



BOARD MEETING AGENDA

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

April 16, 2024

WSECU - 1121 NE 45th St, Seattle, WA 98105

- | | | | | |
|-------|--|---------|------------|--------|
| I. | Welcome & Introductions | Lois | 11:30 a.m. | |
| II. | City Councilmember Maritza Rivera, District 4 | | 11:35 a.m. | |
| | • Updates from the CM | Maritza | | |
| | • Facilitated Q&A | Don | | |
| III. | Public Comment | Public | 12:05 p.m. | |
| IV. | Approval of Meeting Minutes | Lois | 12:10 p.m. | (Vote) |
| V. | Finance Committee Report | Trevor | 12:15 p.m. | |
| | • Acceptance of Financials | | | (Vote) |
| | • Look-Ahead to the 2025 Budget | | | |
| VI. | UDP Program Updates | | 12:25 p.m. | |
| | • Clean, Safe & Outreach | Marcus | | |
| | • Urban Vitality | Katy | | |
| | • Economic Development | Daniel | | |
| | • Spring Events | Lauren | | |
| VII. | Governance Committee Report | Josh | 12:45 p.m. | |
| | • Nomination: Katie Betz | | | (Vote) |
| | • Nomination: Naomi Lewis | | | (Vote) |
| | • Nomination: Emily Scully | | | (Vote) |
| VIII. | New Business | Lois | 12:55 p.m. | |
| IX. | Adjourn | Lois | 1:00 p.m. | |
| | • <u>Optional tour of the U District Station Building, following the meeting</u> | | | |

THE U DISTRICT

PARTNERSHIP

Board Meeting Minutes

11:30am to 1:00pm

March 19, 2024

Zoom

UDP Board Members in Attendance in Person

Rob Lubin, UW Housing – Co-Chair

Lois Ko, Sweet Alchemy – Co-Chair

Aaron Hoard – Secretary

Trevor Peterson, UW Bookstore – Treasurer

Stephen Antupit, Resident

Jeremy Eknoian, UW Real Estate

John Hix, Seattle Vineyard Church

Rick Jones, University Business Center

Anson Lin, Astora Construction

Maya Lu, Boba Up

Santhi Perumal, UW School of Education

Miles Richardson, Audi Seattle/University VW

Don Schulze, U District Property Associates

Alfred Shiga, Shiga's Imports

Josh Stabenfeldt, University YMCA

UDP Board Members Not in Attendance

Kate Barr, Scarecrow Video/Grand Illusion

Daniel Blue, HomeStreet Bank

Kristine Kenney, UW Planning

Moe Khan, Cedars Restaurant

Angela Mercado, U Heights

Anna Sorokina, WSECU

UDP Staff

Don Blakeney, Executive Director

Lauren Carey, Events Manager

Marcus Johnson, Clean & Safe Manager

Phil Lloyd, Financial Manager

Daniel Lopic, Economic Development Manager

Nikki Somers, Operations Manager

Guests*

Katy Betz, Development Manager Touchstone

Emily Scully, Owner Shultz's

Naomi Lewis, Owner Luminati Labs

**Please note, there may have been other guests but due to the hybrid/Zoom format and people entering and leaving at different times, we were unable to track all guests.*

Welcome and Introductions

Rob started the meeting and led the introductions for the Board, staff and guests.

Public Comment

Rob called for public comment, but no one from the public expressed an interest in speaking.

Approval of UDP Board Meeting Minutes

Rob introduced the February 2024 meeting minutes.

Motion: Aaron moved to accept the February 2024 meeting minutes.

Second: Trevor seconded the motion.

Approval: The motion was approved by all, with the exception of Stephen who abstained.

Finance Committee Update and Approval of the Financials

Trevor shared an update with the Board on the financials. The UDP Finance Committee met on March 8, 2024 with Don and Phil. Trevor noted that spending is largely on track, with a few variances that include: BIA contract income still low because of slow hiring, and some of the administrative costs were covered by the DOC grant. Grants income is higher than expected, but spent accordingly. Street Fair 2024 is sold out. Other variances are largely the result of some timing and coding issues. Don offered information on the DOC grant to new people on the call.

These updates can be found in the finance committee narrative included in the February 2024 Board meeting packet.

Motion: On behalf of the Finance Committee, Trevor moved to accept the February 2024 financials as presented at the March 19, 2024 Board Meeting.

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

Approval: The motion was approved unanimously.

Trevor mentioned the upcoming budgeting workshop held on March 26, 2024. Items to discuss will include the process on how to read the reports, however the bulk of the meeting is to discuss priorities of the UDP budget for 2024-2025. Don added this will be the first of the process to finalize the 2024-2025 budget and discuss priorities for BIA dollars.

Clean, Safe, and Outreach Update

Marcus discussed a recent effort to improve sliding conditions in U District alleys where construction has disrupted solid waste service predictability. UDP is working with Recology and SPU to audit service contracts and levels in the alley behind the former Target building. UDP is doing a test pilot in this alley to remove any/all dumpsters or totes that no longer have contracts, and are constantly abused. Recology put in a work order to remove these and other damaged dumpsters. Marcus and Recology did door to door outreach, and have implemented a new labeling method. Next steps would be to do the same sort of dive in the alley behind the Neptune and former CVS space. Stephen noted that SPU has a new grant focused on reducing food waste and encouraged UDP to investigate.

Marcus offered a cleaning update and thanked Rick with the Rotary Club for their donation of the pressure washer. It has had a tremendous impact in the amount of time it takes to clean the district.

Don reported on the Public Safety walk that was held February 27, 2024. The walk included the King County Prosecutor, the City Attorney, the North Precinct Commander, representatives from the Mayor's Office, UW/UWPD, City Council staff, and a variety of neighborhood stakeholders. Trevor hosted the walk at the UW Bookstore, before departing on the walk. Stops along the walk offered data from across the city. The goal was to bring awareness to UDP's public partners about the safety issues the U District continues to face and to their impact on the neighborhood. Don and team identified a few issues that merit further follow up, including a training on how to conduct effective 911 calls; and how to work with authorities when you are the victim of a crime or an assault by a minor—something that has happened repeatedly in the last year.

Spring Events Update

Lauren gave an update on the upcoming neighborhood spring events. Excitement is building around the Cherry Blossom Festival (86 participating businesses) and the neighborhood business storefront decoration competition (over ten participating to date). The businesses have really embraced the competition. Boardmembers commented that it has brought a lot of joy to the neighborhood. There will be a professional photographer, and for the competition, one business will be chosen by a survey of their peers. Lauren continued with an update on Boba Fest—window decals will be dispersed the first week of April, posters will be put up, and UDP expects a lot of positive media coverage. Lastly, the U District Street Fair returns May 18 & 19 and is SOLD OUT to vendors with 270 arts and crafts booths, 50+ food vendors and 18 local business activations.

Street Fair Poster Project

Nikki has been working on a poster project which includes procuring and scanning Street Fair posters from years past. The Street Fair was started in 1970 and the goal is to have a hi-res scan of every poster to be able to put on display in the UDP offices. Don added that KUOW had some we could use. Rob suggested reaching out to Doug with Bulldog News. Lois suggested Four Corners Framing.

Economic Development Committee Update

Daniel started with a retail vacancy report and the data that was gathered at the committee meeting. There are 360 ground floor retail spaces within the U District BIA, and 214 are on University Way. Looking at vacant ground floor commercial square feet, there is a 5.3% BIA vacancy rate, with 4.2% on University Way. U District BIA retail vacancy is broken down as: 5.3% total vacancy; 3.6% retail trade vacancy; 1.1% services vacancy; .3% food & beverage vacancy; and .3% arts & entertainment vacancy. University Way retail vacancy is broken down as: 4.2% total vacancy; 3.3% retail trade vacancy; .5% food & beverage vacancy; .5% arts & entertainment vacancy; and 0% services vacancy. Daniel noted that one of the biggest challenges in terms of vacancies are the larger spaces, which are 4 spaces accounting for 69% of vacant SF available. Each of these spaces are over 9,000sf. The CVS space has 32.9K square feet of vacant space, and Target has 21.1K square feet of vacant space. Lastly Daniel discussed foot traffic numbers in accordance with the spring events and the data collection available.

Governance Committee Report

Josh gave a brief overview of some of the board recruitment efforts underway. Don recently met with Angela as the first trial run of UDP's new onboarding of board members. Josh introduced three prospective Board members who were attending the meeting: Katy Betz, Emily Scully, and Naomi Lewis. Katy is the general manager of the Urban Renaissance Group/Touchstone, owners of the new Chapter Buildings. Emily, owner of Shultz's, is interested in joining the board for community building, bringing new thoughts and ideas to the neighborhood. Naomi, owner of Luminati Labs, is interested in joining the board to be part of the neighborhood. Josh gave an update on Jerred stepping off the board. Don gave an update on the Scott Soules Award. There will be an awards ceremony this summer and a dedication of a tree at the Chapters Building. The award will coincide with this ceremony.

New Business

Rob reminded everyone that the next board meeting would be in-person on April 16th. Don has invited City Councilmember Maritza Ravera to speak and answer questions. Following the meeting there will be an optional tour of the U District Station Building.

Adjournment

Rob thanked everyone and then called the meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m..



FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT & BUDGET NARRATIVE

Prepared on 4/5/24

Event season is in full swing and with the Cherry Blossom Festival wrapping up and Boba Fest and Street Fair on the horizon, UDP is seeing a lot of cash flow through its coffers. Spending is largely on track for the year, with variances attributable to new grant income and some timing issues that should iron themselves out by the end of June.

Budget Report

Spending on staffing has increased with the addition of our new Events Manager position but has also been offset by the grant income from the Department of Commerce, which has covered the administrative costs for the grant work, which covers salary costs for Daniel, as well as a portion of Don and Nikki. 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 income related to the administration fees from grant funding.*

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 all available spots for vendors this year, and that’s with the addition of 30+ booths that will fill an expanded footprint area south of 41st Street. This shows a big increase in fees collected, which offsets the underperformance of sponsorship this year.*

47215 – Sponsorships Income: *Cherry Blossom Fest was successful and came in on target for sponsorship. Boba Fest and Food Walk underperformed, as will the Street Fair. However, the other greater-than-expected income from booth fees at Street Fair will go a long way to offset this negative variance.*

43400 – Donations/Partnerships: Community partnerships with UW and UHeights continue to expand the ambassador program’s reach and capacity. The variance here represents these partnerships.

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. However, the continued administration support from the Department of Commerce grant will keep this variance here through the end of the year.

62000 – Office & Overhead Expense: Technology and software spending is up due to the new economic development software that was purchased with a grant from the Seattle Office of Economic Development.

70000 – Direct Program Expenses: With Polly out on parental leave, there are still some contracted services dollars that have yet to be spent. However, the variance here is really related to the grant funding that has increased program spending this year.

BIA Budget Tracker

The BIA Budget Tracker shows BIA spending is a little behind, primarily on Economic Development, 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. Also the new requirements to show the asset/liability implications of UDP leases are creating a variance that will persist through June, when it will be possible to compare year-over-year.

DOC Grant

UDP continues to spend down the Department of Commerce grant, which is tracked in the “DOC” column on the Budget Report. Daniel is pursuing an opportunity to extend this grant until 2025 that could provide more funding to support incoming businesses, by offsetting their tenant improvement costs.

The U District Partnership Budget Report March 2024

	Jul '23 - Mar 24	DOC	YTD Budget	\$ Over Budget	Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
44430 · BIA Contract	1,245,797.59	0.00	1,340,380.23	-94,582.64	1,845,000.00
44530 · Grants Income	104,964.30	2,298,357.30	29,399.94	75,564.36	37,149.94
47000 · Program Fees Income	220,377.61	0.00	110,000.00	110,377.61	175,000.00
47213 · Retail Income	908.73	0.00	1,000.00	-91.27	2,500.00
47215 · Sponsorships	39,033.66	0.00	95,000.00	-55,966.34	105,000.00
43400 · Donations/Partnerships	49,748.85	0.00	27,000.00	22,748.85	36,000.00
46400 · Interest and Other	181.33	0.00	0.00	181.33	0.00
Total Income	<u>1,661,012.07</u>	<u>2,298,357.30</u>	<u>1,602,780.17</u>	<u>58,231.90</u>	<u>2,200,649.94</u>
Gross Profit	1,661,012.07	2,298,357.30	1,602,780.17	58,231.90	2,200,649.94
Expense					
60000 · Staffing	599,311.96	103,404.07	701,182.15	-101,870.19	934,909.51
61000 · Professional & Contract Expense	34,739.98	6,817.00	36,874.98	-2,135.00	45,000.00
62000 · Office and Overhead	198,117.12	424.00	164,930.00	33,187.12	252,590.00
70000 · Direct Program Expenses	611,349.84	2,187,712.23	592,875.04	18,474.80	960,500.00
Total Expense	<u>1,443,518.90</u>	<u>2,298,357.30</u>	<u>1,495,862.17</u>	<u>-52,343.27</u>	<u>2,192,999.51</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>217,493.17</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>106,918.00</u>	<u>110,575.17</u>	<u>7,650.43</u>
Net Income	<u><u>217,493.17</u></u>	<u><u>0.00</u></u>	<u><u>106,918.00</u></u>	<u><u>110,575.17</u></u>	<u><u>7,650.43</u></u>

The U District Partnership
Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
As of March 31, 2024

	<u>Mar 31, 24</u>	<u>Mar 31, 23</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
10100 · Operating Bank Accounts			
10110 · WSECU Checking	294,497.94	93,214.58	201,283.36
10111 · WSECU Savings	135,256.26	160,039.00	-24,782.74
Total 10100 · Operating Bank Accounts	<u>429,754.20</u>	<u>253,253.58</u>	<u>176,500.62</u>
Total Checking/Savings	429,754.20	253,253.58	176,500.62
Accounts Receivable	217,054.06	158,553.53	58,500.53
Other Current Assets			
12026 · Lease Rights	89,894.06	0.00	89,894.06
12022 · Prepaid Expense	1,344.25	1,292.41	51.84
12021 · Employee Advances	250.07	1,070.52	-820.45
Total Other Current Assets	<u>91,488.38</u>	<u>2,362.93</u>	<u>89,125.45</u>
Total Current Assets	738,296.64	414,170.04	324,126.60
Fixed Assets	11,013.05	6,008.61	5,004.44
Other Assets	3,235.87	3,235.87	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>752,545.56</u>	<u>423,414.52</u>	<u>329,131.04</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	19,403.71	39,505.83	-20,102.12
Credit Cards	7,498.59	24,884.67	-17,386.08
Other Current Liabilities			
20220 · Lease Liability	91,046.06	0.00	91,046.06
20210 · Deferred Revenue	122,457.66	0.00	122,457.66
24000 · Payroll Liabilities	59,972.10	32,860.10	27,112.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>273,475.82</u>	<u>32,860.10</u>	<u>240,615.72</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>300,378.12</u>	<u>97,250.60</u>	<u>203,127.52</u>
Total Liabilities	300,378.12	97,250.60	203,127.52
Equity			
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	234,685.26	248,880.08	-14,194.82
Net Income	217,482.18	77,283.84	140,198.34
Total Equity	<u>452,167.44</u>	<u>326,163.92</u>	<u>126,003.52</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>752,545.56</u>	<u>423,414.52</u>	<u>329,131.04</u>

2023-2024 University District BIA Budget Tracker - MARCH 2024																
ACCOUNTS	Budget	TO DATE	REMAINING	% Expended	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Program Management	\$ 268,028.12	\$ 211,171.71	\$ 56,856.41	78.8%	\$ 13,465.09	\$ 12,228.19	\$ 30,394.29	\$ 26,832.85	\$ 21,847.88	\$ 27,156.62	\$ 24,597.26	\$ 33,191.98	\$ 21,457.55	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Clean Envrnment	\$ 488,010.26	\$ 311,642.56	\$ 176,367.70	63.9%	\$ 30,431.93	\$ 36,735.81	\$ 33,016.32	\$ 30,782.90	\$ 32,277.13	\$ 45,940.19	\$ 34,847.67	\$ 38,275.19	\$ 29,335.42	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Public Safety	\$ 447,651.06	\$ 310,296.16	\$ 137,354.90	69.3%	\$ 37,422.25	\$ 33,213.09	\$ 29,385.43	\$ 37,867.46	\$ 36,470.43	\$ 32,651.26	\$ 32,505.17	\$ 37,276.54	\$ 33,504.53	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Urban Vitality	\$ 217,741.12	\$ 147,803.61	\$ 69,937.51	67.9%	\$ 15,654.15	\$ 16,671.87	\$ 10,125.96	\$ 12,447.04	\$ 29,334.14	\$ 13,617.30	\$ 12,224.42	\$ 18,890.17	\$ 18,838.56	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Economic Development	\$ 149,281.06	\$ 52,887.40	\$ 96,393.66	35.4%	\$ 4,382.31	\$ 4,386.13	\$ 4,740.81	\$ 6,253.64	\$ 8,349.82	\$ 4,553.09	\$ 6,952.21	\$ 7,961.42	\$ 5,307.97	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Marketing	\$ 184,288.38	\$ 146,878.85	\$ 37,409.53	79.7%	\$ 13,761.78	\$ 12,484.87	\$ 14,289.99	\$ 17,545.40	\$ 17,469.03	\$ 13,155.87	\$ 22,093.71	\$ 15,366.77	\$ 20,711.43	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Food Walk	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 35,253.46	\$ (5,253.46)	117.5%	\$ -	\$ 143.88	\$ 31,974.98	\$ 12,921.36	\$ (795.00)	\$ (8,006.75)	\$ (985.01)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Cherry Blossom	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	100.0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 750.00	\$ -	\$ 35.00	\$ 11.82	\$ -	\$ 2,549.30	\$ 11,653.88	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Bobafest	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 8,751.56	\$ 6,248.44	58.3%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 750.00	\$ -	\$ 535.00	\$ 11.84	\$ -	\$ 203.90	\$ 7,250.82	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Street Fair	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 6,112.28	\$ 23,887.72	20.4%	\$ 68.45	\$ 51.28	\$ 3,516.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 35.00	\$ -	\$ 681.86	\$ -	\$ 1,743.69	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Expenses	\$ 1,845,000.00	\$ 1,245,797.59	\$ 599,202.41	67.5%	\$ 115,185.96	\$ 115,915.12	\$ 158,943.78	\$ 144,666.65	\$ 145,558.43	\$ 129,091.24	\$ 132,917.29	\$ 153,715.27	\$ 149,803.85	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -



PROGRAM REPORTS

April 2024

URBAN VITALITY

Final Roosevelt Roundtable Meeting April 22

The final meeting of Roosevelt Way stakeholders will be held on Monday, April 22. The meeting will include presentations by SDOT outreach managers for two upcoming projects - the [11th Ave Paving Project](#) and [RapidRide J Line](#). Both projects are beginning imminently. The meeting will also include presentations from Clean and Safe and Economic Development, as well as a conversation around events and placemaking. Board members who are interested in attending the meeting can reach out to Katy, katy@udistrictpartnership.org.

U District Sub-Area Planning Work

In late March, the City of Seattle released a draft of the One Seattle [Comprehensive Plan](#). The Comprehensive Plan will inform zoning-related changes across the City. The University District will go through a sub-area planning process in 2025-2026 that will inform more specific zoning changes in the neighborhood. UDP has begun engaging with the Office of Planning and Community Development to understand how we can best prepare for the sub-area planning process and inform the consultant work once it begins in early 2025.

Draft Seattle Transportation Levy

In early April, Mayor Harrell and SDOT released a draft [\\$1.3 billion transportation levy](#) that will be sent to Seattle voters in November. The levy projects and financial allocations have been informed by the new Seattle Transportation Plan. The UDP has written several advocacy letters during the engagement process for the Seattle Transportation Plan, and plans to do the same for the transportation levy. Our priorities include improving bicycle and pedestrian connections through the neighborhood along the Burke Gilman trail, supported for a lid I-5 initiative between NE 45th and 50th, and allocation for street improvements such as crosswalks, a Green Street on NE 42nd St, safer routes to schools, and bollards for the Seattle Farmers Market.

Development Tracking

Urban Vitality is working with the Economic Development program (Daniel) to track new development data for an upcoming Economic Development report we plan to release this summer. Urban Vitality is

also tracking data around arts and culture organizations and spaces in the neighborhood, and public infrastructure and transit data and investment. The data collected for the Economic Development Report will also be compiled into an adjacent, smaller report focused on recent and incoming development projects in the neighborhood. The goal is to update the report annually.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

UDP Submits Interest for Retail Study

The Seattle Office of Economic Development (OED) will be supporting 5+ neighborhoods in the development of a retail study this calendar year. The UDP expressed interest in being selected to support a U District retail analysis which could include:

- **Recruitment Strategy:** Focused on highlighting neighborhood strengths
- **Implementation Strategy:** Including key elements of a retail analysis with a focus on how the analysis leads to implementation
- **Neighborhood Visioning Strategy:** Creating a community-based vision for the future of a neighborhood's retail makeup
- **Understanding Specific Opportunities:** Narrowly focused study centered around a particular asset type
- **Diagnostic Strategy:** Understanding key factors that have driven a shift in a neighborhood

Additional components that could be incorporated into this analysis also include:

- Trade Area Analysis
- Demographics
- ESRI Tapestry Segmentation
- Location / Physical Analysis
- Assets and Challenges
- Pedestrian Counts and Foot Traffic
- Retail Leakage and Surplus
- Retail Mix
- Retail Space Analysis
- Retail Occupancy / Vacancy
- Retail Sales Reports
- Block-by-Block Map
- Retail Openings
- Stakeholder Surveys, Interviews, and Focus Groups
- Employment Trends
- Benchmarking against similar geographies
- Recommendations

While the UDP has already begun collecting some of this data for the 2024 U District Economic Development Report, the support from OED and a dedicated consultant would further support UDP's effort in attracting new businesses to the area to ultimately enhance ground-floor vibrancy and activity. OED expects to make an announcement about selected neighborhoods mid-late April.

Advocacy to support business regulatory environment

Throughout the last year, UDP staff have encountered numerous businesses which have experienced challenges surrounding permitting, change of use, and other components of the business regulatory environment. This dynamic has also played a significant role in the barriers facing prospective

businesses in filling vacant spaces. Restrictions and costs of Change of Use code have added to the barriers in filling some of the U District's largest vacant commercial spaces. Over the past couple of weeks, UDP staff have begun to share these challenges with the City of Seattle and King County. Moving forward, UDP staff will interview select business owners who have expressed frustration surrounding the regulatory environment to gain critical insights into the specific permits and processes creating barriers; Ultimately using this information to engage stakeholders and advocate for strategies to overcome these issues at the city/county level.

CLEAN, SAFE & OUTREACH

Outreach Update

The City of Seattle has coordinated several encampment removals over the past few months in and around the University District. These encampments are removed after intensive outreach has been conducted with regular occupants. Often, individuals who are new to the encampments or have not been present for outreach attempts are displaced into the surrounding neighborhoods when the encampments are cleared. Most recently, encampments under I-5 at 65th in the Roosevelt neighborhood and Cowen park were cleared. The U District has seen an influx of new homeless individuals who are unknown to the UDP Ambassadors and JJ, many of whom are believed to be from these encampments. The UDP Ambassadors and Outreach Program will continue to work on identifying these individuals and connecting them with resources. Don and Marcus will work with the City to better coordinate these removals so they don't continue to disrupt the outreach and case planning in the District.

43rd Street Plaza Umbrellas



It's that time of year again! Sunny days and warmer weather mean the red umbrellas will be making their return to the blue tables in the 43rd Street Plaza. The UDP Clean Team will ensure that the umbrellas are set up every morning, and the UDP Ambassadors will assist in putting them away in the evening. These umbrellas will remain out through October when they will be stored for the season.

Acid Etched Graffiti Removal

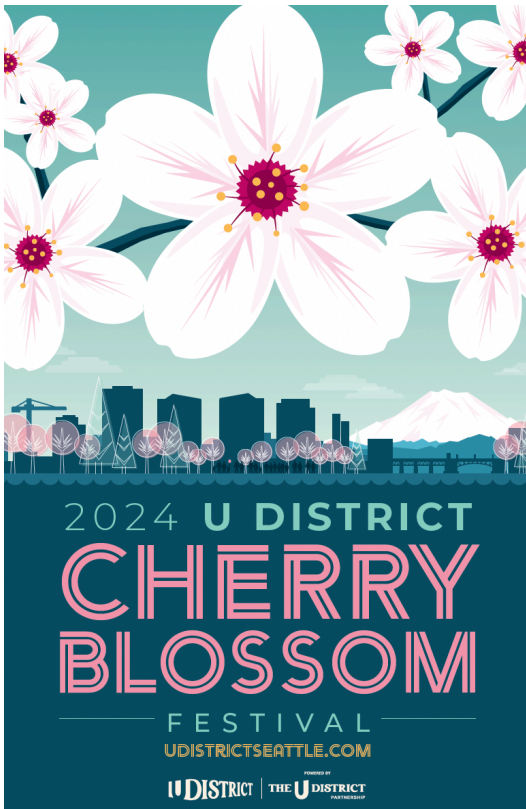
The U District has long struggled with acid-etched graffiti, a form of vandalism that employs acid, typically hydrochloric acid, to etch graffiti tags into glass surfaces. This process irreversibly damages the windows. Most glass companies refrain from repairing such damage due to the labor-intensive nature of the task; it's often easier and more profitable to replace the entire window.



Travis Barth, a contractor who owns a company specializing in the repair of windows damaged by acid etching, reached out to UDP through the City and is in the process of preparing estimates for some of the U District's prominent damaged windows. At most, repairing a window will cost 50% of the cost of window replacement. Often the cost is significantly lower. The UDP plans to collaborate with Travis in a manner similar to the second-story graffiti program, wherein Travis, as a contractor, will offer a bulk discount for multiple businesses in the U District.

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 at the end of March, 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.

The U District Cherry Blossom Festival ran for just-over two weeks, **Saturday, March 16 through Monday April 1**. Local businesses were 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.

Seattle Boba Fest is Just Around the Corner!

UDP is thrilled to bring back Seattle Boba Fest to celebrate the U District's undefeated title as the PNW capital of boba. In celebration of National Bubble Tea Day, Seattle Boba Fest will return for the third time on **Saturday, April 27, 2024** with 28 local businesses participating.

Festival hours are 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.. Community members are invited to join UDP to promote Boba Fest by helping get out balloons and decorations, or by greeting guests, handing out menus from the welcome tent outside of the light rail station. Sign up [here](#).

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

The Street Fair returns the weekend of **Saturday, May 18-19, 2024**. Over 360 vendors have applied, selling out this event for the first time in decades. Volunteers are also needed for this two-day event! UDP couldn't pull-off these tremendous celebrations without the help of volunteers. Details will be available soon, and any interested people should follow up with Lauren Carey (lauren@udistrictpartnership.org).