

## SEATTLE CHINATOWN-INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT FIELD TRIP BRIEFING PACKET

### **PB AF 566: Community Economic Development**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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*The Chinatown International District “always been a welcoming place for immigrants and those looking to make a better life for themselves. Nowhere else can you find so many different cultures coming together to form one neighborhood.”*

-Chinatown International District Website<sup>1</sup>

This briefing packet provides an in-depth overview of the city of Seattle’s Chinatown-International District (CID). Unlike Chinatowns in other major U.S. cities, the CID is a cultural hub for many Pan-Asian communities and has been shaped over the last 100 years by Chinese, Filipino, Japanese and Italian immigrants; African-Americans; and Southeast Asian refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

This packet covers significant historical matters, important figures and demographic patterns of the CID through present day. It also provides an analytic framework, the Quadruple Bottom Line (QBL), from which to assess the impact and role of the various organizations, businesses, projects and public plans that serve the communities within the CID. Finally, the packet provides summaries of contemporary issues, business trends and land use policies that affect this community.

Community members, organizations and businesses have different perspectives as to what boundaries define the CID. For the purpose of this packet, authors chose to use the boundaries shown on the front cover’s map, which was produced by the Chinatown International District Business Improvement Area (CIDBIA).<sup>2</sup> The CID boundaries east of Interstate 5 (I-5) are South Main Street to the north, South Dearborn Street to the south and Rainier Ave South to the east. The CID boundaries west of I-5 include Yesler Way to the north, South Dearborn Street to the South and 4th Avenue South to the west.<sup>3</sup>

It is important to note that culture and community development often do not fit within physical boundaries; some organizations, businesses or individuals profiled in this packet had a major influence, and may continue to influence the CID, yet but do not reside within these boundaries.

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<sup>1</sup> “History,” 21 Oct. 2015, [seattlechinatownid.com/neighborhood/history](http://seattlechinatownid.com/neighborhood/history)

<sup>2</sup> “Nihonmachi Nite: Contact Us,” 21 Oct. 2014, [nihonmachinites.com/contact-us](http://nihonmachinites.com/contact-us)

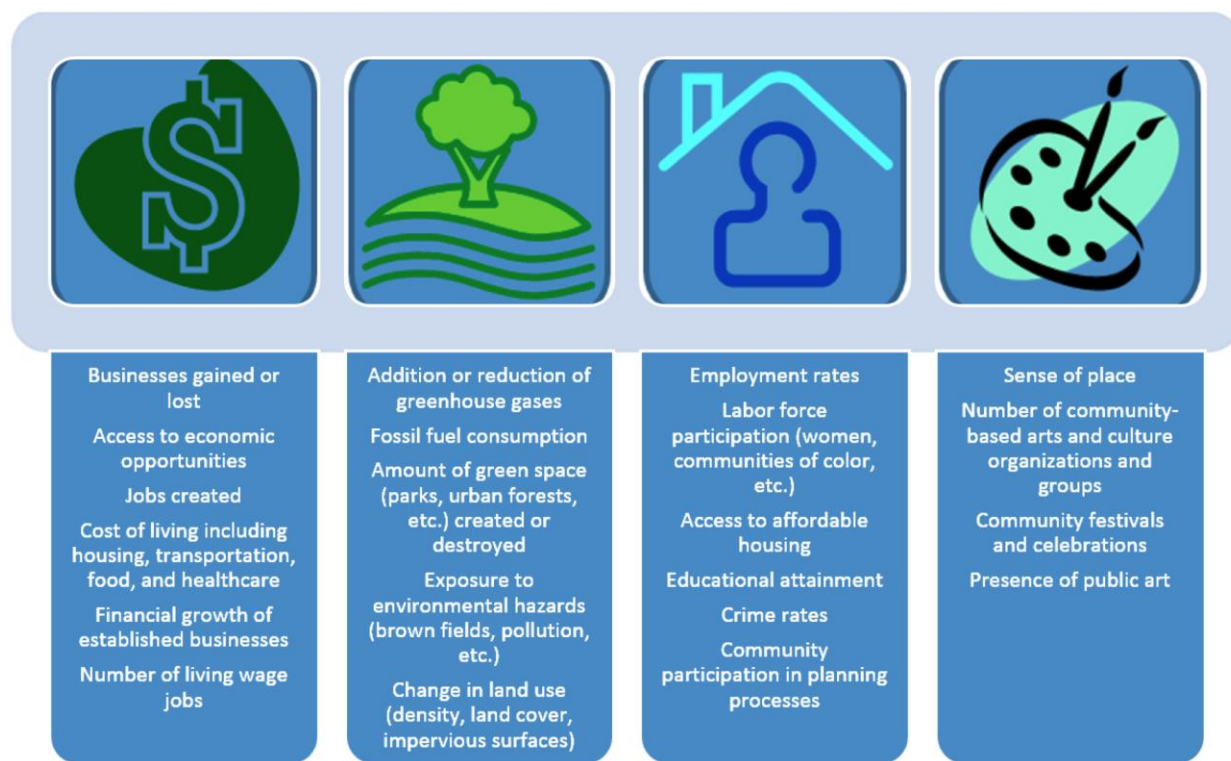
<sup>3</sup> “Neighborhood Map,” 20 Oct. 2014, [seattlechinatownid.com/neighborhood/neighborhood-map](http://seattlechinatownid.com/neighborhood/neighborhood-map)

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## QUADRUPLE BOTTOM LINE

*“The equity of an organization’s activities by accounting for the financial, environmental, social, and cultural creativity impacts. A positive QBL reflects an increase in equity by improving the financial well-being, environmental quality and sustainability, social capital and cultural vitality of a community.”<sup>4</sup>*



*This chart displays specific impacts of community programs and projects that relate to the four components of the bottom line, from left to right are Financial, Environmental, Social and Cultural.*

The QBL framework is a useful tool to analyze an organization or neighborhood’s ability to provide holistic programming and development. The four bottom lines account for financial, environmental, social and cultural creativity impacts within an organization or community.

**READER NOTE:** The four icons above serve as reference points for the reader and are placed throughout the document to indicate examples of each bottom line in the context of the CID. *Refer to Appendix A at the end of this packet for a summary of the factors influencing the CID under each bottom line.*

<sup>4</sup> Bergerson, Ethan, Lauren Mathisen, Steve Smith, and Jieru Jin. “Equitable Transit Oriented Development: The Quadruple Bottom Line and Access to Opportunity.” Rep. Seattle: U of Washington Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs, 2014. PDF.

## HISTORY OF THE CID

Early waves of settlers to the Seattle area were ethnically and economically diverse. The booming railroad and logging industries drew many Asian immigrants to the Pacific Northwest in the 1850s, in hopes of finding lucrative work. The first Chinese settler in Seattle was Chin



Chun Hock, who arrived in 1868 and founded the Wa Chong Company, a merchandise house.<sup>5</sup> Those that followed called themselves *Gim San hok*, "Guests of Gold Mountain." Many of these early Chinese immigrants settled in the eastern part of Pioneer Square, creating what eventually would become Seattle's CID<sup>6</sup>. Since that time, the CID has

undergone many changes, including its relationship to the city. Understanding the history behind these changes is crucial in understanding the CID today.<sup>7</sup>

### THE CID IN THE 1880s

Chinese immigrants continued flocking to Seattle throughout the late nineteenth century. A common expectation of incoming Chinese immigrants was to work hard, save their fortune and move back to their respective homeland and "live an easy life"<sup>8</sup>. However, when the economy started to decline, many white Seattle citizens looked for easy scapegoats. Anti-Chinese sentiment was common across the



<sup>5</sup> Chew, Ron. *Reflections of Seattle's Chinese Americans: The First 100 Years*. University of Washington Press and the Wing Luke Asian Museum (Seattle), 1994: Pg. 7.

<sup>6</sup> History of ID. "Seattle Chinatown International District Business Improvement Area. [cidbia.org/history](http://cidbia.org/history) (Accessed Oct. 15, 2014).

<sup>7</sup> "Seattle in 1855." Burke, Elizabeth and Edward Burke. "Seattle's Other History: Our Asian-American Heritage." Profanity Hill Press, Seattle (1979): pp. 2. Credit: Photography Collection, Suzzallo Library, University of Washington.

<sup>8</sup> Kafú, Naigai and Stephen W. Kohl. "An Early Account of Japanese Life in the Pacific Northwest: Writings of Naigai Kafú." *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, 70.2 (1979): Pg. 66.



country. In 1882, President Chester A. Arthur signed the Chinese Exclusion Act, which placed heavy restrictions on Chinese immigration for the following ten-year period.<sup>9</sup> The results of these policies and racist sentiment slowed immigration on U.S. soil. Those already established in the country faced waves of anti-Chinese attacks and policies that often would lead to violence.<sup>10</sup>

For years, anti-Chinese sentiment had been brewing throughout the West Coast, until it finally exploded. On February 7, 1886, a disgruntled mob tried to round up every Chinese person in the city and ushered them down to the Seattle wharf, where a steamer, “The Queen of the Pacific,” was waiting to export them out of the country<sup>11</sup>. During the turmoil, over 200 Chinese residents were forced out to San Francisco. Seattle city officials continued the racist sentiment inevitably clashing with the remaining Chinese citizens pushing President Grover Cleveland to declare martial law. Tensions ultimately died down due to the flight and forced removal of most of Seattle’s Chinese population. Congress paid a sum of nearly \$300,000 to the Chinese government for damages after Seattle’s once vibrant Chinese population was disenfranchised and marginalized.<sup>12, 13</sup>

The Great Seattle Fire of 1889 altered the Chinese configuration in Seattle. The original Chinatown location was destroyed in the fire and Chinese immigrants moved to the current CID location.<sup>14</sup> At this point, very few Chinese residents were left from the initial boom of the 1850s, those who remained provided labor for much of the reconstruction.<sup>15</sup>

Harsh immigration restrictions still prevented new Chinese immigrants from arriving to the city. However, no such restrictions existed on Japanese immigrants. For the next few decades, the ethnic makeup of the CID shifted, as Japanese immigration boomed. Census records indicate that there were only approximately 125 Japanese individuals living in Seattle as of 1890, but mass immigration into the city, prompted by steamship service between Yokohama and Seattle in 1896, as well as the Alaska gold rush in 1897, raised this number to nearly 3,000 by 1900.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> “The People’s Vote, 100 Documents that Shaped America.” US News.

[web.archive.org/web/20070328223654/usnews.com/usnews/documents/docpages/document\\_page47.htm](http://web.archive.org/web/20070328223654/usnews.com/usnews/documents/docpages/document_page47.htm) (Accessed Oct. 16, 2014).

<sup>10</sup> “Seattle in 1865.” Burke, Elizabeth and Edward Burke. “Seattle’s Other History: Our Asian-American Heritage.” Profanity Hill Press, Seattle (1979): pp. 2. Credit: Photography Collection, Suzallo Library, University of Washington.

<sup>11</sup> “Anti-Chinese Activism – Seattle.” [historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&File\\_Id=1057](http://historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&File_Id=1057) (Accessed Oct. 16, 2014).

<sup>12</sup> “Chinatown Destroyed.” Burke, Elizabeth and Edward Burke. “Seattle’s Other History: Our Asian-American Heritage.” Profanity Hill Press, Seattle (1979): pp. 7. Credit: Public Archives of Canada.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> “International District.” National Park Service. [nps.gov/nr/travel/seattle/s32.htm](https://nps.gov/nr/travel/seattle/s32.htm) (Accessed Oct. 15, 2014).

<sup>15</sup> Burke, Elizabeth and Edward Burke. *Seattle’s Other History: Our Asian-American Heritage*. Profanity Hill Press (Seattle), 1979: Pg. 11.

<sup>16</sup> Naigai Kafú and Stephen W. Kohl. “An Early Account of Japanese Life in the Pacific Northwest: Writings of Naigai Kafú.” *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, 70.2 (1979): pg. 58.

## THE CID IN THE 1890s – 1940s

Following the racial upheaval of the 1880s, tensions in Seattle started to decrease and economic prosperity returned. The Japanese population continued to grow, although immigration restrictions resulted in higher male immigration. The population of Japanese immigrants was 91% male in 1900.<sup>17</sup> In 1907, an informal “Gentleman’s Agreement” was reached between the United States and Japan that eliminated further emigration into the United States of Japanese men, but allowed for the immigration of wives, children, and parents of existing first-generation Japanese, known as Issei.<sup>18</sup> This agreement had the profound effect of stabilizing Japanese-American families and led to the explosive growth of second-generation Japanese-Americans, called Nisei.



The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition of 1909<sup>19</sup> was meant to show the city’s successes and its positive relationship with international trade in the Pacific region.<sup>19</sup> At this time, an economic boom and general easing of anti-immigrant attitudes lead to a prosperous time in the CID.

Image: New Workers<sup>20</sup>



At the turn of the century a successful business owner in Portland, Oregon, a man named Goon Dip, helped to develop the CID. Dip had been appointed Consul by the Chinese government for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition.<sup>21</sup>

During the Exposition, he met E. B. Deming, the owner of a large salmon canning business. Dip worked as a contractor for Deming and hired many Asian workers, including Japanese, Chinese, and Filipino residents.<sup>22</sup> As Chinese immigrants were being removed from buildings in the Washington Street area as a part of reconstruction efforts, Dip was key in supporting the investment in and construction of new community buildings in what is now

<sup>17</sup> Spickard, Paul. *Japanese Americans: The Formation and Transformations of an Ethnic Group*, 34.

<sup>18</sup> Berner, Richard C. *Seattle 1900-1920: From Boomtown, Urban Tolerance, to Restoration*. Charles Press, Seattle (1991): pg. 66.

<sup>19</sup> “Brief History of Seattle.” Seattle Municipal Archives. [seattle.gov/cityarchives/seattle-facts/brief-history-of-seattle](http://seattle.gov/cityarchives/seattle-facts/brief-history-of-seattle) (Accessed Oct. 15, 2014).

<sup>20</sup> “New Workers.” Burke, Elizabeth and Edward Burke. “Seattle’s Other History: Our Asian-American Heritage.” Profanity Hill Press, Seattle (1979): pp.19. Credit: Japanese American Citizen’s League.

<sup>21</sup> “Goon Dip’s Milwaukee Hotel.” Burke, Elizabeth and Edward Burke. “Seattle’s Other History: Our Asian-American Heritage.” Profanity Hill Press, Seattle (1979): pp. 17. Credit: Robert Young.

<sup>22</sup> “Goon Dip,” [historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file\\_id=9026](http://historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=9026) (Accessed Oct. 15, 2014).

the International District, including the Milwaukee Hotel at King Street and Seventh Avenue.<sup>23</sup>  
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Access to labor helped to create a burgeoning CID. Job mobility in industries such as imports, railroads, salmon canneries and sawmills created greater opportunities for economic growth throughout the Puget Sound region.<sup>25</sup> In the CID, community members owned and managed restaurants, drug stores, shoe stores, hotels, and barbershops.<sup>26</sup> They served traditional needs while also forging unique cultural establishments, such as Japanese bathhouses, archery arcades, sushi shops and pinball establishments in the Nihonmachi (Japantown).<sup>27</sup>

As the Japanese population grew to become Seattle's largest ethnic minority, the Nihonmachi emerged as the second largest ethnic neighborhood of this type on the West Coast.<sup>28</sup>

In 1924, the adoption of the Immigration Act, banning all Japanese immigration, had the short-term effect of allowing the Nisei population to increase from 1,863 in 1920 to 4,000 by 1930.<sup>29</sup> This growth effectively shifted the leadership of the Japanese community to the Nisei. In 1928, several Nisei leaders established a community organization aimed at integrating "the second generation with American life through their participation in civic activities"- the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL). The organization was founded by three prominent Nisei- Clarence Arai, the first Japanese-American attorney in Seattle<sup>30</sup>; George Ishihara, "volunteer czar of Nisei ports in Seattle"<sup>31</sup>; and Jimmy Sakamoto, head of the *Japanese American Courier* newspaper.



The Chinese community built their own support networks as well. The Chong Wa Benevolent Association was founded in 1915 to "provide a unified voice to serve as an umbrella organization for Chinese Americans in Washington state and mediate

<sup>23</sup> Image of Goon Dip. Wing Luke Museum. N.d. [historylink.org/db\\_images/req086.JPG](http://historylink.org/db_images/req086.JPG) (Accessed Oct. 19, 2015).

<sup>24</sup> Burke, Elizabeth and Edward Burke. *Seattle's Other History: Our Asian-American Heritage*. Profanity Hill Press (Seattle), 1979: Pg. 15.

<sup>25</sup> Berner, Richard C. *Seattle 1900-1920: From Boomtown, Urban Tolerance, to Restoration*. Charles Press, Seattle (1991): 67.

<sup>26</sup> Shibazaki, Ryochi. *Seattle and the Japanese-United States Baseball Connection, 1905-1926*, 75.

<sup>27</sup> Kafú, Naigai and Stephen W. Kohl. "An Early Account of Japanese Life in the Pacific Northwest: Writings of Naigai Kafú." Charles Press, Seattle (1991): pg. 59.

<sup>28</sup> "Seattle Neighborhoods: Chinatown-International District – Thumbnail History," [historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&File\\_Id=1058](http://historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&File_Id=1058) (Accessed Oct. 16, 2014).

<sup>29</sup> Berner, Richard C. *Seattle 1921-1940: From Boom to Bust*. Charles Press, Seattle (1991): pg. 213.

<sup>30</sup> Marzano, Andy. "James Sakamoto and the Fight for Japanese American Citizenship." *Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project*. University of Washington, 2013. [depts.washington.edu/civilr/Sakamoto.htm](http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/Sakamoto.htm). (Accessed Oct. 15, 2015).

<sup>31</sup> Hosakawa, Bill. *Nisei: The Quiet Americans*. William Morrow and Company, Inc., New York (1969): pg. 164.



disputes between family associations and tongs.”<sup>32</sup> An umbrella organization for all Chinese association and clubs in the region, the Chong Wa Benevolent Association’s role as a neighborhood asset was solidified in 1929 when a building was constructed to support its activities.<sup>33</sup> The building is still used by the Association today for a Chinese language school, citizenship classes, and other Chinese cultural activities.<sup>34</sup>

The growth and prosperity of this period did not last. World War II and the new wave of anti-immigration policy and sentiment aimed at the people of Japan would again change the dynamics and demographics of the CID.

## WORLD WAR II

World War II brought on a more anti-Asian sentiment in the United States, this time directed at the Japanese. Fear and anger after the bombing of Pearl Harbor culminated in the Executive Order 9066, signed by President Franklin Roosevelt on February 19, 1942. The order forced 110,000 Japanese American people living on the West Coast from their homes to internment camps.<sup>35</sup> Many families and community leaders from Seattle were sent to an assembly center at the present day Puyallup Fairgrounds and later sent to an internment camp in Minidoka, Idaho.<sup>36, 37</sup>



That comment, made by Seattle Mayor Earl Millikin, is emblematic of this period.<sup>38</sup> For the 70th anniversary of this painful event in American history, reporters from the Seattle Magazine interviewed Fumiko Hayashida, the woman holding her child in the picture

below.<sup>39</sup> Hayashida was already more than 100 years old for her interview, but her image from

<sup>32</sup> “Home - Chong Wa Benevolent Association.” [chongwa.org/](http://chongwa.org/) (Accessed Oct. 18, 2015).

<sup>33</sup> Ing, Vera. *Dim Sum: The Seattle ABC (American Born Chinese) Dream*. 2010. International Examiner Press, 16.

<sup>34</sup> “Home - Chong Wa Benevolent Association,” [chongwa.org/](http://chongwa.org/) (Accessed Oct. 18, 2015).

<sup>35</sup> “Japanese Americans in Seattle and King County,” [historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&File\\_Id=231](http://historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&File_Id=231) (Accessed Oct. 17, 2014).

<sup>36</sup> Chin, D. *Seattle’s International District the Making of a Pan-Asian American Community*. 2001. International Examiner Press. Pg. 69.

<sup>37</sup> “Internment.” Burke, Elizabeth and Edward Burke. “Seattle’s Other History: Our Asian-American Heritage.” Profanity Hill Press, Seattle (1979): pp. 27. Credit: Japanese American Citizen’s League.

<sup>38</sup> Kinoshita, Lisa. “Seattle Remembers the Japanese Internment,” Seattle Mag, [seattlemag.com/article/seattle-remembers-japanese-internment](http://seattlemag.com/article/seattle-remembers-japanese-internment) (Accessed Oct. 17, 2014).

<sup>39</sup> Image of Hayashida and daughter. MOHAI and Trujillo, J. Seattle Post Intelligencer Collection. N.d. [www3.hdnux.com/photos/15/53/64/3587378/3/960x540.jpg](http://www3.hdnux.com/photos/15/53/64/3587378/3/960x540.jpg) (Accessed Oct. 19, 2015).

that year lives on as a foreboding example of what Japanese residents endured during the war years.<sup>40</sup>



Internment depleted much of the economic power and stability that first generation Japanese-Americans had enjoyed, as they were forced to leave their homes and businesses. Their children, the Nisei, were caught in the precarious position of wanting to support the United States at a time when it was determined not to support them. Many Nisei, including the leaders of the JACL, continued the work of their elders and even supported the war effort that had ripped their families apart. Both the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team were comprised of second-generation Japanese American men.<sup>41</sup>

After the war, when the internment camps closed, almost a third of the Japanese population did not return to Seattle. Fewer Japanese residents and a pervasive anti-Japanese sentiment deeply impacted the economic well-being of Japantown/Nihonmachi.<sup>42</sup> Chinese-Americans also faced the threat of being mislabeled as communist sympathizers, led many families to quietly

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<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> "Japanese Americans in Seattle and King County," [historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&File\\_Id=231](http://historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&File_Id=231) (Accessed Oct. 15, 2014).

<sup>42</sup> Chin, D. *Seattle's International District the Making of a Pan-Asian American Community*. 2001. International Examiner Press. Pg. 74.

celebrate their heritage for fear of the government finding “something wrong with their immigration papers.”<sup>43</sup>



Those who served during the war used the GI Bill to attend college, and slowly the CID returned to its pre-war identity. Population grew, as more Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, and other Asian Pacific immigrants arrived to the city. The demographics of this area had changed so much over the years that in 1951 Seattle Mayor William Devin official renamed the area from Chinatown to the International District, to better reflect the area’s diversity.<sup>44</sup>

### **1960S – 1970S POLITICAL REPRESENTATION**

By this time, the Asian community had existed in Seattle for well over one hundred years. Still, political legitimacy in the city escaped them. This changed in 1962, when Wing Luke was elected to the Seattle City Council, making him the first person of color elected to the council or to any political office in the Pacific

Northwest. Luke tragically died three years after his election, but his example ushered in a new era of political engagement. On May 17, 1967, the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience was founded, to commemorate Luke and others who contributed to the building of a strong Asian Pacific culture in Seattle. Today, that museum is a National Park Service Affiliated Area and a Smithsonian affiliate, the first in the Pacific Northwest.<sup>45, 46</sup>

Luke helped pave the way for other members of the community to seek political representation. The 1960s and 1970s were an important time in the United States for civil rights and equal opportunities for minorities. Political organizing began in earnest in the CID, as the citizens learned to voice their concerns and demand better service from their government. The CID established its official boundaries with the City of Seattle in 1968, officially occupying the lands from 5<sup>th</sup> Ave east to 12<sup>th</sup> Ave and from Yesler Way to Dearborn Street.<sup>47</sup>

Over the course of the next decade, the CID and its emerging leadership, worked through a number of obstacles to maintain the integrity and cohesion of the district. The building of Interstate-5 through Seattle severely devastated the CID, as access to businesses and homes was virtually cut off. Many families left the CID to move to the suburbs, further weakening its

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<sup>43</sup> Ing, Vera. *Dim Sum: The Seattle ABC (American Born Chinese) Dream*. 2010. International Examiner Press, 15.

<sup>44</sup> “History of ID.” Seattle Chinatown International District Business Improvement Area. [cidbia.org/history](http://cidbia.org/history) (Accessed Oct. 15 2014).

<sup>45</sup> “About Us.” Wing Luke Museum. [wingluke.org/about-us](http://wingluke.org/about-us) (Accessed Oct. 15, 2014).

<sup>46</sup> Image of Wing Luke. Wing Luke Museum. N.d. [historylink.org/db\\_images/WingLuke1.JPG](http://historylink.org/db_images/WingLuke1.JPG) (Accessed Oct. 19, 2015).

<sup>47</sup> Chin, D. *Seattle’s International District the Making of a Pan-Asian American Community*. 2001. International Examiner Press. Pg. unknown.



cultural and political force.<sup>48</sup> In 1968, construction on the Kingdome began on the border of the CID. Despite protests and opposition from the CID community over the traffic and economic depreciation that the Kingdome would bring, the construction went on as planned and the stadium was completed in the mid-1970s.<sup>49</sup>

The fight against the Kingdome emboldened new leaders and organizations. Once the construction site for the stadium was established near the CID, the community quickly formed the King Street Historic District, to preserve the area's cultural history.<sup>50</sup> Activists opposed to Kingdome development led a campaign called "Hum Bows not Hot Dogs" to pressure the King County Executive to provide mitigation money to the CID to offset the effects of the Kingdome development.<sup>51</sup> A key leader during this period was Bob Santos, a Filipino- American activist who, along with representatives from the Native American, African American and Latino American communities, joined together to fight for the social and economic equity of minorities. Colloquially known as "Gang of Four," the group is responsible for stewarding a number of progressive changes in Seattle and across King County.<sup>52</sup> Bob Santos continues to be politically active in the Filipino- and Asian-American community in greater Seattle and is still known and revered by community members as "Uncle Bob".<sup>53, 54</sup>

During the 1970s, a new wave of Asian Pacific immigrants was arriving to the city, largely because of the Vietnam War, and the need for affordable housing was strong. After years of petitioning the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for support, the CID was declared a Neighborhood Strategy Area and provided with financial assistance for building low-income housing.<sup>55</sup>



In 1975, the Seattle Chinatown-International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDpda) was created, to further promote affordable development and housing in the community.

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<sup>48</sup> "Santos, Robert 'Bob' Nicholas," [historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file\\_id=8989](http://historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=8989) (Accessed Oct. 17, 2014).

<sup>49</sup> "History of ID." Seattle Chinatown International District Business Improvement Area. [cidbia.org/history](http://cidbia.org/history) (Accessed Oct. 15, 2014).

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> "Kingdome Protest and HUD March, Nov., 1972," [depts.washington.edu/civilr/aa\\_kingdome.htm](http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/aa_kingdome.htm) (Accessed Oct. 20, 2014).

<sup>52</sup> Chin, D. *Seattle's International District the Making of a Pan-Asian American Community*. 2001. International Examiner Press. Pg. 98.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>54</sup> Tagawa, E. "HUD March." 1972.

<https://depts.washington.edu/civilr/images/asianamerican/ETagawa/HUdmarch2.jpg> (Accessed Oct. 15, 2014).

<sup>55</sup> "Santos, Robert 'Bob' Nicholas," [historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file\\_id=8989](http://historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=8989) (Accessed Oct. 17, 2014).

Another key political member of the Asian-American community during this time was Ruby Chow, who in 1973 became the first Asian-American woman to be elected to the King County Council, representing the diverse 5th District that encompassed the CID, Beacon Hill, Capitol Hill, Madrona, Rainier Valley and Seward Park. Chow had already run a successful restaurant with her husband, founded the Chinese Community Drill Team, and lobbied local governments and schools to add more women and people of color to their boards.<sup>56</sup>



### THE CID IN THE 1980s – 2000s

The political upheaval of the 1960s-1970s gave way to a stronger community in the CID, which continued to grow and change. In the 1980s, a new section of the CID called Little Saigon was recognized. This area contains a large number of Vietnamese Americans who left Vietnam after the fall of Saigon in 1975.<sup>57, 58</sup>



Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, economic progress continued in the CID. In 1997, the International District Village project was completed, making the largest public-private housing and multi-use development in the history of the CID.<sup>59</sup> A number of new projects include private office space development and the Uwajimaya Village brought economic prosperity to the CID. Although some developments benefited the greater Seattle community, many projects brought housing, local businesses, supermarkets and jobs to the CID.

Not all property owners in the CID agreed on how to enact economic development. Despite inter-ethnic conflicts, local CID leadership and the City of Seattle have taken a stance on the preservation of the cultural identity of the District, exemplified by the blockade of a potential McDonalds development in the 1990s.<sup>60</sup> In 2000, the infamous Kingdome was torn down, but

<sup>56</sup> Image of Ruby Chow. N.p., n.d. [static.seattletimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/06/2004458351-300x192.jpg](http://static.seattletimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/06/2004458351-300x192.jpg) (Accessed Oct. 15, 2015).

<sup>57</sup> "Little Saigon." [seattlechinatownid.com/neighborhood/little-saigon](http://seattlechinatownid.com/neighborhood/little-saigon). 20 Oct. 2014.

<sup>58</sup> "A sign on south Jackson Street marks the heart of Little Saigon." March 4, 2015. [static.seattletimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/IMG\\_6295-1020x765.jpg](http://static.seattletimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/IMG_6295-1020x765.jpg) (Accessed Oct. 15, 2015).

<sup>59</sup> Chin, D. *Seattle's International District the Making of a Pan-Asian American Community*. 2001. International Examiner Press. Pg. 106.

<sup>60</sup> Chin, D. *Seattle's International District the Making of a Pan-Asian American Community*. 2001. International Examiner Press. Pg. 110.



was later replaced with the current CenturyLink Stadium and Safeco Field, presenting new challenges to the community.<sup>61</sup>



### THE CID IN THE 2000s TO PRESENT

In the early 2000s, Seattle's growing population and the established CID community continued to seek a balance between cultural and community preservation in the face of a changing local landscape that brought new residents and created challenges for new development. Across Seattle and the CID, an increasing presence of people experiencing homelessness presented new challenges for residents and community leaders. Located within walking distance of vital social and health services for people experiencing homelessness in downtown Seattle, the CID is home to a number of transient residents that reside in open space in and around the District.<sup>62</sup>

At times, tensions ran high between the CID and the city campaign to end homelessness. When the Low Income Housing Institute and ShareWheel negotiated a move of the Nicklesville homelessness encampment to a hillside between Chinatown and Little Saigon, local community organizations expressed concerns about the lack of communication with local residents.<sup>63</sup> Despite brief unrest, the CID has largely been cooperative and accommodating to new residents and emerging community needs.

Concerns over public safety have largely been anecdotal, given the overall crime decrease in the CID in recent years.<sup>64</sup> Yet, in recent years the perceived increase in criminal activity due to homelessness encampments and spillover from nearby neighborhoods has resulted in an increase in community engagement with the Seattle Police Department (SPD) and the City of Seattle. The presence of community police officers and security cameras monitored by residents has been one method to mitigate community concerns.<sup>65</sup> In addition, the City has engaged the CID in events like the Mayor's "Find it, Fix it" program to address small, yet immediate concerns for business owners and residents.<sup>66, 67</sup>

<sup>61</sup> "History of ID," Seattle Chinatown International District Business Improvement Area, [cidbia.org/history](http://cidbia.org/history) (accessed Oct. 15, 2014).

<sup>62</sup> Image of CID members working at Nicklesville. N.p., n.d. [iexaminer.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Nicklesville-Gravel-pile-wChild-cropped.jpg](http://iexaminer.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Nicklesville-Gravel-pile-wChild-cropped.jpg)

<sup>63</sup> Ng, A. "A community response to the Nicklesville move to the ID." Northwest Asian Weekly. [nwasianweekly.com/2014/08/community-response-nicklesville-move-id/](http://nwasianweekly.com/2014/08/community-response-nicklesville-move-id/) (Accessed Oct. 17, 2015).

<sup>64</sup> Chin, D. *Seattle's International District the Making of a Pan-Asian American Community*. 2001. International Examiner Press. Pg. 127.

<sup>65</sup> Boiko-Weyrauch, A. "Neighbors, police, city officials give Chinatown ID fresh start." The Seattle Times. [seattletimes.com/seattle-news/neighbors-police-city-officials-give-chinatown-id-fresh-start/](http://seattletimes.com/seattle-news/neighbors-police-city-officials-give-chinatown-id-fresh-start/) (Accessed Oct. 17, 2015).

<sup>66</sup> Tan, T. "Slideshow: Mayor Ed Murray walks through Seattle's Chinatown International District." Sept. 15, 2014. [seattletimes.com/opinion/slideshow-mayor-ed-murray-walks-through-seattles-chinatown-international-district/](http://seattletimes.com/opinion/slideshow-mayor-ed-murray-walks-through-seattles-chinatown-international-district/) (Assessed Oct. 17, 2015).

<sup>67</sup> Thanh, T. Image of Murray visiting the International District. N.d. [i.embed.ly/1/display/resize?key=1e6a1a1efdb011df84894040444cdc60&url=http%3A%2F%2Fscontent-](http://i.embed.ly/1/display/resize?key=1e6a1a1efdb011df84894040444cdc60&url=http%3A%2F%2Fscontent-)



The ongoing concern over new development generated community organizers. For many years the Vietnamese community lacked a specific community-based organization to advocate on behalf of Little Saigon businesses and residents. In 2011, the Friends of Little Saigon was organized to preserve the economic and cultural vitality of the Little Saigon area in face of rapid development.<sup>68</sup> Friends of Little Saigon in conjunction with SCIDpda quickly began working with business owners and residents in Little Saigon to ensure the continued growth and prosperity of the area during neighboring transportation development projects, Seattle Housing Authority redevelopment and other major economic

projects that threatened to fragment Little Saigon from the rest of the CID.<sup>69</sup>

Development in and around the CID continues to shape the community. The Dearborn Street Redevelopment is the latest project to impact the CID and particularly Little Saigon. Community leaders continue to advocate for a strong CID and Vietnamese presence within the Dearborn Street Redevelopment Project.<sup>70</sup> Negotiations for affordable housing, a cultural center, community space and subsidy rents for non-profits that would benefit the Vietnamese community were hindered by the economic recession.<sup>71</sup>

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[a.cdninstagram.com%2Fhphotos-xaf1%2Ft51.2885-15%2F10598538\\_319308971582701\\_371769915\\_n.jpg&width=810](https://www.instagram.com/p/BFhphotos-xaf1%2Ft51.2885-15%2F10598538_319308971582701_371769915_n.jpg&width=810) (Accessed Oct. 15, 2015).

<sup>68</sup> Friends of Little Saigon. [friendsoflittlesaigon.org/sample-page/](http://friendsoflittlesaigon.org/sample-page/) (Accessed Oct. 17, 2015).

<sup>69</sup> Nguyen, Q. Little Saigon 2020 Plan Action Plan Year 1 & 2. IDEA Space.

[seattle.gov/dpd/cs/groups/pan/@pan/documents/web\\_informational/s048987.pdf](http://seattle.gov/dpd/cs/groups/pan/@pan/documents/web_informational/s048987.pdf) (Accessed Oct. 17, 2015).

<sup>70</sup> Chin, D. *Seattle's International District the Making of a Pan-Asian American Community*. 2001. International Examiner Press. Pg. 128.

<sup>71</sup> Ibid.

## CURRENT COMMUNITY PROFILE

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The following section provides an overview of key population statistics as well as employment and education profiles. It also covers land use and zoning patterns, business conditions and key issues identified by community members. Interspersed throughout the section are detailed demographic and land use zoning maps. *See Appendix A for an additional census tract/block group map.*

### POPULATION AND LANGUAGE STATISTICS

As of the 2010 census, there were 3,466 individuals residing in the CID. The CID population has doubled since 1980. More than half of CID residents consider themselves Asian-Pacific Islander (57.3%), 25% identify as White and 10% identify as African American. CID's neighborhood density is twice that of the Seattle average, with Chinatown and Japantown being much more dense than Little Saigon. *Refer to the 2010 Census Profile and Housing Units Map below for more detail.* According to 2006-2010 American Community Survey estimates, 44% of Chinatown residents speak Chinese at home, while 12% Chinatown residents and 13% Little Saigon residents speak Vietnamese at home.<sup>72</sup>

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<sup>72</sup> "About Seattle's Neighborhoods:C-ID Urban Center Profile." Seattle Dept. of Planning and Development. 2015. 19 Oct 2015.  
[seattlecitygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/StorytellingTextLegend/index.html?appid=92ef6933d46f4c9786c8e8f09515284f](http://seattlecitygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/StorytellingTextLegend/index.html?appid=92ef6933d46f4c9786c8e8f09515284f)



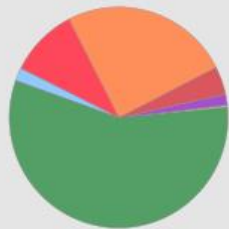
# 2010 Census Profile: Chinatown-International District

## Total Population

1980 to 2010



## Race\* Composition

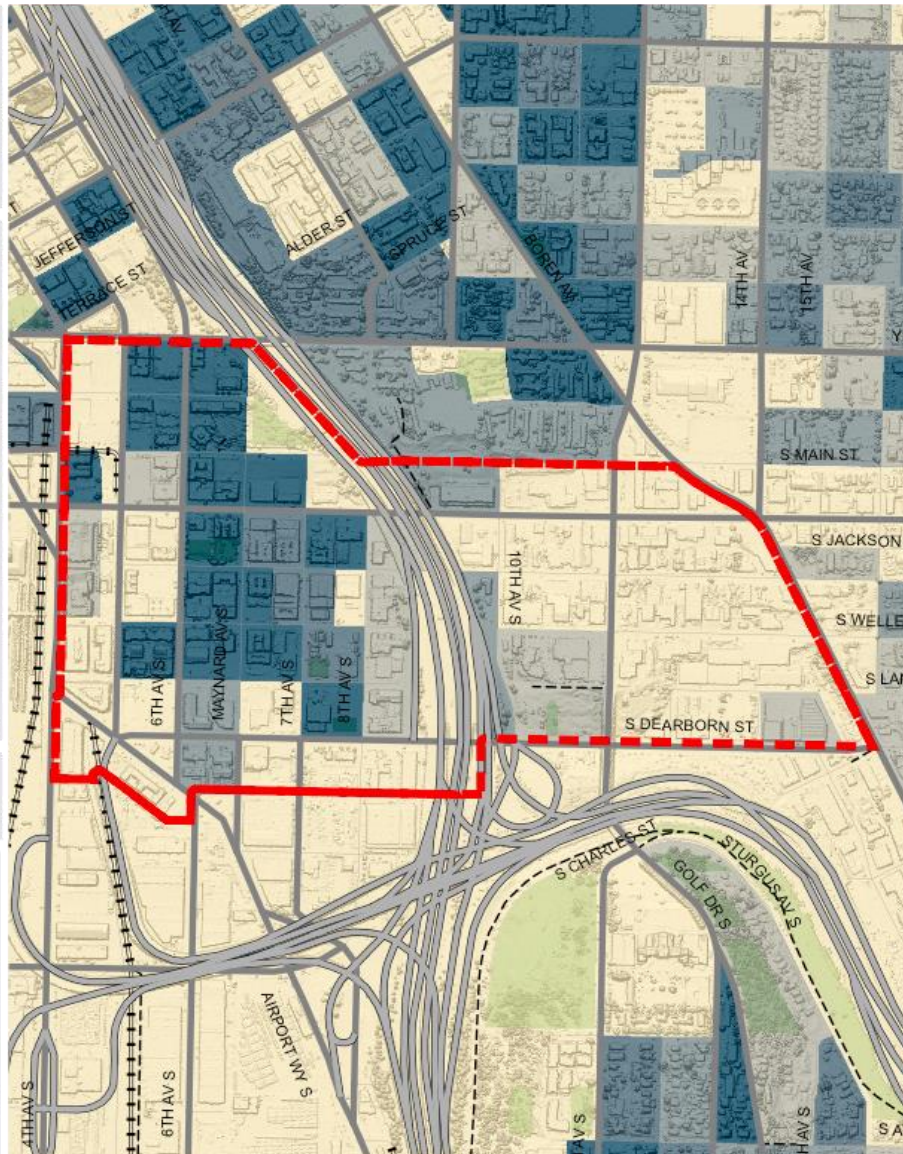
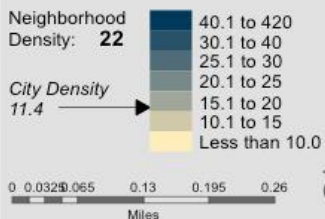


White	25%
Black or African American	10.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1.8%
Asian	57%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.3%
Some Other Race	1.6%
Two or More Races	4%

\*One Race

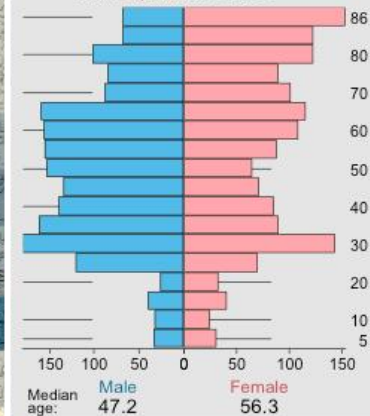
Hispanic or Latino (of any race) makes up **5.1%** of the area population.

## Population per Acre: by Census Block



## Population by Sex and Age

Total Population: 3,466



## Housing

Occupied Housing Units:



Vacant Housing Units:

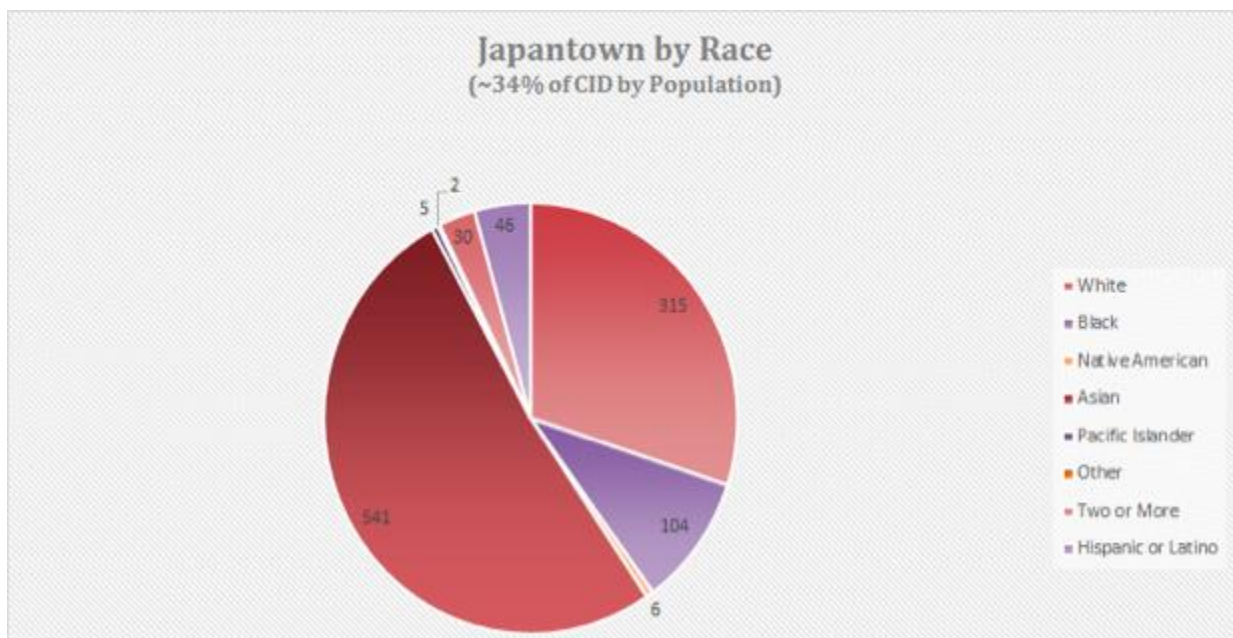
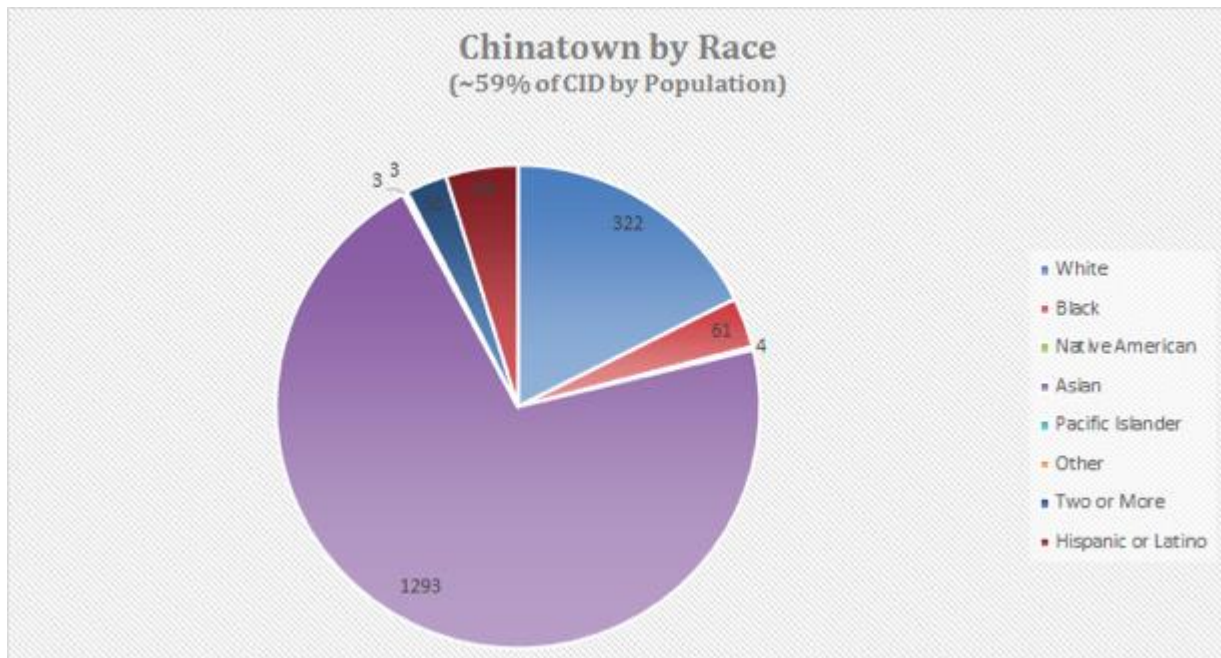
166 ( 6.9%)

Homeowner Vacancy Rate: 0 Rental Vacancy Rate: 4.7

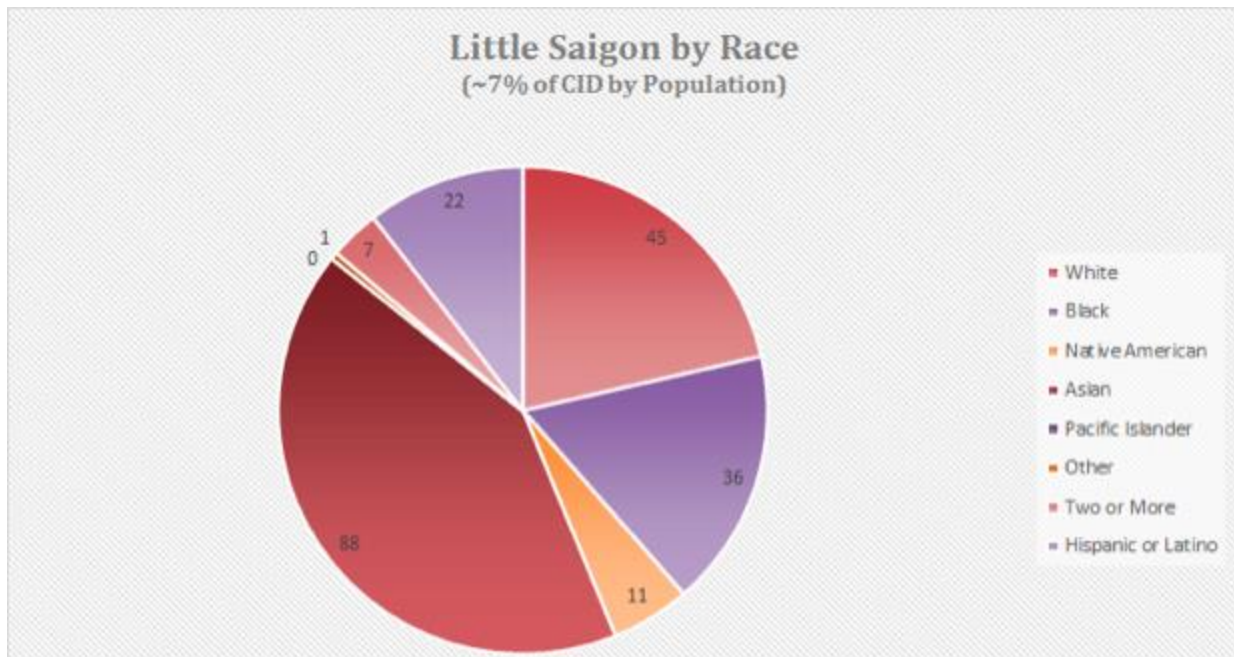


Prepared by: Planning and Development  
Source: U.S Census Bureau  
Census 2010

The following figures show the racial and ethnic makeup of Chinatown (~59% of the CID population), Japantown (~34% of the CID population) and Little Saigon (~7% of the CID population).







## ECONOMIC INDICATORS

### CID Households, Income, and Employment

The CID provides a unique landscape as it relates to household distribution, income and employment:

- 26% of the CID population lives in a family household
- 34% of families live below the poverty line
- Nearly 60% of CID households live in low-income households with an annual income below \$25,000.
  - A majority of low-income residents are 65 or older<sup>73</sup>
- The Median age of CID residents is 50
- Of residents over 16 years of age:
  - 54% are in the labor force (6.6% of these individuals are unemployed)
  - 46% are not in the labor<sup>74</sup>



### CID Housing

Five percent of CID housing units are owner occupied, while 95% are rental properties. The average apartment rent in the CID is \$1,500, which is equivalent to 72% of annual income for households with an annual income of \$25,000.<sup>75</sup>



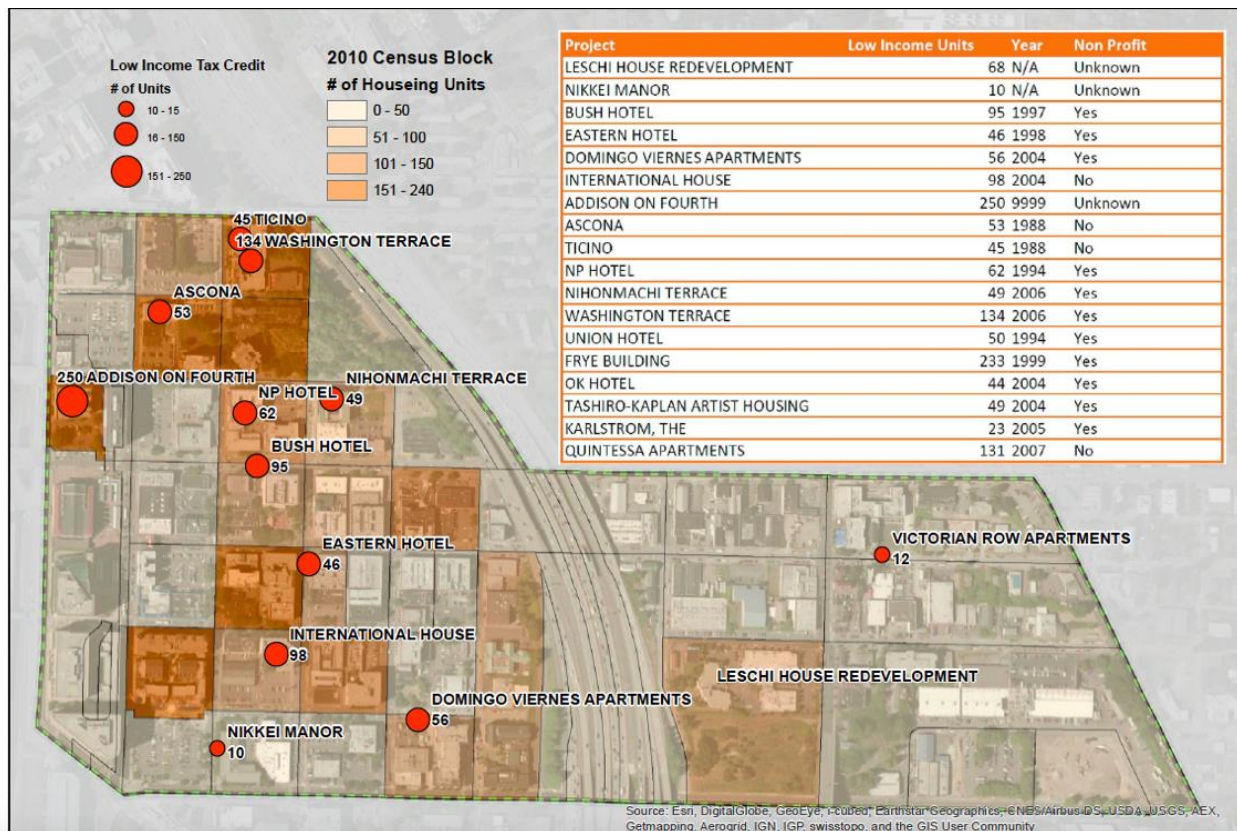
<sup>73</sup> "Seattle Chinatown District PDA." Seattle Foundation. 2015. 19 Oct 2015.

[seattlefoundation.org/npos/Pages/SeattleChinatownInternationalDistrictPreservationDev.aspx](http://seattlefoundation.org/npos/Pages/SeattleChinatownInternationalDistrictPreservationDev.aspx)

<sup>74</sup> **NOTE:** These statistics are for the Community Reporting Area that includes the CID and Pioneer Square, as this is City of Seattle aggregates its socioeconomic ACS data. "About Seattle's Neighborhoods: Pioneer Square-ID CRA Profile." Seattle Department of Planning and Development. 2015. 19 Oct 2015.

[seattlecitygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/StorytellingTextLegend/index.html?appid=92ef6933d46f4c9786c8e8f09515284f](http://seattlecitygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/StorytellingTextLegend/index.html?appid=92ef6933d46f4c9786c8e8f09515284f)

<sup>75</sup> "Chinatown-International District: 2014 Neighborhood Profile". Downtown Seattle Association. 2014. 18 October 2015. [downtownseattle.com/files/reports/neighborhood-profile/ChinatownID.pdf](http://downtownseattle.com/files/reports/neighborhood-profile/ChinatownID.pdf)



Number of housing units and low income housing tax credits in the CID.

## EDUCATION PROFILE

### Education Access/Location

Many students in the CID neighborhood attend Seattle Public Schools. District boundaries have delineated elementary students, with those living east of I-5 having to attend Bailey Gatzert Elementary School in the CID while those living west of I-5 must commute to Lowell Elementary School in Capitol Hill. Conversely, all middle school age students living in CID are zoned to attend Washington Middle School in the Central District. Additionally, all high school age students living in CID are zoned to attend Garfield High School in the Central District.<sup>76</sup>

The CID is also home to Summit Public (Charter) Schools' Sierra High School. There are no institutions of higher education in the CID. The closest community colleges are Seattle Central College in Capitol Hill and Seattle Vocational Institute in Central District/Leschi.



<sup>76</sup> "Seattle Public Schools: District Boundary Maps." Seattle Public Schools. 2015. 19 October 2015. [seattleschools.org/directory](http://seattleschools.org/directory).

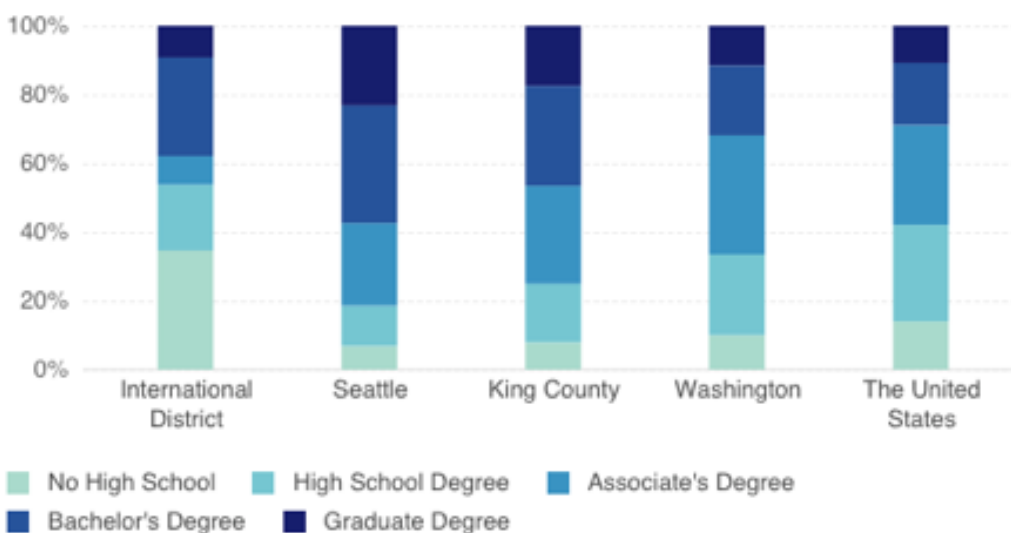
## Educational Attainment

Within the International District-Pioneer Square community reporting area resides individuals of various educational attainment levels.<sup>77, 78</sup> Of residents over the age of 25:

- 22% have no high school education
- 54% have achieved high school graduation (including no diploma) or received some higher education (less than a bachelor's degree)
- 16% have received a bachelor's degree
- 7% possesses a graduate or professional degree



International District Educational Attainment



## REAL ESTATE

Real estate development has played a key role in the history of the CID. The development of Seattle's logging, fishing and mining industries in the late 1800s resulted in a significant increase in the immigration from China to Seattle. With the creation of housing built just east of Pioneer Square on waterfront land, the first Chinatown of Seattle was built. This rapid growth ended in the late 1880s. And, the recession led to new immigration laws, rioting, property damage and forced evictions throughout Chinatown. Following this, many of the remaining residents left voluntarily. In 1889, a fire burned the little remaining portions of Chinatown along with a large portion of downtown Seattle.<sup>79</sup>

<sup>77</sup> "About Seattle: Seattle's Neighborhoods." Seattle Department of Planning and Development. 2015. 19 Oct 2015. [seattle.gov/dpd/cs/groups/pan/@pan/documents/web\\_informational/s047610.pdf](http://seattle.gov/dpd/cs/groups/pan/@pan/documents/web_informational/s047610.pdf)

<sup>78</sup> Graphic: "Find the Home: International District." 2015. 19 Oct 2015.

[places.findthehome.com/l/148071/International-District-Seattle-WA](http://places.findthehome.com/l/148071/International-District-Seattle-WA)

<sup>79</sup> United States. National Park Service. "Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage: A Discover Our Shared Heritage Travel Itinerary." *National Parks Service*. U.S. Department of the Interior, n.d. Web. 21 Oct. 2015. <[nps.gov/nr/travel/Asian\\_American\\_and\\_Pacific\\_Islander\\_Heritage/Seattle-Chinatown-Historic-District.htm](http://nps.gov/nr/travel/Asian_American_and_Pacific_Islander_Heritage/Seattle-Chinatown-Historic-District.htm)>. <[seattlehousing.net/redevelopment/yesler-terrace/](http://seattlehousing.net/redevelopment/yesler-terrace/)>.

By the 1900s, new structures were built on top of the old city. Chinatown reemerged a few blocks south of its original location near Pioneer Square and began to flourish, largely in response to significant investments by the railroad industry. Low rents and a strong local economy supported by the railroad industry led to the biggest influx of Japanese immigrants to the West Coast. This new group of immigrants developed housing and businesses to the northwest of Chinatown, creating Japantown. By the 1940s, the city began investing in the development of Japantown. In 1941, Seattle developed Yesler Terrace, the city's first public subsidized housing as well as the first racially integrated housing project in the United States.<sup>80</sup>

Despite the progress being made in the Chinatown and Japantown, racial tensions again changed the urban fabric of the CID. Land practices such as redlining and racial covenants placed geographic boundaries around where immigrants could rent, purchase land or take out loans. In 1942, following the aftermath of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, FDR enacted Executive Order 9066, authorizing the internment of Japanese citizens. As residents of Japantown were evicted, Japanese businesses were simultaneously abandoned. Eventually, African American migrants and Filipino immigrants filled in these vacancies and new communities began to form.<sup>81</sup>

The next phase of major real estate development came in the 1970s when CID community leaders disputed the creation of Kingdome Stadium. In response, CID leaders generated the King Street Historic District given the fear that development near the stadium would lead to an increase in rental prices. The 1970s also coincide with an influx of Vietnamese immigrants.<sup>82</sup>



Currently, CID leaders are struggling to keep rent prices accessible. The accompanying show CID rental rates relative to other portions of Seattle. Although rental prices have not caught up with some of the most popular markets in Seattle, the western regions of the CID remain one of the most expensive areas in Seattle. Although the Kingdome Stadium no longer remains, higher rental rates seen near the new Centurylink and Safeco Stadiums are now also being recognized in the CID.<sup>83</sup>



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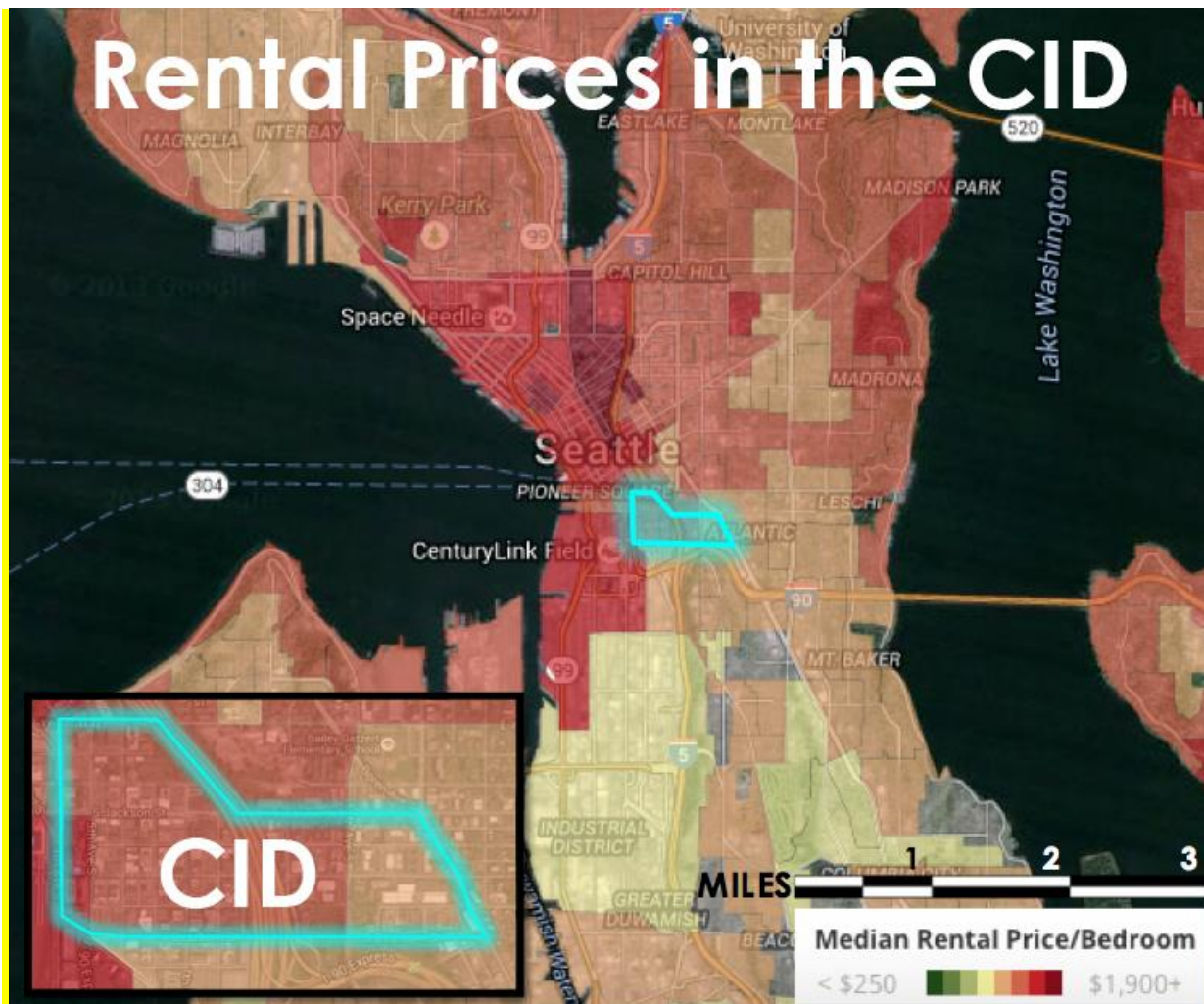
<sup>80</sup> "Yesler Terrace." Yesler Terrace Redevelopment. Seattle Housing Authority, n.d. Web. 21 Oct. 2015.

<sup>81</sup> "Japantown." ID. JP MorganChase, n.d. Web. 21 Oct. 2015. <[seattlechinatownid.com/neighborhood/japantown](http://seattlechinatownid.com/neighborhood/japantown)>.

<sup>82</sup> "Little Saigon." ID. JP MorganChase, n.d. Web. 21 Oct. 2015. <[seattlechinatownid.com/neighborhood/little-saigon](http://seattlechinatownid.com/neighborhood/little-saigon)>.

<sup>83</sup> "Seattle Historic Tours -- International District." *International District*. City of Seattle, n.d. Web. 21 Oct. 2015. <[seattle.gov/tour/historicdistricts/id/](http://seattle.gov/tour/historicdistricts/id/)>.





Developers use several tools to keep rent prices low, such as the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) system developed in 1986.<sup>84</sup> There are several LIHTC affordable housing projects in the CID. Additionally, most of the CID sits in a Qualified Census Tract (QCT). Among several other variables, projects in a QCT are a higher priority in the LIHTC application process. Visit [huduser.gov/qct/qctmap.html](http://huduser.gov/qct/qctmap.html) for interactive map.

More recently, the Seattle Housing Authority began rebuilding affordable housing in Yesler Terrace, adding hundreds of units of Market Rate Housing.<sup>85</sup> This project will add a new element to the constantly shifting landscape of the CID real estate market. An overview of the development timeline is included in the following section.



<sup>84</sup> "Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit." Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit. PHFA, n.d. Web. 21 Oct. 2015. <[phfa.org/developers/developer/lihtc.aspx](http://phfa.org/developers/developer/lihtc.aspx)>.

<sup>85</sup> Data taken from Trulia.com



## YESLER TERRACE REDEVELOPMENT PLANS

Yesler Terrace plays a significant historical and redevelopment role in Little Saigon. A background report for SHA describes how Public Housing first began on Yesler Terrace<sup>86</sup>:

*In 1941 Seattle Housing Authority, SHA, turned Yesler Terrace's 43 acres into a terraced series of 863 low-rise row housing units, modeled after worker housing in Sweden and built to last 60 years. At completion, Yesler Terrace was the state's first public housing development and the first racially integrated public housing development in the United States.*

*SHA required Yesler Terrace applicants to be families of U.S. citizens, which excluded the many immigrant families and poor singles living in Seattle. Yesler Terrace opened one month before the U.S. entered World War II and quickly emphasized the housing of defense workers. SHA increased the maximum incomes of applicants in order to cater to defense workers.*

*From the start, Yesler Terrace provided a home for people of color, with around 7% of the original households belonging to racial minorities; a significant figure given Seattle's relatively small minority population at the time. Upon full occupation in 1942 there were 2,784 people living in 868 units, with an average of 3.2 people per unit.*

In 2013, the city made plans to revitalize Yesler Terrace and replace 561 aging, affordable housing units. Although not without controversy, the Yesler Redevelopment Plan is one step closer to becoming a reality with several hundred units having already been completed and hundred more units still under construction.



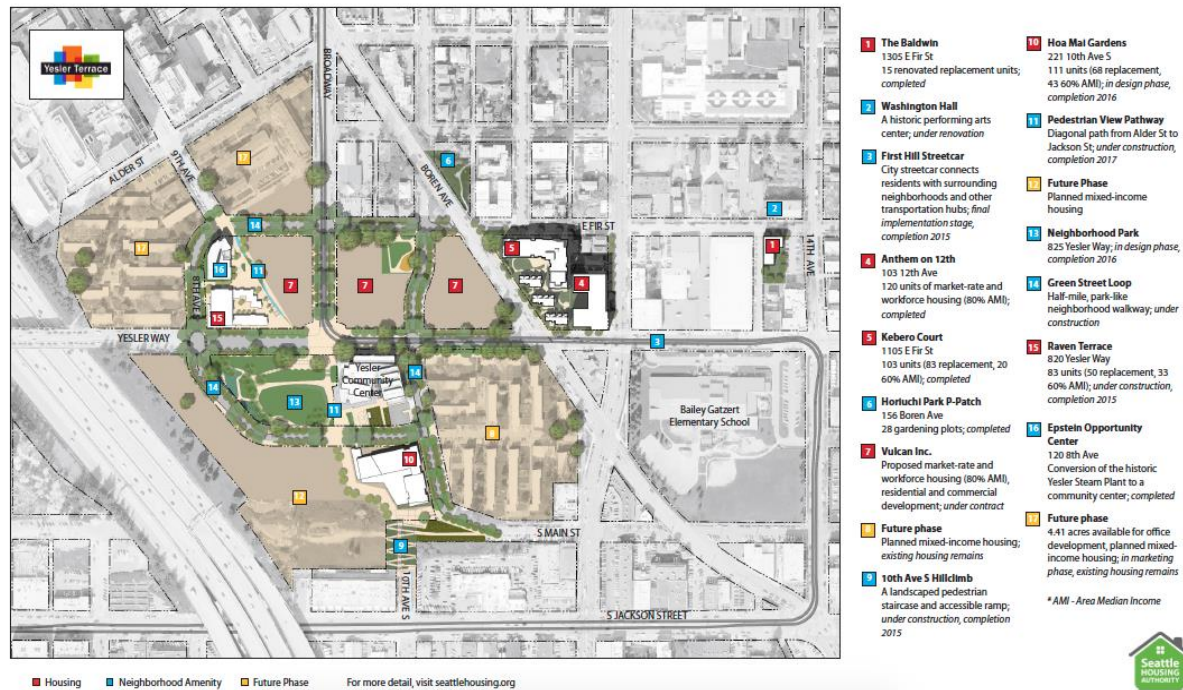
The accompanying graph displays a site plan and overview of the redevelopment plans.

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<sup>86</sup> [seattlehousing.net/redevelopment/yesler-terrace/](http://seattlehousing.net/redevelopment/yesler-terrace/).

## YESLER TERRACE SITE PLAN<sup>87</sup>

### An Evolving Neighborhood: The Redevelopment of Yesler Terrace



### Yesler Terrace Redevelopment Plan Elements<sup>88</sup>

Housing	4.3 million SF / 5,000 units
Office	900,000 SF
Neighborhood services	65,000 SF
Neighborhood retail	88,000 SF
Parks & semi-private open space	15.9 acres
Parking	5,100 spaces

<b>Housing Plan:</b>	
Total units	<b>5,000</b>
Extremely low-income units (up to 30% AMI)	<b>661</b>
Replacement units	<b>561</b>
Additional units	<b>100</b>
Very low-income units (up to 60 percent AMI)	<b>290</b>
Workforce units (up to 80 percent AMI)	<b>850</b>
Market-rate units	<b>3,199</b>

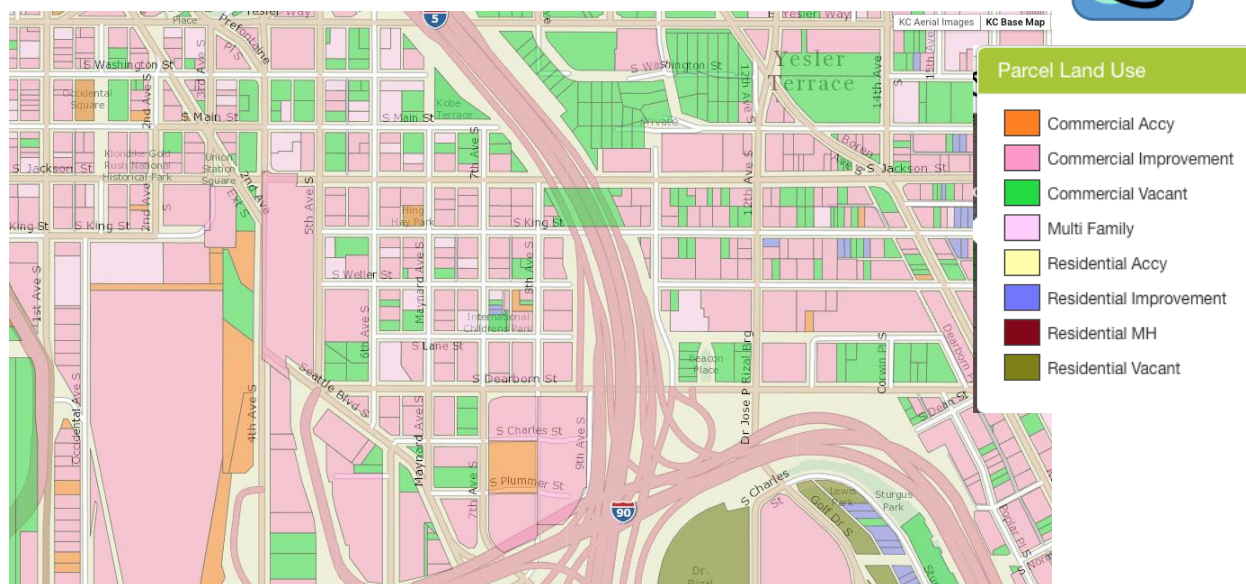
<sup>87</sup> Ibid.

<sup>88</sup> Ibid.

## REAL ESTATE TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The CID is primarily characterized by mixed-use multifamily buildings and commercial properties. As shown in the accompanying map, many of the neighborhood's commercial properties are vacant. Residential real estate market trends are difficult to attain due to CID's status as a Public Development Authority (PDA). The CID is almost entirely encompassed by the PDA, which serves to preserve and protect the area according to a mission. The PDA has led to the creation of a large number of affordable housing projects. Additionally, many other properties in the neighborhood are maintained under non-traditional ownership structures. As a result, data relating to rent and new development is somewhat skewed.<sup>89</sup>

Dissimilar to central Seattle, the CID has seen relatively little new construction. Many historical buildings still stand in the CID. Since 2013, only 16% of CID building permits have been for new construction, demonstrating a commitment to maintaining the historic and cultural character of the neighborhood.<sup>90</sup>



Affordable housing has been a primary form of new development in the CID. Hirabayashi Place, a 96-unit affordable housing project, is currently being developed by InterIm CDA.<sup>91</sup> Also under construction is the renovation of the historic Publix Hotel on Fifth and King Street; Uwajimaya Asian Grocery Store now owns and is renovating what used to be a single room occupancy hotel in the 1920s. This project differs from many other CID projects as units will be rented at market rate.<sup>92</sup>

<sup>89</sup> [localscape.property/#kingcountyassessor/My-Property](https://localscape.property/#kingcountyassessor/My-Property)

<sup>90</sup> Localscape, *King County WA - Analytics*. Web. 19 Oct. 2015. [localscape.property/#kingcountyassessor/](https://localscape.property/#kingcountyassessor/)

<sup>91</sup> "Hirabayashi Place." *Interim CDA*. Web. 21 Oct. 2015. [interimicda.org/project/hirabayashiplace/](https://interimicda.org/project/hirabayashiplace/)

<sup>92</sup> "Old Hotel Full of Memories Finds Room for a New Start." *The Seattle Times*. The Seattle Times, 31 July 2013. Web. 21 Oct. 2015.

There are currently multiple development opportunities in the CID, but relatively few opportunities to accomplish that development. Developers typically aim to increase density in the CID in order to build the local economy and redeem commercial lot vacancies.



While there are no Certified Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) located in the CID, there is a Community Capital Development Corporation on South Jackson Street, just east of Little Saigon. It is both a CDFI and a Community Development Corporation (CDC) and provides technical assistance, training and loans to community development businesses. Located in the CID, and arguably better able to serve the community, SCIDpda receives public funds from the city in order to encourage development in the CID. However, these funds are primarily tied up in consulting costs. Since the CID is a preservation zone, remodeling and building development of any kind is an intense process that requires as much information capital as monetary. The CID suffers from a lack of development agencies with adequate resources.



There are a few organizations that provide assistance to entrepreneurs in the CID. In the last decade, SCIDpda's department, IDEA Space, has provided business consultation for the CID. SCIDpda is currently implementing a program named Hing Hai Co-Work, which will provide a space for local entrepreneurs to work together and receive pro bono consultation from professionals.

IDEA Space has also drawn up plans for a large Vietnamese Cultural Center that they are acquiring land. The Center will include 20,000-30,000 square feet of commercial use space.



Other organizations, such as Enterprise Community Partners, Impact Capital (LISC) and 4Culture are also funding ongoing business development efforts in the CID. While these organizations do not provide adequate coverage for business owners in the CID and often represent national organizations with broad interests, they represent a starting point for further development.

Several new major developments are in progress on the edges of the CID, including the previously mentioned Yesler Place and the Early Design Guidance. The Early Design Guidance is a proposal to redevelop a multi-block piece of land south of Airport Way South and north of I-90. Seattle developer Urban Visions is proposing a mixed-use office and retail complex.<sup>93</sup> Both of these developments take advantage of the CID's close proximity to downtown, Pioneer Square, the stadiums and waterfront without surpassing the boundaries of the PDA.

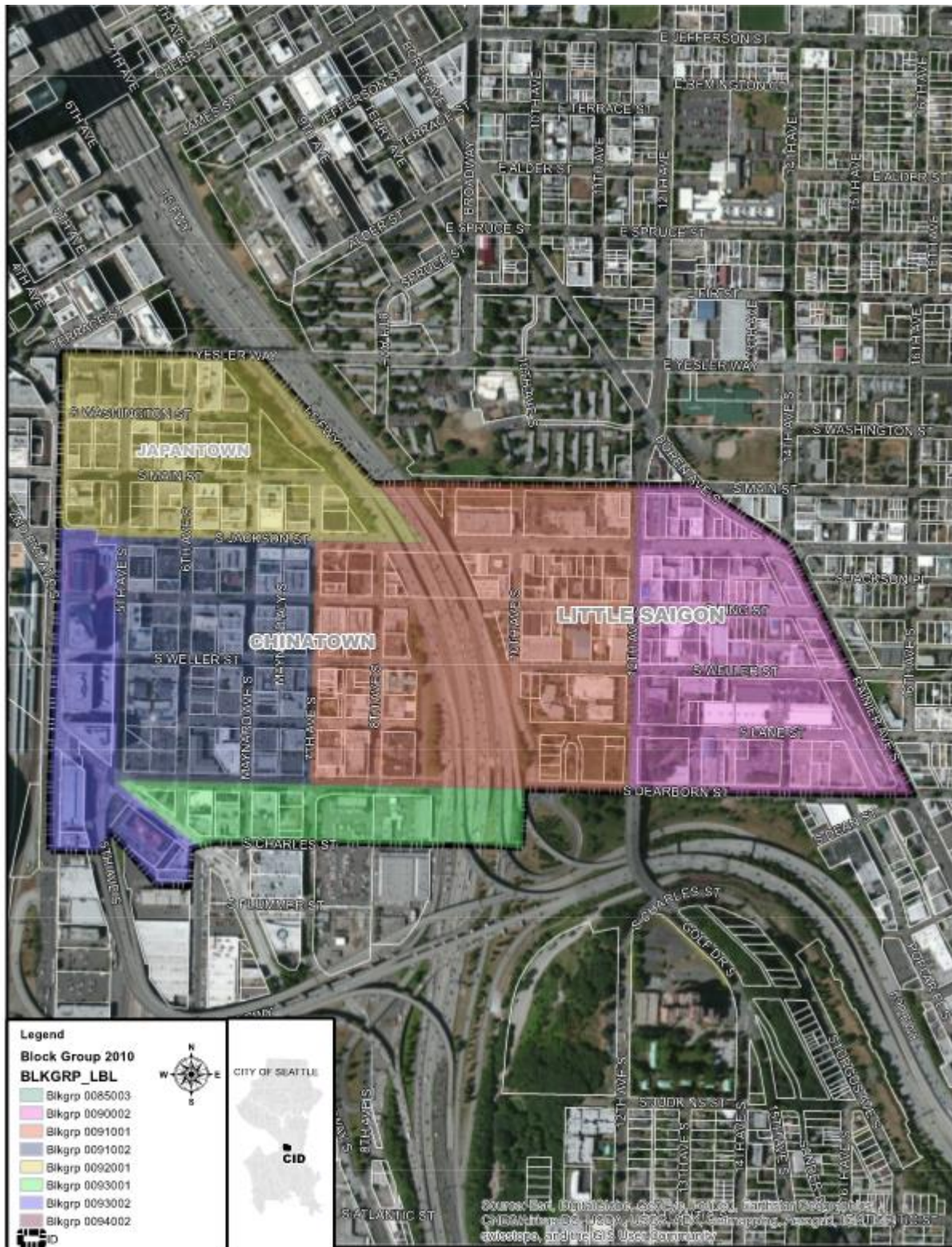
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[seattletimes.com/seattle-news/old-hotel-full-of-memories-finds-room-for-a-new-start/](http://seattletimes.com/seattle-news/old-hotel-full-of-memories-finds-room-for-a-new-start/)

<sup>93</sup> *Seattle in Progress*. Web. 19 Oct. 2015. <https://seattleinprogress.com>



## CENSUS BLOCK GROUP MAP





## BUSINESS CONDITIONS & COMMUNITY CONCERNS

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In this section, the packet highlights the state of businesses in the CID, examining types of business by sector, demographic information about tenants and the customer base of businesses in the CID. The authors chose to discuss CID and Little Saigon separately, as these two areas show different trends over time and are currently recognized as distinct neighborhoods.<sup>94</sup>

According to current (2014) data gathered by the Downtown Seattle Association, the most common type of street level businesses in the CID are: services (269), followed by retail (101), housing (35), industrial (5), education (3) and government (2).<sup>95]</sup>

Don Blakeney, Executive Director of the Chinatown International District Business Improvement Area (CIDBIA), comments that this mix of businesses is one reason there is a push to bring in housing to the area. Unlike areas like Capitol Hill, where the many residents who live in the area can walk down the street to eat out at a restaurant, people often need to drive into the CID, something that is getting harder and harder to do. The CID's population of close to 3,500 people is too small to support all the businesses in the area.<sup>96</sup> Furthermore, with one of the biggest transit hubs in the city located in the CID, it makes sense to bring more density to the area. The challenge is how to achieve a "full economy" in a purposeful way, while keeping the area "authentic."<sup>97]</sup>

CIDBIA leaders are also hoping to ride the wave of ongoing development in adjacent neighborhoods. They stress the fact that the CID is very close to thousands of workers and residential areas, making it a prime location for new business development.<sup>98</sup>



### DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Several development projects have the potential to greatly increase the number of residents in the CID, number of visitors to the neighborhood, as well as increase mobility of current residents within the CID.

First, the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) finished construction on the First Hill Streetcar line in 2014 and testing is now underway to begin operation soon. The streetcar travels down through First Hill, stops at the Yesler Community Center before travelling along S. Jackson Street, and ends in Pioneer Square. There it will connect with the Center City Streetcar

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<sup>94</sup> Nguyen, Quang H., IDEA Space. "Little Saigon 2020 Action Plan: Years 1 & 2." Prepared for City of Seattle

<sup>95</sup> Downtown Seattle Association, "Chinatown-International District 2014 Neighborhood Profile"

<sup>96</sup> Trang D. Tu Consulting. 2007. "Little Saigon & Chinatown/International District, Impacts on Local Business from Proposed LU/Zoning Changes & Dearborn Street Mixed-Use Shopping Center. Draft Phase II Summary: Evaluation of Likely Impacts of Zoning Changes and Dearborn Street Project" Prepared for City of Seattle.

<sup>97</sup> Phone interview with Don Blakeney. October 13, 2014.

<sup>98</sup> CIDBIA. "Doing Business in the ID." Accessed Oct. 20, 2015.

[seattlechinatownid.com/documents/BusinessAttractionGuide.pdf](http://seattlechinatownid.com/documents/BusinessAttractionGuide.pdf)

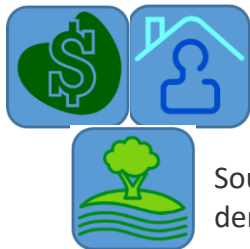
line that will provide easy access from Pike Place Market to the Pioneer Square and CID neighborhoods.



The second large development project is just north of the boundary of Little Saigon. In the past decade, Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) has undertaken a planning process for the redevelopment of Yesler Terrace, a former low-income housing complex that was Washington's first public housing development and the first racially integrated public housing development in the United States.<sup>99</sup> Rather than replace the 30-acre housing complex, plans for Yesler Terrace include market-rate apartments and condos, creating a mixed-income housing community and mixed-use development. The new space will include 5,000 units of housing (1,800 subsidized units for low-income residents and 3,200 with market-rate rents), space for neighborhood services, a 1.8 acre central park, gardening space, retail and office space and parking for the community. The retail space will be subsidized to make lease rates affordable to small neighborhood businesses.



To connect the new Yesler Terrace complex to the CID, SHA will build a hill climb on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue that will provide a direct and safe route to and from each neighborhood.<sup>100</sup> With I-5 nearby and a steep hillside to the south, Yesler Terrace can feel isolated from surrounding neighborhoods. During the early planning of Yesler Terrace redevelopment, SHA staff heard from Yesler Terrace residents that they would like a more direct connection to adjacent neighborhoods. This new development could also bring more visitors to CID businesses by providing an environmentally friendly way to access the CID.



Some members of the CID have advocated for these development improvements, while other residents, especially business owners in Little Saigon, worry that they will be forced out of their businesses. The Livable South Downtown Plan, passed in 2011, rezoned the CID neighborhood for much denser mixed-use development, which many businesses in Little Saigon are concerned will force them out of the neighborhood because land values and rents may increase.<sup>101</sup> In general, the hope is that these transportation improvements and community development will provide easy access from central downtown and tourist corridors such as Pike Place Market to the CID.

Finally, there are exciting new opportunities for business development through the *Only in Seattle* initiative, established as a partnership between the City of Seattle's Office of Economic Development, Seattle Investment Fund, LLC, the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods (DON) and the Seattle Office of Arts and Culture (ARTS). In 2016, there will be \$1.6 million dollars available for small businesses in neighborhood

<sup>99</sup> "Yesler Terrace Background Report." [seattle.gov/parks/projects/yesler\\_terrace\\_park/files/background\\_report.pdf](http://seattle.gov/parks/projects/yesler_terrace_park/files/background_report.pdf)

<sup>100</sup> "Tenth Ave S. Hillclimb will offer a quicker, safer way to walk to Little Saigon, International District." SHA. 2014. 21 Oct. 2014. [seattlehousing.org/redevelopment/yesler-terrace/information/neighborhoodreport/hillclimb/index.html](http://seattlehousing.org/redevelopment/yesler-terrace/information/neighborhoodreport/hillclimb/index.html)

<sup>101</sup> "Little Saigon Landmark | Friends of Little Saigon." 2013. 21 Oct. 2014 [friendsoflittlesaigon.org/current-projects/little-saigon-landmark/](http://friendsoflittlesaigon.org/current-projects/little-saigon-landmark/)

business districts, including the CID, to develop small local businesses and improve the economic vitality of the neighborhood.<sup>102</sup>

## COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Seven community members and business owners in Chinatown also shared their concerns in personal interviews conducted by the previous authors of this guide.

Primary topics of concern were lack of parking, development restrictions, garbage and littering, homelessness and drug dealing and a generational divide between the youth and elderly within the community. While a younger restaurant manager expressed that a lack of parking reflects the strength of the CID's economy, one restaurant owner shared an example of how she feels restricted by the lack of parking<sup>103</sup>:

"It is not reasonable. My goods are so heavy for me to park away and carry them several blocks to my shop. You cannot park in the double line even for a moment. My customer got out of the car for the take-away and she or he would get a ticket of forty bucks—that is ridiculous. I have to rush to my customer's car and pass the take-away through the window now."

Zuolei Deng, a member of the community who was interviewed in 2009 by Evans students, expressed that building codes in Chinatown restrict economic development and have prevented the CID from gaining from the development boom Seattle is currently experiencing<sup>104</sup>:

"Rich people from China invested in estates or high-tech industry in other communities, never CID—just because they could not change it. That is also the reason why CID still looks the same while other communities develop at fast speed."

Homelessness and drug dealing is a visible presence in the CID, especially around the International District Transit Center. Every community member mentioned homelessness as an issue that the CID must grapple with, but they also expressed different opinions about it. Bing Wu, a business owner, said that while there are many transients in the CID, he does not feel that they are threats to the safety and security of the local community. The chef at the Cantonese Restaurant Qian Shui Ting expressed the opposite concern, that safety is indeed an issue. He expressed with frustration that while community organizations and individuals have asked the police to deal with the crime, they have not responded in a way that would help the community.<sup>105</sup>

"The police replied that they would take actions only if the crime committed by the homeless reaches a certain standard. Many Asian people tend to avoid conflict, so some residents or employers may choose not to call the police when they were robbed or violated."

<sup>102</sup> City of Seattle, *Only in Seattle* Initiative. [seattle.gov/economicdevelopment/business-districts](http://seattle.gov/economicdevelopment/business-districts)

<sup>103</sup> Personal Interview with unnamed restaurant owner, 11 Oct 2014.

<sup>104</sup> Personal Interview with Zuolei Deng, 10 Oct 2014.

<sup>105</sup> Personal interview with unnamed restaurant chef, 10 Oct. 2014.



Interestingly, the two younger members of the community who were interviewed did not know of any cultural or political committees within the CID, which speaks to a potential generational divide within the neighborhood.

Safety concerns and the effects of a generational divide came into the city's spotlight during the summer of 2015 with the murder of longtime community leader Donnie Chin. Seattle city officials responded by cracking down on 11 hookah lounges located in city limits, including multiple businesses located in Chinatown-International District, citing failure to comply with health codes and indoor smoking laws.<sup>106</sup> City leaders and law enforcement officials also linked the hookah lounges to Chin's death, in addition to other violence in the neighborhood.<sup>107</sup>

After the city moved to close the lounges, a number of community members spoke for and against this tactic. Many members of the Asian and East African communities supported the city's move, but younger individuals spoke of misunderstandings about the younger clientele who frequent hookah lounges.<sup>108</sup> Seattle officials also backtracked on their original steps to close the lounges after many of the business owners agreed to work with the city to get into compliance with health codes and the law.<sup>109</sup> Despite the fact that city leaders have backed down, this issue highlights ongoing concerns involving generational and cultural differences, misguided governmental interventions and community safety as it relates to the local business community.

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<sup>106</sup> Miletch, Steve, "Seattle unveils crackdown on hookah lounges." Seattle Times. Aug. 3, 2015.

<sup>107</sup> Ibid.

<sup>108</sup> Beekman, Daniel. "Seattle Mayor Murray backs down on closing city's hookah lounges." Seattle Times. Aug. 28, 2105.

<sup>109</sup> Ibid.



## KEY COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

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An array of nonprofit and government organizations complement the diverse businesses and residents of the CID.

### SCIDpda

Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDpda) is a nonprofit, municipally chartered, community-based organization that owns and operates low-income housing, retail and commercial space. SCIDpda supports small businesses and fosters collaboration and innovation in the IDEA Space design center in addition to building strong relationships with family associations, local businesses, community members and government officials. SCIDpda approaches development with a holistic approach that encompasses housing, culture, basic needs, nutrition, community building and innovative solutions.



### CIDBIA

Chinatown International District Business Improvement Area (CIDBIA) is a nonprofit organization in addition to being one of six city-sanctioned Business Improvement Areas in Seattle.<sup>110</sup> CIDBIA provides services typically thought of as public services, such as street and sidewalk cleanup, neighborhood marketing, public safety, tree pruning and street lighting.<sup>111</sup>

### SEATTLE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

The Seattle Department of Planning and Development (DPD) is the city-planning arm of Seattle's government. DPD develops and implements policies that address land use needs within the city.<sup>112</sup> Some of their ongoing planning initiatives involve partnering with neighborhoods and business districts to help implement neighborhood plans.



### SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) is a public corporation, providing affordable housing to more than 28,000 individuals. The agency supports a wide range of community services for residents, including employment services, case management and youth activities.<sup>113</sup>

International Terrace, a 99-unit complex located at 202 Sixth Avenue South, is an example of an SHA project. Redevelopment is also underway at four major public housing sites, none of which are in the CID. However, Yesler Terrace lies just outside the boundary and likely serves some CID residents.



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<sup>110</sup> "Forming a Business Improvement Area - City of Seattle." 2012. 20 Oct. 2014

[seattle.gov/economicdevelopment/biz\\_district\\_guide/bia.htm](http://seattle.gov/economicdevelopment/biz_district_guide/bia.htm)

<sup>111</sup> "Seattle's Chinatown-International District — Seattle ..." 2003. 20 Oct. 2014 [cidbia.org/](http://cidbia.org/)

<sup>112</sup> "City Planning," Seattle Department of Planning and Development. 2014. 21 Oct. 2014. [seattle.gov/DPD/aboutus/whoweare/cityplanning/default.htm](http://seattle.gov/DPD/aboutus/whoweare/cityplanning/default.htm)

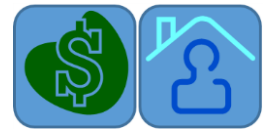
<sup>113</sup> Seattle Housing Authority, [seattlehousing.org/about/overview/](http://seattlehousing.org/about/overview/)

## HOW ORGANIZATIONS WORK TOGETHER

SCIDpda and CIDBIA collaborate with each other as well as the government to support all areas of development in the CID. SCIDpda works with the SHA to provide affordable housing units throughout the CID. In addition to SHA, SCIDpda works closely with the Department of Planning and Development (DPD), Department of Neighborhoods (DON) and the Office of Economic Development (OED). In working with each of these public departments, SCIDpda provides facilitation of discussion and neighborhood expertise, writes grants and directs money to different areas of development.

DPD is responsible for zoning, policy building code policies and placemaking efforts. SCIDpda partners with DPD to ensure effective policies and helps community businesses and residents navigate and adhere to these regulations.<sup>114</sup>

SCIDpda is also working with DPD and Friends of Little Saigon to create a new thriving Business District in Little Saigon. This is a current endeavor, built upon the Little Saigon 2020 Action Plan, that will convene businesses and stakeholders starting this month to develop a strong vision and strategy for Little Saigon's growth.<sup>115</sup>



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<sup>114</sup> Phone interview with Maiko Winkler-Chin, SCIDpda Executive Director. Oct 23 2014.

<sup>115</sup> "Little Saigon Business District - What & Why - Seattle ..." 20 Oct. 2014 [seattle.gov/dpd/littlesaigon/](http://seattle.gov/dpd/littlesaigon/)

## LOCAL PLANS & INVESTMENTS

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### CID NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN

In 1999, the Seattle City Council approved neighborhood plans to meet the city's commitments under the Growth Management Act. These 38 neighborhood plans were designed to have actionable neighborhood projects for 20 years. The Seattle Department of Neighborhoods (DON), in partnership with other city departments such as Parks and Recreation, Transportation and Planning and Development, collaborates with neighborhoods to implement these plans. The key elements of the CID's Neighborhood Plan are to promote cultural and economic vitality, provide diverse and affordable housing, create public spaces that are safe, dynamic and pedestrian-friendly, and ensure accessibility to both CID visitors and residents.<sup>116</sup>



In 2005, the DON released a priority update to help neighborhoods focus limited resources on key aspects of the plan. Since the end to the 20-year timeline is approaching, the DON and the Planning and Development department are currently working with neighborhoods to gather information for Status Reports, which will help inform how to update the CID's neighborhood plan in the future.<sup>117</sup>

### PROGRAMS AND SERVICES: SEATTLE DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS (DON)

The DON offers a variety of programs and services that allow neighborhoods to apply for funds through the City. There are two programs that allow neighborhoods to apply for funds directly: through the **Neighborhood Matching Fund** and through the **Neighborhood Park and Street Fund**. According to the DON, "since 1998, the Neighborhood Matching Fund has awarded more than \$49 million to more than 4,000 projects throughout Seattle, generated an additional \$72 million of community match, and engaged more than 86000 volunteers who have donated over 574,000 hours."<sup>118</sup> In the last two years, the City has helped fund a variety of small and simple projects in the CID:

- **Neighborhood Placemaking in Nihonmachi 2014**—\$24,585 A planning and design project in Japantown to honor civil rights hero Gordon Hirabayashi through public art.<sup>119</sup>
- **Immigration Act Program Series at Wing Luke Museum 2014**—\$10,900 A yearlong series of programs (workshops, tours, art activities, panel discussions) exploring the legacy of the Immigration Act of 1965.<sup>120</sup>

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<sup>116</sup> "Chinatown/International District Strategic Plan." Seattle Department of Neighborhoods. 1998. 21 Oct 2014. [seattle.gov/neighborhoods/npi/plans/id/Section1.pdf](http://seattle.gov/neighborhoods/npi/plans/id/Section1.pdf)

<sup>117</sup> "Neighborhood Plan Updates." Seattle Department of Neighborhoods. 2014. 21 Oct. 2014. [seattle.gov/neighborhoods/npi/updates.htm](http://seattle.gov/neighborhoods/npi/updates.htm)

<sup>118</sup> City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods. "About the Neighborhood Matching Fund." [seattle.gov/neighborhoods/neighborhood-matching-fund/about-the-nmf](http://seattle.gov/neighborhoods/neighborhood-matching-fund/about-the-nmf).

<sup>119</sup> City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods. "Small and Simple Projects." [seattle.gov/neighborhoods/neighborhood-matching-fund/funded-projects](http://seattle.gov/neighborhoods/neighborhood-matching-fund/funded-projects)

<sup>120</sup> City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods. "Small and Simple Projects." [seattle.gov/neighborhoods/neighborhood-matching-fund/funded-projects](http://seattle.gov/neighborhoods/neighborhood-matching-fund/funded-projects)

- **A Taste of Home Project 2014**—\$10,000 A series of events celebrating “A Taste of Home” documentary, which highlights the Chinese American culinary heritage.<sup>121</sup>

## PARTNERSHIPS IN THE COMMUNITY

There is a collection of nonprofit organizations within the CID whose goal is to serve the CID and its residents. Often, the City of Seattle partners with these nonprofits to provide projects and programs for the CID community. Several of the most prominent nonprofits in the CID include the Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDpda) and Interim Community Development Association (InterimCDA).

In the last few years, SCIDpda and InterimCDA have been successful in garnering national awards that will contribute to enriching the CID community. These awards include:

- **2015-2016 EPA Global Green USA Sustainable Neighborhood and Design Consultation**—One of six communities that will receive a grant for expert site visits to make recommendations to allow for the CID to become a more “resource-efficient, livable, healthy, equitable and environmentally responsible” place.<sup>122</sup> The grant will be run through SCIDpda.
- **Our Town National Endowment for the Arts \$75,000 Grant**—One of 69 awards that will support “creative placemaking projects” in the CID, Little Saigon and Japantown. The grant will be administered through SCIDpda, InterimCDA and Seattle’s Office of Arts & Culture.<sup>123</sup>
- **BUILD Health Challenge \$75,000 Grant**—This grant will support community collaborations and focus on bringing people together to improve health conditions in the CID. The grant will be administered through InterimCDA, Public Health of Seattle and King County and Swedish hospitals.<sup>124</sup>

In addition, SCIDpda and InterimCDA have contributed to the future development of the CID in a variety of ways. They include:

### 1. LITTLE SAIGON 2020 ACTION PLAN

The Little Saigon 2020 Action Plan was developed by staff at both SCIDpda and IDEA Space. It serves as a road map for community residents and businesses to deal with “strong displacement forces” due to the land-use changes, Yesler Terrace redevelopment, and the First Hill Streetcar.<sup>125</sup> Additionally, the community faces internal challenges to provide an effective response to these forces, including a lack of a community-based institution focused solely on the needs of the Little Saigon community. This action plan lays out key community engagement strategies and action steps including strengthening the non-profit Friends of Little Saigon, increased community



<sup>121</sup> City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods. “Small and Simple Projects.” [seattle.gov/neighborhoods/neighborhood-matching-fund/funded-projects](http://seattle.gov/neighborhoods/neighborhood-matching-fund/funded-projects)

<sup>122</sup> SCIDpda News. [scidpda.org/news](http://scidpda.org/news).

<sup>123</sup> SCIDpda News. [scidpda.org/news](http://scidpda.org/news).

<sup>124</sup> InterimCDA News. [interimcda.org/press-release-chinatown-international-district-receives-national-funds/](http://interimcda.org/press-release-chinatown-international-district-receives-national-funds/)

<sup>125</sup> “Little Saigon 2020 Action Plan: Years 1 & 2.” Seattle Department of Planning and Development. 21 Oct. 2014. [seattle.gov/dpd/cs/groups/pan/@pan/documents/web\\_informational/s048987.pdf](http://seattle.gov/dpd/cs/groups/pan/@pan/documents/web_informational/s048987.pdf)



engagement opportunities through events, and maximizing partnerships and collaborations with other community-based organizations. The Little Saigon 2020 Action Plan is becoming more realized through the formation of the Little Saigon Action Committee, which is supported by Department of Planning and Development.

At the end of 2014, Friends of Little Saigon (FLS), a grassroots community development organization that is guided under SCIDpda, completed a feasibility study for a gathering place for the Vietnamese community.<sup>126</sup> Named the Landmark Project, this entity located next to the Little Saigon business district, will be a mixed-use building that will include a cultural center, a Southeast Asian grocery Emerald Night Market, and a restaurant among other components.<sup>127</sup> FLS will be conducting community outreach and engagement regarding the project through 2016.<sup>128</sup>

## **2. MAYNARD AVE SOUTH “GREEN STREET”**

Between 2010 and 2013, Seattle Department of Transportation and Interim CDA worked and completed construction on two “green streets” on Maynard Ave S. between S. King and Weller Streets. The improved street has improved pedestrian improvements, public art, and expanded sidewalks lined with trees, plants and sitting benches.<sup>129</sup>



## **3. LITTLE SAIGON PARK**

At the end of 2013, the Seattle Parks Department in collaboration with the community and the University of Washington Landscape Architecture students, identified opportunities for a future park in the CID. In November 2013, the Parks Department secured a property in Little Saigon and had preliminary designs for the new green space.<sup>130</sup>



Currently, the property is being leased to Lam’s Seafood Market and will be developed into a neighborhood park with funding from the newly created park district.<sup>131</sup> The design/development process will likely begin in 2018 and will include community feedback as to the park’s features.<sup>132</sup> This new park will be one of four parks within the CID and joins Kobe Terrace in Japantown, Hing Hay Park and the International Children’s Park in Chinatown.

## **FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS IN NEIGHBORHOODS**

The Mayor of Seattle’s Budget Proposal for 2015-2016 includes an investment in neighborhoods. “The proposed budget doubles annual funding for the Neighborhood Park and Street Fund, from \$1 million to \$2 million. These resources, which are allocated through a

<sup>126</sup> Friends of Little Saigon. [friendsofittlesaigon.org/current-projects/little-saigon-landmark/](http://friendsofittlesaigon.org/current-projects/little-saigon-landmark/).

<sup>127</sup> Friends of Little Saigon. [friendsofittlesaigon.org/current-projects/little-saigon-landmark/](http://friendsofittlesaigon.org/current-projects/little-saigon-landmark/).

<sup>128</sup> Friends of Little Saigon. [friendsofittlesaigon.org](http://friendsofittlesaigon.org)

<sup>129</sup> “Neighborhood Improvement.” Interim CDA. 21 Oct. 2014. [interimicda.org/neighborhood-improvement/](http://interimicda.org/neighborhood-improvement/)

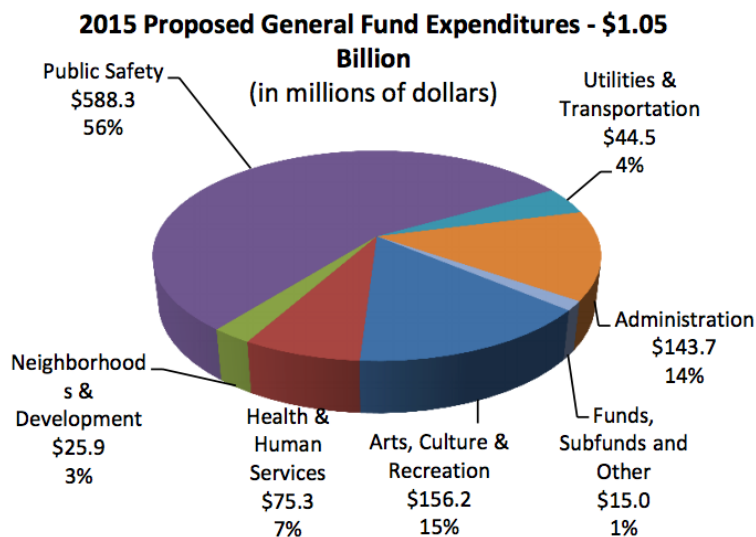
<sup>130</sup> “Chinatown-International District Urban Center Village Parks and Green Spaces Levy Project Information.” Seattle Parks and Recreation. 2014. 21 Oct. 2014. [seattle.gov/parks/projects/idc/](http://seattle.gov/parks/projects/idc/)

<sup>131</sup> Nevins, Chip. Acquisition Planner, Seattle Parks and Recreation. Email correspondence. October 19, 2015.

<sup>132</sup> Nevins, Chip. Acquisition Planner, Seattle Parks and Recreation. Email correspondence. October 19, 2015.

process that is driven by neighborhood priorities, will support investments that improve safety and mobility in neighborhoods across the city.”<sup>133</sup>

The Mayor’s budget proposal also includes funding to mitigate construction impacts. “The proposed budget provides nearly \$1.4 million over 2015-2016 to expand SDOT’s Access Seattle program. The program actively plans, coordinates, and monitors construction activity in downtown as well as in neighborhoods, and will become even more important as major downtown construction activity is expected to continue in 2015.”<sup>134, 135</sup>



## LOW INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDITS

The Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit has been used extensively in the International District. Using a database of tax credit projects from Housing and Urban Development agency (HUD)<sup>136</sup>, the below information was compiled. In total, 1164 units were created under the program through 2013. The below figures show the total numbers of units produced as well as the percentage breakdown by number of bedrooms the unit contained.

Efficiency Units	319
1 Bedroom Units	535
2 Bedroom Units	150
3 Bedroom Units	38
4 Bedroom Units	24
Unknown room type	98
Total Units	1164

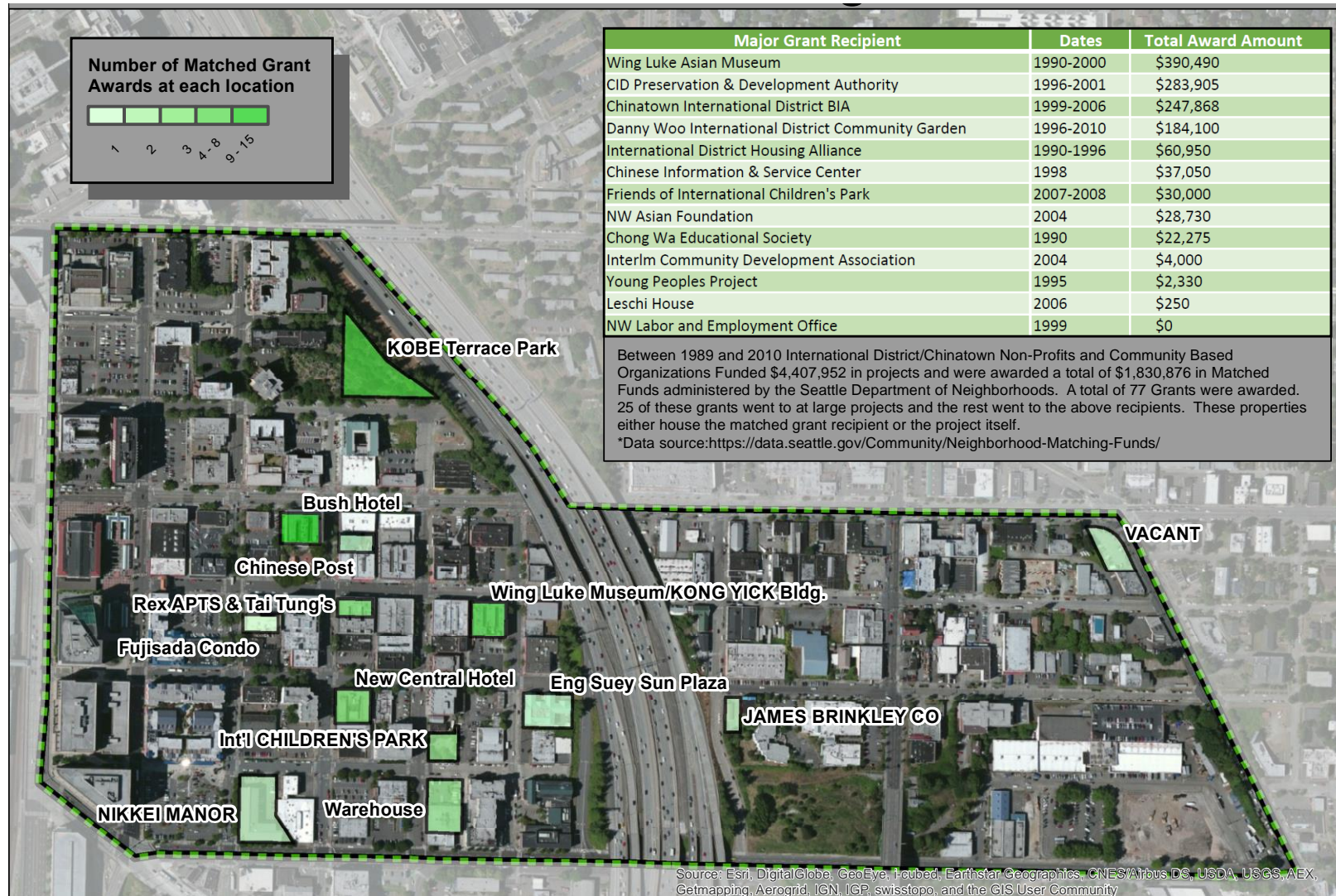
<sup>133</sup> City of Seattle Mayor’s Budget Proposal Highlights. [murray.seattle.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/budget-highlights-9-22-final-v4.pdf](http://murray.seattle.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/budget-highlights-9-22-final-v4.pdf)

<sup>134</sup> City of Seattle Mayor’s Budget Proposal Highlights. [murray.seattle.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/budget-highlights-9-22-final-v4.pdf](http://murray.seattle.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/budget-highlights-9-22-final-v4.pdf)

<sup>135</sup> Source: City of Seattle, Mayor’s Budget Proposal 2015-2016

<sup>136</sup> For an overview see [huduser.org/portal/datasets/lihtc.html](http://huduser.org/portal/datasets/lihtc.html) or access the database directly at [lihtc.huduser.org](http://lihtc.huduser.org)

## CITY MATCHED FUNDS IN THE CID



## NEW MARKET TAX CREDITS (NMTC)

The census tracts of the CID are qualified census tracts under the Federal New Market Tax Credit guidelines, meaning business investments in the area are eligible for tax credits. There are various organizations doing work with NMTC in Seattle and in the CID area. The Seattle Investment Fund LLC is a central stakeholder, which is “a limited liability company created by the City of Seattle to help create a robust economy and broadly shared prosperity through investments of federal New Markets Tax Credits.”<sup>137</sup> On June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the Seattle Investment Fund received a \$28 million NMTC allocation from the US Department of Treasury, Community Financial Institutions Program.<sup>138</sup>

## INSCAPE PROJECT

A recent NMTC project in the area is the Inscape project, just south of the CID border at 815 Seattle Blvd S., the former Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) building. From former Mayor McGinn's office:<sup>139</sup>

*One investment is \$10 million in New Market Tax Credits for the INSCAPE project. INSCAPE will revitalize the historic INS building at 815 Airport Way South. The building will be renovated, creating affordable space for local artists. INSCAPE staff are also working closely with the Wing Luke Museum in designing and installing interpretive exhibits that will acknowledge the building's historical importance.*

*Seattle's Office of Economic Development has invested \$10 million in New Markets Tax Credits (NMTCs) through Seattle Investment Fund LLC that helped leverage private financing, including \$3 million in funds from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, which lessened the cost of borrowed funds.*

*Along with these financial resources provided by the City and the federal government, the project is being financed with a loan and equity investment by JP Morgan Chase.*

## FAÇADE IMPROVEMENTS

Directly in the CID, Seattle Investment Fund has invested funds in smaller projects such as façade improvement programs. These funds were generated via NMTC program fees Seattle Investment Fund earned. The aim is to enable investments in small businesses in Seattle. Here is the façade Improvement program description:<sup>140</sup>



<sup>137</sup> “Seattle Investment Fund LLC.” 2013. 19 Oct. 2014 [seattleinvestmentfund.com](http://seattleinvestmentfund.com)

<sup>138</sup> “News and Updates.” Seattle Investment Fund LLC. 2013. Web. 20 Oct. 2015. [seattleinvestmentfund.com/projectsAndNewsUpdates.html#NMTCProjects](http://seattleinvestmentfund.com/projectsAndNewsUpdates.html#NMTCProjects).

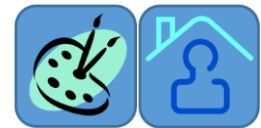
<sup>139</sup> “City invests to revitalize historic INS building, preserve artist workspace.” Sept. 2011. 19 Oct. 2014. [mayormcginn.seattle.gov/city-invests-to-revitalize-historic-ins-building-preserve-artist-workspace/](http://mayormcginn.seattle.gov/city-invests-to-revitalize-historic-ins-building-preserve-artist-workspace/)

<sup>140</sup> “News and Updates.” Seattle Investment Fund. 19 Oct. 2014. [seattleinvestmentfund.com/projectsAndNewsUpdates.html](http://seattleinvestmentfund.com/projectsAndNewsUpdates.html)



*In 2012, through Office of Economic Development's Only in Seattle program, Seattle Investment Fund provided a total of \$100,000 to The Central Area Development Association, The Central District Association, The Columbia City Business Association and The Seattle Chinatown International District PDA. These grant funds leveraged an additional \$180,000 in match funds from these organizations, local businesses and building owners to bring a total of \$280,000 in capital improvements to these neighborhoods. These façade improvements include installation of awnings, lighting, signage, as well as masonry work, entry and window repair, contributing to a safer and more attractive pedestrian environment with the ultimate goal of increasing business activity.*

*In 2013, Through the Only in Seattle program, an additional \$57,200 of funds were awarded to the Seattle Chinatown International District PDA for façade improvements.*



#### **THE BUSH HOTEL**

The Bush Hotel at 610 S. Jackson Street underwent a renovation and conversion from hotel to rental apartment units in 1997; the project utilized the LIHTC and created 94 low-income units. Subsequently, in 2010, another renovation project for the lower, non-residential, levels of the building was done using a combination of NMTC, Historic Tax credits, and other financial sources. Another NMTC project is the New Central Project, developed by SCIDpda.

## ARTS & SUSTAINABILITY

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### SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

Given the large presence of neighborhood and community development organizations within the CID, sustainable development has become a priority for the community. Rapid growth downtown, and in surrounding neighborhoods, with escalating rent prices throughout the city promulgates the need for sustainable development in the CID. From a broad perspective, sustainable development means environmentally friendly real estate development, community environmental initiatives and sustainable transportation projects.



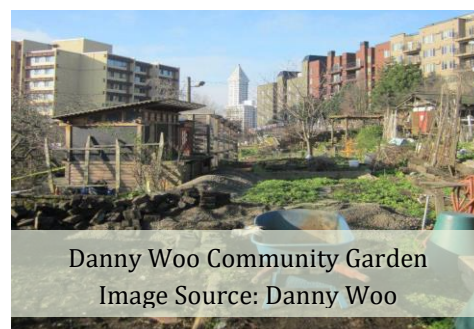
SCIDpda owns a significant amount of retail and commercial space within the neighborhood and they have committed to sustainable management and maintenance practices in their developments. InterimCDA has also developed a workbook that helps promote more sustainable practices in new residential development projects.

### Examples of Sustainable Projects in the CID

Hirabayashi Place is an InterimCDA development project which broke ground in January 2014 and will meet Evergreen Sustainable Development Standards.<sup>141</sup> Hirabayashi Place will be located at 424 S Main St and “will be a mixed use, transit oriented, workforce housing development that includes 96 apartments and a childcare center.”<sup>142</sup> As of October 2015, construction of Hirabayashi Place is still underway and project updates can be found on the project’s blogspot.



The Goodwill Training and Education Center is another example of a sustainable project in the CID. It opened in 2013 and is located in Little Saigon. The building is expected to receive LEED Silver status for environmentally friendly design and performance standards.<sup>143</sup> The facility is 3 stories high, 49,600 square feet and features energy efficiency measures that qualify



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<sup>141</sup> Lam, Charles. "Green Architecture Pops up around Chinatown - LEED, ESDS, What's It Mean?" Northwest Asian Weekly. N.p., 9 Aug. 2013, 19 Oct. 2014, [nwasianweekly.com/2013/08/green-architecture-pops-up-around-chinatown-leed-esds-whats-it-mean/](http://nwasianweekly.com/2013/08/green-architecture-pops-up-around-chinatown-leed-esds-whats-it-mean/)

<sup>142</sup> InterimCDA. [interimcda.org/project/hirabayashiplace/](http://interimcda.org/project/hirabayashiplace/).

<sup>143</sup> Keeley, Sean. "Seattle Goodwill Opens New Training & Education Center." Curbed Seattle. N.p., 25 Apr. 2013, 19 Oct. 2014, [seattle.curbed.com/archives/2013/04/seattle-goodwill-opens-new-training-education-center.php](http://seattle.curbed.com/archives/2013/04/seattle-goodwill-opens-new-training-education-center.php)

it for LEED status (daylighting, water conservation and stormwater retention and treatment).<sup>144</sup>

InterImCDA also has led a number of community sustainability initiatives. The organization operates the Danny Woo Community Garden which is located next to Kobe Terrace Park. The garden has 88 plots and allows low-income residents to practice and learn gardening. The garden also offers community educational events and hosts summertime gardening experiences for neighborhood children (“Sustainable Communities”). An example of the outreach by the garden is the annual Farm to Table dinner which highlights the values of homegrown meals along with offering family activities.

InterimCDA’s Wilderness Inner-City Leadership Development (WILD) program allows high school students to develop leadership skills through environmental education projects. To learn more about the program, visit their website.



### ***Transportation’s Role in Sustainability***



CID Parklet  
Image Source: Matt Owens, Seattle

Accessibility to multimodal transportation services is an important indicator of a neighborhood’s sustainability. CID is located at a critical juncture between downtown Seattle and the stadium district. The Link Light Rail has a CID station at King Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue S. Like mentioned before, SDOT will soon open the First Hill streetcar which will travel through the CID along S. Jackson Street. An example of a creative transportation sustainability project is the CID Parklet, a

micro-park created from two converted street parking bays. The parklet is located at 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue S. and S. Weller Street and offers people an open, public space to relax and mingle.

### **HISTORY OF ART & CULTURE IN THE CID**

The CID neighborhood group strives to foster cultural development in the CID community. The neighborhood’s distinct multicultural history has given the neighborhood a strong cultural and artistic foundation. Despite the small geographic size of the area, the neighborhood has multiple public art projects, artistic and cultural enterprises and cultural events that attract a wide range of residents and visitors.



The City of Seattle’s Office of Arts and Culture maintains a walking map of the public art installations in the CID.<sup>145</sup> These include dragon art sculptures on lampposts, the Jackson Street Colonnade, beaded streetcar utility poles and an artistic walkway and benches at 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and S. Lane St. A number of civic groups, businesses and citizens joined forces to install a traditional Chinese welcome gate in 2008; a second gate is currently under construction. In an effort to beautify the concrete infrastructure of I-5 which splits Chinatown and Little Saigon,

<sup>144</sup> Curbed Seattle. [seattle.curbed.com/archives/2013/04/seattle-goodwill-opens-new-training-education-center.php](http://seattle.curbed.com/archives/2013/04/seattle-goodwill-opens-new-training-education-center.php).

<sup>145</sup> "Public Art Maps," 19 Oct. 2014. [seattle.gov/arts/publicart/walking\\_tours.asp](http://seattle.gov/arts/publicart/walking_tours.asp)

many of the concrete pillars were painted with red and yellow dragonflies and fish. Additionally, both Hing Hay Park and Kobe Terrace Park include Asian plants and art.

### **CID COMMUNITY CENTER**

The CID Community Center is a community gathering space that is run by Seattle's Parks and Recreation Department. There are five community centers that serve southeastern Seattle: the CID, Jefferson, Rainier, Rainier Beach and Van Asselt.<sup>146</sup> The CID Community Center offers a variety of programs and amenities, ranging from children's activities, teen programs and senior programs to facility rentals, sport courts and a sports lounge.<sup>147</sup>



CID Community Center Source: Laurel Mercury, Seattle Parks and Recreation

### **CID ARTISTIC & CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS**



Chinatown Gate above King Street, 2008.

Image Credit: Joe Mabel

There are a number of artistic and cultural institutions that serve the neighborhood. The Theatre Off Jackson is a contemporary theater company and event space in the heart of the CID. There are over a dozen art galleries and stores within the business district that serve residents and visitors. Seattle's Parks and Recreation Department operates the International District/Chinatown Community Center on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue S. which offers a wide range of community events and programs. Finally, the Wing Luke Museum serves as a

National Park Service Affiliated Area and shares the Asian Pacific American experience through art exhibits, events, and neighborhood tours.



<sup>146</sup> Seattle Parks and Recreation Department. [seattle.gov/parks/brochures/southeast/SEFall15.PDF](http://seattle.gov/parks/brochures/southeast/SEFall15.PDF).

<sup>147</sup> Seattle Parks and Recreation Department. [seattle.gov/parks/centers/IDChinatown.htm](http://seattle.gov/parks/centers/IDChinatown.htm).





Bon Odori Festival, 2009.  
Image Credit: Ioe Mabel

Lastly, the CID hosts a variety of cultural events. Every year, the CIDBIA partners with the Wing Luke Museum to host the Lunar New Year celebration with a week of activities and events. CIDBIA also hosts a summer Dragon Fest which claims to be the largest Pan-Asian American street-fair in the Pacific Northwest.<sup>148</sup> The group hosts a very successful summertime Night Market offering shopping, food, dance, and games. Seattle's Betsuin Buddhist Temple hosts a Bon Odori



celebration each year; this Japanese event commemorates the important Buddhist holiday with food, music, dance, and costumes. Additional community events in the CID include Chinese Lunar New Year, Vietnamese Lunar New Year celebration (Tet), Celebrate Little Saigon, and Bunka No Hi (Japanese Culture Day).



Celebrate Little Saigon, 2011.  
Image Source: Alan Alabastro







ID Nite Market, 2011  
Image Source: Alan Alabastro

<sup>148</sup> "Neighborhood Events," 2014, 19 Oct. 2014. [cidbia.org/events](http://cidbia.org/events)

## APPENDIX A—SUMMARY OF ANALYTIC QBL FRAMEWORK IN THE CID

The following table summarizes the various factors that are, or can potentially influence, each of the CID’s four “bottom lines.” The reader can see how different organizations, development plans and other forces affect the CID’s ability to flourish economically, environmentally, socially and culturally.

<b>Financial Bottom Line</b> 	<b>Environmental Bottom Line</b> 	<b>Social Bottom Line</b> 	<b>Creative/Cultural Bottom Line</b> 
<p>Approximately 60% of CID households live in low-income households.</p> <p>34% of families were living below the poverty line in 2006-2010.</p> <p>Local family median income is \$18,000.</p> <p>Historic preservation helps keep rents low, but is not a save-all for limiting rent increases in the CID due to new development spillovers.</p> <p>Many of the CID’s commercial properties are vacant.</p> <p>The CID’s population of close to 3,500 people is too small to support all businesses in the area.</p> <p>Community Capital Development Corporation provides technical</p>	<p>Yesler Terrace has added hundreds of units of market rate housing.</p> <p>Developers aim to increase density in the International District in order to build the local economy. Several development projects have the potential to greatly increase the number of residents in the CID, number of visitors to the neighborhood and increase mobility of current residents within the CID.</p>	<p>Of residents who are over 16 years old, 54% are in the labor force while 46% are not.</p> <p>Of those in the labor force, 6.6% are unemployed.</p> <p>5% of CID housing units are owner occupied, 95% are rental properties.</p> <p>Average apartment rent in is \$1,500 in the CID.</p> <p>There are no higher education institutions in the CID.</p> <p>Rent in the western-most parcels of the CID range among the most expensive in Seattle.</p> <p>SHA recently began rebuilding the</p>	<p>CID has relatively little new construction. Many of the neighborhood’s historic buildings still stand as a testament to the effort to maintain the historic and cultural character of the neighborhood. IDEA Space has drawn up plans for a large Vietnamese Cultural Center. Concerns around lack of parking supply, development restrictions, garbage and littering, homelessness and drug dealing as well as generational divide between the youth and elderly within the community.</p>

<p>assistance, training, and loans to community development businesses. Idea SPACEs program, Hing Hai Co-Work, will provide a space for local entrepreneurs to work together and to receive consultation from professionals pro bono. A new Streetcar line will provide easy access from Pike Place Market to the Pioneer Square and CID neighborhoods.</p> <p>Building codes in Chinatown restrict economic development and have prevented the CID from gaining from the development boom Seattle is experiencing.</p> <p>SCIDpda operates retail and commercial space and supports small businesses in their IDEA Space design center.</p> <p>CIDBIA is one of six city-sanctioned Business Improvement Areas in Seattle.</p> <p>DPD is partnering with neighborhoods and business districts to help implement neighborhood plans.</p>	<p>The CIDBIA provides public services including street and sidewalk cleanup and tree pruning.</p>	<p>affordable housing in Yesler Terrace</p> <p>The PDA has developed a significant number of affordable housing projects.</p> <p>SCIDpda builds relationships with family associations, local businesses, community members and government offices.</p>	<p>SCIDpda approaches development with a holistic approach, considering housing, culture, community building and innovative solutions.</p> <p>CIDBIA manages marketing, promotion and festivals to draw business and tourism into the CDA.</p>
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## APPENDIX B—GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION PROFILES

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### GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

#### City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods | [seattle.gov/neighborhoods](http://seattle.gov/neighborhoods)

- Mission: Seattle Department of Neighborhoods works to bring government closer to the residents of Seattle by engaging them in civic participation; helping them become empowered to make positive contributions to their communities; and by involving more of Seattle's underrepresented residents, including communities of color and immigrants, in civic discourse, processes, and opportunities.<sup>149</sup>
- Accomplishments: Yesler Terrace Community P-Patch; Developed CID's first neighborhood strategic plan (1998), recognizing the neighborhood's historic value and unique characteristics, including its elderly and low-income populations and primarily small businesses. The plan focuses on key issues of cultural and economic vitality, affordable housing, safe and pedestrian friendly public space, and accessibility to and within the neighborhood. DON recognizes CID as one of 7 historic districts in Seattle. The International Special Review District aims to encourage housing rehabilitation and pedestrian-friendly development, while maintaining the area's Asian American nature.
- Current Projects: Historic Preservation, PACE Leadership Development Program, Neighborhood Matching Fund

#### City of Seattle Department of Planning and Development | [seattle.gov/dpd](http://seattle.gov/dpd)

- Mission: We partner with the community to build and preserve a great city – safe and sustainable, diverse and healthy, energizing and supportive.
- Accomplishments: Livable South Downtown plan, which aims to stimulate the housing market and encourage job creation while respecting the neighborhood's character through mixed-use zoning and supporting businesses in areas "currently lacking clear development direction."
- Current Projects: Little Saigon Business District.<sup>150</sup> Of 33 current initiatives, only 1 is focused on the CID<sup>151</sup>. One new multifamily construction is planned at 4th and Jackson near the Link Light Rail Station; another new 12-unit construction is being built in place of a parking lot on S King St. No details are available whether these are market rate or below-market rate apartments.

#### City of Seattle Office of Economic Development | [seattle.gov/economicdevelopment](http://seattle.gov/economicdevelopment)

- Mission: To create a robust economy and broadly shared prosperity, the City of Seattle's Office of Economic Development (OED) is committed to balancing economic growth with the pursuit of economic and social justice.
- Accomplishments: Provided funds through their "Only in Seattle" campaign, which was spent to improve business facades, lighting, landscaping, and paving in the CID. They also awarded two alleys with "City Infrastructure" awards, which paved pedestrian

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<sup>149</sup> "Department of Neighborhoods - City of Seattle." 2006. 20 Oct. 2014 [seattle.gov/neighborhoods/](http://seattle.gov/neighborhoods/)

<sup>150</sup> "Little Saigon Business District - What & Why - Seattle ..." 20 Oct. 2014 [seattle.gov/dpd/littlesaigon/](http://seattle.gov/dpd/littlesaigon/)

<sup>151</sup> "Ongoing Initiatives - City of Seattle." 2013. 20 Oct. 2014 [seattle.gov/DPD/cityplanning/completenesslist/default.htm](http://seattle.gov/DPD/cityplanning/completenesslist/default.htm)



pathways and filled them with planters, storefronts and festoon lighting.<sup>152</sup> The CID has been awarded with funds from OED for many years.

#### **Seattle Housing Authority | [seattlehousing.org](http://seattlehousing.org)**

- Mission: To enhance the Seattle community by creating and sustaining decent, safe and affordable living environments that foster stability and increase self-sufficiency for people with low incomes.
- Accomplishments: 84 percent of residents have annual incomes below 30 percent of area median income; the average income is \$13,086 per year. The agency also supports a wide range of community services for residents, including employment services, case management and youth activities.
- Current Projects: The SHA runs four housing programs that keep low-income and disadvantaged populations in safe affordable housing: Public Housing, which manages public housing units and channels federal funding to subsidize them (International Terrace in the CID); Housing Choice Vouchers, a public/private partnership that provides vouchers to low income families to help pay for housing in the private rental market, and can be used anywhere in Seattle with any eligible landlord; Senior Housing, which provides affordable housing for elderly and disabled residents (Legacy House); and Impact Property Management, which manages more low-income units in townhomes and apartment complexes throughout Seattle. Redevelopment is also underway at 4 major public housing sites, none of which are in the CID—though Yesler Terrace lies just outside the boundary and likely serves some of CID’s population and clientele.

#### **Seattle Parks Department’s International District/Chinatown Community Center | [seattle.gov/parks/centers/idchinatown.htm](http://seattle.gov/parks/centers/idchinatown.htm)**

- Mission: Seattle Parks and Recreation will work with all citizens to be good stewards of our environment, and to provide safe and welcoming opportunities to play, learn, contemplate, and build community.
- Accomplishments: The CID Community Center is essential to the CID area. In addition to recreational sport tournaments, classes, and activities, they also host ESL class and English Conversation class for community members. For adults with children, the community center offers preschool, before and after-school programs for children up to 5th grade for parents in need of childcare while working.
- Current Projects: The recreation center hosts ongoing special events and offers youth programs in arts and crafts, basketball, table tennis, volleyball, Chinese long staff, and martial arts. Facilities include public computers, a teen lounge, a sports club, and basketball courts.

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<sup>152</sup> “The Only in Seattle Initiation: a retrospective and vision,” 2013, 21 Oct. 2014, [seattle.gov/economicdevelopment/pdfs/OIS%20Retrospective%20Report%20FINAL%20Dec%202013\\_web.pdf](http://seattle.gov/economicdevelopment/pdfs/OIS%20Retrospective%20Report%20FINAL%20Dec%202013_web.pdf)

**Seattle Public Library's International District / Chinatown Branch | [spl.org/locations/international-district--chinatown-branch](http://spl.org/locations/international-district--chinatown-branch)**

- Mission: To bring people, information and ideas together to enrich lives and build community.
- Accomplishments: Seattle Public Library opened the CID branch in 2005 after Seattle voters approve a \$196.4 "Libraries for All" bond campaign. The CID Library leases the space from SCIDpda and is housed in the same complex as the community center, affordable family housing, and retail space.
- Current Projects: The CID library provides bilingual staff to help community members, holds a weekly Mandarin Chinese Story Time for children, and holds an emphasis on multilingual and multimedia materials.

**CULTURAL & NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

**Asian Counseling and Referral Services (ACRS) | [acrs.org](http://acrs.org)**

- Mission: To promote social justice and the wellbeing and empowerment of Asian Pacific American individuals, families and communities - including immigrants, refugees and native born - by developing, providing and advocating for innovative community-based multilingual and multicultural services.
- Accomplishments: Provides a continuum of services for primarily low-income, immigrant, refugee, American-born Asians and Pacific Islanders; serves low-income clients with a sliding fee scale; received a Youth Job Training Grant from the City of Seattle; multilingual caseworkers assist more than 27,000 people annually. The ACRS Food Bank, located in the heart of CID, distributes more than 126,000 pounds of food per month to almost 5,000 individuals and focuses on providing culturally relevant foods for the Pan-Asian diet.
- Current Projects: Aging and adult services, chemical dependency treatment, children, youth, and families, comprehensive mental health services, congregate meals and emergency feeding; consultation & education, domestic violence batterers treatment, food bank, information & referral Services, legal clinic, naturalization and immigration services, problem gambling treatment, vocational and employment services.<sup>153</sup> While the primary ACRS building is not located in CID, it serves many of the residents of the CID and other members of the Pan-Asian community.

**API Chaya | [apichaya.org](http://apichaya.org)**

- Mission: API Chaya supports Asian, South Asian, and Pacific Islander survivors and families impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as human trafficking survivors from all communities. API Chaya engages communities to change societal conditions that enable domestic and sexual violence, human trafficking and all forms of oppression, especially violence against women and the most vulnerable in our society.
- Accomplishments: Natural Helpers Project, created a growing network of people in the community trained to help connect victims to resources; Survivor Support provides

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<sup>153</sup> "ACRS | Programs - Asian Counseling and Referral Service," 2008, 20 Oct. 2014, [acrs.org/services/](http://acrs.org/services/)

direct and indirect support and services to victims of domestic and sexual abuse and human trafficking.

- Current Projects: Queer Network Program; Project Q—an arts-based curriculum for young LGBTQIA people of color to educate and engage their communities; Youth Program; Healthcare Outreach Program; MANA Health and Fitness Series; JAAGO online community blog ([jaagoseattle.tumblr.com](http://jaagoseattle.tumblr.com)).

#### **Chinatown-International District Business Improvement Area | [cidbia.org](http://cidbia.org)**

- Mission: To promote economic vitality of the district, encourage responsible business development and support continuous improvement of the quality of life in the district for its business owners, residents, and visitors.
- Accomplishments: Business and tourism development, festivals, marketing materials, media relations; Maintenance, enhancement, beautification through tree pruning, street washing, and trash cleanup; Public safety, park rangers, and neighborhood perception; Transportation accessibility; free graffiti removal.
- Current Projects: Dragon Fest, Night Market, new neighborhood website.

#### **Chinese Family Associations | [seattlechinesechamber.org/chinatown/familyassociations](http://seattlechinesechamber.org/chinatown/familyassociations)**

- Chinese family associations are prominent in most overseas Chinese communities. They are usually made up of members who share a common ancestor or family name, whose aims include exchanging genealogical information, sharing current news about family members, holding reunions, and promoting family pride. Many associations also engage in social, educational, cultural, integration and community service activities. The Seattle CID's Chong Wa Benevolent Association (established in 1915), seeks to provide a unified voice for Chinese Americans in Washington State, mediate disputes between family associations and tongs (a type of social organization found in Chinese immigrant communities), and serve the community promoting Chinese culture and general welfare within the community. Its programs include a Chinese language school, citizenship classes and Chinese cultural activities.
- Prominent Chinese family associations within the CID include:

#### **Chinese Information & Service Center (CISC) | [cisc-seattle.org](http://cisc-seattle.org)**

- Mission: CISC's mission is to "help Chinese and other Asian immigrants make the transition to a new life while keeping later generations in touch with the rich heritage of their homelands. For its client base, it offers the broadest available set of social, family, employment, education, and cultural programs in King County."<sup>154</sup>
- Accomplishments: CISC has grown from a small organization of four high school and college students working part-time out of donated space in then-Chinatown into a network of branches operating throughout King County. Across all branches, they serve over 20,000 immigrants and families annually with assistance in 16 languages. Their presence in the CID has also expanded to include an adult day center, employment and

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<sup>154</sup> CISC Programs [cisc-seattle.org/?page=programs&lang=en](http://cisc-seattle.org/?page=programs&lang=en)

computer skill programs, preschool and afterschool programs, family counseling, case management and advocacy.

- Current Projects: Currently CISC is focusing on expanding its Eastside Cultural Navigator program launched in 2007. The program connects Chinese, Indian, Latino, Russian, and Vietnamese immigrant communities in East King County with resources in their area.

#### **Denise Louie Education Center (DLEC) | [deniselouie.org](http://deniselouie.org)**

- Mission: Provide high-quality multicultural early learning and family support services so that Seattle kids will be ready to succeed in school and life.
- Accomplishments: The DLEC has been part of the federal Head Start program since 1984; started by serving 18 at-risk, underserved children. DLEC now serves 181 children between the ages of 3 and 5 who come from over 15 countries in Asia, Latin and South America, and East Africa.
- Current Projects: Prevention and Early Intervention- DLEC recruits, identifies and serves children that require special services (speech, occupational, physical therapy) through their partnership with Seattle Public Schools, Asian Counseling & Referral Service and other community partners; Family and Community Partnerships- Multilingual Family Services Specialists build relationships with individual families with the goal of teaching parenting skills and assisting with referrals and connections in the community to allow families to meet their basic needs; Early Head Start; Free Summer Preschool; Literacy outreach; Unfortunately, not all of DLEC's programs are available at their CID location.

#### **Friends of Little Saigon | [friendsoflittlesaigon.org](http://friendsoflittlesaigon.org)**

- Mission: To preserve and enhance Little Saigon's cultural, economic and historic vitality.
- Accomplishments: After 40 years of community presence, FLS has helped the Vietnamese community establish "Little Saigon". FLS hosts an annual Little Saigon celebration as well as lunar New Year festivities. These festivities celebrate the Vietnamese American food, arts and culture in Seattle.
- Current Projects: FLS is currently working on several community projects; one of which is working with the Seattle Parks Department to acquire property for a Little Saigon Park. They are also organizing a neighborhood business watch to increase community crime prevention aimed at business owners and employees to be proactive in public safety. The biggest project they are working towards is creating the Little Saigon Landmark. This project is derived from Little Saigon 2020: Vision and Action Plan and will help address community priorities from the plan. The feasibility study was completed in 2014 and a community engagement process will begin in 2016.

#### **Greater Seattle Chinese Chamber of Commerce | [seattlechinesechamber.org](http://seattlechinesechamber.org)**

- Mission: To promote and support members' business by providing a forum for business exchange capitalizing on the organization's long history and members' unique connection with Asia.



- Accomplishments: Organizes the Chinatown Seafair Parade and Lunar New Year Banquet; Runs a Young Leaders Program and Scholarships for Women Program. Advocacy and public relations for local Chinese businesses.<sup>155</sup>
- Current Projects: The Chamber brings together civic, professional, and business leaders from the Chinese community of greater Seattle. It is also an advisory board member of the Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle (TDA), a member of the Washington State China Relations Council (WSCRC), and a reciprocal member of the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce.
- Note: A number of other active Chambers of Commerce are also present in the CID, including Vietnamese American, Japanese, and Filipino Chambers of Commerce<sup>156</sup>. We do not explain them in depth here.

#### **Hokubei Hochi Foundation | [hokubeihochi.org](http://hokubeihochi.org)**

- Mission: HHF was created in 2011, and the foundation's mission is to promote and preserve the culture of the Nikkei and Japanese community through educational and cultural projects and activities in the Pacific Northwest. HHF's vision is for a vibrant Nikkei and Japanese community connected and engaged through relevant news and enriching programs. HHF seeks to preserve the community's history and culture for future generations.<sup>157</sup>
- Accomplishments: sponsors civic, education, and cultural events throughout the year like Japanese tea ceremonies, kite festival, flea markets, and Nihonmachi Nite.
- Current Projects: Managing the Nagomi Tea House Facility, and a Nikkei Newspaper Digital Archive Project

#### **InterIm Community Development Association | [interimicda.org](http://interimicda.org)**

- Mission: Promote resiliency in Asian, Pacific Islander, immigrant, and refugee communities through culturally and linguistically responsive community building.
- Accomplishments: Provides multi-lingual, culturally competent housing and community building services to target communities in Seattle and the CID<sup>158</sup>; Manages the Danny Woo International District Community Garden; manages community parking lots; Intergenerational program. With Housing Stability and Homelessness Prevention program, helps about 1500 individuals each year find housing; 13 apartment units dedicated to Solace Transitional Housing Program; developed 261 affordable housing units in 5 properties.
- Current Projects: WILD program; Hirabayashi Place, a 96-unit affordable TOD housing project in Japan Town; advocacy for city and regional policies centering on affordable housing, living wages, public safety, transportation, and social services in CID and for Asian communities; Harvest Fest and Farm-to-Table Dinner.

<sup>155</sup> "Events & Programs | Greater Seattle Chinese Chamber of Commerce." 2013. 20 Oct. 2014 [seattlechinesechamber.org/events-programs](http://seattlechinesechamber.org/events-programs)

<sup>156</sup> "Organizations & Chambers | International District." 2011. 20 Oct. 2014 [seattlechinatownid.com/neighborhood/orgs-chambers](http://seattlechinatownid.com/neighborhood/orgs-chambers).

<sup>157</sup> "Mission & History | Hokubei Hochi Foundation." 2015. 21 Oct. 2015 [hokubeihochi.org/mission-and-history](http://hokubeihochi.org/mission-and-history)

<sup>158</sup> "Sustainable Communities | InterImCDA." 21 Oct. 2015

### **International Community Health Services (ICHS) | [ichs.com](http://ichs.com)**

- Mission: ICHS provides culturally and linguistically appropriate health services to improve the health of Asian Pacific Islanders and the broader community.
- Accomplishments: Provides medical and dental services to a community with language and financial barriers. Within the last three years, ICHS expanded its services into Holly Park, Bellevue, and Shoreline to cater to the growing immigrant population. Opened a school-based clinic at the Seattle World School that primarily serves immigrants and refugees. Partners with other organizations to spearhead change and advocate for the community. With the Association for Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO), gathered 15,000 signatures for a petition that urged Senate and House legislators to support healthcare for immigrants by eliminating the 5-year bar for benefits and restoring Compact of Free Association migrant eligibility for the Medicaid program. Partnered with the ACSRS to provide human services and behavioral health programs to Asian and Pacific Islander communities in King County. Received national recognition as a “patient-centered medical home” for its work in providing team-led, coordinated healthcare. ICHS is carrying its patient centered focus into a new web interface as well.<sup>159</sup>
- Current Projects: As a central health provider within the International District, ICHS will continue to provide continuous care to the community through special events, workshops, and regular patient visits.

### **Indochina Chinese Refugee Association (ICRA) | [icrawa.org](http://icrawa.org)**

- Mission: ICRA is a community based non-profit social service organization that provides assistance to new refugees and immigrants, especially the elderly and children.
- Accomplishments: ICRA clients are primarily immigrants of Chinese ethnicity who come from Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia as well as China and Taiwan. ICRA assists these populations in assimilating into mainstream American society while also providing opportunities to maintain their culture. A past accomplishment includes advocating and creating the Yat-Sen Chinese School. The ICRA staff language abilities are in Mandarin, Cantonese, Toisan, Lao, Thai, and Vietnamese)
- Current Projects: ICRA provides continuous services for the Asian American community with assimilation to the United States such as immigrant resettlement, naturalization, English as a second language (ESL), parent education, youth tutoring, Chinese school, as well as immigration and employment assistance, social services, and education services.

### **Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) | [jaclseattle.wordpress.com](http://jaclseattle.wordpress.com)**

- Mission: To secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry. The leaders and members of the JACL also work to promote cultural, educational and social values and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.
- Accomplishments: The JACL chapters works together and advocate for community and national issues throughout the nations. Some of their work includes the support of

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<sup>159</sup> ICHS News, 21 Oct. 2015 [ichs.com/category/news/](http://ichs.com/category/news/)

Passage of Service Act, Passage of Omnibus Bill, CHIP Bill, and collaborations with other community organizations to promote social justice.

- Current Projects: The JACL Seattle Chapter hosts annual cultural activities like the Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival, leadership training, scholarships, and building alliances with other communities of color.

#### **Nikkei Concerns<sup>160</sup> | [nikkeiconcerns.org](http://nikkeiconcerns.org)**

- Mission: Nikkei concerns provides health and related services in a traditional atmosphere to elderly Nikkei (Japanese). Nikkei aims to provide services that exemplify compassion, innovation and high quality care to elders and their families.
- Accomplishments: In 2015, Nikkei Concerns celebrated 40 years as the largest provider of culturally competent Asian older adult care facilities in King County. It started off serving 27 nursing home patients and now offers multifaceted services in four different locations.
- Current Projects: Nikkei operated a rehabilitation and care center, an assisted living community, a senior activity program and continuing education for seniors. In 2016 it will work to expand its geographic reach to serve more Asian elders.

#### **Nisei Veteran's Committee Inc (NVC) | [seattlencv.org](http://seattlencv.org)**

- Mission: To preserve and honor the Japanese American legacies and to provide community programs that meet the educational, cultural and social needs of the broader community.
- Accomplishments: The NVC was founded in 1946 as a non-profit veterans' organization by Japanese- American veterans of World War II who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service while their families were held in American internment camps. They established the Nisei Veterans Hall in CID as a center to welcome second-generation Japanese Americans returning from fighting for the U.S. in Europe, and to be a place for veterans and their families to socialize and to share their lessons of World War II.
- Current Projects: NVC members, Foundation members and community groups regularly use the Memorial Hall as a gathering place for activities and events. The Monthly Speaker Series is held there as part of the Foundation's education program, which also reaches out to students, civic groups, and other organizations. A military museum in the Hall further tells the story of the contributions made by the Nisei veterans and veterans of succeeding generations in US history. Each year, they provide three scholarships to eligible high school seniors and college members of the NVC that demonstrate community support and academic excellence.

#### **Puget Sound Sage | [pugetsoundsage.org](http://pugetsoundsage.org)**

- Mission: To build communities where all families thrive. Using a combination of research, policy, leadership development, and civic engagement, Puget Sound Sage is

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<sup>160</sup> Nikkei Concerns will be changing its name to Keiro Northwest as of January 1st, 2016.

creating equitable and sustainable solutions for some of the region's most pressing problems.

- Accomplishments: A number of publications highlighting research on proposed policies that could affect residents of the CID, including work on the minimum wage, universal preschool, equitable transit oriented development, and providing sick days to part-time workers. In 2008, negotiated a comprehensive Community Benefits Agreement for a project to be developed in Little Saigon.
- Current Projects: They facilitate an Interfaith Economic Justice Coalition and a South Communities Organizing for Racial/Regional Equity group. Puget Sound Sage also engages in research projects and advocacy work on Green Jobs, Hospitality Workers Rising, and Transit Oriented Development.

#### **Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority | [scidpda.org](http://scidpda.org)**

- Mission: To preserve, promote, and develop the Seattle Chinatown International District as a vibrant community and unique ethnic neighborhood.
- Accomplishments: Legacy House, Nutrition Program, 500 affordable housing units housing 700+ individuals, and affordable retail space throughout the community.
- Primary Activities: Affordable housing development and management, commercial and retail spaces, senior services, community and economic development, community engagement.
- Current Projects: IDEA Space, ID Art Walk, International Children's Park, King Street Task Force; Maintains social media and online presence ([seattlechinatownid.com](http://seattlechinatownid.com)).
- Highlighted projects of interest: \* Domingo Viernus Apts, New Central Building, Legacy House \* Historic Canton Alley reactivation and repavement \* Chong Wa building rehab \* International Children's Park (park redesigned through a community process) \* The Louisa redevelopment (post-fire restoration) \* Maynard Green Street (InterIm project) \* Hing Hay Park Expansion \* Hing Hay Coworks (Cowork space will offer technical assistance to the local business community)

#### **WAPI Community Services | [wapiseattle.org](http://wapiseattle.org)**

- Mission: To provide and advocate for culturally competent and age-appropriate prevention and substance abuse treatment services for Asian Pacific Islander Youth and all Youth of Color.
- Accomplishments: Drug and alcohol treatment for AAPI youth; Counseling and education; Leadership and Resiliency Program (LRP); Social justice education and cultural identity building; Drug prevention
- Current Projects: Katalyst youth music and art project; Talent Show; Street Scholars drug treatment and substance abuse education program; Youth lounge in CID.

#### **The Wing Luke Asian Museum | [wingluke.org](http://wingluke.org)**

- Mission: The Wing Luke Asian Museum is dedicated to engaging the public in exploring issues related to the culture, art and history of Asian Pacific Americans.



- Accomplishments: This museum is the only pan-Asian Pacific American community-based museum in America. The museum is named in honor of the late Seattle City Council member Wing Luke, who was the first Asian American elected to public office in the Pacific Northwest. Since 1967, Wing Luke has moved twice and currently inhabits 719 S. King Street, housed in the renovated 1910 East Kong Yick 41 Building that preserves the historic spaces within including the former Gee 17 How Oak Tin Association room, the Freeman SRO Hotel, a Canton Alley family apartment, and the Yick Fung Mercantile.
- Current Projects: The new Wing Luke Asian Museum continues its work in addressing civil rights and social justice issues.

### **Vietnamese Friendship Association | [vfaseattle.org](http://vfaseattle.org)**

- Mission: VFA advances equity in education, fosters civic engagement, and advocates for Vietnamese and other refugee and immigrant communities.
- Accomplishments: Each year, VFA partners with other community groups to host cultural events related to the Vietnamese community. As of 2014, VFA opened the first bilingual Vietnamese – English Language Preschool located in the Mount Baker neighborhood. In addition, VFA has collaborated with the Seattle World School to offer mentoring, tutoring, and summer, Saturday, and after-school programs, as well as cultural enrichment and bridging programs for immigrant and refugee students.
- Current Projects: VFA strives to grow their internal capacity to continue to provide services and special events for the immigrant and refugee community.

### **CID LANGUAGE SCHOOLS**

These language schools help preserve the culture, history and language of the community. These schools also offer academic tutoring, music lessons, and summer programs for youth in grades K-12.

- Seattle Chinese School [seattlechineseschool.org](http://seattlechineseschool.org)
- Chong Wa Chinese School [school.chongwa.org](http://school.chongwa.org)
- Seattle Japanese Language School\* [jccw.org/jls](http://jccw.org/jls)
- Northwest Chinese School [nwchinese.org/newSite/seattle-branch](http://nwchinese.org/newSite/seattle-branch)

\*The Seattle Japanese Language School is located just outside of the CID boundaries on S Weller Street and Rainier Ave S, but has been serving the Seattle-area Japanese community since 1902.

### **MEDIA SOURCES**

The large makeup of non-English speakers within the CID has spurred a demand for news in a language the community can understand. Today, popular local and world newspapers supply news that's occurring throughout the nation. Many of these same newspapers also focus on the developments and events within the community. According to publisher Assunta Ng, before she

founded the Seattle Chinese Post in 1982, immigrants “had to go to a billboard in Chinatown to find out what was going on.”<sup>161</sup>

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<sup>161</sup> Chinatown - International District (CID): A Briefing Packet for October 29, 2009 Field Trip