



Imagine Greater Downtown  
Outreach and Engagement  
September 10, 2018

**Website** - We have focused engagement to the broader community through our website [www.imaginegreaterdowntown.org](http://www.imaginegreaterdowntown.org) where we have provided the opportunity for comment via a social pinpoint mapping exercise as well as a photo gallery where people can post images of what they'd like to see in Seattle. The website and video are available in 5 languages.

Broad Community Outreach will take place on the street at events like PARK(ing) Day, Pop-ups and a Pedestrian Potluck. We are reaching out to groups as well including: seniors, Design Professionals at AIA, City of Seattle Modal Boards, Seattle Youth Commission and the Seattle Planning Commission.

**Advisory Group** - The Imagine Greater Downtown Advisory Group includes nearly 30 community members. They are meeting at strategic points in the planning process to provide critical feedback to the project. Advisory Group participants were selected based upon the unique interests, backgrounds, and perspectives they bring to the conversation. The Advisory Group is working with the partner agencies to make sure that Imagine Greater Downtown considers and reflects the many communities that live, work, and hang-out in downtown Seattle.

**Staff Participation** – Staff from partner organizations have provided input and guidance on the process of the project as well as at workshop exercises to address the key questions of Imagine Greater Downtown.

**Equitable Outreach and Engagement** – Staff are approaching the engagement strategy from an equity perspective. We have worked with the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) to develop materials that have been reviewed by Community Liaisons (CLs) to assure they are approachable by many different communities. CLs have also participated in exercises to guide the direction of IGD from a diverse perspective and will be “popping-up” around town to ask questions of the public in-language. The CLs for this project represent the following communities: Vietnamese, Chinese, Filipino, Unhoused, Spanish-speaking, Black/Queer/Arts, Russian/Tajik/Uzbek and Native people.

Examples of Outreach – Engagement with immigrants and refugees in English as a Second Language classes, CL produced community conversations with the black and Latinx communities, a focus group consisting of 24 very diverse participants.

## Key Themes To-date from Equitable Engagement

### Overarching Themes

- There are a lot of cultural centers (museums, music, etc.), but there should be more adaptable spaces to celebrate many different people and cultures.
- Pedestrian focused, car-free areas, both for movement and for places to stay.
- Access to the water and a greener Seattle is important for many people and cultures.
- Many POC do not feel welcome to hang-out in Greater Downtown except in C-ID and a few spots on Capitol Hill. This is true any time of day but particularly during the evening hours. It feels unsafe for POC and police presence does not make it feel safer.
- Having a place where people can gather in large groups of family and friends spans many cultures.

### Categorized themes

#### Age-Friendly

- There is lack of free places for children to play and people love to be around where kids are playing (but not in a creepy way). We need more kid spaces and/or kid-friendly design.
- More flexible and free indoor public spaces for inter-generational families to hang out.
- Hills are hard for everyone (strollers, kids, and older people), need to know about assisted hill climbs or circulating transportation options
- Public bathrooms are important for people of all ages

#### Plazas and Food

- More street food/small scale food vendors on every block and in plazas
- Places to sit and eat outside where you can meet family members and friends and cook outside. Everyone loves a picnic.
- Greater Downtown spaces need to be cleaner. Too much trash all around.

- We need places, particularly during the summer, where there is a lot of life on the streets at night and people can walk everywhere. With food vendors along the street and people gathering and hanging out together.

#### Parks, Trees and Water

- Most love nature and access to water even if it's a view but really enjoy walking along the water's edge. People want to be able to walk the waterfront from Pioneer Square to Myrtle Edwards Park.
- More green, more trees, more beauty.
- People like to people-watch. More spaces for passive recreation like Lake Union Park and The Olympic Sculpture Park

#### Culture and Arts

- Seattle Center is a cultural hub where many feel welcome when there is a specific ethnic event that is appropriate to them. But cost can be prohibitive.
- If Greater Downtown is for everyone, we need to create visible representation of all of Seattle's cultures through art, design, etc.
- There is a lack of native acknowledgement and space except for "Native" Park AKA Victor Steinbrueck Park and annual events
- Bring more color to Greater Downtown in the forms of art and murals.
- Culturally significant places in greater downtown include: C-ID, Capitol Hill (LGBT community), "Native" Park (AKA Victor Steinbrueck) and the Seattle Center.
- Preserve and nurture the C-ID, small shops are a delight, and the area is fun to explore
- We need places where people can bring out instruments and play music and spark some joy but does not require a permit from the city.

#### Transportation

- Times and prices for buses in Greater Downtown are not always accessible to POC from other neighborhoods.
- Greater Downtown needs to be more bike friendly so bicycling is an option.
- Connection across I-5 difficult for all modes of transportation

## Safety

- Folks avoid areas where the unhoused gather including along many areas of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave
- Most of GD feels unsafe at night to many POC, immigrants and refugees.