CAUTION: External Email

The Seattle Public Library

May 1, 2024

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Director Quirindongo,

The Seattle Public Library's Board of Trustees has reviewed the Comprehensive Plan, the One Seattle Plan. After thoughtful consideration, we provide the suggestions below broken down by topic. Planning for the future is a necessary step as Seattle moves into the middle of the 21st century. It is crucial that The Seattle Public Library is incorporated into this plan and acknowledged for the important role the Library plays beyond providing access to reading materials. The Library provides social services, community engagement, small business support, English classes, learning and school support, and 0-5 programs. With these and many more interactions within the community, the Library is vital to the development of Seattle over the next 20 years and the success of all residents within the city limits.

Arts and Culture:

- Include SPL in the Arts & Culture Element
- Rename the Arts & Culture Element to "Civic Infrastructure" or "Civic Investments"
- Note here that library branches are existing examples of cultural place-making and will continue to fill that role through the Library's Strategic Plan.
- Recognition of the role that the unique Seattle Room Collection plays within the community. The collection, both physical and digital, is developed in a way that people can find publications and memorabilia that relate to neighborhood history, supported by a push to collect organizational newsletters and ephemera from communities of color so that history wouldn't be lost to the next generation.

Community Involvement:

- The Community Involvement Element is too broad and does not include reference to the types of interagency/interdepartmental engagement the City participates in.
- Include information from SPL on how we conduct outreach, engagement, and community co-creation of programs and services.

- Include information on interdepartmental and interagency coordination about Community Involvement, specifically with the following offices and departments: OIRA, DON, SPL, SPR, Seattle Center, OPCD

Growth Strategy/Policy GS 1.4:

- Update policy language to include libraries: "Focus higher-density housing and commercial space in areas near transit, parks, shops, ***libraries,*** services, walking and biking infrastructure, and other amenities."

Growth Strategy/Place Types:

- Libraries currently exist in Regional Centers, Urban Centers, and Neighborhood Centers.
- Libraries currently exist along or within close proximity to Frequent Transit Routes

Growth Strategy/Regional Centers/Urban Centers/Neighborhood Centers:

- Update language to reflect libraries as a part of civic infrastructure.
    - Example: Regional Center Discussion "Regional Centers (previously referred to as Urban Centers in the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan) are the densest Seattle neighborhoods. They are places of regional importance due to the presence of substantial housing, office, retail, ***civic infrastructure,*** and/or cultural and entertainment uses along with access to regional transit."

Growth Strategy/Policy Guidance (GS 3.4, GS 4.4):

- Update language to reflect libraries as a part of civic infrastructure.
    - Example: Policy GS 3.4 "Allow a wide range of non-residential uses in Regional Centers including office, retail, ***civic infrastructure,*** and entertainment uses. Regional Centers should contain most of Seattle's office development."

Land Use/Public Facilities and Small Institutions:

- Update language to include libraries as part of the list of facilities.
    - Example: "Throughout Seattle, our communities are dotted with facilities that provide needed services to residents. These include schools, fire and police stations, ***libraries,*** and other buildings that serve special functions that require them to be different from other buildings in the same zone."

Land Use/Multifamily Zones:

- Update language to reflect libraries as a part of civic infrastructure.
    - Example: Goal LU G10 "Multifamily zones create areas of primarily residential development at a variety of scales that:
        - include housing suitable for a broad array of households and income levels and
        - support neighborhoods where people can walk, bike, and roll to transit, shops, civic infrastructure, services, and amenities."

Economic Development/Neighborhood Business Districts:

- Include Library programs and services in the discussion around economic benefits.
    - Add: "The Seattle Public Library offers dozens of classes and workshops every year in partnership with local organizations. Local business librarians are trained to provide assistance with all aspects of business research, from data about potential customers to market trends. Seattle residents can access online research tools for free with their Library card."

Economic Development/Investing in Talent and Developing our Workforce:

- Include Library programs and services in the discussion around economic benefits.
    - Add: "The Seattle Public Library currently provides access to Northstar Digital Literacy program. This allows users to gain computer confidence and master technology skills. Users are also able to complete certificates to showcase their skillsets to potential employers."

Thank you for your consideration of our thoughts and feedback on Seattle's Comprehensive Plan.

The Seattle Public Library Board of Trustees
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