

# Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

2014 Proposed Budget Overview

# BASIC MISSION

DON enables community members to:

- ▶ **Be actively involved in the “life” of their community**
  - ▶ Working together, neighbors side by side, to keep the neighborhood healthy, safe, and welcoming *for everyone*
- ▶ **Engage and partner with local government to improve quality of community life**
  - ▶ By using our programs, resources, and staff expertise to make a difference

## OUR STORY:

Neighborhood Matching Fund



Columbia City Landmark District



2013-14 PACE



# KEY OUTCOMES AND REMAINING CHALLENGES

## OUR MISSION IS ACCOMPLISHED WHEN:

Community members become their best advocates and have the “know how” to build strong communities where folks are actively engaged.

### Measured by:

- ▶ Volunteer time donated to neighborhood/community projects.
- ▶ Neighborhood Matching Fund projects awarded/completed.
- ▶ First time applicants to Neighborhood Matching Fund.
- ▶ New P-Patch gardeners. New, expanded, or updated P-Patch gardens.
- ▶ POELs utilized to bring underrepresented community members to City conversations.
- ▶ PACE graduates demonstrate new and increased civic participation.
- ▶ Community advisory committees reflect interests of community members.

### Remaining challenges:

- ▶ Create systems to collect and track the *right* data to know outcome achieved.
- ▶ Manage community’s expectations of staff support.
- ▶ Convey message that City resources must be shared with all communities.
- ▶ Have the capacity to explore/expand offerings; remain fresh and relevant.

# ALIGNING MISSION AND BUDGET

## Impact of budget changes:

- ▶ Makes investments to empower communities.
- ▶ Supports a historic Seattle cultural facility.
- ▶ Improves coordination between the City and neighborhoods during major construction projects.
- ▶ No direct service reductions - commitment to responsive service remains strong.

## Proposed budget & mission alignment:

- ▶ Improves or maintains ability to carry out mission.
- ▶ Budget increases support highest priority – *to preserve programs and services to community.*
- ▶ Holding true to our basic value – *community input, engagement, and influence is essential for good government and strong communities.*