

PIONEER SQUARE – INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT COMMUNITY PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

In 2007, the Washington State Legislature established the Pioneer Square – International District Preservation and Development Authority (PSIDCPDA) to benefit two historically and culturally distinct Seattle communities affected by the development and operations of professional sports stadiums in the immediate neighborhood.

The purpose of the PSIDCPDA is to:

- Protect and preserve the unique character of the Pioneer Square and the International District communities;
- Stimulate and support neighborhood commercial interests and economic activity;
- Strengthen and promote the health, safety, and standard of living for the community of residents;
- Reduce future residential and small-business displacement created by external pressures such as encroaching development, stadium events, and public policy decisions;
- Restore and return historic buildings and areas to productive uses; and
- Mitigate the adverse effects of future construction and ongoing operations of major public facilities, public works, and capital projects with significant public funding in the neighborhood vicinity.

A state agency, the PSIDCPDA is responsible for soliciting community input to develop a Strategic Preservation and Development Plan that promotes the health, safety, and economic well-being of the community and preserves its cultural and historic identity. The strategic plan must identify and prioritize projects and programs that address one or more of the purposes outlined above and must establish funding mechanisms to support these projects and programs. As an example, the PSIDCPDA may develop grant and loan programs to support small capital improvements or beautification initiatives within the community. The PSIDCPDA must present updates to the strategic plan and report on the agency's activities and accomplishments at an annual community Town Hall meeting and through biennial reports to the Legislature.

The PSIDCPDA is governed by a nine-member board of directors elected by constituents of the neighborhoods (see voter eligibility below). Each director is elected to fill a two-year term and is limited to 2 consecutive terms of service, except that three initial board members shall be limited to 1 three-year term. In accordance with the enabling legislation, the PSIDCPDA board of directors must include:

- Two members who own, operate, or represent businesses within the community;
- Two members who are involved in providing non-profit community or social services within the community;
- Two members who are involved in the arts and entertainment within the community;
- Two members with knowledge of the community's culture and history; and
- One member who is involved in a public or non-profit planning organization that directly serves the community.

All persons, aged 18 or older, who live, work or own property within the boundaries of the PSIDCPDA are eligible to vote in this election. A voter registration form must be completed and returned no later than June 9, 2008 to:

PSIDCPDA Election
c/o 37th Legislative District Office
219 First Avenue South, Suite 205
Seattle, WA 98104

For further information, please contact Gina Stark at (206) 291-3640 or at PSIDCPDA@yahoo.com.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why was the PSIDCPDA created?

The Pioneer Square and the International District communities are unique urban neighborhoods that contribute significantly to the historical, cultural, and economic landscape of the city of Seattle and of our region. Yet, since the construction of the King County Stadium (Kingdome) and, subsequently, the professional baseball and football stadiums, these communities have experienced ongoing challenges in sustaining their distinctive character in the face of a variety of external conditions, including development pressures, event-day pedestrian and vehicular traffic, and public policy decisions. The Legislature recognized that, while publicly funded facilities - such as the professional sports stadiums - accrue broad public benefits to the people of Washington, adjacent neighborhoods often bear a disproportionate burden of the cost in terms of quality of life and community identity for its members. In enacting Senate Bill 6156, the Legislature determined that the protection and preservation of these historically and culturally significant communities is an equally important public policy goal which could be achieved through the creation of community preservation and development authorities.

What is the PSIDCPDA? Is it simply another non-profit organization?

The PSIDCPDA is not a private, non-profit organization. The PSIDCPDA is the first state agency established to work with a specifically designated community to restore and enhance the health, safety, and economic well-being of residents, businesses, property owners, and employees of an area adversely impacted by the construction of or the ongoing operation of major public facilities, public works, and capital projects with significant public funding. The PSIDCPDA is different because it is a state agency. However, like the Public Stadium Authority, the PSIDCPDA does not have the power of eminent domain nor any authority to levy taxes or special assessments. Rather, the PSIDCPDA relies on state appropriations. For the 2007-2009 biennium, the Legislature provided start-up operating funds of \$350,000. The PSIDCPDA is governed by a locally-elected nine-member board of directors. The agency is required to maintain public accountability to its constituency through elections and through an annual Town Hall meeting and to the State through biennial reports to the appropriate committees of the Legislature.

How are directors nominated to the PSIDCPDA board?

Pursuant to the statutory requirements established in Senate Bill 6156, the list of candidates for election to the initial board of directors for the PSIDCPDA was developed by a committee jointly established by the state legislative delegation from the 37th District and "those proposing formation of the authority." The pool of names for this list was drawn from a list of individuals who helped craft the legislation and who helped secure its passage through the Legislature. The initial candidates will be elected at a meeting convened for this purpose by the state legislative delegation on June 19, 2008. The list of candidates for election to the board of directors in subsequent years will be developed by the existing PSIDCPDA board and will be elected at the annual Town Hall meeting.

Why aren't residents allowed representation on the PSIDCPDA board?

The omission of residents as enumerated members of the PSIDCPDA board was an unintended oversight that will be corrected during the next legislative session.

How can I learn more about the legislative history of the PSIDCPDA?

The concept for the PSIDCPDA was developed in earnest beginning in 2005 and first introduced in the 2006 legislative session as House Bill 3207 sponsored by Representative Santos. Having failed to pass the Legislature, the bill was re-introduced during the 2007 session as House Bill 1992. The enacted 2007 version, Senate Bill 6156, was sponsored by Senator Prentice. More information on these bills are available at www.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/.