

# McKinley Hill Neighborhood Planning VIRTUAL PLAN-A-THON

## McKinley Hill Virtual Plan-A-Thon

On February 3, 2022, the City of Tacoma and community residents held a meeting to kick off the Neighborhood Planning Program in McKinley Hill with a speed round of brainstorming. Attendees learned about the details of the Neighborhood Planning Program through a short presentation before breaking into teams to come up with ideas to improve/enhance the McKinley Hill neighborhood.

## About the Neighborhood Planning Program

The City of Tacoma’s pilot Neighborhood Planning Program enhances planning and development support to help communities create strong, vibrant, and diverse neighborhoods. In McKinley Hill, the Neighborhood Planning Program is addressing issues such as neighborhood identity and art, business district vitality, traffic calming and walkability, recreation and open space opportunities, community capacity-building, and other special projects as identified by the community.

The program begins with a robust community engagement phase, and then moves into implementation of key neighborhood strategies. The McKinley Hill Virtual Plan-A-Thon was the kickoff for the community engagement phase of the project.

## What We Heard

In the meeting, we presented several focus areas, and then asked participants to break into small groups and discuss:

- An asset in the neighborhood that is important to them, or an issue that they’d like to see resolved
- A known neighborhood or community resource (organization, place, or program) that can help address the issue

During our breakout group discussion, we heard the following ideas from community members:

Focus Areas	What we heard
<b>ARTS, CULTURE + IDENTITY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interest in seeing <b>new art</b> that reflects the diversity of the neighborhood and the Puyallup Tribe, including murals</li> <li>• Support for <b>placemaking</b> for the neighborhood and business district, such as banners, streetscape art, and welcome/gateway signage               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Residents noted interest in arts enhancements at both ends of the business district, along McKinley Ave E</li> <li>○ Opportunity for branding the neighborhood as an arts district</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>BUSINESS DISTRICT VITALITY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents appreciate the <b>small legacy businesses</b> in the district, and want to see increased City support (including for a business district)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Interest in seeing more <b>family-friendly</b> businesses and restaurants</li> <li>○ Support for programs that <b>fill vacant storefronts</b>, including the Gault School site</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern over the <b>lack of a grocery store</b>, and interest in seeing innovative partnerships to improve neighborhood food access</li> <li>• Interest in <b>trash containers</b> within the business district to reduce littering, and other physical maintenance and improvements of buildings and public spaces</li> </ul>
<b>TRANSPORTATION + WALKABILITY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern about <b>speeding</b>, including on residential streets and safety for children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Support for <b>slowing speed limit</b> within business district</li> <li>○ Interest in improved <b>accessibility</b> for people with disabilities and better crosswalks in key locations, as well as roundabouts and stop signs</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Support for the <b>Pipeline Trail</b>, but concerns about lack of connection to business district, and accessibility for strollers and people walking</li> </ul>
<b>HOUSING + AFFORDABILITY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern about <b>displacement and affordability</b>, and interest in programs that can support renters</li> <li>• <b>Gault School site</b> is an opportunity for increased housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Interest in seeing additional historic buildings be reused for housing, live/work spaces, and retail/mixed-use</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>PARKS, ENVIRONMENT + SAFETY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern about <b>trash and illegal dumping</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Interest in seeing <b>expanded City support</b> for residents doing trash pickup, as well as more public trash cans</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Concern about <b>crime</b>, especially gunshots and break-ins, and support for programs that activate open spaces and neighborhood streets</li> <li>• Interest in <b>new trees and activating green space</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ VFW Park on McKinley Ave E and empty lot on E Fairbanks St both noted as opportunities for improvement</li> <li>○ Support for maintaining Gault Field as open space</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Support for <b>park maintenance and improvements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Interest in water and hygiene stations for people experiencing homelessness</li> <li>○ Need for maintenance and repair, including for rain gardens</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>WHAT ELSE?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents appreciate the <b>sense of community</b> in the neighborhood, and want to see more opportunities to come together <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Interest in a centralized repository of resources (website) for how to address common issues in the neighborhood</li> <li>○ Support for programs that celebrate the cultural diversity of the neighborhood</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The <b>Gault School site</b> is seen as an exciting opportunity to address multiple needs, including open space, housing, services, art, and neighborhood retail.</li> </ul>

