\$ -	\$ 203.90				
Street Fair	\$ 35.00	\$ -	\$ 681.86	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 145,558.43	\$ 129,091.24	132,917.29	141,715.27	-	-	-	-



## PROGRAM REPORTS

### Spring 2024

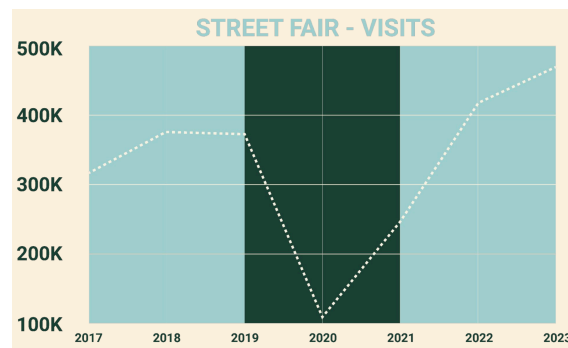
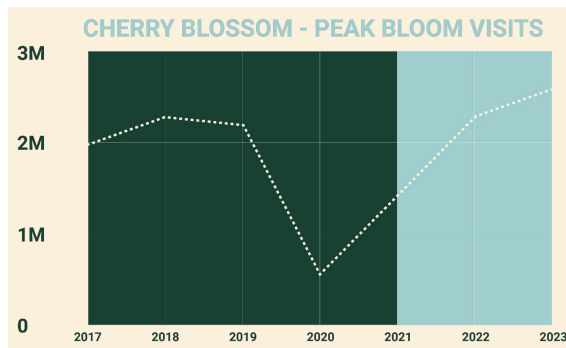
### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### UDP Hosts Winter Economic Development Committee Meeting

The U District Economic Development Committee met on Thursday, February 22nd and received an overview surrounding outdoor dining, business openings/closures, retail recruitment, event foot traffic, private development, and an outline of the economic development report.

Through an initial analysis of ground-floor commercial spaces, UDP presented data which shows a 5.3% vacancy rate within the BIA, and 4.2% vacancy rate on University Way. The presentation highlighted challenges surrounding retail recruitment which includes the fact that 4 vacant spaces (CVS, Target, Standard leasing, and Varsity) account for 69% of vacant commercial SF available (74K SF out of 107K SF total).

The committee was also presented with event foot traffic data which highlights the significant rebound the U District has experienced since the pandemic. With the launch of three new events (cherry blossom, boba fest, foodwalk) and return of the Street Fair, foot traffic during these events has surpassed the numbers seen pre-pandemic.



Outside of the data presented, participants and guests provided valuable insights into the permitting challenges facing small businesses. Multiple businesses have experienced significant setbacks in opening due to plumbing permits, and many have faced struggles in understanding the requirements and regulations to open. The conclusion of this conversation sparked the idea of UDP facilitating a business mentorship program, leveraging the experience of current operators and owners to help others navigate the permitting process and resources available to them.

## **UDP Begins Business Inventory Update**

Through the support of the Economic Development Specialist, UDP has begun its annual update of the business landscape database. This database highlights the current inventory of businesses within the community and allows UDP to track critical data including new businesses, business closures, and contact information to better serve and effectively communicate with business owners/operators.

## **CLEAN, SAFE & OUTREACH**

### **U District Safety Walk King County Prosecutor & City Attorney**

On February 27th, UDP convened a public safety meeting with community stakeholders who have been impacted by public safety issues to engage with local government representatives, including King County Prosecutor Leesa Manion, Seattle City Attorney Ann Davison, command staff from the Seattle Police Department, the CARES Department, and representatives from several elected officials from City Council and the Mayor's Office. At the forefront of the discussion were pressing issues identified by UDP, which included persistent street-level drug markets, assaults and aggressive behavior, retail theft and vandalism, and recent shootings.

During the meeting, UDP facilitated visits to various stakeholders in the neighborhood directly impacted by these public safety concerns. This allowed City and County officials the opportunity to witness firsthand the challenges faced by the community and provided a platform for them to offer insights and strategies on how they could assist in addressing these issues effectively. UDP will be convening a Clean and Safe Committee meeting in April to further explore issues and solutions identified on the walk.

### **Addressing Persistent Solid Waste Issues in U District Alleys**

Managing solid waste collection in dense urban cores like the University District has posed significant challenges for both the City and Recology, the solid waste hauler who has the contract to service the neighborhood. Merely glancing into any alley around University Way, one can see that current protocols are falling short. Over the past year, UDP has developed a weekly census of overflowing bins and problematic alleys in the U District to try to hold City officials and contractors accountable. By monitoring and reporting solid waste compliance incidents to Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), UDP compiles reports identifying problematic dumpsters, whether they're overflowing, damaged, or contaminated with the wrong types of waste. Subsequently, we rely on the City to hold their contractors accountable for rectifying these situations.

In some cases, even when reported through the proper channels, the City and Recology are simply unable to respond in a reasonable amount of time. In these cases, UDP clean teams will intervene and remove the refuse and garbage from the alley. One particularly challenging area is the alley behind the former Target on the 4500 Block of University Way. Collaborating with Recology and SPU, UDP has engaged stakeholders in the alley to address ongoing issues related to contamination, freeloading, illegal dumping, and unlocked dumpsters. Working with Recology, UDP was able to evaluate container ownership and service levels. By early April, all damaged dumpsters will be pulled and replaced and

re-labeled with the name and address of the customer or corresponding business. Although labor-intensive, this process promises effective results, potentially prompting similar interventions in other problematic alleys if successful.

### **Encampment Clearing along Interstate 5 in the U District**

There were approximately 42 tents and structures along I-5 in the U District. Outreach from WSDOT's Right-of-Way (ROW) Team, a contracted team staffed by REACH, began in October along I-5 in the U District. There, they compiled a by-name list of 30 individuals who were actively living in these encampments as of December 2023. Following a non-fatal shooting at the beginning of February between two homeless residents of these encampments, WSDOT accelerated their plans to remove all structures and people from State Right-of-Way. However, there were more than 30 people actively living in the encampments at the time of removal. The people who were not connected with housing were displaced, and some relocated to University Way. WSDOT removed over 200,000 pounds of solid waste from the area. WSDOT has stated that they will not allow people to reoccupy these sites. Enforcement of the no trespassing policy is done in coordination with the Washington State Patrol and the ROW Team, who will give people 24 hours to vacate.

### **Spring Emphasis Cleaning**

With temperatures on the rise and spring events on the horizon, UDP's Clean Team is diligently preparing the neighborhood for the upcoming festivities. Resuming our sidewalk pressure washing efforts, the Clean Team now operates two to three times a week to clean the sidewalks of the accumulated winter grime. The Clean Team is starting on 43rd, the primary corridor linking the U District Light Rail Station to the UW Campus. This area saw heavy foot traffic during last month's UW Cherry Blossom Festival. Ultimately, the aim is to ensure a clean and welcoming environment for the thousands of visitors expected to attend the spring events.

## **URBAN VITALITY**

### **Upcoming Urban Vitality Work**

For the second half of the fiscal year, Urban Vitality will be working on the follow priorities:

- Public restroom advocacy and funding - advocacy to establish city funding and location identification for a public restroom in the U District.
- Seattle comprehensive plan advocacy - beginning to understand the process and priorities for the upcoming comprehensive plan and sub-area plan process. The Seattle comprehensive plan is slated to be adopted at the end of 2024. The University District sub-area planning process, which will dictate area-specific zoning, will start in 2025.
- Public realm maintenance - maintenance of tree lights, re-installation of cafe lights, installation and maintenance of murals, and coordination with the Clean and Safe team to manage flower plantings and baskets.
- Development reporting with Economic Development program

### **Mural Maintenance**

The UDP has contracted with artist Kathleen Warren of Overall Creative to fix, maintain and install several murals through the end of June this year. Kathleen and her team are working to fix the Graduate Hotel mural, which continues to be tagged. It will be coated with anti-graffiti coating and maintained by UDP. UDP will also work with Overall Creative to identify and paint a new mural in a prominent U District location this spring, around the time of the Street Fair.

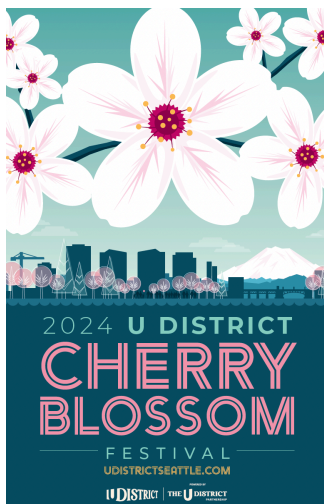
### **Seattle Draft Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Plan Released**

In late March, the City of Seattle released two major plans for the region - the One Seattle [Comprehensive Plan](#) and the Seattle [Transportation Plan](#). Both plans will influence future infrastructure and building projects across the City. The Seattle Transportation Plan will be used to inform an upcoming Transportation Levy, which will be voted on by the public in November. It is in its final form and has been sent to the City Council. Major changes to the plan are not expected before it is adopted by the council this spring/summer.

The Comprehensive Plan will inform zoning-related changes across the City. It has been sent to Council as a draft and will have a 60-day comment period for the public. It is a high level document that will not have specific prescriptions per neighborhood. The University District will go through a sub-area planning process in 2025-2026 that will inform more specific zoning changes in the neighborhood.

## **EVENTS**

### **Peak Bloom Brings Hundreds of Thousands of People to the U District**



As the weather inched up above 60 degrees with plenty of sunshine last week, hundreds of thousands of people hurried to the UW campus to witness the 'peak bloom' during the U District Cherry Blossom Festival. Each year, the world-renown UW cherry trees transform the UW Quad into shades of pink. The 29 Yoshino cherry trees that line the UW Quad are on track to reach 'peak bloom' the last week of March. Originally a gift from Japan to the United States in 1912, the iconic Yoshino trees were first planted at the Washington Park Arboretum and eventually relocated to the main campus.

During the 14-day U District Cherry Blossom Festival, visitors to the UW's iconic cherry trees are also invited to enjoy cherry-themed promotions throughout the U District. For the third year in a row, the U District Partnership has partnered with small businesses to create a unique U District menu available during the festival that includes cherry and

blossom-themed savory bites and festival specials, treats and desserts, coffee drinks and bubble tea, cocktails and brews, and retail products and discounts.

### **U District Windows Blossom with Spring to Celebrate**

The U District Cherry Blossom Festival runs for just-over two weeks, **Saturday, March 16 through**

**Monday April 1.** Local businesses are encouraged to participate in a Storefront Decoration Competition. Participating businesses may decorate their storefronts in a cherry blossom theme and can enter to win up-to \$1,500 in prizes.





In an effort to beautify the vacant CVS property, UDP partnered with local muralists to paint the windows at 4315 University Ave. In keeping with the cherry theme by all the local businesses for the window contest, UDP hopes this action makes the neighborhood a bit more welcoming.

### **BOBA Volunteers Needed!**

UDP couldn't pull-off these tremendous celebrations without the help of volunteers. Volunteer opportunities are coming up before it is all-hands-on-deck for the U District Street Fair, May 18 & 19.

**Saturday April 27th 9:30 - 4:00 pm** Join us to promote Boba Fest! Help us get balloons out at all our partner businesses in the morning. Sell Boba tee-shirts and hand out event guides. This will also be outside the light rail station.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DAFAB22A5FBCF8-48262075-boba>

### **Seattle Boba Fest is Just Around the Corner!**

Boba Fest returns for the third time on **Saturday, April 27, 2024!** 28 local businesses are participating in the annual celebration of Boba Tea in the U-District.

### **The U District Street Fair is Back, and Sold Out!**

The Street Fair returns on **Saturday, May 18-19, 2024.** Over 360 vendors have applied, selling out this event for the first time in decades.