



SOUTHEAST SEATTLE ACTION AGENDA



MARCH 2005

**FINAL
COMMUNITY
REPORT**
(Includes City Responses)



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Southeast Seattle Action Agenda

Overview

During the summer and fall of 2004, Mayor Greg Nickels convened a group of community and business leaders, community-based organizations, financial institutions, and public and private sector organizations to discuss potential strategies for the revitalization of Southeast Seattle/Rainier Valley. "The Southeast Seattle Action Agenda" (Action Agenda) is a direct result of those community-led, city staffed meetings. This Action Agenda takes advantage of the tremendous amount of work that the Rainier Valley community has invested in the various neighborhood, link light rail station area, and action plans that were prepared over the past 10-year period.

The Southeast Seattle Action Agenda recognizes and leverages:

- Efforts and recommendations contained in important City planning documents, such as the Transportation Plan, Neighborhood Plans, City's Comprehensive Plan, and individual Link Light Rail Station Area Plans. These documents were the framework for this effort;
- Shared community goals in support of community diversity and economic opportunity;
- Major public investments that are occurring in transportation, housing and parks within the area;
- Creation of a \$50 million community-based development fund to invest in business and real estate development designed to preserve and strengthen cultural diversity, long-term livability, and economic opportunity in the Rainier Valley
- Increased interest by the private sector as a result of current public sector and community-based investment in the area; and
- Potential allocation of future governmental resources to encourage private enterprise and investment in the area.

The representatives from the various organizations in Southeast Seattle divided its work into five issue areas. A sub-group was formed for each issue area and chaired a community member:

- Business and Job Creation
- Physical Development
- Education and Workforce Development
- Public Safety
- Arts, Culture and Public Space

Context for the Community Report

The Southeast Seattle Action Agenda “Community Report” is the result of a community-based assessment of Southeast Seattle that takes into account the stated vision and goals in the five specific issue areas. This community-based assessment led to the development of specific strategies and recommendations. The subgroups then took the unique step of identifying the party and/or parties they felt should or could be responsible for carrying out the identified recommendations on a short-term (12 to 24 month), medium-term (24 to 48 month) or long-term (more than 60 months) basis.

In some cases, members of the partnership requested that the City of Seattle take the lead or work with others to address a specific strategy. In other cases, the appropriate responsible party was not the City of Seattle, but either a community group or a private sector organization. In this draft, the City of Seattle has provided initial responses to community requests at the conclusion of each goal area. Additional responses from the City of Seattle, community organizations and the private sector will be developed as the Action Agenda is refined throughout the community process.

Southeast-Seattle Action Agenda: Vision/Goals

Community Vision

Southeast Seattle is a vibrant community where: racial, cultural and economic diversity is embraced and preserved; immigrants are welcomed; all residents have access to economic and educational opportunities, housing, and cultural and recreational amenities; and the economic benefits generated by public and private investments are shared with current residents, businesses and community institutions.

Community Goals

- 1 Business and Job Creation:** Support existing businesses throughout the Rainier Valley and encourage investment in new business to: (1) preserve the multi-ethnic mix of local entrepreneurs; (2) provide opportunities for them to benefit from the increased economic activity that will result from the substantial public and private investment planned for the area; and (3) diversify and increase the availability of retail goods, services and jobs within the Rainier Valley.
- 2 Physical Development:** Promote opportunities for housing, commercial, mixed-use and transit-oriented developments that benefits the people who live and work in the Rainier Valley, while at the same time preserve the unique characteristics of existing neighborhoods and their racial, cultural and economic diversity.
- 3 Education and Workforce Development:** Develop a “world class” Pre-K through 20 public and private educational, workforce education and training, and human service delivery systems that meets the needs of the business community and the area’s youth and adult workforce.
- 4 Public Safety:** Improve real and perceived levels of public safety and the quality of the built environment throughout the Rainier Valley.
- 5 Arts, Culture and Public Space:** Increase arts and cultural opportunities and programs that reflect the Rainier Valley’s diverse population and enhance the aesthetic value of public space by integrating arts into all community development strategies, and by promoting collaboration between neighborhood groups (i.e. schools, community centers, neighborhood organizations, and libraries) and local arts organizations.

Section 1. Business and Job Creation

Goal

Support existing businesses throughout the Rainier Valley and encourage investment in new business to: (1) preserve the multi-ethnic mix of local entrepreneurs; (2) provide opportunities for them to benefit from the increased economic activity that will result from the substantial public and private investment planned for the area; and (3) diversify and increase the availability of retail goods, services and jobs within the Rainier Valley.

Strategies

- 1.1 Increase awareness and usage of available business technical assistance and financing, with a particular emphasis on serving the multi-ethnic communities of the Rainier-Valley in a culturally appropriate and effective manner.

Short-Term Recommendations

- a. Inventory existing capacity to serve limited English speakers, research best practices, and convene discussions of practitioners to make changes. (City of Seattle/OED should take lead in an inventory, conduct research and convene funders and practitioners for this effort - 6 months)
- b. Identify resources and implement changes to improve service delivery and awareness of resources to business owners of all racial and ethnic backgrounds. (see above comment)

- 1.2 Support the expansion of existing Rainier-Valley businesses, or the establishment of other entrepreneurs who have a demonstrated record of serving multi-ethnic communities, through the development of a new equity investment tool that maximizes the reward of such an expansion to the business and the community.

Short-Term Recommendations

- a. Identify whether an equity investment product makes sense for the Rainier Valley Community Development Fund (RVCDF) to offer. (RVCDF should work with the City of Seattle/OED and Community Capital Development to determine whether to include this type of loan product in the CDF operating plan - 6 months)
- b. Determine whether the Rainier Valley Community Development Fund (RVCDF) should partner with Community Capital Development if an equity investment product is included in its operating plan. (see above comment)

- 1.3 Identify and fund a limited number of small to medium scale development projects that allow local business to become owners of their place of business.

Short-Term Recommendations

- a. Determine whether the Rainier Valley Community Development Fund (RVCDF) will include such developments as a priority in its operating plan. (RVCDF should explore the option, in consultation with City of Seattle/OED and other nonprofit organizations, of including this activity in its operating plan - 6 months)

- b. Identify at least one potential project, including partners and location, to achieve this objective. (See above comment)
- 1.4 Create a more aggressive façade improvement program that targets existing business nodes with the Rainier Valley, with particular emphasis on the Rainier Avenue corridor. *(Linkage with Public Safety strategy 4.3 and Physical Development strategy 2.5)*

Short-Term Recommendations

- a. Amend City of Seattle’s façade improvement program to raise available amounts, lower match requirements, fund architectural services, and include public safety improvements. (City of Seattle should amend its contract with Southeast Effective Development “SEED” to allow public safety improvements, raise investment levels, lower match requirements, and include architectural services - 3 months)
 - b. Determine whether the Rainier Valley Community Development Fund (RVCDF) will supplement existing Southeast Effective Development (SEED) façade improvement program with its own funds. (The RVCDF should determine whether to include a façade improvement program in its operating plan - 6 months)
- 1.5 Develop wireless and high speed internet access in the Rainier Valley to spur business growth and development.

Short-Term Recommendations

- a. Identify at least one potential pilot site for installation of ‘WiFi’ in a neighborhood business node. (City of Seattle/DoIT should work with the Rainier Chamber of Commerce to identify potential sites - 6 months)
 - b. Examine potential efficiencies for cooperative purchase of technology for neighborhood business districts. (see above comment)
- 1.6 Initiate a concerted marketing and public outreach effort highlighting the opportunities and successes in the Rainier Valley. *(Linkage with Physical Development strategy 2.6)*

Short-Term Recommendations

- a. Determine scope and budget for marketing campaign aimed collaborating with other marketing efforts that highlight the strengths and advantages of Rainier Valley and promote local businesses. (Rainier Valley Chamber of Commerce should coordinate development of marketing strategy - 12 months)
- b. Secure funding to implement the Rainier Valley marketing strategy. (City of Seattle/OED should work with the Rainier Chamber of Commerce, Seattle Housing Authority, Sound Transit, Rainier Valley businesses and developers - 12 months)

City Responses to Business and Job Creation Strategies and Recommendations

1. *Increase support to immigrant businesses - City is working to increase access to financial and technical assistance for immigrant-owned businesses. (Office of Economic Development)*
2. *Increase assistance to 'Green' ethnic businesses - City will increase technical and financial assistance to business owners and operators with limited English for energy and water efficiency, recycling and waste prevention, hazardous materials reductions and storm water pollution prevention. Outreach in 2005 will focus on restaurants and bakeries with a major emphasis in Southeast Seattle. (Seattle Public Utilities, Seattle City Light, and Office of Sustainability and Environment)*
3. *Increase amounts available for façade improvements - City has increased the maximum amount to \$25,000 that is available through the City's Façade Improvement program to Southeast Seattle businesses and property owners. (Office of Economic Development)*
4. *Use wireless and high speed internet access to spur business growth and development - City has identified the Columbia City business node along Rainier Avenue (S. Alaska to S. Dawson) as the initial Wi-Fi access area. City has completed engineering design work and will work with the Rainier Chamber of Commerce on developing an implementation plan. (Department of Information Technology)*
5. *Assist in community marketing campaign - City has provided \$20,000 for a marketing campaign to promote the Rainier Valley and its businesses. (Office of Economic Development)*

Section 2. Physical Development

Goal

Promote opportunities for housing, commercial, mixed-use and transit-oriented developments that benefits the people who live and work in the Rainier-Valley, while at the same time preserve the unique characteristics of existing neighborhoods and their racial, cultural and economic diversity.

Development Focus Areas:

- Neighborhood Business Districts: New mixed-use transit-oriented development and improvements to existing properties in neighborhood business districts along Rainier Avenue.
- Link Light Rail Station Areas: Transit-oriented developments near light rail stations, including commercial space and a range of housing types and costs.
- Ownership and rental housing near commercial areas and transit routes.
- Affordable housing and commercial space - created as a component of development projects - that provides opportunities for existing residents and businesses affected by higher rents and development.
- Affordable and well-maintained single-family neighborhoods that allow lower-income residents to continue to own homes in the community.

Strategies

- 2.1 Develop additional financial tools to assist market rate and affordable rental and homeownership housing and commercial development.

Short-Term Recommendations

- a. Submit an application for federal New Markets Tax Credits with substantial amount targeted to projects in the Rainier Valley. (City of Seattle/OED should submit an application - 3 months)
- b. Provide pre-development financing for commercial and housing developments. (Rainier Valley Community Development Fund should explore this option as part of its operating plan development - 6 months)
- c. Increase availability of equity and/or low-cost debt financing for housing and commercial developments, including low-cost 'patient' financing for land acquisition. (Rainier Valley Community Development Fund should explore as part of its operating plan development - 6 months)
- d. Explore the use of credit enhancement techniques, such as loan guarantees and credit insurance to attract private capital for development projects in the Rainier Valley. (City of Seattle/OED and OH should conduct research and work with RVCDF, other funders and practitioners - 12 to 24 months)

Medium-Term Recommendations

- e. Assist in addressing infrastructure deficits and environmental clean-up at development sites, such as by providing grants to help cover infrastructure costs and/or creation of a Local Improvement District (LID) subsidy fund. (City of Seattle/OED should conduct research and work with funders and practitioners - 24 to 36 months)
 - f. Pursue state legislation that provides cities/counties with new financing tools for economic development, such as state-supported tax increment financing. (City of Seattle should work with other cities/counties and interested parties in an ongoing effort)
- 2.2 Develop incentives to encourage development in the transit station areas and neighborhood business districts in the Rainier Valley.

Short-Term Recommendations

- a. Adopt regulations that reduce parking requirements for developments located within a transit station overlay area, in a neighborhood business district, and in pedestrian-oriented areas. (City of Seattle/DPD should work on revisions to reduce parking requirements in neighborhood business districts - 12 months)
 - b. Develop system that allows faster, less expensive and more predictable permitting for developments including the use of administrative design review for quicker approval of projects. (City of Seattle/DPD should work with applicable departments to improve permitting process - 12 months)
 - c. Increase educational outreach to inform development community of the availability of the Southeast Seattle Reinvestment Area (SESRA) overlay for expedited permit approval. (City of Seattle/DPD should work in collaboration with development community - 12 months)
 - d. Explore incentives, such as increased height/density and reduced parking, to encourage affordable housing and public amenities in transit station areas and neighborhood business districts. (City of Seattle/OPM OH and OED should work with consultant will conduct best practices research and develop techniques - 12 months)
- 2.3 Explore the use of the state's Community Renewal Law to support a community-supported and focused investment strategy for the Rainier Valley. (The overall process is expected to take 8-10 months)

Short-Term Recommendations

- a. Initiate a community education process on the state's Community Renewal Law, highlighting the benefits to the revitalization efforts in the Rainier Valley. (City of Seattle/OPM and OED to work in collaboration with community groups and nonprofit organizations - month 0 to 2)
- b. Conduct area-wide assessment and develop community renewal plan in accordance with state law, incorporating input gained through community process. (City of Seattle/OPM and OED should work with overall community - month 2 to 8)
- c. Seek City Council approval of community renewal plan with two initial areas identified for community renewal activities on a demonstration basis, with possible future plan amendments to expand the number of redevelopment areas. (City of Seattle/Mayor and City Council - month 9 to 10)

- 2.4 Support additional homeownership opportunities through targeted development efforts and assistance to homebuyers and homeowners.

Short-Term Recommendations

- a. Encourage the development of townhomes, condominiums and cottage housing as viable homeownership options by working to address financing, regulatory and land assembly issues. (City of Seattle/OH and DPD should work with RVCDF, development industry, financial community such as HomeSight, and community residents to building on the recommendations of the City's homeownership summit held in Summer 2004 - 12 months, but ongoing effort)
- b. Support and encourage the development of alternative condominium insurance programs/techniques that result in the creation of more affordable ownership housing, for example by limiting liability through units while limiting a developer's exposure to liability claims by using 'best practices' in construction and risk management. (Nonprofit housing development community should work with insurance industry and others - 6 to 12 months)
- c. Assist existing low-income homeowners so that they can remain in their homes as property values raise as a result of development activity in the Rainier Valley. (City of Seattle/OH should work to increase marketing of housing repair and weatherization programs in the Rainier Valley - ongoing effort)
- d. Provide financial assistance to first-time homebuyers purchasing new and existing homes in the Rainier Valley. (City of Seattle/OH should work with real estate development, financial institutions and housing counseling organizations to market down payment assistance programs - ongoing effort)

Medium-Term Recommendations

- e. Actively support state legislative solutions to the high costs of condominium liability insurance that still provides consumers with necessary protections for damage claims. (City of Seattle/OH should work in collaboration with the development community and consumer/housing advocates - ongoing)
 - f. Conduct additional research on the feasibility of allowing 'detached' accessory dwelling units in single family neighborhoods as an affordable housing option. (City of Seattle/DPD should work with community groups and neighborhood residents to explore feasibility of this option - 3 to 4 years)
- 2.5 Provide financial and technical assistance that encourages and creates business opportunities for retention and growth of locally owned businesses in the Rainier Valley. (*Linkages with overall strategies and recommendations in Business and Job Creation*)

Short-Term Recommendations

- a. Create incentives that encourage business tenants to own their own buildings, either by individual ownership or part of a cooperative venture with other neighborhood business owners. (Rainier Valley Community Development Fund (RVCDF) should work with local business owners, private financial institutions, and nonprofit financial institutions such as Cascadia and Community Capital Development, with possible inclusion in the RVCDF operating plan as a financing tool - 6 months)

- b. Increase the availability of technical assistance to small, locally owned businesses to acquire necessary skills in day-to-day operation, marketing and long-term planning. (City of Seattle/OED should work with nonprofit organizations, University of Washington's Economic Development program and SCORE to develop technical assistance that meets the needs of a culturally and ethnically diverse population of small business owners - 12 to 24 months)
 - c. Amend existing façade improvement program so that it aggressively targets existing business nodes within Rainier Valley and raises the individual amounts available to business owners. (*Linkage with Business and Job Creation strategy 1.4*)
 - d. Explore development of program to provide low-cost, long-term financing to make improvements to existing commercial properties, beyond façade improvements, in neighborhood business districts. (Rainier Valley Community Development Fund (RVCDF) should explore this option as a possible amendment to its operating plan - 6 to 12 months)
- 2.6 Initiate a concerted marketing and public outreach effort that promotes the Rainier Valley as a great place to live and do business. (*Linkage with Business and Job Creation strategy 1.6*)

Short-Term Recommendation

- a. Designate a lead organization or organizations to implement a marketing plan that promotes Rainier Valley as a great place to live and do business. (Rainier Chamber of Commerce should work with business and neighborhood organizations, Seattle Housing Authority, for-profit and nonprofit development community to secure funding and develop strategy - 12 months)
- 2.7 Continue City of Seattle support of nonprofit development organizations and community-based financial institutions in their real estate development efforts.

Short-Term Recommendations

- a. Continued pursuit of federal and state funding opportunities that will assist nonprofit developers and community-based financial institutions. (City of Seattle/OED should submit an application for federal New Markets Tax Credits, support state legislative attempts for new community development financing tools, and exploring possible financing tools under the state's Community Renewal Law - 12 months)
 - b. Support state legislation that creates additional financing tools that can be used for community development.
- 2.8 Develop additional parking around transit station areas and in business district nodes to relieve possible conflicts in surrounding residential neighborhoods and remove a major barrier to marketing commercial properties.

Short-Term Recommendation

- a. Re-examine the City parking policy and the need for parking around transit station and business district nodes. (City of Seattle/DOT should review as part of overall transportation/parking needs in area - 24 months)

City Responses to Physical Development Strategies and Recommendations

1. *Develop additional business and real estate financial tools that meet the needs of Rainier Valley - City will create additional tools that assist in addressing real estate and business lending financing needs in the Rainier Valley. (Office of Economic Development)*
2. *Direct public transportation investment - City will work to direct investment by Sound Transit in the Light Rail System along Martin Luther King, Jr. Way corridor that advances community development goals of action agenda. (Seattle Department of Transportation, Office of Economic Development, & Office of Policy and Management)*
3. *Reduce parking requirements - The Mayor, as part of his proposed Neighborhood Business District Strategy, is proposing to eliminate the parking requirements within Station Area Overlay areas and Urban Centers. (Department of Planning & Development)*
4. *Educate public on expedited permit approval - City will develop outreach information on the expedited permit process to the Southeast Seattle Reinvestment Area (SESRA) overlay. (Department of Planning & Development)*
5. *Encourage targeted private enterprise / development - City will develop a community renewal plan that is part of an overall community-supported and focused investment strategy. (Office of Policy & Management, Office of Economic Development, and Office of Housing)*
6. *Encourage 'detached' accessory dwelling units - Mayor will prepare code amendments to allow detached accessory dwelling units in single family zones in Southeast Seattle. (Department of Planning & Development)*
7. *Increase affordable housing options - Mayor will prepare an ordinance to allow cottage housing developments in Southeast Seattle. (Department of Planning & Development)*
8. *Increase marketing of housing assistance - City will increase the marketing of its housing repair loans, weatherization grants and first-time homebuyer assistance programs in Southeast Seattle. (Office of Housing)*
9. *Secure new economic development tools - City has submitted an application for an allocation of federal New Markets Tax Credits (NMTC) that will encourage increased public and private sector investment in the Rainier Valley. (Office of Economic Development)*
10. *Assist nonprofit housing developers - City funded five rental housing projects containing 478 units in 2005. (Office of Housing)*

Rainier Court Phase 2 (The Dakota) - Provided \$414,095 to Southeast Effective Development in the development of 178 units of housing serving low-income families.

MLK Family Housing - Provided \$885,000 to Archdiocesan Housing Authority in the development of 26 units of family serving low-income families, including 10 units for homeless families.

Genesee Housing - Provided \$835,000 to Housing Resources Group in the development of 50 units of housing serving low-income households, including families and individuals with disabilities.

NewHolly Phase 3 - Provided \$2.1 million to Seattle Housing Authority in the development of 212 units of housing serving low-income families.

St. Paul Senior Homes - Provided \$200,000 to ElderHealth Northwest in the development of a group home containing 12 beds for people with Alzheimer's disease and or dementia.

- 11. Assist in the continued development of Rainier Court - City will provide continued support for SEED's Rainier Court development in the Genesee neighborhood, including funding for housing for first-time homebuyers. (Office of Housing and Office of Economic Development)*
- 12. Assist in landlord-tenant relations - Provided \$10,000, through the Race and Social Justice Fund, to develop a SE Seattle Tenant Outreach and Mobilization Drive where 20 community members are trained and 2 informational workshops are held to provide housing and tenant-related information to 100 SE Seattle tenants. (Department of Neighborhoods)*

Section 3. Education and Workforce Development

Goal

Develop a “world class” Pre-K through 20 public and private educational, workforce education and training, and human service delivery systems that meets the needs of the business community and the area’s youth and adult workforce.

Strategies

- 3.1 Identify and work with various educational providers to understand and develop a coordinated approach to address the educational needs of Pre-K to 12 students in the Rainier Valley.

Short-Term Recommendations

- a. Convene meetings with public schools, nonprofit educational organizations, advocates and providers, philanthropically-focused institutions, and community support groups to better understand their programs and develop a focused, coordinated approach to an educational strategy for the Rainier Valley.
- b. Identify available resources and determine how they align with strategies that are developed or being developed as a result of continued effort by various education-related groups in Southeast Seattle.
- c. Convene a group of Rainier Valley principals at the K through 12 levels to discuss techniques to build collaboration and linkages between schools -- seamless approach to education.

- 3.2 Target available resources to Pre-K through 12 efforts that have shown proven outcomes and that include support from other organizations.

Short-Term Recommendations

- a. Involve community-based education providers in early discussions regarding the use and targeting of Families and Education Levy Funds. (City of Seattle/Office of Education in collaboration with public schools, community-based education providers such as communities that care and powerful schools and philanthropically-focused institutions - 6 months)
- b. Create a fund for education planning efforts by community-based education groups.
- c. Continue support of existing community-based education organizations such as communities that care and powerful schools.

- 3.3 Develop campaign to encourage increased K through 12 funding in the Washington State Legislature.

Short-Term Recommendation

- a. Mayor should take a direct leadership role in advocating for increased funding for K through 12 to keep up with increases in the inflation.

- 3.4 Increase resident access to expanded or upgraded education and workforce training programs in sites located in Rainier Valley and provide education and training that is relevant to the community's needs.

Short-Term Recommendation

- a. Identify and secure additional sites for the provision of education and workforce training programs, including the use of public school facilities during evenings and weekends and work to include Seattle Vocational Institute as a provider of services.
- b. Create and fund a program to provide 'pre-apprenticeship' training opportunities for Rainier Valley residents. (City of Seattle/OED should establish program in coordination with Rainier Valley Community Development Fund - 3 months)
- c. Create and implement local education pathways that link high schools with feeder middle and elementary schools and the community.

Short-Term Recommendations

- a. Identify funding sources necessary to implement a supportive 'education pathway' for schools that feed into Rainier Beach High School as potential first site.
- 3.5 Develop image campaign that stresses the positive aspects of public schools and other educational efforts in the Rainier Valley. (*Linkage with Business and Job Creation strategy 1.6 and Physical Development strategy 2.6*)

Short-Term Recommendation

- a. Work community marketing efforts to include a component on the positive aspects of the area's schools. (Rainier Chamber of Commerce to coordinate its efforts with Seattle Public Schools, community-based education organizations, City of Seattle/Office of Education - 12 to 24 months)
- 3.6 Increase additional partnerships in technical skills training 'Tech/Prep' that is taught in the public schools through collaborations with community colleges, in particular with Seattle Vocational Institute through at satellite site in Rainier Valley.

Medium-Term Recommendation

- a. Secure agreements to expand physical capacity and programs that are provided to students in Rainier Valley.

City Responses to Education and Workforce Development Strategies and Recommendations

1. *Investing in Southeast Seattle's Children and Families - City will invest more than \$35 million in Southeast Seattle over seven years to meet the educational needs of students and help close the achievement gap. For the first time ever, Families and Education Levy investments will be targeted to Southeast Seattle in order to have the greatest impact on academic achievement. Specific Levy investments will include:*

Early Learning (nearly \$2 million per year invested in Southeast Seattle)

- *High-quality preschool for 400 low-income four-year-olds in Southeast Seattle to prepare them for kindergarten and improve their long-term school success.*
- *Teacher training for preschool and child care teachers.*
- *Home visits to families with toddlers in Southeast Seattle to build literacy skills.*
- *Increased compensation for preschool staff who work with low-income children.*

Family Support and Involvement (more than \$500,000 invested per year in Southeast Seattle)

- Social Workers in elementary and K-8 schools to support achievement among high-need students.
- Programs to help families in Southeast Seattle to be more involved in their children's education.

After-School Programs (more than \$1 million invested per year in Southeast Seattle)

- After-School programs to improve academic achievement at elementary and middle schools in Southeast Seattle.

High-Risk Youth (nearly \$300,000 invested per year in Southeast Seattle)

- Case managers will link youth in Southeast Seattle to culturally-appropriate services to ensure academic achievement.

2. **Support community driven educational projects** - City has funded various efforts to develop leadership, information or educational workshops for residents in Southeast Seattle (Department of Neighborhoods and Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs):

Successful Students of South Seattle - Provided \$14,000 to motivate parents and community members to donate time at Emerson Elementary School. The volunteers will help students, teachers with large class loads, and assist in supervision of activities on and around the school campus.

Scholastic Information Technology Education Scholarship - Provided \$14,300 to empower and equip youth in the practical use and application of technology in their scholastic efforts. Special effort will be made to reach African-American and other youth of color who may not have access to this new technology.

Liberation Poetry Project - Provided \$5,500 to design and implement an instructional curriculum which uses creative writing as a tool for examining and breaking down oppression.

Undoing Racism and Understanding Immigration - Provided \$7,500 to develop a project to organize an Undoing Racism training program and to host an immigration forum.

Mien Youth and Community Empowerment - Provided \$13,000 to train 10 Mien youth in leadership skills, public speaking, and general race and social justice issues. Youth will be responsible for organizing and implementing three race and social justice workshops for youth and adult community members and developing an analysis of surveys completed by workshop participants.

Refugee Voices Project - Provided \$12,309 to provide leadership, storytelling, and public speaking training to immigrant and refugee students enrolled in Cleveland High School's Global Academy. The project also includes a group summit and an evening community event.

3. **Invest in pre-apprenticeship training for Rainier Valley residents** - City has committed \$2 million for a 'pre-apprenticeship training program with Seattle Jobs Initiative through the Rainier Valley Community Development Fund. (Office of Economic Development)

Section 4. Public Safety

Goal

Improve real and perceived levels of public safety and the quality of the built environment throughout the Rainier Valley.

Strategies

- 4.1 Create a climate of safety in community by designing a physical environment that positively influences human behavior.

Short-Term Recommendation

- a. Incorporate 'Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design' (CPTED) improvements as part of the neighborhood design review process for applicable developments in Rainier Valley.

- 4.2 Link the issuance and renewal of business licenses to compliance with city and county code requirements.

Short-Term Recommendation

- a. Denial of business license renewal for 'chronic nuisance' businesses that repeatedly fail to comply with city and county codes or revoking licenses of businesses that are identified as 'chronic nuisances' through a public review process. (City of Seattle/DPD should target its efforts and work with businesses that are identified as 'chronic nuisances' - 12 months)

Medium-Term Recommendation

- b. Develop a link between DPD use violations and licensing requirements/revocation - requires change to existing code. (City of Seattle/Licensing should be lead for research on this along with support from DPD, SPD, SFD, SDOT, LAW - 24 to 36 months)

- 4.3 Improve the effectiveness of the city's code enforcement program.

Short-Term Recommendations

- a. Fund outreach programs to educate small business owners in land use, health, fire, and hazardous materials requirements, and in crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED).
- b. Convert the city's current complaint-based code enforcement program into a proactive program coordinated across departments.

Medium-Term Recommendations

- c. Increase the number of DPD code compliance staff for Southeast Seattle by 2 inspectors.

- 4.4 Create a more aggressive façade improvement program that includes improvements designed to increase visibility, reduce barriers and increase public safety. (*Linkages with Business and Job Creation strategy 1.4 and Physical Development strategy 2.5*)

Short-Term Recommendation

- a. Amend the city's façade improvement program to include public safety improvements that assist in crime prevention through environmental design - 'CPTED.' (City of Seattle/OED & DON should assist with funding and SPD to provide technical assistance to business owners on CPTED standards - 6 to 12 months)
- 4.5 Increase awareness and application of the Mayor's Green Seattle Initiative in Southeast Seattle.

Short-Term Recommendation

- a. Highlight the work of the Seattle Green Initiative in Southeast Seattle and identify other opportunities for green space projects.
- 4.6 Expand recreation programs that engage youth in productive activities.

Short-Term Recommendations

- a. Retain the late-night programs for youth at Rainier Beach and Rainier community centers using resources from Pro Parks and private funding sources. (City of Seattle/Parks, in cooperation with Seattle Police Department, should continue participation in late night programs and youth outreach programs - 12 months)
- b. Provide additional grants for community-based programs designed to engage youth.
- 4.7 Expand the Seattle Police Department's capacity to implement community-based policing programs.

Short-Term Recommendations

- a. Work to immediately address the race and cultural conflicts between SPD and various communities. (City of Seattle/DON should assist with funding of these efforts through its Race and Social Justice Initiative and public and private funding sources. Additional support through SPD and outside consultant - 12 to 24 months)
- b. Increase the Seattle Police Department's capacity to support the 'victim advocacy' program and modify the program to include neighborhood notification of sentencing hearings.
- 4.8 Increase the police presence in business districts through additional patrols that may include bicycle and foot patrols.

Short-Term Recommendations

- a. Place an emphasis on patrols in the business district nodes in Southeast Seattle by either targeting existing officers or hiring additional officers. (City of Seattle/SPD should continue its emphasis on uniformed patrol and bicycle officers in neighborhood business districts, premise checks and pro-active patrols, and beat officers in support of the monthly Columbia City Beat Walk - 12 to 24 months)

Long-Term Recommendation

- b. Increase the SPD outreach to residential and business 'neighborhood watch' program. (City of Seattle/SPD, with assistance from DON, should increase their efforts in this area - 48 months)
- 4.9 Address the conflicting demands on Rainier Avenue as a major arterial and neighborhood business district 'Main Street.'

Short-Term Recommendations

- a. Address pedestrian safety issues through the addition of cross walks or other appropriate safety methods. (City of Seattle/SDOT with assistance DPD, DON, OED, and King County Metro should initiate a SE Seattle Transportation Study to identify traffic/pedestrian safety conflicts - 18 months)
- b. Install traffic calming devices in pedestrian-oriented neighborhood business districts.

City Responses to Public Safety Strategies and Recommendations

1. *Provide education on code requirements - City will develop a customized workshop for Southeast Seattle businesses that would focus on land use, health, fire and hazardous materials requirements, and crime prevention through environmental design. First workshop scheduled by July 2005. (Department of Planning & Development)*
2. *Engage youth in productive activities - City will work with local school officials, in Southeast Seattle, to enforce truancy with the goal of returning youth to the school environment. Application submitted for the 'youth activities' portion with a response expected by April 2005. (Seattle Police Department)*
3. *Improve community-police relations - City provided \$10,000 to inform the members of the Latino community about their rights and responsibilities in their interactions with the Seattle Police Department. (Department of Neighborhood)*
4. *Increase connections between neighbors - City provided \$13,000 to provide connection between neighbors and access to vital social support in and around five public housing communities in Seattle, including Rainier Vista and NewHolly. Funding will support translation, design and printing of multilingual resource guides, advertisement in ethnic newspapers, and welcome basket supplies and materials. (Department of Neighborhoods)*
5. *Increase police presence in neighborhood business districts - City will provide highly visible uniformed presence and enforcement in the Southeast Seattle neighborhood business district 'hot spots.' (Seattle Police Department)*
6. *Improve pedestrian safety / access - City will install sidewalk and curb improvements at various locations in Southeast Seattle, such as along 37th Avenue South, and 42nd Avenue between So. Hudson to Rainier Avenue and ensure rebuilding of MLK Jr. Way from Henderson to McClellan to provide a safe pedestrian environment. (Seattle Department of Transportation)*
7. *Improve transportation financing and programming - City will provide a comprehensive, multimodal transportation plan which will serve as a blueprint for transportation improvements in Southeast Seattle over the next 20 years. To be completed by April 2006. (Seattle Department of Transportation)*

Section 5. Arts, Culture and Public Space

Goal

Increase arts and cultural opportunities and programs that reflect the Rainier Valley's diverse population and enhance the aesthetic value of public space by integrating arts into all community development strategies, and by promoting collaboration between neighborhood groups (i.e. schools, community centers, neighborhood organizations, and libraries) and local arts organizations.

Strategies

- 5.1 Increase cultural programming for existing cultural facilities and public spaces.

Short-Term Recommendations

- a. Work with private nonprofit organizations to secure funding for increase cultural programming at locations such as the Rainier Valley Cultural Center, Beatwalk, Columbia City Gallery, and Seward Park Art Studio. (SE Seattle Arts Council should lead effort with support from City of Seattle/Arts and DON - 12 months)
- b. Work with private commercial organizations to increase cultural programming at locations such as Columbia City Cinema and Artemis.

Medium-Term Recommendations

- c. Work to increase cultural programming at public parks such as MLK Jr. Park, Seward Park and Kubota Gardens. (City of Seattle/Parks should lead effort with Arts and DON providing support and funding. SE Seattle Arts Council will provide coordination of local artists and cultural events - 24 to 36 months)
- d. Work to increase cultural programming at Franklin and Rainier Beach Performance spaces.

- 5.2 Increase community philanthropy and support for the arts.

Medium-Term Recommendations

- a. Continue/increase support of the SE Seattle Arts Council. (Southeast Effective Development should lead effort with support from City of Seattle/Arts and DON - 24 to 36 months)

- 5.3 Increase artistic value of built environment and open space by encouraging the implementation of community design guidelines that include pedestrian access in development design.

Short-Term Recommendation

- a. Elect a community liaison from the SE Seattle Arts Council (SESAC) to attend the City Design Review Board to ensure adequate community input. (SE Seattle Arts Council should work with city Design Commission - 12 months)

- b. Encourage each neighborhood to develop and complete design guidelines for areas such as around light rail transit stations and in the Rainier Beach, North Rainier, Genesee, and Hillman City neighborhoods.
- 5.4 Develop a catalogue of private and public resources for art and the development of public space.

Short-Term Recommendation

- a. Use the City of Seattle's Public Art Roadmap as a starting point to identify all arts organizations and artists in SE Seattle. (SE Seattle Arts Council should be lead for coordinating information, with additional assistance provided by City of Seattle/Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, Department of Neighborhoods and Department of Information Technology, and University of Washington - 12 to 24 months)
- 5.5 Increase the amount of art and cultural facilities and public open space.

Short-Term Recommendation

- a. Work to improve the quantity and quality of local area parks, including Pocket Parks. (City of Seattle/Parks should lead effort with assistance from Sound Transit to develop the Chief Sealth Trail - 12 to 24 months)

Long-Term Recommendation

- b. Secure funding for new facilities for arts and cultural events.

- 5.6 Improve the image and visibility of Southeast Seattle through promotion of arts and cultural program.

Short-Term Recommendation

- a. Work to promote existing art projects that highlight the area's diverse racial and ethnic populations. (City of Seattle/DON and Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, with assistance from Seattle School District, SEED and community organizations such as churches and nonprofits, should assist with this effort - 24 to 48 months)

- 5.7 Develop 'way finding' system for the various neighborhood business districts.

Short-Term Recommendation

- a. Create collaborative effort among public and private organization and groups to provide necessary information for 'way finding' system. (Sound Transit should be lead with assistance from SEED and the City of Seattle/OSE, Parks, SDOT and OED - 12 to 24 months)

City Responses to Arts, Culture and Public Space Strategies and Recommendations

1. *Increase investment in arts and cultural activities - City, through the Department of Neighborhoods and Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, will:*

Promote Local Arts and Culture -- Increase promotion of Southeast Seattle as destination place for its dynamic arts and cultural scene.

Support the Arts - Provide support to SEED's Public Art Workshop 'PAWS' program that will result in two public art dedications in Southeast Seattle.

Expand Partnership with Arts - Expand its partnership with SEED to help revitalize the Southeast Seattle Arts Council 'SESAC.'

Target Outreach of Arts - Conduct targeted outreach of its program to ensure Southeast Seattle residents, artist and organizations have full opportunity to participate in the City's programs.

Public Investment in Arts - Assure that Sound Transit's investments in arts are effectively spent in Southeast Seattle.

2. *Promote Southeast Seattle arts and culture - Use art and cultural programming / events to highlight the community's rich ethnic diversity (Department of Neighborhoods and Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs):*

Celebrate Cambodia - Provided \$9,000 to provide cultural enrichment activities for Cambodian youth and their families to preserve and share the Cambodian community's rich traditions and strengthen relations between the generations. Activities will culminate in Celebrate Cambodia, a celebration of Cambodian cultural heritage at the Seattle Center in August 2005.

Community Information and Empowerment - Provided \$6,940 to for community events and educational workshops that will take place at the recently completed community center.

Mercer Community "Words of Wisdom" -- Provided \$15,000 to teach middle school youth interview techniques to collect cultural stories from ethnic communities and produce a book to be distributed to participants and an outdoor "Words of Wisdom" art piece.

2005 Cultural Celebrations - Provided \$11,150 highlight Southeast Seattle's rich ethnic diversity.

Rainier Beach Performance Showcase - Provided \$13,000 to assist with a semi-annual event that will involve performances by students and amateur/professional community members and increase the use of the Paul Robeson Theater at Rainier Beach High School.

Family Stories: Disability and Culture - Provided \$11,265 to tell family stories of people with disabilities.

3. *Expand Van Asselt Community Center - City will provide \$3.9 million to expand the Van Asselt Community Center by 6,000 square feet. Construction to start in 2005, with completion expected in early 2006. (Seattle Parks and Recreation, Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, and Department of Neighborhoods)*

4. *Develop the Chief Sealth Trail - City will construct the initial segments of the Chief Sealth Trail in Southeast Seattle. The trail will provide off-road opportunities to walk or bike between Beacon Hill and Seattle's southern boundary 'Rainier Valley.' Construction of initial segment expected to be completed in 2006. (Seattle Parks and Recreation, Seattle Department of Transportation, Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, and Department of Neighborhoods)*
5. *Improvements to Columbia Park - City will provide \$309,000 for landscaping and other improvements to Columbia Park on Rainier Avenue. (Seattle Parks and Recreation)*
6. *Improvements to John C. Little Park - City will provide \$515,000 for improvements to the John C. Little Park that includes a plaza, paths, a water play feature, picnic facilities, and a small community garden. Construction to be completed in 2006. (Seattle Parks and Recreation and Department of Neighborhoods)*
7. *Improvements to Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park - City will provide \$475,000 for improvements to Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park. The project will include accessibility, park benches and picnic tables and landscaping improvements. Construction to be completed in 2005. (Seattle Parks and Recreation)*
8. *Acquisition of land for open space - City will expand the Kubota Gardens Natural Area through the acquisition of one or more parcels in 2005. (Seattle Parks and Recreation)*
9. *Improvements to Mapes Creek Walkway - City will improve the Mapes Creek 52nd Avenue Walkway. Improvements may include landscaping, lighting, paving, signs, or other priority items identified in the Mapes Creek 52nd Avenue Walkway Plan. Construction expected to be completed in 2005. (Seattle Parks and Recreation)*
10. *Improvements to Rainier Beach Community Center Plaza - City will be constructing a plaza for public gathering near the Rainier Beach Community Center, along with 300 feet of shoreline restoration. Construction expected to be completed in 2006. (Seattle Parks and Recreation, Arts and Culture, and Department of Neighborhoods)*
11. *Ray and Joan Kroc Community Center - City is working for the construction of a Ray and Joan Kroc Community Center that would be located in the Rainier Vista community (MLK Jr. Way and S. Alaska). The proposed community center would provide a state-of-the art recreational, educational and arts facility designed to meet the needs of Southeast Seattle residents and residents on a regional basis. (Office of the Mayor)*
12. *Acquire Property for Hillman City P-Patch - City has provided \$190,000 towards acquiring additional property necessary to assure the long-term sustainability of the Hillman City P-Patch. (Department of Neighborhoods)*