

Memo

To: International Association of Ports and Harbors Sustainability Awards

From: Christina Billingsley, Sr. Program Manager, Maritime Environmental Engagement
Peaches Thomas, Program Coordinator, Maritime Environmental Engagement
Sally del Fierro, Director, Community Engagement

Date: May 24, 2023

Re: Duwamish River Community Hub

This memo serves as a backgrounder for the International Association of Ports and Harbors Sustainability Awards Program about the operations, administration and impact of the Duwamish River Community Hub developed by the Port of Seattle in partnership with the near-port community, the Duwamish Valley.

BACKGROUND AND IMPACT:

The three-year lease for the Duwamish River Community Hub (Hub) began in summer 2021. The Hub is used as 1) a field office for the Port's Maritime Environment and Sustainability Department as they conduct ongoing maintenance of the nearby Port-owned Duwamish River People's Park and other nearby habitat restoration and mitigation sites; 2) a community meeting Hub for Port-related economic development purposes; 3) a convening space for Port programs that serve the community; 4) a temporarily leased outreach office for the Port's non-profit community partner, Villa Comunitaria.

In accordance with Resolution 3767, the Duwamish Valley Community Benefits Commitment Policy Directive (CBC), the Port is utilizing the Hub to fulfil its commitment to establish a "jobs information and training center" providing Duwamish Valley community members with equitable access to Port-related jobs and economic opportunities. Activities at the Hub align with Port-related industries and career sectors: maritime, aviation, economic development, workforce development, environment and sustainability. To date, the Hub has hosted over 200 events serving community members of various age groups, ethnicities, and language abilities. The range of event types have included: public speaking events by Port officials to raise awareness of Port operations, listening sessions with community members to understand Port impact, technical support for high school youth applying for the Port internship positions, cruise and maritime career fairs, environmental education workshops for English Language Learners, construction trades recruitment fairs, trainings on green jobs and Duwamish River stewardship, promotion of maritime and aviation-themed school curricula, and more. Approximately 80% of uses are free public events open to the public or are training workshops in which participants are compensated for attending and gaining skills that make them more competitive to meet the growing workforce demand in Port-related sectors.

In addition, Port staff from the Duwamish Valley Community Equity Program regularly use the Hub as a meeting location for local collaborations; its key location makes it easy to facilitate and build relationships with broad stakeholders across the community. Finally, by prioritizing local Duwamish Valley small businesses for Hub needs (event catering, project materials, art, speaker honorariums, etc) the Port has invested over \$70,000 in the local economy.

HUB ADMINISTRATION

The Duwamish Valley Port Community Action Team (PCAT), the Port's community advisory group who guides the Port's implementation of the CBC is an important stakeholder and decision maker in the success of the Hub. Currently, Port staff are onboarding a PCAT member to serve as a Hub Liaison to advise the Port. Given the ownership mentality that the Port's PCAT community partners have for the Hub, their involvement in the future of the Hub is key. As the headquarters for the PCAT, large-scale decision making about the Hub will be inclusive of community feedback gathered through public town halls and other forums.

The Hub is staffed by a part time building coordinator and supported by an advisory group consisting of staff from External Relations (Community Engagement Team), Real Estate, Marine Maintenance, and Economic Development.

Recognized as a community investment, the Port does not prioritize revenue generation as a goal of the Hub. As a result, the space is accessible to community members and non-profits at below-market rate fees that enable low-income and low-capacity community-led organizations to convene in the space. Many additional factors have led to the inclusive nature of the space: multi-lingual and multi-cultural promotional events organized by Port staff, increased partnerships with diverse community organizations, adjusting each room's rental rates with a "sliding scale" mindset that increases equitable access to the venue, language translation and interpretation provided at events, and more creative partnerships in organizing events so that Port regulatory authorities are met while serving community needs. In short, the Hub has hit a stride where it is increasingly seen as an impactful asset to the Duwamish Valley community at large and is seen as more attractive to multiple types of users, especially those historically underserved by the Port of Seattle and local governments.

The current lease expires June 2024. Port staff and PCAT have the option to extend the lease by through two one-year options. After considering extensive community and PCAT feedback gathered since Q2 2022, Port staff are currently organizing to exercise its first one-year lease option. Total annual costs for operating the Hub are approximately \$170,000. Rent costs are split by two departments: Maritime Environment and Sustainability and External Relations (Community Engagement Team). The part-time building coordinator role is funded by the Economic Development Department.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information about the Duwamish River Community Hub:

- Visit us online: www.portseattle.org/duwamishriverhub
- Contact our Duwamish Valley Community Equity Program staff:
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