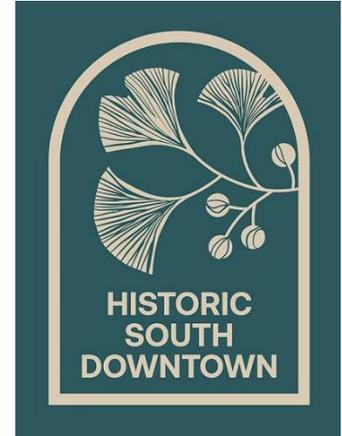


# Historic South Downtown Board of Directors Meeting

## Tuesday, February 22, 2022

Present: Nuria Hansen, Shava Lawson, Diane Le, Derek Lum, Quynh Pham, Dana Phelan, Jessica Rubenacker, Jessa Timmer, Ken Takahashi, Tuyen Than

Staff: Kathleen Johnson, James King, MaryKate Ryan



### CALL TO ORDER

Dana Phelan called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

### Public comment

No public comment.

### CONSENT AGENDA (Action)

Presenter: Dana Phelan

- Finance Reports (October 2021, November 2021, December 2021, January 2022)
- Meeting Minutes (January 2022)

*Motion by Shava to amend the consent agenda to remove approval of December 2021 and January 2022 finance report. Second from Ken. Approved by all.*

*Motion by Jessica to approve the consent agenda. Second from Diane. Approved by all.*

### GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE

Presenter: James E. King, Jr.

**Contracting:** Currently in contracting for Round 4, over 50% done with contracting. As soon as the draft contracts are sent over for orgs to review and once they confirm, then we'll head into contract signing. Then next will be to work on sending out checks.

### LITTLE SAIGON UPDATES AND RESOURCES

Presenters: Quynh Pham, Diane Le, All

Kathleen: gave an update that Little Saigon (12<sup>th</sup> and Jackson) was cleared this last weekend. The big questions moving forward are: what is HSD's role in this and what would board members like to see? How do we prepare for it in the future?

Diane: shared perspective as a business owner. Over the last 4-5 months: car broken into and stolen, stolen POS system, theft of food. Personal safety – always have to employ a buddy system, making adjustments to not travel as far, luckily no violence but would love more guidance or coaching on how to address more violent situations. There is also the issue of not reporting smaller theft -- should they (and other small businesses) be reporting these smaller instances if support is determined by reporting (rather than only reporting larger instances)?

Quynh: shared she has been organizing community, bi-weekly calls between community and Councilmember Morales' office. There was a clear out on 12th and Jackson but this was never communicated to community. The community wants to know what the plan of action is moving forward since we've seen this done before and seen resources disappear and then see issues return. What are the long-term resources and the long-term plan? Mayor's office – need services to house unhoused people; right now, the focus is on Downtown but Little Saigon is part of that area too. There are still a lot of questions about long-term sustainability and what actual investments will be in place. It's a ghost town right now and businesses are unsure about folks coming back to support their businesses. Interested in evaluating current level of services in the neighborhood. Also talks of de-escalation programs and security. Looking at funding sources for impacted businesses. Policy making is important – there are a lot of barriers to helping people attain services; people are usually released back to the streets and there are a lot of gaps in services to protect the individuals and the community. Still trying to understand long term and looking for suggestions and connections.

Jessa: BIAs across the city have experiences with this too, although not as extreme. She is currently working with Councilmember Nelson's office. There are specific asks of the committee to see if they can move forward. Jessa [shared a document](#), including more around public safety. Here is the list of items requested (snapshot).

- Dedicated Mayor's Office Attention to Street-Level Crime and Disorder
- Community Safety Hub Coordinators in Neighborhood Business Districts
- High-Visibility Civilian Foot Patrols (Trained/Unsworn) in Neighborhood Business Districts
- Broken Window & Damaged Storefront Fund
- Small Business Insurance Affordability and Access Study
- SPD Emphasis Patrols and 911 Response When Needed

Nuria: It's been eerily quiet, something learned from Occidental and PS Park is the need to go there and take over these spaces as a community. Go out to support stores and restaurants and show up, fill the streets and sidewalks, activate.

Ken: tenant improvement fund is coming out from the City; \$2M in Federal stimulus funds. Ken will keep us posted and agrees there should be better transparency.

Kathleen: wasn't sure if safe needle use is still in place? It was shut down during the pandemic. One of the things that was working.

Jessa: CIDBIA just named their new safety coordinator, Cecilia Liang (CID public safety coordinator). Trying to have more cohesive reporting from the city and someone more on community level who could interface with businesses.

Dana: opportunity for HSD and our networks to advocate for prioritization of our neighborhoods. Issues across downtown but in terms of equity of the response, it would make sense for us to help elevate that message and advocate. Interested in knowing where that's possible.

Kathleen: do we get someone to come to the next meeting to hear what's being done as public safety measures?  
An update.

James: it would be helpful but we also should have a list of services that are provided within both neighborhoods and reach out to them to ask how we can amplify your services or support you in providing services to those in need. Advocate for more money from the city or foundations? Help amplify those voices and orgs.

Jessa: Just Care program in PS (funding through City and County though all funding administered by County); losing funding in a few months; PS Alliance will help advocate for it and could be something we try to advocate for. Jessa will reach out on current status of funding and find out what their advocacy strategy is.

Shava: seems like we have several approaches. 1) advocacy road for long-term funding and more funding for the neighborhoods, written letters the board signs off on. 2) Resources that residents and businesses can access. Is there a place we can keep this on the website or is it not needed?

Tuyen: resident and business owner perspective; for the last 8 years there haven't been a lot of resources provided for CID residents and businesses. Hoping for less violence in the neighborhood; as a resident, you hear everything (gunshots etc.) and right now it's a matter of safety. For Chinatown and Little Saigon, we're not qualified to provide services, to connect people to resources – we need social workers and translation services, things well beyond our scope. Also understand why people don't always want to call the police, especially when response time can take hours. It's a struggle and there's not a single solution. This is the start of a really good conversation on engagement to figure out a solution.

Quynh: Agreed that a lot of great work has already been done but now we need to assess how things have been implemented and how we hold people accountable. Co-chairs public safety council and they are wrapping up the 2021 report. Will share preliminary data with the board as well to help figure out priorities.

Dana: We'll continue with info gathering about what's working in the neighborhoods, what needs more support and advocacy for prioritization for funding. Try to schedule a time for Just Cares to speak with board. Board members are welcome to share any other resources that are helpful for the two neighborhoods that we should understand better as a board, share with Dana and Kathleen.

#### **Action steps:**

- 1) Jessa will reach out to Just Cares, to see if they're interested in giving HSD an update on what's helpful for them
- 2) Add neighborhood resources up on website
- 3) Provide letters of support as needed
- 4) Survey on most pressing needs? Who is doing this already?
  - CID Visioning group is doing this. Asking some public safety questions. Kathleen will reach out if they have info that might be useful
  - Small Business Relief Team might have something similar, MaryKate will look into that.
  - PS Alliance also doing some survey work, could use some of this info, important to support orgs that are already doing this work.

## **GRANT EQUITY TASK FORCE**

Presenters: Dana Phalen and Task Force Members

*Brief update*

Next meeting is this Thursday, 2/24. We have been doing homework on the Task Force. Sapna has been collating and synthesizing feedback for next meeting. More to report at the next board meeting.

## WBSLE UPDATE

Presenters: Kathleen Johnson, MaryKate Ryan, Tuyen Than

*DEIS Report*

- MaryKate is reviewing the draft Impact Statement and putting together resources for the community. Read most of document. Sound Transit references the “CID segment” does this also impacts PS.
- **Draft EIS, released January 28 and deadline for public comment is April 28.**
- Currently there is no preferred alternative in CID segment. All options are still on the table. DEIS will cover all potential impacts on this line. West Seattle and Ballard Link extension are two separate lines. New CID station will be built as part of Ballard Link extension line. Green sections (Ballard extension) are where you find CID segments and pink sections relate to West Seattle.
- Project will affect these two neighborhoods because there will be a new station. Whether that station is on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave or on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave is still in play. This is probably have the most impact and the station is going to affect how people are moving on surface level.
- Major chapter involve alternatives themselves; effects to transportation (all types/forms); environment (air water quality and cultural resources, neighborhood character); talk about cumulative effects of this project in the foreseeable future.
- The plan is to start a weekly series of “Lunch and Link” in March over the lunch hour. Talk about one topic at a time, once a week. Help community members map out their comments in April. Staff will give overview (CliffsNotes version) and point you to the part of the DEIS if you want to do a deeper dive. With consultants, we will be writing comments.
- Suggestion to read the first 5 pages of the executive summary.
- Want to help people make comments as useful/specific/actionable as possible – the why
- Augmenting outreach ST is supposed to do (not replacing it)
- Tuyen: brainstorming on how we can get this info out to folks; also read through DEIS and what she took away from it is that starting in 2026, there’s going to be 8-10 years of construction; **you have about two months to decide if it’s going to be 8 or 10 years of construction.** 5<sup>th</sup> Ave (current site of Joe’s Bar & Grill) vs 4<sup>th</sup> Ave (opposite bridge connecting CID to stadiums). Of those two location options, you have a choice whether you want it deep (deeper than 100 ft) or shallow (100 ft or less). You lose staircase access with deeper option. What is also interesting is the focus on commuters in and out of neighborhood (rather than residents necessarily) and the most important thing is thinking about how Chinatown is going to be a lot smaller; big impact on the community; Chinatown gate will be covered for 2-3 years. Important to highlight.
- Tuyen: We’re going to make a video and hopefully it will be shared and people will understand the impact of the next 15 years and what Chinatown is going to look like. It’s important people understand.
- Also a community advisory board meetings are on YouTube if you want to watch an overview (linked on HSD website)

## BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Presenter: Kathleen Johnson

*Board Vacancy*

*Board Recruitment*

- Vacancy: Need to fill vacant PS Business Board Seat. Last fall, elected Jimi Hightower but Jimi recently left job at Discovery NW.
- The general nomination process is that Kathleen will reach out to nominees, one at a time. The nominee will meet with Kathleen and another board member, and if so approved, would be appointed by board with a 2/3 majority vote. That seat would run for reelection in 2023 (slightly less than a two-year seat at this point)
- Kathleen has approached Zeitgeist owner. Jessa can send some names. Dana will help connect with some gallery owners.
- If you are rotating off the board at the end of 2022 or 2023 (Kathleen will send out emails if that is the case), please start recruiting your successor now

## FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

*State of the Neighborhoods*

*Other announcements*

- Kathleen: shoulder surgery on 3/3, anticipates being back next week; in meantime James will be acting Interim Director
- Jessa: due in August 😊
- Dana: project grants opening up for individual artists, arts orgs, heritage, preservation. Opens tomorrow and deadline is April 20.

## ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.

## ZOOM COMMENTS

17:09:32 From MaryKate Ryan to Everyone:

excellent robot voice

17:10:45 From Shava Lawson to Everyone:

How weird, I'm on my head set. cool that it sounds like Darth Vader, but not great for talking!

17:12:15 From Quynh (she/her) to Everyone:

Moving to dial in, brb

17:26:39 From MaryKate Ryan to Everyone:

I am really disappointed to hear that even though they are in these meetings with FLS, no one at the city or the agencies actually communicated their planned actions to you.

17:28:24 From Kathleen Johnson HSD (she/her) to Everyone:

To facilitate the conversation, here is the list of items requested (in Jessa's document).

- Dedicated Mayor's Office Attention to Street-Level Crime and Disorder
- Community Safety Hub Coordinators in Neighborhood Business Districts
- High-Visibility Civilian Foot Patrols (Trained/Unsworn) in Neighborhood Business Districts
- Broken Window & Damaged Storefront Fund
- Small Business Insurance Affordability and Access Study
- SPD Emphasis Patrols and 911 Response When Needed

17:29:23 From Shava Lawson to Everyone:

Do those kinds of funds need to be applied for? That seems like a burden for potential grantees

17:32:33 From MaryKate Ryan to Everyone:

The document Jessa shared is saved in the folder for tonight's board meeting, Feb 22

17:32:46 From Kathleen Johnson HSD (she/her) to Everyone:

Thank you.

17:36:54 From MaryKate Ryan to Everyone:

They are connected somehow to LEAD, no?

17:37:10 From James King Jr to Everyone:

I have to go and I really care about the Jackson St. corridor. So I'm willing to put in the effort to support.

17:49:51 From MaryKate Ryan to Everyone:

If anyone sees resources being shared by orgs doing this work in either neighborhood, send it my way and I'll find a way to share it online.

17:59:20 From Dana Phelan (she/her) to Everyone:

Lunch and link?

17:59:34 From Kathleen Johnson HSD (she/her) to Everyone:

Chew and chat.

17:59:49 From Jessica Rubenacker (she/her) to Everyone:

Dine and discuss lol

18:07:53 From Derek Lum #SaveBushGarden to Everyone:

hi all. I need to run to my class. thank you all for the great meeting!

18:08:43 From Kathleen Johnson HSD (she/her) to Everyone:

We are soooo lucky to have Tuyen. And I'm good with Lunch and Link.

18:13:31 From Jessa Timmer to Everyone:

We can send you some names, as well!

18:14:07 From Nuria Hansen to Everyone:

Fruitsuper on 1st Ave?

18:17:24 From Jessa Timmer to Everyone:

Trademark!

18:20:19 From Kathleen Johnson HSD (she/her) to Everyone:

Those open tomorrow?