

2017 Annual
Report

FIRST HILL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

www.firsthill.org





Thank You!

The First Hill Improvement Association is honored to be the voice of First Hill, a community of people and places that anyone would be proud to call home. Our successes in 2017 reflect the unique and supportive nature of our First Hill neighbors and we thank you for that support.

Of the 10,000 First Hill residents, only 1 person lives in a single-family home. The remaining 9,999 of us all live conveniently stacked next to and on top of each other in the densest residential neighborhood in Washington State. That we do so in relative harmony and with a spirit of optimism for our shared future is commendable and a point of pride for all First Hillers.

When the First Hill community comes together over an issue, we bring a can-do attitude driven by the belief that we all do better when we all do better. In 2017 this conviction produced forward momentum in our neighborhood on Seattle's biggest issues-- affordability, open space, accessibility, beautification, and caring for our neighbors most in need.

FHIA's achievements in 2017 depended on our generous and enthusiastic members. Please join us in 2018 as a new or returning FHIA member – information at www.firsthill.org or 206-624-0208. We look forward to another exciting year on First Hill and we thank you for being our neighbor!

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Hudgins

FHIA Board Chair

Alex Hudson

Executive Director

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Successfully completed public art installation on 72 columns under Interstate 5 between James Street and Cherry Street, transforming this important neighborhood gateway.

Located 4 Little Free Libraries throughout First Hill. The first in their zipcodes, these libraries enhance our sidewalks, promote sharing, and increase literacy for all.

Completed 65% Design for the First Hill Park renovation, which will increase usability and safety in the precious open space along the University Street green street.

Developed community principles for Sound Transit's 1400 Madison land transfer to Plymouth Housing and Bellwether Housing, which will create over 300 units of affordable housing.

Installed 10 artworks on signal boxes throughout First Hill along the 'Park to Park Path', a concept plan to enhance pedestrian connectivity between Freeway Park and Yesler Terrace Park.

Ensured that community priorities are incorporated into the planning, design, and completion phases of 11 near-term residential projects coming to First Hill.

Assured fair public benefits from the Convention Center Addition, including funds for the Terry Ave plan, as part part of the Community Package Coalition.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Neighborhoods coming together from across the board to learn and achieve goals is a cornerstone of any strong community.

FHIA works to create such opportunities by planning regular public meetings, community events, and celebrations that are free and open to all.

At over 20 gatherings and 100 meetings this year neighbors came together to have fun and build a strong future for First Hill.

CLEANUPS

At Spring and Autumn Cleanups over 100 volunteers spent their Saturday morning enjoying coffee and donuts from Top Pot and Starbucks, listening to music from Plymouth Housing Group's Aztec Rythm Band, and picking up litter. With supplies from Seattle Public Utilities, we made a direct positive to keep First Hill shining!

- > Spring Clean Up - 520lbs
- > Autumn Clean Up - 430lbs



COMMUNITY EVENTS

For the third year, FHIA programmed a summer series of free public events. In 2017 we expanded the number of programs and their location throughout the neighborhood. Tours, Games, Art, and, of course, Piglets brought people together and made our streets and parks active and joyous.

- > Valentine's Day Party
- > First Hill Fidos
- > Street Bingo
- > Outdoor Reading Party
- > First Hill History Tour
- > Find It Fix It Walk
- > 8th Ave Tree Walk
- > Outdoor Movie Night
- > Pop-Up Petting Zoo
- > Saturday Family Concert



PUBLIC MEETINGS

In addition to our standing Committees, FHIA regularly convenes and copresents public meetings which educate and provide a forum for discussion. Thank you to our presenting partners at the Frye Art Museum, Horizon House, and Skyline for hosting!



SENSE OF PLACE



LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

Through the gift of a generous supporter, FHIA purchased and constructed 4 Little Free Libraries and partnered with community members to place them throughout First Hill.

The first in their zip codes, these amenities enhance our sidewalks, promote reading, and create chances for sharing. Thanks to Harborview Medical Center, Old Colony Condominium, Horizon House, and the Stimson-Green Mansion for stewarding these wonderful new additions in our neighborhood.



SIGNAL BOX ARTWORK

FHIA managed art selection, placement, permitting, and maintenance of 10 pieces of art on First Hill's intersection signal boxes to promote walkability in our dense and growing neighborhood. Located throughout the neighborhood along the Park to Park Path, these pieces represent and reflect First Hill's places and people. This project is made possible by funding from the Only in Seattle program.

Six more boxes will be installed in early 2018, and FHIA hopes to complete all 28 signal boxes in First Hill.



INTERSTATE 5 UNDERPASS MURAL

The underpass to Interstate 5 at James Street and Cherry Streets created a harsh and grim gateway into the southern end of First Hill. Over 3,000 people participated in FHIA's public art selection process and selected the "Sunlight Over First Hill" design by local artist Nathan Watkins. With funding from the Only In Seattle program, FHIA acquired the permits from WSDOT, and hired non-profit Urban Artworks to manage the mural's installation. Over 1,000 hours of painting time later, this prominent entrance to our community has been fully transformed into a bright and inviting place.

ADVOCACY AND PARTNERSHIPS



BETTER TOGETHER

The First Hill Improvement Association works on behalf of the First Hill community in partnership with the widest swath of stakeholders possible.

FHIA partners with the community, our adjoining neighborhoods, City government, non-profits, businesses, and developers. Together we ensure that decision-making and planning involve many voices to get to solutions that work for everyone.

Our advocacy work supports the mission of a safe, vibrant, and welcoming First Hill where all people can thrive.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

In 2017 Redfin named First Hill the "Hottest Market in the US". There are 20 residential projects underway and a 68% projected population increase in the next five years.

FHIA works closely with developers, meeting early and often, to ensure projects reflect the community's long-term best interests, including lush green streets that promote safety and walkability, a variety of open space and retail options, and that fit within our urban context.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

FHIA advocates for affordable housing options to ensure that First Hill remains a neighborhood that all can call home. In 2017 the community adopted affordability goals for 1400 Madison, currently owned by Sound Transit. The result is a no-cost land transfer which will create 300 affordable homes for workers and elderly people living in homelessness.

FHIA welcomes the new neighbors at Plymouth Housing Group's Plymouth on First Hill building at 7th and Cherry and the residents at Compass on First Hill, a 24/7 shelter providing housing and services to 100 formerly homeless community members.



ADVOCACY AND PARTNERSHIPS

TRANSPORTATION

FHIA works to ensure that a variety of safe, convenient, and effective transportation options exist on First Hill.

In 2017 we continued to track the planning process for the proposed Madison BRT. King County Metro proposed a reroute of Routes 3 and 4, eliminating transit service along James Street. FHIA opposition and organizing resulted in Metro revising the proposal. FHIA will continue to protect service along this important corridor. FHIA has begun a First Hill Bicycle Parking Planning process to meet growing demand and advocated for a crosswalk at 9th and Columbia.



PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

FHIA works to improve our parks and open space through

- > Renovation of the existing First Hill Park and Freeway Park
- > Advocating for private public open spaces at 800 Columbia (9000 sq ft) and 1101 8th Ave (6000 sq ft),
- > Stewardship and activation of the pavement parks at 1300 University and 900 University,
- > Improving connections and accessibility to existing parks and open space through Park to Park planning
- > Monitoring new park acquisition opportunities including the new Yesler Terrace Park coming in 2018



ECONOMIC VITALITY

First Hill is home to a variety of large and small businesses. FHIA works to ensure these entity's can thrive to provide services and jobs. We convened a small business round-table to hear directly from retailers what they need to continue their success, we instituted a Retail Spotlight in the FHIA newsletter to showcase First Hill's assets, and continue to make improvements to the public realm that support customer access and awareness.

FHIA collaborates with private development to ensure appropriate placement of street retail in projects and identifies needed desired businesses for recruitment.



STRONG ORGANIZATION

FHIA BOARD

The FHIA Board is elected by the general membership, and works to guide FHIA's strategic plan and organizational development. The Board represents a broad contingent of First Hill and in 2017 included:

- > Mary Ellen Hudgins, Chair, First Hill Resident
- > Ted Klainer, Vice Chair, Harborview Medical Center
- > Kendall Baker, Secretary, First Hill Resident
- > Daria Cardin, Treasurer, Ash Consulting
- > Betsy Braun, Virginia Mason Medical Center
- > Bob Terrell, First Hill Resident
- > Frank Conlon, First Hill Resident
- > Gordon Werner, First Hill Resident
- > Jim Erickson, First Hill Resident
- > Lindsay Radliff, First Hill Resident
- > Sara McVey, Horizon House
- > Sherry Williams, Swedish Medical Center
- > Thomas Bennett, First Hill Resident
- > Todd Seneker, Columbia Pacific Advisors

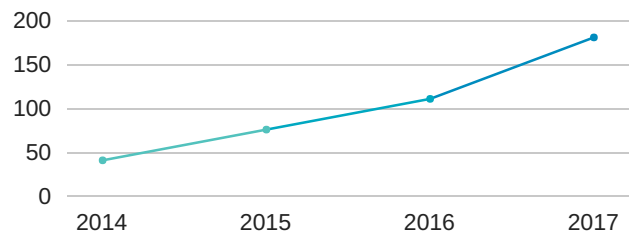
STAFF AND OPERATIONS

In 2017 FHIA made several important strides in our operations. They include:

- > Moved FHIA offices to the Stimson-Green Mansion
- > Completely updated www.firsthill.org
- > Hired a part-time Coordinator
- > Updated FHIA logo and materials
- > Hired bookkeeping services
- > Created First Hill greeting cards and coffee mugs

MEMBERSHIP

Members are a critical component of FHIA, and we're grateful for their support, which informs the strategic objectives and supports programs and operations.

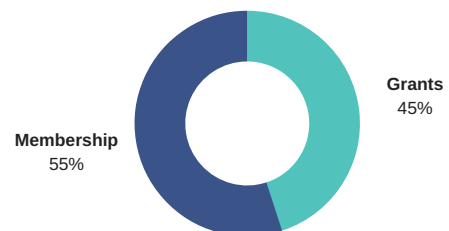


You can join FHIA or renew your membership at www.firsthill.org or contact FHIA at 206.624.0208.

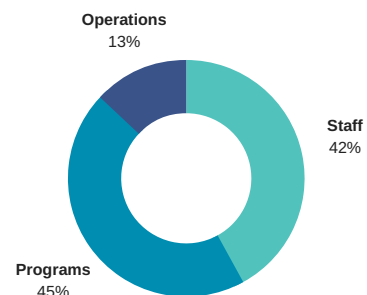
2017 FINANCES

FHIA effectively stewards resources to achieve our goals and implement our mission.

FUNDING



EXPENSES



35
Media
Mentions

31
Committee
Meetings

15
Newsletters
Sent

19
Public Events
Hosted

197
Facebook
Posts

400+
Buttons
Distributed