



EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

9:30 - 11:30 am

Webex

ATTENDEES: Willard Brown, Cassie Chinn, Cote Soerens, Gregory Davis, César Garcia Garcia, Quynh Pham, Yordanos Teferi, *EDI Advisory Board Members*; Monisha Harrell, *Facilitator*; Patrice Thomas, Michael Blumson, Giulia Pasciuto, Sauncha Romey, Katie Sheehy, Andrew Tran, *EDI staff*

Welcome & Introductions

Welcome to the first official meeting of the EDI Advisory Board! Today, we will review our history, learn about Advisory Board training, and begin to discuss our work plan. EDI staff briefly introduce themselves.

Cassie works with the Wing Luke Museum and has worked in the Chinatown-International District for the past 25 years.

Cesar Garcia Garcia (mother and father had the same last name but not related) is with the Lake City Collective, which recently got their 501c3. LCC is a multicultural group that supports first generation immigrants in Northeast Seattle.

Cote works with Cultivate South Park and is the owner of Resistencia Coffee.

Gregory Davis is with RBAC and is a steward of the Rainier Beach Neighborhood Plan.

Willard, he/him has been on the interim advisory board for past three years, and lives in Delridge.

Quinn works with Friends of Little Saigon in the Chinatown International District.

Yordanos works with the Multicultural Community Coalition and is excited and happy to be here.

Seattle Boards & Commissions 101

All Board members need to complete the [Member Orientation Training Series](#) that is available online.

- Introduction to the City of Seattle Race & Social Justice Initiative (10 minutes)
- Ethics (10 minutes)
- Washington State Public Records Act (8 minutes)
- Managing and Retaining City Records (6 minutes)
- Open Public Meeting Act (8 minutes)

All official communications related to the EDI Advisory Board should go to EDIAdvisoryBoard@seattle.gov, which will be set up to retain messages for the appropriate length of time that public records must be maintained.

One of the board members asked whether or not their personal notes would need to be part of the official record. Monisha clarified that when advisory board members are asked to take notes as part of an official deliberative process, staff will provide specific notebooks or other forms that we will retain for the public record.

Equitable Development Initiative Background

The Equitable Development Initiative provides community stability in terms of the diversity, culture, and heritage of what makes Seattle a great city. We are transitioning from interim advisor board to a formal board that will meet downtown at the Boards & Commissions room in Seattle's City Hall (CHL280). We will set a consistent meeting time in mornings or evenings to minimize travel to downtown Seattle. Meetings will be two hours, partly to accommodate public comments. Time for public comments will be at the beginning or end of the meeting depending on the meeting agenda. The board members discussed which time of day would work best and decided that meeting over lunch works best for most people, so that will continue to be the time. Staff will identify which days of the week the Boards and Commissions room is available.

One of the board members asked whether or not people would still be able to attend virtually? Staff will look into the logistics of that was we plan to transition to meeting in person, which will likely be early this fall.

EDI Advisory Board Vacancies

There are two vacancies that will be filled through an application and interview process. Board members agreed that filling the vacancies soon is a priority. Board members discussed which areas of the city could be more well represented in terms of areas experiencing higher risk of displacement and/or lower access to opportunity.

- Beacon Hill
- Georgetown
- White Center
- Skyway
- North Seattle, particularly along the Aurora Corridor

NOTE: Board Members asked if the City is planning to incorporate White Center and/or Skyway. Outside of the meeting, OPCD staff confirmed that Skyway is not a potential annexation area for Seattle, but it is for Renton. White Center (North Highline) is a potential annexation area for Seattle, but not currently under discussion. OPCD staff anticipate that annexation of White Center could be a topic that arises during the update of Seattle's Comprehensive Plan.

We will need at least three or four people to interview staff will coordinate with advisory board members via email to schedule those interview days. The applications are pretty brief and [can be filled out here](#). Please share with your networks and help recruit!

A board member asked about follow up conversations with people who applied but were not selected? Patrice reached out via email and had follow up phone calls for people who wanted to have an additional conversation. Staff will look back at the applicants and noted that in the future, it might be more meaningful to have future follow up conversations with board members rather than EDI staff.

A board member asked if we want to send the application out to current grantees? Staff agreed that they would share the application with their grantees and encourage people to apply! We'll try to schedule interviews before RFPs are due.

Position Number	Appointing Authority	First Name	Last Name	Term Start	Term End
1	Mayor	Cesar	Garcia Garcia	3/1/2021	2/28/2022
2	Mayor	Evelyn	Thomas Allen	3/1/2021	2/28/2023
3	Mayor	Cassie	Chinn	3/1/2021	2/28/2022
4	City Council	Lindsay	Goes Behind	3/1/2021	2/28/2022
5	City Council	Abdirahman	Yusuf	3/1/2021	2/28/2023
6	City Council	Gregory	Davis	3/1/2021	2/28/2022
7	Board			3/1/2021	2/28/2023
8	Board			3/1/2021	2/28/2022
9	Board	Willard	Brown	3/1/2021	2/28/2023
10	Board	Quynh	Pham	3/1/2021	2/28/2022
11	Board	Regina	Dove	3/1/2021	2/28/2023
12	Board	Maria-Jose	Soerens	3/1/2021	2/28/2023
13	Board	Yordanos	Teferi	3/1/2021	2/28/2022

EDI Advisory Board Work Plan

The EDI Advisory Board has a full work plan. We know that six million is not enough to save the culture and heritage of the city.

Board members expressed interest in learning more about the EDI monitoring effort, specifically that regular reports on the status of projects, what's working well, where there are challenges, and how communities are benefiting from their work would be constructive. The board will discuss during the retreat and evaluate where we need the report to be. Board members agreed that annual isn't sufficient to track the work that's being done through the grants. The organizations have to succeed. This is really important in terms of accountability.

Before each RFP process, we review our values. We have seen success out of organizations that don't meet traditional metrics of investment success. We want to ensure that we are not chasing the easy to complete projects but that we're responding to community needs. The focus is on supporting and retaining cultural spaces for the city. We need to take risks toward equity for our communities. Staff will invite Diana Canzoneri, the City's Demographer, and lead on the larger EDI monitoring program, to present on her work later this summer.

Board members discussed how to share lessons learned, especially switching from an interim to permanent board – how do we not lose the history? How do we retain the heart of EDI? Members agreed that lessons learned can serve as key blueprint for keeping this work true to our values moving forward. Board members also expressed interest in encouraging projects to keep moving forward through sharing knowledge and providing technical support. One suggestion was to incorporate Lessons Learned documentation which can speak to challenges, issues of accountability as well as on-going learning. They expressed interest in building relationships with grantees and their organizations. At the end of the day, we represent communities that have creativity and

brilliance – we need to further spur that creativity while having difficult decisions and discussions. There are so many community organizations that are worthy of EDI support.

NOTE: Share that the Strategic Investment Fund RFP will be released June 2. We will have \$30 million from the sale of Mercer Megablock in SLU to fund BIPOC, tenant, and community acquisition of land.

Public Comment

No members of the public joined us, so there was no public comment.

ADJOURN

Meeting officially adjourned at 11:26.