

# SEATTLE VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE STRATEGIC ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

COMMUNITY NOTICE

June, 2018

## MISSION STATEMENTS

**Seattle Vocational Institute (SVI)** provides students with workplace competencies that lead to in-demand, sustainable employment and livable wages. We ensure opportunities for academic achievement through workforce preparation, lifelong learning and basic skills and literacy education, especially for underserved and under-represented individuals, by creating professional-technical programs and learning environments that are accessible, diverse, responsive and innovative.

As an open-access learning institution, **Seattle Colleges** prepares each student for success in life and work, fostering a diverse, engaged, and dynamic community.

## BACKGROUND

The Seattle Vocational Institute (SVI) property is a valuable asset with deep roots in our community and a long history of providing access to educational and workforce development opportunities for a high need population, especially communities of color, in Seattle's Central District. However, SVI faces significant challenges related to its physical building, enrollment, and finances. Seattle Colleges has determined that it no longer requires the entire property to provide SVI educational programs, and is seeking to transfer ownership of the property to allow for redevelopment that serves community interests.

## WHAT WE HEARD

In this context, to better understand the issues and to chart a path forward, Seattle Colleges, with the help of consulting firm Maul Foster & Alongi, led a community planning effort in 2017-18. The process involved engaging with stakeholders and partners through a series of focus groups, individual and group meetings, and a community forum. It built on and expanded the community engagement effort conducted in 2015. This process identified the following guiding principles pertaining to the future use of the property:

- Should be **culturally relevant to recognize and enliven the African American heritage of SVI**
- **Provide community benefit** and accept community input in the concept design and be **welcoming to multiple ethnic groups**
- Be vibrant, with a **mix of activities** to serve diverse groups of people throughout the day
- Be economically energized, providing training and resources to **support entrepreneurship, local businesses, and career development**
- **Include an education component**, providing opportunities for short-term job training and ladders to further learning and training
- Be **accessible**, providing community meeting and gathering spaces

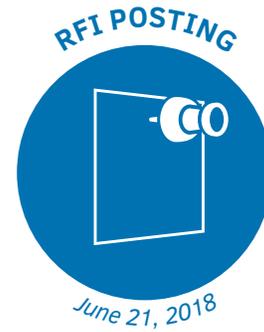


## THE PATH FORWARD

Based on the outcome of the community engagement effort, the Seattle Colleges is following a transparent and accountable process to reaching resolution on the complex issues facing SVI. To that end, Seattle Colleges is issuing a Request for Letters of Interest (RFI) to solicit proposals from public agencies and not-for-profit organizations to acquire and redevelop the property. That RFI will be available on **June 21, 2018**, with responses due by **August 15, 2018**. Responses can be from a single entity or from entities proposing a project-specific partnership or consortium with a mission that is relevant to the guiding principles listed above.

This process will be guided by the carefully selected Advisory Group of community and agency leaders, which will review the proposals and ultimately recommend a preferred concept in **August 2018**. The outcome of the RFI process will be documented for the State legislature in **September 2018** along with any requests for legislative action.

The RFI process is the first step in determining a successful future for the asset. It capitalizes on the creativity, knowledge, and vibrancy of local organizations to empower them to develop proposals for the long-term ownership, management, and operation of the property. As a public asset owned by the State of Washington, this process will ensure that the property will continue to serve a public benefit.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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