



City of Seattle
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

NEWS RELEASE

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Mayor Announces Grants to Help 22 Neighborhood Business Districts *Grants will increase City investments in Seattle neighborhoods*

SEATTLE – Mayor Greg Nickels awarded grants today to 22 Neighborhood Business District Associations throughout Seattle to continue the City’s investments in building healthy communities.

“Investing in our neighborhood business districts is a big step towards ensuring a thriving economy,” said Mayor Nickels, who awarded the grants at a community event in South Park. “Small businesses are economic engines at the heart of every neighborhood – our local restaurants, coffee houses and grocery stores are how we define ‘home’.”

The Office of Economic Development received proposals totaling more than three times the amount of money available. Grants totaling \$164,034 were given to 22 neighborhood business organizations.

“This grant will provide important funding for the South Park businesses to create a stronger coalition of merchants, residents and industrial leaders, and better promote our business district,” said Jason McKinney, Environmental Extension Agent/Industrial Engineer, Environmental Coalition of South Seattle (ECOSS). “It will help us to create a thriving local economy.”

The Environmental Coalition of South Seattle (ECOSS) and South Park Merchants Association are receiving a \$10,000.00 award that will fund projects to help strengthen their business district, including the creation of a sustainable Merchant-Resident-Industrial Coalition and the creation of a promotion map of the business district to drive more customers to shop in South Park.

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Neighborhood Business District Grants - Page Two

“One of my priorities is to make City government a better partner with business, and today we’re celebrating the work by some of those partners – the non-profit business associations that work side by side with small businesses to improve our neighborhoods,” said Nickels.

“The Office of Economic Development is focused on helping neighborhood businesses city-wide grow and thrive,” stated Jill Nishi, Director of the Office of Economic Development. “The grants we give out today will be used for a wide range of projects, from the creation of marketing materials to installing banners and lighting, all designed to help strengthen and grow these local business communities.”

Some examples of the projects funded include: business district promotion (brochures, maps, signage), physical improvement and enhancement projects (trees, benches) and neighborhood business district assessment and analysis.

The following organizations are recipients of the 2005 Neighborhood Business District Grants:

• Arts Ballard	\$1,738.00
• Ballard Chamber of Commerce	\$6,000.00
• Broadway Business Improvement Area	\$7,861.00
• Central Area Community Festival Association	\$10,000.00
• Chinatown-International District BIA	\$5,000.00
• Columbia City Business Association	\$11,100.00
• Environmental Coalition of South Seattle & South Park Merchant’s Assn	\$10,000.00
• Genesee Merchants Association	\$5,000.00
• Greater Seattle Business Association	\$4,625.00
• Greater University Chamber of Commerce	\$9,210.00
• Lake City Chamber of Commerce	\$11,000.00
• Madison Park Community Council	\$10,000.00
• Montlake Community Club	\$7,500.00
• Northgate Chamber of Commerce	\$6,000.00
• Picture Perfect Queen Anne	\$8,000.00
• Pioneer Square Community Association	\$10,000.00
• Rainier Beach Merchants Association	\$5,000.00
• SODO Business Association	\$5,000.00
• SouthEast Effective Development	\$5,000.00
• Vietnamese American Economic Development	\$10,000.00
• West Seattle Junction Association	\$6,000.00
• <u>White Center Community Development Association</u>	<u>\$10,000.00</u>

Total Amount of Grants: \$164,034.00

To learn more about the 2005 Neighborhood Business District Grants, please visit the Mayor’s website at: www.seattle.gov/mayor.

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