



Only in Seattle

Peer Network Gathering Meeting Notes
August 14, 2014

Location: Kusina Filipina, Beacon Hill

IN ATTENDANCE

Castaneda, M. Angela, [Beacon Hill Merchants Association](#)
Chan, Ching, [Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority](#)
Frankl, Jenny, Southeast Seattle
Gloster, Denise, [Hillman City Business Association](#)
Grace, Ben, [Chinatown International District Business Improvement Area](#)
Hinrix, Robert, [Beacon Hill Merchants Association](#)
Hudgins, Mary Ellen, [First Hill Improvement Association](#)
Hudson, Alexandra, [First Hill Improvement Association](#)
Knapton, Kay, [Uptown Alliance](#)
Levine, Larry, [Madison Valley Merchants Association](#)
Shepherd, Emilie, [Georgetown Merchants Association](#)
Tam, Jennifer, [Rainier Valley Community Development Fund](#)
Valenta, Sarah, [HomeSight](#)
Williamson, Betty Jean, [Beacon Arts/Beacon Hill Merchants Association](#)

1. Welcome from Trixia, [Kusina Filipina](#)

2. Recap of July's Peer Network Gathering and discuss format for today's Peer Exchange
 - a. Co-create the agenda and discuss emerging topics

3. Order of discussion
 - a. Introductions: name, neighborhood and priorities/announcements
 - b. Transportation
 - c. Events
 - d. Organizing Business Districts: How to collaborate and communicate
 - e. Development pressure
 - f. Façade improvements
 - g. *Only in Seattle* RFP
 - h. OED's Business Retention and Expansion Program
 - i. Close

A. Introductions: Neighborhood, priorities and announcements

First Hill

- Strategic plan
- Transportation and walkability

SCIDpda

- Façade improvements

Southeast Seattle

- Listen and share best practices and ideas

Beacon Hill

- Organizational development and accounting systems
- Events and beautification
- Jubilee event on 9/13 from 12-2p

Rainier Valley

- Business technical assistance and legal clinics
- Business technical assistance workshop is tonight from 6-8pm

Othello

- Façade improvements

Hillman City

- Public safety and crosswalks

Madison Valley

- Bastille event was successful
- Funding for street improvement project, design work complete

Chinatown/International District BIA

- Retail strategy
- Public safety
- Marketing
 - Potential for collaboration on street car event with other business districts (First Hill?)

Georgetown

- Public safety
- Events
- Maintain buildings (unreinforced masonry)

Uptown, Queen Anne

- Urban Design Framework

- Relationship with Queen Anne Chamber and Seattle Center
- Development pressure

B. Transportation

- First Hill concerned about changes to King County Metro service
- A lot of business districts will see metro service cuts
- Can peers get together to talk about the changes? Is there an umbrella organization that can talk about the effects of the changes and advocate?
- [Yes for Seattle](#) and [WS Transportation Coalition](#) (Alex Hudson can send information for the steering committee)

C. Events

- There are so many events going on, how can we all be in the know and how can we let our community know
- Can OED create a Google calendar? It should include all community events and workshops
- What resources already exist?
 - OED's Daily Digest. To submit an article or event, email oed@seattle.gov with the subject OEDDD and a link
 - [Public Outreach and Engagement Calendar](#)
 - [Special Events Calendar](#)
 - Various social media outlets. Please "like" or "follow" your peers.
 - Mike Shea from Department of Transportation sends weekly emails with traffic impacts
- Purpose is to increase access and make it easy to know about other events
- Upcoming events to note
 - 8/24 Soapbox Derby in Pioneer Square
 - 8/24 Celebrate Little Saigon
 - 9/4 NFL Kickoff event in the North Lot

D. Organizing Business Districts: How to collaborate and communicate

- Is there a way for peers to communicate to each other as a group? No
- Can we setup a Facebook group to have 2-way discussion with each other about topics that are important to all of us i.e. transportation, events, public safety, etc.
 - There is an existing Facebook Group called, [Social Managers of Seattle Neighborhoods and Attractions](#) that peers can be added to. OED will send out a signup form. You must provide your Facebook account information. Ben Grace, Chinatown International District BIA, is one of the founders that started this group a few years ago.

E. Development Pressure

- Georgetown is facing pressure in two ways
 - Unreinforced masonry pressure is a threat to existing businesses owners and properties
 - High demand for retail space and low supply will lead to lease price increases
- Other neighborhoods that are dealing with the unreinforced masonry pressure
 - Hillman City
 - Beacon Hill
 - Chinatown/International District

- SCIDpda is in the process of doing a study on buildings in Chinatown/International District and assessing the costs. This is the first step in their approach to understanding the magnitude of the issue.

F. Façade improvements

- What is the City's responsibility to manage buildings that property owners neglect? Is it up to the business owner?
- 4Culture is a resource for façade funding.
- The 2015 *Only in Seattle* application will include façade improvement funding.
 - As a business district, it is frustrating to choose to spend time on the façade application and not get funding. What does a successful application look like? Can we have an example? Yes, OED will work on this.
 - Using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for façade updates are difficult because of the requirements that they impose.

G. *Only in Seattle* RFP

- Approximate dates:
 - Application available on September 29
 - Information session first and second week of October
 - Application due October 31
- There should be information sessions and deeper dives to explain certain sections of the application. Is it possible to dedicate a peer network style event just to discuss successful applications for certain parts of the application?
- There is about \$1.5 million available for *Only in Seattle*. There are about 20 neighborhoods that are funded. \$500,000 comes from SDOT, which is only available to neighborhoods that have paid on street parking.
- OED is exploring a web-based application process.

H. OED's Business Retention and Expansion Program

- Lance Randall, OED is meeting with various neighborhood business district organizations and chambers to offer a package of services to help individual businesses in your commercial district. Send an email to mikel.davila@seattle.gov if you are interested and have not been contacted by Lance.
- There will be a training for business district leads once the program is rolled out to understand how to access these services to support businesses in your commercial district.
- Lance will be asked to attend the next peer next to give a short description of the program.

I. Closing

- The next peer network is **Thursday, September 11 from 12-2PM** and the topic is cultural placemaking and using arts for commercial district revitalization. The location is to be determined. [Register today!](#)