



UDP BOARD MEETING AGENDA

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

April 21, 2026

Fireplace Room, Floor 2, U District Partnership - 1415 NE 45th St, Seattle, WA 98105

I.	Welcome & Introductions	Rick	11:30 a.m.	
II.	Public Comment	Public	11:35 a.m.	
III.	Approval of UDP February Meeting Minutes	Rick	11:40 a.m.	(Vote)
IV.	UDP Finance Committee Report	Trevor	11:45 a.m.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Acceptance of March 2026 UDP Financials</i>• <i>Program Grants</i>• <i>Budget Development</i>			(Vote)
V.	Emerging U District Issues	Don	12:00 p.m.	
VI.	Seattle Comprehensive Plan	Don/Stephen	12:15 p.m.	
VII.	Economic Development Report	Hannah	12:25 p.m.	
VIII.	Clean & Safe Report	Marcus	12:35 p.m.	
IX.	Marketing & Events	Polly/Don	12:45 p.m.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>U District Events Sounding Board</i>• <i>Cherry Blossom Festival</i>• <i>U District Street Fair</i>			
X.	Governance Committee Report	Rick	12:50 p.m.	
XI.	New Business	Rick	12:55 p.m.	
XII.	Adjourn	Rick	1:00 p.m.	

Joint UDP & UDBIA Board Meeting Minutes

11:30am to 1:00pm

March 17, 2026

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
Trevor Peterson – U Book Store, Treasurer
John Hix – Seattle Vineyard Church
Katie Betz – Urban Renaissance Group
Julie Blakeslee – UW Planning
Jeremy Eknoian – UW Real Estate
Josh Gana – UW Housing & Food Services
Don Schulze – UDPA
Shruti Shah, University Book Store

Lois Ko - Sweet Alchemy
Paul Yunker – U District Food Bank
Maya Lu – Boba Up
Stephen Antupit – U District Resident
Naomi Lewis – Luminati Labs
Miles Richardson – Audi Seattle/University VW
Darren Rose - 206 Properties
Anson Lin – Astora Construction
Ashley Van Dragt, Chapel on the Ave

UDP Board Members Not in Attendance

Anna Sorokina – WSECU
Emily Scully – Shultzzy's Bar & Grill
Jessie Quan – Ladd & Lass Brewing, Secretary

Rick Jones - Schooley Mitchell, Co-Chair
Alfred Shiga – Shiga's Imports

RAB Members in Attendance

Jennifer Antos – U District Farmers Market
Max Blume – The Blume Company
Sally Clark – UW Campus Security
Mary Kay Gugerty – UW Evans School
Nikole O'Bryan – Nikole O'Bryan, DDS

Lincoln Johnson – UW Student Affairs
Jeanette Henderson – UW Real Estate
David Cohanin – Synergy Construction
Joe Gruber – U District Food Bank
Chris Rauls – University Book Store
Chris Giles – Resident

RAB Members Not in Attendance

Lora Gastineau – Novell Condominiums
Carolyn Thompson – The Neptune Building
Polly Yorioka – University Presbyterian Church
Brian Sellen – American Campus Communities

Sandy Sun – Corbit Building
Hui Tian – Studio 19 Architect
Chris Peterson – Cafe Allegro

UDP Staff

Don Blakeney – Executive Director
Hannah Kiburz – Economic Dev Manager
Lauren Carey – Events Manager
Marcus Johnson – Director of Clean & Safe Operations

Janet Lee – Urban Vitality Manager
Nikki Somers – Operations Manager
Pollyanna Yokokawa – Marketing Manager

Guests

Rong Ren - Ravenna BECU
D'Vante Roll - University Presbyterian Church
Rachel Fyall - UW Evans School
Kathleen Esnaurrizar - UW Student

Michaelann Jundt - UW Undergraduate Academic Affairs
Royce Morrison – University Congregational United Church of Christ

** 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. opened both the UDP and UDBIA Board meetings.

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 February 2026 meeting minutes, asked for any questions or amendments. Aaron H. requested a motion to approve "The UDP Board minutes from the February 2026 UDP Board Meeting."

Motion: Jeremy E. moved to accept the February 2026 UDP Board meeting minutes.

Second: Julie B. seconded the motion.

Abstentions: John H. abstained

Approval: The motion was approved.

Approval of Ratepayer Board Meeting Minutes

Jennifer A. introduced the December 2025 meeting minutes, asked for any questions or amendments. Jennifer A. requested a motion to approve "The UDBIA Ratepayer Advisory Board approves the minutes from both the September 2025 and the December 2025 UDP-UDBIA Board Meetings."

Motion: Jeanette H. moved to accept the September & December 2025 UDP Ratepayer minutes.

Second: Chris R. seconded the motion

Abstentions: no abstentions

Approval: The motion was approved unanimously.

UDP Finance Committee Update and Approval of the Financials

Trevor P. started with an overview of the UDP spending and that it is largely on track for 2026. A few of the variances include unanticipated grant & donation income, along with underspend on staffing and contracted services. Other variances include an overspend on staff development, and other program expenses.

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 February 2026 financials as presented at the March 17, 2026 Board Meeting.

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

Approval: The motion was approved unanimously.

Acceptance of UDP February Financials

Motion: On behalf of the Finance Committee, Joe G. requested a motion to approve "The UDBIA Board accepts the February 2026 UDP financials as presented at the March 17, 2026 Joint UDP/BIA Board meeting."

Second: No second

Abstentions: no abstentions

Approval: The motion was approved.

UDBIA Ratepayer Advisory Board Nominations

Jennifer A. re-introduced D'Vante Rolle, Director of Outreach with the University Presbyterian Church. Jennifer A. also introduced Rachell Fyal: Associate Professor with the Daniel J Evans School of Public Policy and Governance with UW, Kathleen Esnaurrizar: Student with College of Engineering UW, and Michaelann Jundt: Senior Associate Dean with Undergraduate Academic Affairs with UW. Jennifer A. requested a motion to "Approve all 4 nominations to the UDBIA Ratepayer Advisory Board.

Motion: Lincoln J. moved to approve all nominees to "The UDBIA Ratepayer Advisory Board".

Second: Nikole O. seconded the motion

Abstentions: no abstentions

Approval: The motion was approved

Executive Director Report

Don B. started with an update on the UDP 5 Year Strategic Plan that was introduced in 2024 and will go through 2029. Largely, UDP is on track with the workplan, as many items were front loaded and already complete. There are a few items that have been paused due to timing, as well as multiple tasks in process and on-track. A full copy of the strategic plan progress report was made available in the UDP March Board packet.

Economic Development Report

Hannah K. started with a look into the Economic Development Report that was completed in early 2026. This report offers a comprehensive overview of the U District, and highlights key metrics on foot traffic in the neighborhood, as well as real estate development, residential growth & demographics, and the economic impact of the University of Washington, along with transit ridership, and more.

Next Hannah K. offered information regarding City of Seattle Tenant Improvement Grants. The Office of Economic Development (OED) has launched a new program to support small businesses by helping reduce financial barriers for improvements, including signage, and equipment. Applications are due by Monday, April 13, 2026.

Lastly, Hannah K. gave an update to business opening and closings, as well as upcoming openings, and temporary closures.

Public Safety Advocacy

Marcus J. shared an update on the open air drug market activity and how it impacts businesses, residents, and public spaces. Marcus J. discussed how UDP is responding to this area which includes Public Safety Committee meetings, SPD and public safety coordination, ambassador monitoring and reporting, as well as hiring a neighborhood outreach coordinator, and sending out a perception survey. Advocacy for this includes elevation concerns with city leadership, sustained enforcement & coordination, public right of way improvements, and city leadership walks of the neighborhood.

Note: A full Clean and Safe Program Report is included in the UDP Board meeting packet, which talks about other areas of the Clean & Safe Program.

Urban Vitality

Janet L. began with an overview of the concerns regarding scooters and intersection daylighting. UDP staff are coordinating with LIME, SDOT, and others to help with thoughtful implementation of the upcoming scooter corrals. Coordination includes flexible designs, multi-purpose uses, and easy loading/pick up of scooters. SDOT will be sharing a map of the new corral locations soon.

Janet L. noted that the community engagement on strategic initiatives will be ramping up and will include LID I-5 RFP process, subarea plan, and other SDOT projects.

Lastly, Janet L. offered other public realm updates that included a “Call for Artists” which had over 45 entries and closed on March 15, 2026 and finalizing the renewing space management contracts.

U District Events

Lauren C. started with information regarding the “First Annual Night Blossom” event on the UW Quad. This event is happening on Saturday, March 21st. Lauren also gave a call out to volunteers to help protect the trees during the event.

Next, Lauren C. offered more information regarding the 2026 Cherry Blossom Season and the 5th Annual U District Cherry Blossom Festival. Secret Seattle, Seattle Met, and The UW Daily all wrote about the event.

Lastly, 2026 U District Street Fair has kicked off and is nearly sold out. Lauren C. offered some in-depth look at the number of vendors, local business participation, and the Neptune Main Stage, which will be featured at 41st and University Way.

Upcoming UDP Meetings

Aaron H. gave a reminder of upcoming BOD and UDBIA Ratepayer board meetings.

New UDP Board Business

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

New UDBIA Board Business

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

UDP Board Adjournment

Aaron H. adjourned the UDP Board meeting.

UDBIA Adjournment

Jennifer A. adjourned the UDBIA Board meeting.



Finance Committee Report & Budget Narrative

Prepared on 4/9/26

This financial narrative provides a summary of The U District Partnership's financial statements as of March 31, 2026.

Budget Report

This month represents the ¾ mark for the year and spending for UDP is largely on track with the 2026 budget, with some persistent variances. On the income side, we see unanticipated grant and donation income which is offset on the expense side by an uptick in other program expenses. These variances are explained below in greater detail. The numbers along the left side of the page correspond with the numbers on the budget report:

Income:

43400 – Donations & Partnerships: Unexpected donations are driving this increase in income. A generous donation from Tom McQuaid came in \$10,000 more than expected. Also the Lincoln Properties supported the station park series for \$10,000 that wasn't in the 2026 budget.

444300 – BIA Contract: Three projects are contributing to the variance in BIA income. The new self-watering flower baskets, the light rentals for the first annual night blossom walk, and the office renovation, which is a timing issue, and for which UW is going to substantially reimburse the organization.

44531 – Grants - Other: The other unexpected grant was from the U District Rotary, who generously awarded UDP funds to support the self-watering flower baskets.

44534 – Grants - OED: UDP received several unexpected grants this year, one of which was a window-washing grant, which shows as a variance on this line.

44539 – Grants - SDOT: This variance is related to a new grant for public art related to the U District's mobility hub at NE 43rd and University Way NE.

46400 – Interest & Other: This variance is attributable to a partial income related to unclaimed property in the form of uncashed checks.

47000 – Program Fees: This is the line where UDP tracks income from events, such as the Street Fair vendor booth fees. The variance here represents a timing issue and should flatten out by June.

47215 – Sponsorship Income: Sponsorship for Chow Down came in about \$25,000 higher than anticipated, which is causing the majority of this variance. Cherry Blossom Festival sponsorship was also up by a few thousand dollars as well. Street Fair sponsorship is still under negotiation and should land by the end of April.

Expense:

60000 – Staffing Expenses: *The underspend in staff costs are related to an unfilled Events Specialist position, but will likely be offset by our underbudgeting for medical expenses, which may land us with a total variance of \$5,000-\$10,000 by the end of the year. The reorganization of the team and event-related work will not impact this year’s budget.*

62700 – Technology and Software: *UDP decided to extend the CoStar subscription which had originally been paid for by the City of Seattle. That grant ended in February and the subscription was renewed at that time for twelve months*

63300 – Staff Development: *This expense is related to UDP’s travel to the International Downtown Association and staff training. With rising costs of hotels and travel, there is an overspend that will persist, which can be better planned for next year.*

70320 – Contracted Services: *This is a timing issue related to the U District Street Fair, and should even out by June.*

70340 – Equipment Rental: *UDP invested in a new in-person component for the Cherry Blossom Festival promotion, which involved uplighting the Yoshino cherry trees for a night blossom walk. This increase in spending will largely be covered by increased event sponsorship for the year.*

70360 – Other Program Expenses: *UDP has purchased new water baskets that are self-watering. This wasn’t in the budget, but was in-part, generously supported by the U District Rotary. The baskets will generate cost savings in staff for years ahead. UDP also received a grant from the Seattle Office of Economic Development to support window cleaning. This was \$30,000 in unanticipated spending that is offset by income that will appear on the grant income line above.*

70370 – Printing & Reproduction: *This variance represents an incremental increase in printing across several programs and events. Also, the economic report was budgeted across a couple of categories but landed in printing and reproduction. There is a budget to cover the costs, but it will show as a variance here.*

Balance Sheet Report

The balance sheet is looking strong and shows less distortion as we get farther out from the Department of Commerce. We have less cash on hand this year, but have an uptick in receivables. The lease liabilities and rights continue to show a variance because of our lease extension 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 March, 2026. Billing goes out in June and December, so those numbers are updated twice annually.

Assessment years 2019-2024 are on track with assessment year 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	\$ 1,203,292.87	98.97%
2021	\$ 1,271,712.04	\$ 1,251,991.87	98.45%
2022	\$ 1,325,847.14	\$ 1,302,360.75	98.23%
2023	\$ 1,596,501.52	\$ 1,565,189.52	98.04%
2024	\$ 1,760,687.52	\$ 1,712,382.68	97.26%
2025	\$ 1,826,882.56	\$ 1,654,016.46	90.54%

Budget Report

The U District Partnership

July 1, 2025-March 31, 2026

	July 2025 - March 2026			Annual
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance	Budget
Income				
43400 Donations/Partnerships	164,482.00	140,000.01	24,481.99	150,000.00
44430 BIA Contract	1,669,686.01	1,639,840.94	29,845.07	2,165,377.94
44530 Grants				
44531 Grants-Other	5,000.00	0	5,000.00	0.00
44534 OED	33,399.30	0	33,399.30	0.00
44536 SPU	20,250.00	20,250.00	0.00	27,000.00
44537 DON	12,500.00	12,500.00	0.00	12,500.00
44539 SDOT	6,927.50	0	6,927.50	0.00
Total for 44530 Grants	\$78,076.80	\$32,750.00	\$45,326.80	\$39,500.00
46400 Interest and Other	\$6,917.98	0.00	\$6,917.98	0.00
47000 Program Fees	\$175,258.75	\$163,000.00	\$12,258.75	238,000.00
47213 Retail Sales	1,226.31	2,250.01	-1,023.70	2,500.00
47215 Sponsorships	76,166.81	68,249.99	7,916.82	78,500.00
Total for Income	\$2,171,814.66	\$2,046,090.95	\$125,723.71	\$2,673,877.94
Expenses				
60000 Staffing Expenses				
60020 Payroll Taxes	78,517.34	75,545.08	2,972.26	102,975.75
60030 Medical Benefits	80,560.01	69,726.08	10,833.93	92,968.19
60040 Retirement Benefits	18,609.31	24,315.43	-5,706.12	32,420.59
60050 Transit Benefit	4,116.31	2,250.00	1,866.31	3,000.00
60100 Wages & Salaries	875,375.92	895,884.78	-20,508.86	1,220,513.03
Total for 60000 Staffing Expenses	\$1,057,178.89	\$1,067,721.37	\$(10,542.48)	\$1,451,877.56
61000 Professional Expenses				
61100 Accounting Fees	27,125.42	27,500.00	-374.58	32,000.00
61110 HR Consulting	1,110.08	1,499.99	-389.91	2,000.00
61120 Legal Fees	2,772.00	1,499.99	1,272.01	2,000.00
Total for 61000 Professional Expenses	\$31,007.50	\$30,499.98	\$507.52	\$36,000.00
62000 Office and Overhead Expenses				
62100 Rent and Monthly Parking	61,555.44	59,155.45	2,399.99	87,787.97
62150 Renovations & Repairs	29,403.47	28,500.02	903.45	38,000.00
62200 Insurance	9,828.47	9,800.00	28.47	9,800.00
62300 Office Equipment	5,444.47	7,500.01	-2,055.54	10,000.00
62400 Office Supplies	5,075.22	3,749.99	1,325.23	5,000.00
62500 Local Travel and Meetings	5,938.36	4,124.98	1,813.38	5,600.00
62600 Telephone	3,622.89	1,364.99	2,257.90	1,820.00
62700 Technology and Software	23,801.59	18,637.51	5,164.08	24,850.00
62800 Dues & Subscriptions	2,561.60	1,274.99	1,286.61	1,700.00
62900 Postage & Mailing	342.37	300.01	42.36	400.03

63100 Licenses and Permits	2,499.02	3,590.00	-1,090.98	21,620.00
63300 Staff Development	21,830.78	13,200.00	8,630.78	13,200.00
63600 Banking and Service Fees	1,012.48	974.99	37.49	17,100.00
63120 Merchandise	0	1,499.99	-1,499.99	2,000.00
Expenses	\$172,916.16	\$153,672.93	\$19,243.23	\$238,878.00
70000 Direct Program Expenses				
70300 Advertising	7,478.18	5,625.00	1,853.18	13,000.00
70310 Committee & Board Meetings	6,499.17	6,375.01	124.16	8,500.00
70320 Contracted Services	431,717.61	423,325.02	8,392.59	624,450.00
70335 Program Supplies	21,060.08	24,099.99	-3,039.91	44,550.00
70340 Equipment Rental	36,012.77	21,000.00	15,012.77	76,000.00
70350 Event Entertainment	6,890.00	9,000.00	-2,110.00	26,600.00
70360 Other Program Expenses	99,771.74	74,625.02	25,146.72	93,500.00
70370 Printing and Reproduction	33,795.16	17,175.01	16,620.15	33,551.00
Total for 70000 Direct Program Expenses	\$643,224.71	\$581,225.05	\$61,999.66	\$920,151.00
Total for Expenses	\$1,904,327.26	\$1,833,119.33	\$71,207.93	\$2,646,906.56
Net Operating Income	\$267,487.40	\$212,971.62	\$54,515.78	\$26,971.38
Other Income				
Other Expenses				
Lease Amortization Expense	25,714.05	25,714.05	0.00	26,971.38
Total for Other Expenses	\$25,714.05	\$25,714.05	\$0.00	\$26,971.38
Net Other Income	\$(25,714.05)	\$(25,714.05)	\$0.00	-\$26,971.38
Net Income	\$241,773.35	\$187,257.57	\$54,515.78	\$0.00

Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
The U District Partnership
As of Mar 31, 2026

	Total		
	As of Mar 31, 2026	As of Mar 31, 2025 (PY)	\$ Change (PY)
Assets			
Current Assets			
Bank Accounts			
10100 Operating Bank Accounts	0.00	0.00	0.00
10110 WSECU Checking	284,575.53	354,416.33	-69,840.80
10111 WSECU Savings	161,016.72	160,555.11	461.61
Total for 10100 Operating Bank Accounts	\$445,592.25	\$514,971.44	-\$69,379.19
Total for Bank Accounts	\$445,592.25	\$514,971.44	-\$69,379.19
Accounts Receivable	\$173,009.56	\$8,829.00	\$164,180.56
Other Current Assets			
12000 Undeposited Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
12021 Employee Advances	-89.48	234.22	-323.70
12022 Prepaid Expense	\$952.35	\$1,000.10	-\$47.75
12026 Lease Rights	362,544.16	33,119.29	329,424.87
Total for Other Current Assets	\$363,407.03	\$34,353.61	\$329,053.42
Total for Current Assets	\$982,008.84	\$558,154.05	\$423,854.79
Fixed Assets			
15000 Furniture and Equipment	\$27,334.29	\$16,449.57	\$10,884.72
Total for Fixed Assets	\$27,334.29	\$16,449.57	\$10,884.72
Other Assets			
17025 Security Deposits	8,235.87	8,235.87	0.00
Total for Other Assets	\$8,235.87	\$8,235.87	\$0.00
Total for Assets	\$1,017,579.00	\$582,839.49	\$434,739.51
Liabilities and Equity			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	\$25,570.85	-\$41,461.55	\$67,032.40
Credit Cards	\$2,355.90	\$1,339.19	\$1,016.71
Other Current Liabilities			
20200 Accrued Accounts Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00
20210 Deferred Revenue	0.00	51,100.80	-51,100.80
20220 Lease Liability	406,026.67	33,880.56	372,146.11
20300 Accrued Salaries & Wages	0.00	0.00	0.00
24000 Payroll Liabilities	\$53,416.33	\$62,658.49	-\$9,242.16
BIA Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total for Other Current Liabilities	\$459,443.00	\$147,639.85	\$311,803.15
Total for Current Liabilities	\$487,369.75	\$107,517.49	\$379,852.26
Long-term Liabilities			
Total for Liabilities	\$487,369.75	\$107,517.49	\$379,852.26
Equity			
32000 Unrestricted Net Assets	288,435.90	267,474.67	20,961.23
Net Income	241,773.35	207,847.33	33,926.02
30000 Opening Balance Equity	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total for Equity	\$530,209.25	\$475,322.00	\$54,887.25
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$1,017,579.00	\$582,839.49	\$434,739.51

Program Reports

UDP Board of Directors

April 21, 2026

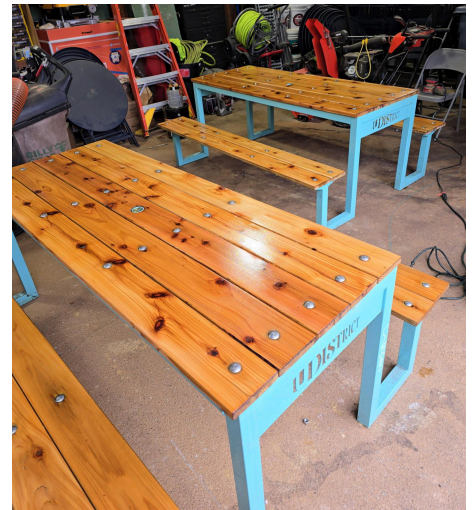
CLEAN, SAFE & OUTREACH

Pressure Washing

The U District Clean Team completed pressure washing along University Way from NE 50th Street to NE 41st Street in preparation for the spring and upcoming Street Fair. This effort is intended to improve overall cleanliness along University Way removing months of grime and gum. The team recently upgraded to a commercial-grade surface cleaner, significantly improving both efficiency and cleaning quality. As a result, the team is able to complete work more quickly while achieving a more consistent finish. With the Ave complete, the Clean Team will now begin expanding this work to side streets in the South Clean Area.

Table Refurbishment

The Clean Team also completed refurbishment of all 20 public tables along NE 43rd Street as part of an ongoing effort to maintain this major investment in the public realm. This work involved rotating tables through the operations center for sanding and restaining to restore their appearance and durability. In cases where boards were damaged or cracked, they were replaced to ensure safety and longevity. The refreshed tables contribute to a more welcoming and usable streetscape for residents, students, and visitors. This effort will now be implemented as an annual maintenance program to preserve these assets over time.



Better Together Event

The U District Partnership will support the Better Together Event for the third consecutive year in partnership with the UW Alumni Association. This annual event brings together volunteers to support neighborhood beautification and community building efforts. UDP plays a key coordination role by organizing litter routes and providing window washing support for participating businesses. These efforts help improve the overall appearance of the district while fostering positive engagement between volunteers and the local business community. The event continues to be a strong example of collaborative stewardship in the U District.



Homeless Outreach

The U District Partnership is partnering with REACH to onboard a dedicated outreach worker, who is expected to begin this month. This position will support and advance the Seattle Neighborhood Impact Framework (SNIF) by providing focused, place-based outreach in the U District. Initial efforts will include a deep dive into the local drug market, with the goal of identifying individuals experiencing homelessness who may benefit

DATE OF COUNT	NO. OF PEOPLE
04/09/2026	46
03/11/2026	41
02/11/2026	34
01/14/2026	46
12/10/2025	32
10/15/2025	37
09/04/2025	83
08/06/2025	48
07/24/2025	79
07/02/2025	62

from services, treatment, or behavioral health support. This role will help strengthen coordination between outreach providers, neighborhood stakeholders, and U District Ambassadors. This work is made possible through funding secured by District 4 Councilmember Maritza Rivera.

Monthly Homeless Census

UDP conducts a monthly homeless census to track changes in the unsheltered population and guide outreach and case conferencing efforts. The census uses the same method each month so trends can be monitored over time. A dedicated ambassador shift is assigned every month to document individuals in doorways, alleys, vehicles, encampments, and other known locations. Counts are recorded by location, number of people, structures present, and whether individuals

are known to ambassadors. The most recent census (shown in green below) identified 41 individuals living unsheltered in the U District. The highest count recorded was in 2021, at 150 people living outside.

**Counts over 50 are bolded.*

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Outdoor Dining Structure Removals

After identifying that several outdoor dining structures along the Ave were no longer in use, the U District Partnership team coordinated with local businesses to offer free removal of unused structures with the aim of improving visual perceptions and parking availability along University Way NE. Through the efforts of the UDP Director of Clean and Safe Operations and the UDP Operations Manager, structures at Call a Chicken, Snooze Cafe, Shawarma King, and the BoB have been removed. UDP is continuing to work with businesses that own the remaining structures to identify solutions that improve their appearance, ensure they are functional for business operations, and support proper ongoing maintenance.

U District Business Openings & Closures

Recent Closures:

- Luminati Labs
- Starbucks
- Maggi Point

Recent Openings:

- Sinners Pizza
- Xi'an Noodles (Reopening and relocating)

Upcoming Openings:

- Planet Fitness
- Lillie's Soulful Plate
- Tonight We Race
- Alley Coffee
- Carmelo's Tacos
- Restaurant in old Rainier Copy & Print space

Business Networking Social

On Thursday, April 9, the UDP Economic Development Committee hosted a networking social for U District businesses, creating a casual space to connect, build community, and explore opportunities for collaboration. Cheba Hut generously hosted the event, which welcomed representatives from 21 U District businesses—many of whom had previously engaged with UDP in a limited capacity or not at all.

Upcoming Economic Development Committee Meeting: FIFA World Cup Info Session

Per the request of attendees and business leaders, the upcoming Economic Development Committee meeting on April 28 from 2:00-3:30 PM at the UDP office will focus on the FIFA World Cup matches coming to Seattle this summer. The meeting will feature a presentation from the Senior Vice President of External Affairs for the Seattle FWC26 Local Organizing Committee, along with updates on planned activations in the U District, what to expect in terms of delays and resource constraints, and suggestions for businesses interested in engaging in the festivities. There will also be time for Q&A. People interested in attending should [RSVP here](#). Specific topics of interest should be shared with Hannah Kiburz, UDP's Economic Development Manager, in advance.

PLACEMAKING & URBAN VITALITY

Planning & Advocacy

Planning and advocacy efforts this month have focused on advancing near-term policy conversations while continuing to position the U District for longer-term investment. UDP staff have been working closely with SDOT and Lime to refine proposals for daylighted intersections and scooter corrals with the aim of improving pedestrian safety and consolidating scooter parking in the U District. As a north star, UDP staff has been working on a siting approach that prioritizes areas where curb space is already restricted as to have limited impact on parking availability in the district. U District Partnership staff also encouraged SDOT to reach out directly to stakeholders in the few instances where they are considering any kind of change to parking.

The U District Partnership also continues to play a convening role with elected officials and stakeholders. At Councilmember Alexis Rinck's request, staff organized a 90-minute neighborhood walk with board and community members to share small business perspectives on potential pedestrianization of the Ave. In other intergovernmental work, UDP staff organized a conversation between WSDOT, SDOT, and local community group Northeast Safe Streets (NESS) on Revive I-5 impacts. Staff have also been coordinating with federal partners to finalize the grant agreement for the Lid I-5 feasibility study, which has now been submitted for final approval. UDP remains active in the national RCI network, with staff currently participating in a peer exchange in Maryland focused on active transportation and integrated infrastructure planning.

Public Realm Updates

Public realm work is focused on preparing for the summer season while advancing a series of visible improvements. UDP staff finalized the Seamless Seattle signage contract, with U District-specific branding incorporated into all neighborhood signage. And, thanks to the success of last year's park activation pilot, UDP has renewed the agreement with Lincoln Property Company to manage the space in 2026. Beginning in May, tables, chairs, and umbrellas will be deployed Monday through Friday to support consistent daily use, with expanded programming planned throughout the season.

The Mobility Hub project is also continuing to make good progress, and installations are anticipated this summer. A panel of community members including UDP Board members Lois Ko and Stephen Antupit reviewed 46 artist proposals for the Mobility Hub program and selected four concepts to advance to transit

agency partners for technical review and approval. The group was excited about how each of these proposals could involve community members in both the creation and enjoyment of these chosen pieces.

Community Partnerships

Partnership and engagement efforts have focused on supporting the City's early outreach for the U District Subarea Plan while strengthening coordination with key stakeholders. UDP staff and the Urban Vitality committee have been actively reaching out to other neighborhood organizations, such as the UDCC and the UCUC to align on shared priorities and encourage broad community participation. Staff have also supported City outreach logistics, including identifying meeting space and language access needs for the first public Regional Center (subarea planning) workshop, which will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2026 from 6-8 PM at U Heights. More information about the workshop and the survey can be found at this [link](#).

In addition, UDP continues to partner with a number of University of Washington student groups to ensure that student perspectives inform planning and advocacy efforts. Collaboration with a UW geography class is generating neighborhood-specific mapping and analysis, while ongoing coordination through the UW Kelly Ethnic Cultural Center and the Community Engagement and Leadership Education Center has led to continued partnership with student affinity group leaders.

EVENTS

The 55th Annual U District Street Fair Returns with New Neptune Main Stage Next Month

The U District Street Fair returns for its 55th celebration on Saturday, **May 16 & Sunday, May 17**. Over 275 artist, craft, food, and community vendors are registered to participate in addition to 27 local business activations. This year's event will also showcase a new partnership with Seattle Theater Group for the Neptune Main Stage located at 41st and University Way NE, featuring an incredible lineup of popular bands and artists.

The Cherry Blossom Festival - Pretty in Pink!

The U District Partnership was proud to present the **U District Cherry Blossom Festival!** From sunny strolls through the UW Quad to sampling cherry-inspired treats, drinks, and specials, this year's festival was a beautiful

reminder of how much there is to enjoy about springtime in the U District. A special thank-you goes out to the **90 participating U District businesses** who brought creativity and community spirit to the festival, and to this year's festival sponsors who helped make it happen!

For those who missed [Night Blossoms on the UW Quad](#) event hosted by The U District Partnership, this recap video will show the quad in a whole new light!

Congratulations to the **Cherry Blossom Window Decoration Contest winners!** The participating businesses voted amongst themselves and chose 🏆 **Davis Optical** as the winning window display, with runners-up **Arepa Venezuelan Kitchen** and **Muddy Waters Coffee Company!** [Photos of all the beautiful window displays](#) are available [here](#), showing participants in this year's contest!

