

The Alliance for Pioneer Square Launches the Northeast Pioneer Square Framework Planning Process

The plan will develop a unified vision to ensure individual investments support the common goal of a superior urban experience.

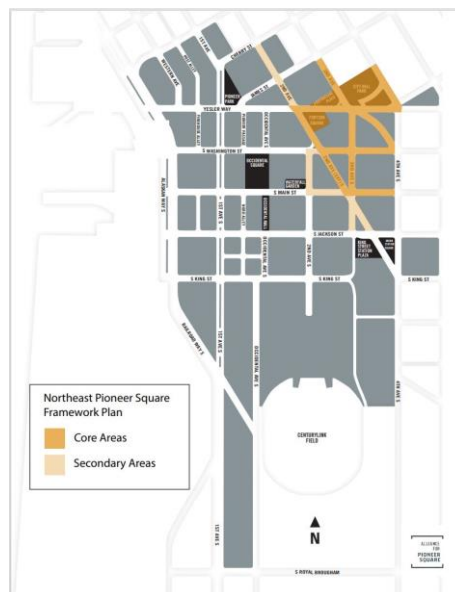
Seattle, WA - The Alliance for Pioneer Square, an organization that works to help preserve what makes Pioneer Square the most authentic, engaging and dynamic neighborhood in Seattle, announces the development of a Framework Plan that will articulate a shared vision for the future of Northeast Pioneer Square.

This Framework Plan will provide a vision and roadmap for the future of Northeast Pioneer Square, establish budget priorities for the City and other government partners, and coordinate long-term public and private planning projects. The project area roughly has boundaries of S. James St. to S. Jackson St. and 2nd Avenue S. to 4th Avenue S.. Some notable spaces within this area are City Hall Park, Prefontaine Fountain, Fortson Square, and 2nd Avenue Extension.

A Steering Committee consisting of neighborhood stakeholders, property owners, residents, business owners, and agency partners will lead the development of this plan, which will be finalized by December 2021. This cross-section of Steering Committee members is intentional in strengthening collaboration between city, county, state, and other governmental partners and the local community.

“Northeast Pioneer Square is the intersection of multiple public and private investments,” said Lisa Howard, Executive Director, Alliance for Pioneer Square. “By aligning our public and private partners on a shared vision, we’re aiming to turn this critical area into a vibrant urban experience, befitting our great neighborhood.”

“The study is a timely and important opportunity to bring the community and the city together to give this part of the district the attention it deserves,” Lyle Bicknell, Principal Urban Designer, City of Seattle Office of Planning and Community Development.



Northeast Pioneer Square project area

Northeast Pioneer Square has a richly diverse history, from the early land use by indigenous peoples, to the settlement of immigrant Chinese workers in the early 1900's, to the days of "Skid Road." Today, Northeast Pioneer Square has many layers of fascinating cultural, social, and natural history and serves an incredibly diverse population. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, thousands of commuters passed through and to Northeast Pioneer Square, in particular to access the King County administration building, the King County Courthouse, and the Pioneer Square Light Rail station. While recent challenges persist from the pandemic, the area boasts once delightful public spaces such as Prefontaine Fountain, which was constructed in 1925, and City Hall Park, the second-largest green space in downtown Seattle.

The Northeast Pioneer Square Framework plan will build upon myriad previous planning efforts and articulate a shared vision for the area. It will create a roadmap to set budget priorities, align project sequencing, coordinate public engagement processes, and ensure the area is fully integrated with the broader neighborhood. With a unified vision, we can ensure individual investments support the common goal of a superior public realm experience.

"As a resident of the Frye Building in Northeast Pioneer Square, I care deeply for the space surrounding my home," noted Eido, Pioneer Square resident. "I know the area well and experience its challenges each day. I look forward to participating in the Northeast Pioneer Square Framework Steering Committee to create a thoughtful, comprehensive plan that ensures a prosperous future for my neighborhood".

Beginning initial work in early 2021, consultants MIG and Broadview Planning will continue their planning, outreach, and engagement work throughout the next six months with a total of four Steering Committee meetings and a number of topic-specific focus groups and personal interviews.

The Northeast Pioneer Square Framework Plan Steering Committee members include:

Lisa Howard, Alliance for Pioneer Square, *Co-Chair*

Lyle Bicknell, City of Seattle, *Co-Chair*

Council Member Andrew Lewis, City of Seattle

Tom Koney, King County

Brian Carter, 4Culture

Derrick Belgrade, Chief Seattle Club

Jill Davies, Low Income Housing Institute

Jenn Casillas, Downtown Seattle Association

Lisa Nitze, Nitze-Stagen

Tija Petrovich, Pioneer Square Resident

Eido, Pioneer Square Resident

Dave McKee, Seattle Lighting

Doug Vann, Tashiro Kaplan Building

Laura Komada, Pioneer Square Resident

Eugenia Wu, Historic Seattle

Adam Hasson, Samis Land Co.

Karl Mueller, Intrigue Chocolate Co.

Kathleen Johnson, Historic South Downtown

Steven Bullock, DESC

To learn more about the Northeast Pioneer Square Framework plan visit the Alliance for Pioneer Square's [website](#). This project is supported by Historic South Downtown.

About the Alliance for Pioneer Square

The Alliance for Pioneer Square is a 501(c)(3) that works to help preserve what makes Pioneer Square the most authentic, engaging and dynamic neighborhood in Seattle. The Alliance for Pioneer Square does this by effectively implementing programs in the following areas: business development, communications and marketing, advocacy, public realm, and leadership.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Jessa Timmer, Deputy Director, Alliance for Pioneer Square

EMAIL: jessa@pioneersquare.org

Sincerely,

ALLIANCE FOR PIONEER SQUARE