



DOWNTOWN
COMMUNITY
COUNCIL

Impact Report 2025

Alone we can do so little.
Together we can do so much.
Helen Keller



Executive Summary

2025 was a landmark year of growth for the Downtown Community Council (DCC). In our first full calendar year of operation, we focused on amplifying your voices through 60+ public events, programs and activities. We also embraced innovation by launching Seattle's first augmented reality Jane's Walk, helping neighbors visualize a vibrant future for our community.

Collaboration was at our core this year. We partnered with our surrounding Urban Community Councils and engaged with City Hall, our elected officials and downtown agencies to tackle some of our toughest challenges. Working with you and downtown stakeholders, we launched four "Good Neighbor Initiatives" to address local, site-specific challenges and improve the present and future livability of our neighborhood. And, by working with groups like Downtown Artwalk and Seattle Restored, we are working to make our neighborhood a creative hub and destination.

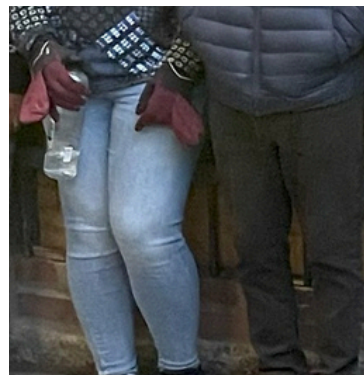
Our work confirmed what we already knew: **residents LOVE living Downtown** for its culture, connection, and neighborly spirit. Our success is a testament to the passionate neighbors who share their time and talent with us.

While we've made great strides together, there is much more to do. We look forward to working alongside you in **2026** to ensure our Downtown Core is the most vibrant and livable neighborhood in Seattle where all can thrive.

10k
Residents



5640
Families



45+
Residential
Buildings



Who We Are

Our Mission

The **Downtown Community Council (DCC)** is a community-led, volunteer-powered, residents coalition working to make the heart of downtown Seattle a more vibrant, sustainable, and livable neighborhood where all can thrive.

Our Values

Your priorities are our values.



Our Geography

Waterfront to I-5, Lenora to Yesler
excluding Denny Triangle and
Pioneer Square



What Residents are Saying

Since our inception, the DCC has prioritized listening directly to the people who call our neighborhood home. Through on-going conversations and a series of in-depth, one-on-one **Needs Assessment** interviews, we've gathered vital insights that shape our advocacy and ensure we are championing the issues that matter most to Downtown residents.

While residents overwhelmingly share a deep love for living in the heart of Seattle, they have also identified clear opportunities for growth. Below, we've highlighted the aspects of downtown life our neighbors cherish most, alongside the top priorities they've asked us to address as we work together to enhance the livability of our neighborhood.

Continued proactive listening is at the top of our 2026 agenda as our City transitions leadership and envisions our next 20 years together through the Comprehensive Plan..

Residents' Top

Favorites

1. Walkability & Transportation
2. Arts & Culture
3. Pike Place Market, Waterfront

Concerns

1. Public Safety & Health (open air drug crisis)
2. Pedestrian Safety (Scooters)
3. Noise (unauthorized amplified sound)

Needs

1. Retail (full grocery store, amenities like shoe repair, etc.)
2. Green Space / Parks
3. Community Center / Space



PHOTO: Residents walk their neighborhood with Community Service Officers (CSO) to build a relationships and discuss how we can work together.

Collaborations

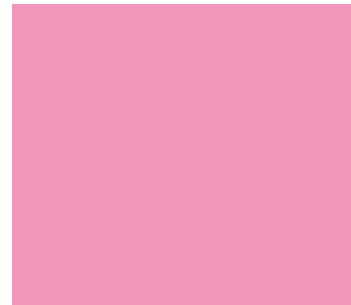
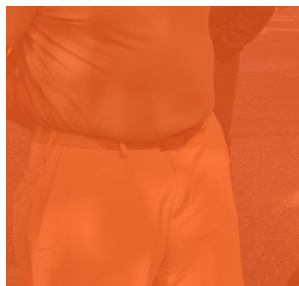
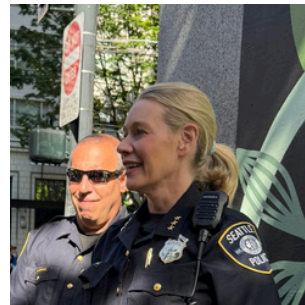
We believe a thriving neighborhood is built through shared effort and meaningful partnership. Fostering positive, productive collaboration is not just one of our core values - it is a top priority that drives everything we do. We work closely with residents, local government, service providers, non-profits, and commercial property owners to ensure Residents' needs are met and our neighborhood's potential is fully realized.

Over the past year, we have focused on building strong relationships with our surrounding Urban Community Councils, Seattle City Hall, and neighborhood service providers. As we look toward 2026, we are excited to expand this engagement by strengthening our ties with King County elected officials and collaborating with place-based coalitions to further elevate our neighbors' voices.

Below are a few of the organizations and individuals we worked with in 2025. Thank you for sharing your time, talent and expertise with us. We couldn't have done it without you.

- South Lake Union Community Council
- Pioneer Square Residents' Council
- Capitol Hill Community Council
- First Hill Improvement Association
- Queen Anne Community Council
- Belltown United
- Christ Our Hope Civic Association
- Pike Place Market Foundation
- Friends of the Waterfront
- Downtown Artwalk
- Seattle Restored
- Feet First
- Lid I-5
- Future Tracks
- WA Good Business Network
- Seattle Parks Foundation
- Downtown Seattle Association (DSA)
- Metropolitan Improvement District (MID)
- We Deliver Care (WDC)
- Purpose Digintiy Action (PDA)
- West Precinct Advisory Council (WPAC)
- Seattle Police Department (SPD)
- Seattle Department of Neighborhoods
- CARE Team / 911
- City Council Member Bob Kettle
- City Council Member Sara Nelson
- City Council Member Alexis Rinck
- Seattle Mayor's Office, Public Safety Team
- KC Council Member Teresa Mosqueda
- KC Council Member Claudia Balducci
- KC Council Member Girmay Zahilay

PHOTO: Residents walk their neighborhood with SPD Chief Underwood and Lt Vincent Carulo to discuss public safety concerns and how we can work together.



Year in Review

Public Forums

Our public "Community Conversations" forums provided a platform for residents to engage with experts and elected officials on vital topics like public safety and emergency preparedness. These forums foster collaborative, results-oriented solutions and will continue to address resident priorities throughout 2026.

Community Walks

Our "Hike the Hood" community walks offered a casual way for neighbors to connect with each other and local leaders, including elected officials like Mayor Harrell and (then candidate) Wilson, SPD leadership, City Council members and more. These popular outings - which also include fun and informative behind-the-scenes tours with service providers and local non-profits - will return in 2026 on a regular seasonal schedule.

Government Meetings

The DCC Government Committee successfully amplified resident voices in direct, conversational meetings with elected officials. Focused on public health, safety, and retail recovery, these efforts will expand in 2026 to include County-level advocacy and concerns like noise and ADA accessibility.

Social Outreach Events

Through direct outreach events to residential buildings and partnerships with the Downtown Artwalk and Seattle Restored we hosted engaging socials and fun happy hours that grew our community and increased DCC awareness. We look forward to expanding these programs and partnerships in 2026.

Good Neighbor Initiatives

Good Neighbor initiatives are designed to bring creative, site-specific solutions to our neighbors' unique challenges. From improving traffic safety and public health to reducing noise and refining the Design Review process, these proactive initiatives are advancing practical, real-life solutions to improve the present and future livability of our neighborhood. We're inspired by the progress we are making together and are eager to build on these in 2026.

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Good Neighbor
Initiatives

Community Projects

Walk Seattle's Future

What will the Downtown Core neighborhood look like in 10, 20, 30 years? In 2025, the DCC helped residents explore this question by launching Seattle's very first Augmented Reality (AR) Jane's Walk. This family-friendly 0.75-mile immersive tour was brought to life through a collaboration with local AR creators, storytellers, developers and designers. Through the magic of AR, participants journeyed through the past, present and future of our neighborhood - catching a glimpse of pending and future projects like the LID I-5 and revitalized Westlake Park while discovering animated digital art from local creatives along the way.

During the launch event, our dedicated DCC volunteers provided guided tours and helped neighbors dive into the experience using their own mobile phones.

This innovative project was made possible through a Small Sparks Grant from the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods and the amazing support of partners like Seattle Parks Foundation, LID I-5, Future Arts, Novaby AR Studio, and RevereXR.

[LEARN and SEE MORE](#)

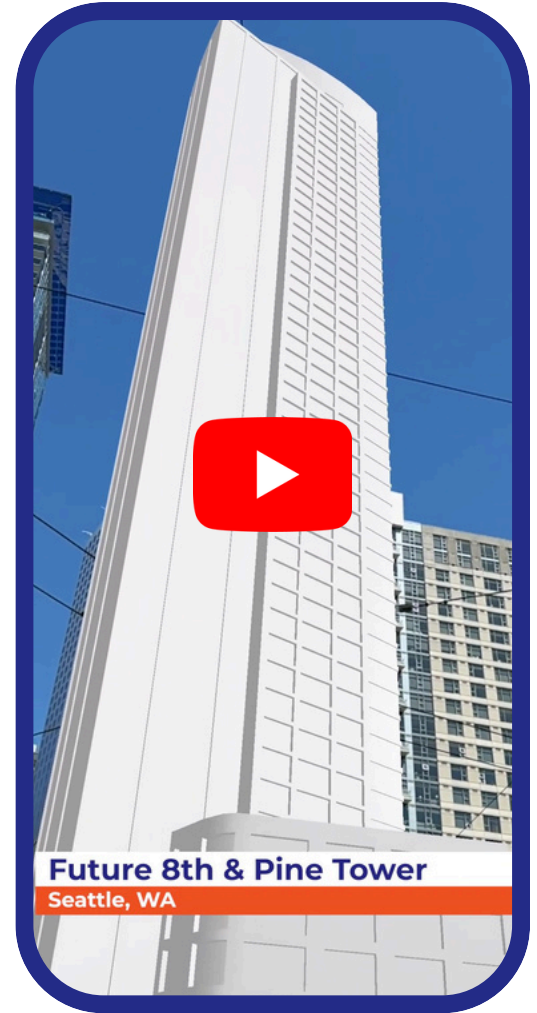


PHOTO: Volunteers demonstrate an AR visualization of the potential I-5 lid.



Financial Overview

The Downtown Community Council (DCC) is proud to be a fiscally sponsored nonprofit partner of the Seattle Parks Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization. Our work is made possible through the generous support of downtown residents, dedicated partners, and community grants. As a non-profit initiative, all donations to the DCC are tax-deductible

In 2025, these contributions were instrumental in offsetting our initial startup costs and on-going operations costs as well as providing a solid foundation for our future growth. Looking ahead to 2026, we are excited to expand our fundraising efforts to allow us to create even more programs, events, and advocacy initiatives for you. We are deeply grateful for your investment in a more vibrant and connected neighborhood.

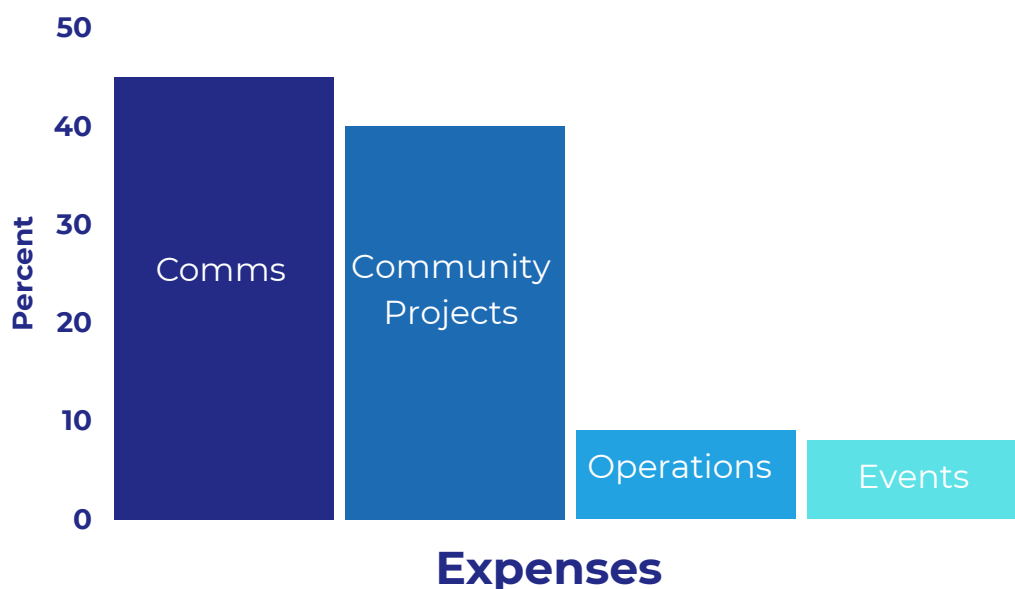
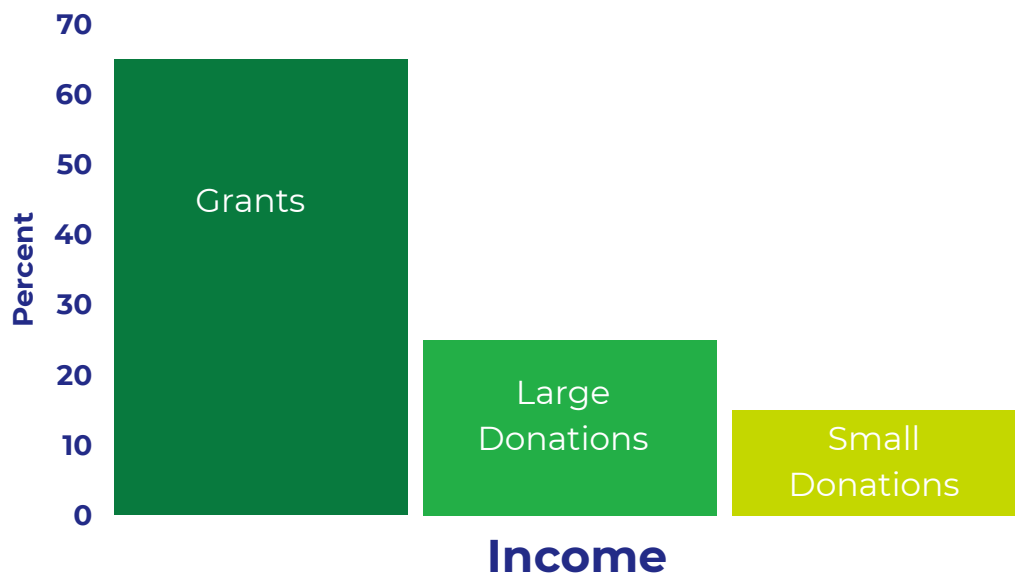
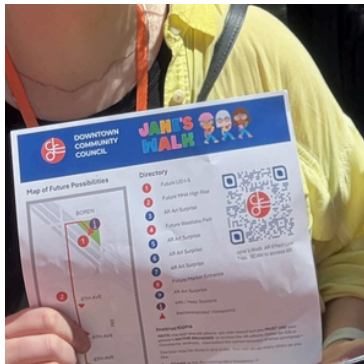




PHOTO: Volunteers and local AR creatives lending their talents and time to the DCC's Janes Walk, Seattle's FIRST AR Jane's Walk



Thank You

