



BOARD MEETING AGENDA

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

October 21, 2025

Fireside Room, U District Partnership - 1415 NE 45th St, Fl. 2, Seattle, WA 98105

I.	Welcome & Introductions	Rick	11:30 a.m.	
II.	Public Comment	Public	11:35 a.m.	
III.	Approval of September Meeting Minutes	Rick	11:40 a.m.	(Vote)
IV.	Finance Committee Report • <i>Acceptance of September Financials</i>	Trevor	11:45 a.m.	(Vote)
V.	Executive Director Report • <i>Upcoming Meetings</i>	Don	11:55 a.m.	
VI.	U District Chow Down / Event Look-Ahead	Lauren	12:00 p.m.	
VII.	Urban Vitality Updates • <i>Station Area Park Activation Series</i> • <i>U District Sub-Area Plan</i>	Janet	12:05 p.m.	
VIII.	Clean & Safe Update • <i>Seattle Neighborhood Impact Framework Summit</i>	Marcus	12:20 p.m.	
IX.	Economic Development Report	Hannah	12:25 p.m.	
X.	New Business	Rick	12:35 p.m.	
XI.	Guest Speaker: UW President Dr. Rober Jones		12:40 p.m.	
XII.	Adjourn	Rick	1:00 p.m.	



Joint UDP & UDBIA Board Meeting Minutes

11:30am to 1:00pm

September 16, 2025

The U District Partnership, 1415 NE 45th St, Fireplace Room, Seattle WA 98105| HYBRID

UDP Board Members in Attendance in Person

Aaron Hoard – UW, *Co-Chair*
Lois Ko – Sweet Alchemy
Trevor Peterson – U Book Store, *Treasurer*
Stephen Antupit – U District Resident
Katie Betz – Urban Renaissance Group
Julie Blakeslee – UW Planning
Josh Gana – UW Housing & Food Services

Jeremy Eknoian – UW Real Estate
Don Schulze – UDPA
Naomi Lewis – Luminati Labs
Anson Lin – Astora Construction
Maya Lu – Boba Up
Miles Richardson – Audi Seattle/University VW
Paul Yunker – U District Food Bank

UDP Board Members Not in Attendance

Angela Mercado – UHeights
Rick Jones – Schooley Mitchell, Co-Chair
Emily Scully – Shultzzy's Bar & Grill
Jessie Quan – Ladd & Lass Brewing, Secretary

John Hix – Seattle Vineyard Church
Alfred Shiga – Shiga's Imports
Anna Sorokina – WSECU

RAB Members in Attendance

Jennifer Antos – U District Farmers Market
Nikole O'Bryan – Nikole O'Bryan, DDS
Jeanette Henderson – UW Real Estate
Chris Peterson – Cafe Allegro
Brian Sellen – American Campus Communities

David Cohanin – Synergy Construction
Chris Giles – Resident
Joe Gruber – U District Food Bank
Chris Rauls – University Book Store

RAB Members Not in Attendance

Max Blume – The Blume Company
Sally Clark – UW Campus Security
Lora Gastineau – Novell Condominiums
Carolyn Thompson – The Neptune Building
Polly Yarioka – University Presbyterian Church

Mary Kay Gugerty – UW Evans School
Lincoln Johnson – UW Student Affairs
Sandy Sun – Corbit Building
Hui Tian – Studio 19 Architects

UDP Staff

Don Blakeney – Executive Director
Hannah Kiburz – Economic Dev Manager
Lauren Carey – Events Manager
Janet Lee – Urban Vitality Manager

Nikki Somers – Operations Manager
Pollyanna Yokokawa – Marketing Manager
Phil Lloyd – CFO
Marcus Johnson – Director of Clean & Safe Operations

Guests*

Darren Rose – 206 Properties
Royce Morrison – University
Congregational United Church of Christ
John Linn – Chapel on the Ave

Darrel Bulmer – SDOT J Line
D'Vante Rolle – University Presbyterian
Church

**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

Aaron H. started the meeting, with a round of introductions. After introductions, Aaron H. and Jennifer A. opened both the UDP and UDBIA Board meeting and gave an overview of the agenda that included the new joint meeting and direction.

Public Comment

Aaron H. called for public comment, there was no public comment, although several community members were present to observe the meeting.

Approval of UDP Board Meeting Minutes

Aaron H. introduced the July 2025 meeting minutes, asked for any questions or amendments.

Motion: Trevor P. moved to accept the July 2025 UDP Board meeting minutes.

Second: Jeremy E. seconded the motion.

Abstentions: Don S. abstained

Approval: The motion was approved.

Construction Updates

Aaron H. introduced Darrel B., Communications Lead with SDOT J-Line. Darrel gave a thorough overview of the project and timeline, and said that service should begin in 2027. RapidRide J Line will offer 2 miles of new bus only-lanes, 190 newly planted trees, over 3.5 miles of protected bike lanes, with upgraded sidewalks, water mains, traffic signals, and streetlights.

Darrel B. gave an update on what's to come which included roadway paving at 43rd and Roosevelt, pole foundations on 43rd, 11th, and Roosevelt, as well as sidewalk work on the north side of 43rd from 12th to Roosevelt. Lastly, the temporary bike lane will be removed along 11th Ave NE. There will be lane closures for concrete work, ongoing water main replacement work, and the upcoming closure of E Allison from Eastlake to Harvard.

Janet L. also gave an update on the Revive I-5 project which will continue into the fall with 6 weekend closures of the south-bound lanes. These closures include the left lanes over the weekends of Oct 10-13, Oct 17-20, Oct 31-Nov3, and Nov 21-24, as well as the right lanes over the weekends of Dec 5-8, and Jan 9 - 12, 2026. There will be no weekend closures over the holidays.

UDP Finance Committee Update and Approval of the Financials

Trevor P. started with the close of the 2024-2025 year, and as noted throughout the year, UDP did not spend down as much as budgeted due to staffing shortages, and timing. These funds will be rolled over to the 2025-2026 budget. Next Trevor P. provided a comprehensive narrative and high-level overview of the current financial report. Key highlights included that UDP is on course for spending appropriately.

Note: A full financial narrative is included in each UDP Board meeting packet, speaking directly to any variances in the budget, which is approved each year at the Annual Meeting each June.

Motion: On behalf of the Finance Committee, Trevor P. moved to accept the August 2025 financials as presented at the September 16, 2025 Board Meeting.

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

Approval: The motion was approved unanimously.

Executive Director Report

Don B. reported that he attended the 3rd Annual ZOID Fest on Sept 13 which was partially funded by the UDP. The local rock 'n' roll festival takes place at a series of bars and venues in the U District including the Kraken and Blue Moon Tavern. One of the many bands at the festival was Waltzer, who will be playing at the 2025 Chow Down.

Next Don B. gave an overview of the UDP office improvements which is being managed by Nikki S. and will include 3 new conference rooms, 3 new storage areas, technology & office admin room, 4 new offices, and a kitchen renovation. The first phase of this construction should be completed in late Nov 2025, with staff moved and settled in early Dec 2025.

Lastly, Don noted that the entire staff, sans Lauren C. who has to prepare for Chow Down, will be attending the 2025 International Downtown Association conference in Washington DC the week of Sept 22-26.

Clean & Safe Program Report

Marcus J. gave an overview of the UDP BIA Clean Walk that happened on Sept 11, which was a change to the committee from prior years' Clean & Safe Committee meetings. The walk included a tour of the new operations center, and it provided an overview of UDP Clean Team's work. The next meeting will be a UDP Public Safety Committee Meeting and will happen in mid-October.

Next Marcus J. discussed the case conferencing summit which started in the U District. The UDP case conferencing model was created in 2023, and has been so effective, it has expanded to Ballard, with interest from other neighborhoods. He also discussed the shift from social service providers to neighborhood level outreach. There is a need for formal staffing and dedicated resources for stability. UDP and partners will be hosting the summit in late Oct/early Nov and will include City leaders and community members.

Marcus J. also offered a look into the U District Homeless census for the months of May 2025 - early Sept 2025, numbers ranged from 69 people to 133 people at any given time.

Lastly, Marcus J. shared that the late night emphasis patrols will be back. These patrols will be on Friday and Saturday nights from Sept 19 - Oct 04, and patrols will monitor nightlife activity from 10pm - 3am. UDP will use the information gathered to help monitor late night public safety with the return of students.

Economic Development Report

Hannah K. offered a peak in her Economic Development Program first 90 days which included meeting with over 60 businesses. She distributed 180+ ORCA cards for support during the Revive I-5 closures, coordinated broad distribution regarding OED's "Back to Business" Grants ahead of the first-come-first-served deadline, she has started a deep dive into ALL the U District data, as well as collaborated with community members at UDCC meetings.

Next Hannah K. discussed the proposed change to the B&O tax structure, which included tax exemptions, and the increased rates for businesses with gross receipt revenue above \$2 million. Hannah K. also gave an overview of the City of Seattle permitting reform, that will involve substantial alterations that should benefit small businesses. Hannah offered a look into neighborhood businesses opening, closings, coming soon, and under new management.

Lastly, Hannah K. spoke on the upcoming Economic Development Committee meetings with the first meeting *tentatively* scheduled for Tuesday, Oct 28. This committee will meet quarterly, and will consist of economic data and trend presentations, guest speakers, and will show an influence of long-term retail strategy. Business networking socials will happen 3 times a year, serving as a space for business owners to share resources, and build a sense of community, and guest speakers

Urban Vitality

Janet L. discussed the U District Station Park Series that is taking place in the park at 43rd & Brooklyn, in Sept and Oct. This series includes dance classes, yoga classes, movie nights, and music nights. UDP plans to use this pilot period to test out what type of activation styles are best for the U District. This pilot program will help guide UDP and POPS (Privately Owned Public Spaces), which UDP has 3 of, to keep well activated.

Janet L. and the Urban Vitality Committee welcomed two new members and held a "public realm audit" site walk at their last meeting on Sept 10. The next meeting will be a 3-hr retreat on Oct 11. In the meantime, UDP and the Lid I-5 committee continue to move forward with education and capacity building.

U District Events

Lauren C. gave a recap of the Seattle Boba Fest which was a huge success that included 23 participating shops, a festival stage that featured Mak Fai Kung Fu + Lion Dance, K-Pop dance crews and DJ's as well as the Sakura-Con cosplay contest. Most of the entertainment was happening on the new stage at 43rd & Brooklyn.

Lauren C. offered an overview of what to expect at the U District Chow Down that will take place on Oct 4 and include 63 restaurants, stage with live music, tent activations, and so much more. Lauren C. also made a call out to Board members to volunteer for the event!

Communications & Marketing

Polly Y. announced that she will be sending a link to the marketing video that highlights the new tables on 43rd Street.

Governance:

Aaron H. welcomed Darren Rose with 206 Property Management as a prospective board member. Darren spoke about his connection to the neighborhood and interest in the work of the UDP.

Aaron H. made the motion for "The Board to approve the nomination of Darren Rose to the UDP Board of Directors for a three year term."

Motion: The motion came from the committee.

Second: No second needed.

Approval: The motion was approved unanimously.

New UDP Board Business

Aaron H. called for new business, there was none.

UDP Board Adjournment

Aaron H. adjourned the UDP Board meeting and turned it over to Jennifer A. to finish out the UDBIA meeting.

Approval of Ratepayer Board Meeting Minutes

Jennifer A. introduced the June 2025 meeting minutes, asked for any questions or amendments. Jennifer A. requested a motion to approve "The Ratepayer Meeting minutes from the June 2025 UDP Ratepayer meeting."

Motion: Chris G. moved to accept the June 2025 UDP Ratepayer meeting minutes.

Second: No second

Abstentions: no abstentions

Approval: The motion was approved unanimously.

Acceptance of UDP August Financials

Jennifer A. requested a motion to approve "The UDBIA Board accepts the August 2025 UDP financials as presented at the September 16, 2025 Joint UDP/BIA Board meeting."

Motion: On behalf of the Finance Committee, Joe G. moved to accept the August 2025 financials as presented at the September 16, 2025 Board Meeting.

Second: No second

Abstentions: no abstentions

Approval: The motion was approved.

New UDBIA Board Business

Jennifer H. called for new business, there was none.

UDBIA Adjournment

Jennifer A. adjourned the UDBIA Board meeting. .



Finance Committee Report & Budget Narrative

Prepared on 10/9/25

This financial narrative provides a summary of The U District Partnership's financial statements as of September 30th, 2025.

Budget Report

As UDP wraps up the first quarter of the fiscal year, the finances are looking mostly as expected. Unlike last year, there are no large variances on staffing now that UDP has a complete team in place. Most of the variances in the Q1 finances are related to timing issues. The numbers along the left side of the page correspond with the numbers on the budget report:

Income:

444300 – BIA Income: *Spending is up, which is due to a combination of things—one, UDP is front-loading the costs of office renovations that will be reimbursed (in part) by UW later in the year; and two, UDP is front-loading cash this year before Street Fair registration opens in December. This should all start to even out in Q3 after Street Fair booths go on sale in December.*

44530 – Grants Income: *UDP has existing grants with OED, SPU and DON to support clean, safe and data programs. The variances here are largely timing issues.*

47215 – Sponsorship Income: *Sponsorship income is up this year, thanks to Lauren's work to secure a new partnership with Square for Chow Down.*

43400 – Donations & Partnerships: *UDP has a few planned donations on the horizon that have yet to land, and show a variance here.*

Expense:

60000 – Staffing Expense: *With hiring completed in June, the organization is fully staffed and therefore these expenses are finally on target again.*

62800 – Dues & Subscriptions: *This may be a coding issue.*

62300 – Office Equipment: *This is a timing issue. UDP brought on two new people and is taking over a couple of new offices and conference rooms, which have required up-front investments in furniture and equipment.*

63300 – Staff Development: *This expense is related to UDP's travel to the International Downtown Association. With rising costs of hotels and travel, there is a small overspend, which can be better planned for next year.*

70310 – Committee & Board Meetings: *This is a timing issue. The Board Social and Reconnecting Communities convening both landed this summer, which front-loaded some of these related costs.*

70360 – Other Program Expenses: *This is a timing issue—some of these expenses have yet to be incurred.*

70370 – Printing & Reproduction: *This is a timing issue. Boba Fest moved to July, so much of our signage and menu printing was front loaded this year. The remaining \$15,000 will go to cover the cost of Cherry Blossom Festival menus and Street Fair event signage.*

Balance Sheet Report

As reported in September, the balance sheet continues to show some distortion from the lingering influence of the Commerce grant. With a quarter million dollars in receivables, the cash balance looks low by comparison. UDP has submitted invoices to the City in early October which will replenish the checking account shortly. Lease rights and liability have increased this year with the extension of the lease with UW.

BIA Assessment Collections

UDP has been working with the city to ensure that the budget target of 95% collections is attained. The numbers below reflect collections through September, 2025. Billing goes out in June and December, so those numbers are updated twice annually.

Fiscal years 2019-2023 are on track with fiscal years 2024 and 2025 still catching up as delinquent assessments roll in. In general the average UDBIA collection rate is higher than 95% over time, generally taking a couple of years for each fiscal year to hit this target.

Fiscal Year	Amount Billed	Amount Collected	Collection Rate
2019	\$ 946,505.32	\$ 940,514.37	99.37%
2020	\$ 1,215,841.04	\$ 1,202,900.28	98.94%
2021	\$ 1,271,712.04	\$ 1,251,462.63	98.41%
2022	\$ 1,325,847.14	\$ 1,301,103.30	98.13%
2023	\$ 1,596,501.52	\$ 1,560,140.38	97.72%
2024	\$ 1,760,687.52	\$ 1,663,029.75	94.45%
2025	\$ 909,168.56	\$ 813,682.37	83.50%

The U District Partnership Budget Report September 2025

	Jul - Sep 25	YTD Budget	\$ Over Budget	Annual Budget
Income				
44430 · BIA Contract	608,392.70	553,747.00	54,645.70	2,165,377.94
44530 · Grants				
44537 · DON	0.00	3,124.97	-3,124.97	12,500.00
44536 · SPU	6,750.00	6,750.00	0.00	27,000.00
Total 44530 · Grants	6,750.00	9,874.97	-3,124.97	39,500.00
47000 · Program Fees	5,300.00	4,000.00	1,300.00	238,000.00
47213 · Retail Sales	1,242.62	1,750.03	-507.41	2,500.00
47215 · Sponsorships	38,001.81	13,249.97	24,751.84	78,500.00
43400 · Donations/Partnerships	25,284.00	37,500.09	-12,216.09	150,000.00
46400 · Interest and Other	48.83	0.00	48.83	0.00
Total Income	685,019.96	620,122.06	64,897.90	2,673,877.94
Expense				
60000 · Staffing Expenses				
60100 · Wages & Salaries	288,236.42	298,628.28	-10,391.86	1,220,513.03
60020 · Payroll Taxes	26,644.70	25,181.74	1,462.96	102,975.75
60030 · Medical Benefits	27,373.00	23,241.86	4,131.14	92,968.19
60040 · Retirement Benefits	6,087.85	8,105.11	-2,017.26	32,420.59
60050 · Transit Benefit	4,116.31	750.00	3,366.31	3,000.00
Total 60000 · Staffing Expenses	352,458.28	355,906.99	-3,448.71	1,451,877.56
61000 · Professional Expenses				
61100 · Accounting Fees	11,250.00	11,500.00	-250.00	32,000.00
61110 · HR Consulting	0.00	499.97	-499.97	2,000.00
61120 · Legal Fees	0.00	499.97	-499.97	2,000.00
Total 61000 · Professional Expenses	11,250.00	12,499.94	-1,249.94	36,000.00
62000 · Office and Overhead Expenses				
62150 · Renovations & Repairs	8,503.03	9,500.06	-997.03	38,000.00
63600 · Banking and Service Fees	394.27	224.97	169.30	17,100.00
62800 · Dues & Subscriptions	3,732.88	424.97	3,307.91	1,700.00
62200 · Insurance	9,835.72	9,800.00	35.72	9,800.00
63100 · Licenses and Permits	2,292.02	1,530.00	762.02	21,620.00
63120 · Merchandise	0.00	499.97	-499.97	2,000.00
62300 · Office Equipment	4,784.11	2,500.03	2,284.08	10,000.00
62900 · Postage & Mailing	70.59	99.97	-29.38	400.03
62100 · Rent and Monthly Parking	30,089.83	28,289.80	1,800.03	114,759.35
63300 · Staff Development	16,776.42	13,200.00	3,576.42	13,200.00
62400 · Office Supplies	1,178.80	1,249.97	-71.17	5,000.00
62700 · Technology and Software	7,894.79	6,212.53	1,682.26	24,850.00
62600 · Telephone	200.00	454.97	-254.97	1,820.00
62500 · Local Travel and Meetings	3,101.52	1,374.94	1,726.58	5,600.00
Total 62000 · Office and Overhead Expenses	88,853.98	75,362.18	13,491.80	265,849.38
70000 · Direct Program Expenses				
70310 · Committee & Board Meetings	4,486.36	2,125.03	2,361.33	8,500.00
70335 · Program Supplies	8,544.58	9,599.97	-1,055.39	44,550.00

The U District Partnership
Budget Report
September 2025

	Jul - Sep 25	YTD Budget	\$ Over Budget	Annual Budget
70300 · Advertising	5,216.15	2,875.00	2,341.15	13,000.00
70320 · Contracted Services	121,079.35	119,575.06	1,504.29	624,450.00
70340 · Equipment Rental	9,298.65	7,000.00	2,298.65	76,000.00
70350 · Event Entertainment	1,740.00	2,000.00	-260.00	26,600.00
70360 · Other Program Expenses	28,094.18	36,875.06	-8,780.88	93,500.00
70370 · Printing and Reproduction	15,576.86	9,925.03	5,651.83	33,551.00
Total 70000 · Direct Program Expenses	194,036.13	189,975.15	4,060.98	920,151.00
Total Expense	646,598.39	633,744.26	12,854.13	2,673,877.94
Net Income	38,421.57	-13,622.20	52,043.77	0.00

The U District Partnership

Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison

As of September 30, 2025

	Sep 30, 25	Sep 30, 24	\$ Change
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
10100 · Operating Bank Accounts			
10110 · WSECU Checking	-6,190.20	355,943.52	-362,133.72
10111 · WSECU Savings	127,526.02	160,413.42	-32,887.40
Total 10100 · Operating Bank Accounts	121,335.82	516,356.94	-395,021.12
Total Checking/Savings	121,335.82	516,356.94	-395,021.12
Accounts Receivable	258,724.16	172,423.59	86,300.57
Other Current Assets			
12026 · Lease Rights	518,769.39	33,119.29	485,650.10
12022 · Prepaid Expense	952.35	9,153.39	-8,201.04
12021 · Employee Advances	-350.99	0.00	-350.99
Total Other Current Assets	519,370.75	42,272.68	477,098.07
Total Current Assets	899,430.73	731,053.21	168,377.52
Fixed Assets			
15000 · Furniture and Equipment	27,334.29	16,136.18	11,198.11
Total Fixed Assets	27,334.29	16,136.18	11,198.11
Other Assets			
17025 · Security Deposits	8,235.87	8,235.87	0.00
Total Other Assets	8,235.87	8,235.87	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	935,000.89	755,425.26	179,575.63
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	-5,643.19	-2,787.56	-2,855.63
Credit Cards	13,892.21	718.11	13,174.10
Other Current Liabilities			
20220 · Lease Liability	547,198.92	33,880.56	513,318.36
20210 · Deferred Revenue	0.00	366,120.61	-366,120.61
24000 · Payroll Liabilities	52,647.55	63,431.05	-10,783.50
Total Other Current Liabilities	599,846.47	463,432.22	136,414.25
Total Current Liabilities	608,095.49	461,362.77	146,732.72
Total Liabilities	608,095.49	461,362.77	146,732.72
Equity			
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	288,435.90	267,474.67	20,961.23
Net Income	38,469.50	26,587.82	11,881.68
Total Equity	326,905.40	294,062.49	32,842.91
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	935,000.89	755,425.26	179,575.63

Guest Speaker

University of Washington President Robert J. Jones

October 21, 2025

Board of Directors Meeting, The U District Partnership

Robert J. Jones became the 34th president of the University of Washington in August 2025 and holds a faculty position in the Department of Biology. A distinguished crop physiologist and seasoned university leader, Jones previously served as chancellor of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign for nine years, and before that, as president of The University at Albany (SUNY Albany). Prior to his administrative leadership roles, he spent over 34 years as a member of the faculty and senior administrator at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

At Illinois, Jones launched the world's first engineering-based medical school and expanded access to a college degree through scholarships like the Illinois Commitment and led a \$2.7 billion fundraising campaign. Under his leadership, enrollment grew by 25 percent. Jones also launched radical research partnerships and initiatives in quantum computing, bioprocessing and precision fermentation and the inflammatory states that underly many human diseases.

Jones has served as a leader in numerous national academic organizations, including as chair of the boards of the Association of American Universities (AAU), the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), and the Big Ten Council of Presidents and Chancellors. A Georgia native and first-generation college student, he holds degrees in agronomy and crop physiology from Fort Valley State, the University of Georgia, and the University of Missouri. Jones is married to Dr. Lynn Hassan Jones, M.D., and together, they have five children and a growing number of grandchildren.





Program Reports

UDP Board of Directors

October 21, 2025

CLEAN, SAFE & OUTREACH

UDP Launches New Public Safety Meeting Series

The U District Partnership is introducing a new Public Safety Meeting Series as part of its updated Clean and Safe Committee structure. This series, alternating bi-monthly with the Clean Committee Operations Walks, ensures focused and consistent attention on both cleanliness and safety priorities in the U District.

The first Public Safety Meeting will be held Tuesday, October 29, from 1:30–3:00 PM in the Fireside Room at the UDP Offices (1415 NE 45th St). The session will provide an overview of UDP’s safety programs, partnerships, and coordination with city and regional partners—including SPD, UWPD, the City Attorney’s Office, CARE team, and King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office. Participants will learn how UDP collaborates across agencies to advocate for resources, share updates, and respond to neighborhood safety issues.

By creating dedicated spaces for both Public Safety Meetings and Clean Committee Operations Walks, UDP is strengthening coordination, improving communication, and advancing a balanced, proactive approach to the U District’s public space needs.

UDP Strengthens Outreach and Neighborhood Safety Efforts

The U District Partnership (UDP) continues to work with social service providers to address the challenges created when individuals with significant, unmet behavioral health needs live unsheltered in a busy commercial district. This effort aims both to reduce neighborhood impacts and to connect those in crisis with the support they need.

Through these collaborations, UDP provides consistent, place-based outreach focused on proactive engagement, case management connections, and real-time coordination with Safety Ambassadors—and, when needed, the Clean Team. This approach pairs social service expertise with daily neighborhood operations, creating a model that combines outreach, de-escalation, and public space stewardship. The result is stronger collaboration among outreach teams, city departments, and local stakeholders. Because of its measurable impact, this Neighborhood Impact Framework is now being replicated in other Seattle neighborhoods, including Ballard and the Chinatown–International District, with more areas preparing to adopt similar models.

Next week, UDP will co-host the **Seattle Neighborhood Impact Summit** with the Ballard Alliance, Mayor’s Office, LEAD program, and REACH to discuss this framework and its role in improving conditions in commercial districts. The event will take place **Monday, October 27, from 4–6 PM** in the Bertha Knight Landes Room at City Hall.

Looking ahead, UDP and its partners are working with the Seattle City Council to secure ongoing funding to expand outreach coverage and add dedicated mental health professionals. These resources will help ensure timely, specialized support for individuals in crisis while enhancing the overall safety and well-being of the U District community.

Leaf Removal Season in the U District

As fall arrives, the UDP Clean Team is shifting into leaf removal season, one of the most intensive maintenance periods of the year. Beginning in mid-October, the team increases its focus on clearing leaves and debris from sidewalks, storm drains, and high-traffic pedestrian corridors to help prevent flooding, slipping hazards, and clogged drainage systems.

Leaf accumulation can quickly create safety and accessibility challenges throughout the district's tree-lined streets, especially along University Way NE. To stay ahead of heavy leaf drops, the Clean Team will be reprioritizing hours during peak weeks and coordinating with Seattle Public Utilities to address stormwater concerns in areas prone to pooling or blockage.

By the end of the season, UDP's Clean Team removes several tons of leaves, keeping sidewalks clear, drains flowing, and the neighborhood looking clean, safe, and welcoming for residents, businesses, and visitors.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

U District Business Openings & Closures

- Closures:
 - Cafe Canuc
- Openings:
 - Muse Crush (in former Mark Thai Box space)
 - 24 Hour Market (in former Flower's space)
 - Snooze (in former Boba Gem space, same ownership)
 - Avoles (in the former Starbucks space next to Costas)
 - Daddy Tacos & Cuban (in former Arepa Kitchen space)
- Upcoming Openings
 - Elixir (in former Oasis space)
 - Raising Cane's (in early 2026)
 - Muddy Waters Coffee (in former Jake's Coffee space)

Economic Development Committee

There is still time to join the Economic Development Committee. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 28 at 2:00 PM in the Fireside Room at UDP's offices.

Quarterly meetings will feature presentations from local businesses, the City, and partner organizations, along with economic data updates and opportunities for members to shape UDP's Economic Development program, with a focus on long-term retail strategy. Networking socials will offer a more informal setting for business owners to exchange ideas, share resources, and inspire new initiatives.

This approach aims to ensure diverse representation and create a forum where participants can contribute directly to strengthening the neighborhood economy. For more information or to get involved, contact Hannah Kiburz, UDP Economic Development Manager (hannah@udistrictpartnership.org).

PLACEMAKING & URBAN VITALITY

Station Park Activation Series

Since launching in September, U District Station Park has welcomed over a thousand residents and visitors for a lively series of outdoor events—including lunchtime yoga, hip hop and salsa sessions, a *K-Pop Demon Hunters* dance party, and open-air movies and music. This partnership with Lincoln Property Company has given UDP the opportunity to host activities and partner with other groups like Scarecrow Video and the U District Advocates to bring in additional programming. The pilot Station Park Series this summer has been a true cross-team effort, with UDP's Urban Vitality, Marketing & Communications, Events, Operations, and Clean teams collaborating to coordinate logistics, engage community partners, and promote events to activate the space with a wide range of programming.



Weather permitting, Station Park Series will continue with dance and yoga through Wednesday, October 29. UDP staff are now debriefing with community partners to capture lessons learned and identify future programming opportunities. A full review of the pilot program and recommendations for next year will be shared with the Board at a future meeting.



Urban Vitality Retreat Lays Groundwork for Subarea Plan

The Urban Vitality Committee convened for a half-day retreat on Saturday, October 11, to deepen relationships among members and shape UDP's work for the year ahead. Facilitated by UDP staff and committee co-chairs, the session built a shared understanding of the district's evolving built environment, surfaced long-range priorities for equitable growth, and clarified how the committee can best support planning outcomes in the U District.

Committee members reflected on findings from September's Public Space & Built Environment Audit, identifying key patterns such as underutilized assets, gaps in connectivity, and opportunities for quick activation. Through a visioning exercise, members imagined what must be true for the U District to thrive in 2045, outlining preliminary priority themes to be further developed in the year ahead.

The outcomes from the retreat will be refined in the committee's November meeting and presented for Board review in early 2026 and the committee's insights will continue to guide UDP's engagement with the City and community partners in the months ahead to ensure that neighborhood priorities are clearly reflected as planning moves forward.

Public Art & Signage Refresh

The Urban Vitality, Clean & Safe, and Marketing & Communications teams are collaborating to update and repair key elements of UDP public art and signage across the U District. Work is underway to refresh neighborhood kiosks with new photos, event dates, and updated maps that reflect current landmarks and businesses. Another priority is coordinating repairs to existing murals that have experienced weathering or damage, so that these artworks continue to enliven public spaces and celebrate community identity. The team is currently working with artist Erin Shigaki, building owners UDPA, and the City of Seattle to repair [Respect Beloved Community](#) (University Ave and 42nd Street), which was installed through a 2020 Neighborhood Matching Fund grant that launched UDP's permanent mural program. If your organization is interested in sponsoring a mural or hosting one on your property, please reach out to Janet Lee, UDP's Urban Vitality Manager.

Transportation & Infrastructure Updates

WSDOT has begun the second phase of its *Revive I-5* project, with weekend pavement repairs expected October 17–20, October 31–November 3, November 21–24, and Dec 5-8. The work may affect weekend access to the U District for residents, employees, and event attendees. Southbound travelers should anticipate backups near the Ship Canal Bridge, and northbound express lanes will not reverse at their usual 1:45 p.m. schedule. UDP will continue to share updates as available; real-time information can be found on WSDOT's [project webpage](#), [social media channels](#), [Travel Center map](#), and the [WSDOT mobile app](#).

EVENTS

Fifth Annual Chow Down Show Off the U District

The [U District Chow Down](#) returned on Saturday, October 4 with 63 U District restaurants participating, along with several joining in the day of the event. With each restaurant offering two unique \$5 bites or drinks, attendees embarked on a culinary journey of global cuisines. Live entertainment included local bands, a DJ in the street, and onstage audience contests hosted by TOASTED. Bagels & Coffee, Boba Up, and Shultz's Bar & Grill. The expansion of the street party aspect, with more tents featuring local businesses and community groups, kept people engaged while they made their way between different food walk destinations.



There was an approximate 27% increase in foot traffic in the event area from Chow Down 2024 to Chow Down 2025. About 30,000 people attended Chow Down this year.

Looking Ahead for Winter and Spring

- **Winter Window Walk (December 5-14):** In December, The U District Partnership will host the second annual Winter Window Walk and storefront display competition—a promotion that aims to create a little friendly competition while beautifying the neighborhood.
- **U District Cherry Blossom Festival (Spring 2026):** will return sometime in March to coincide with peak bloom.
- **U District Street Fair (May 16-17):** Booth sales and planning for the 55th annual U District Street Fair will launch in December.