

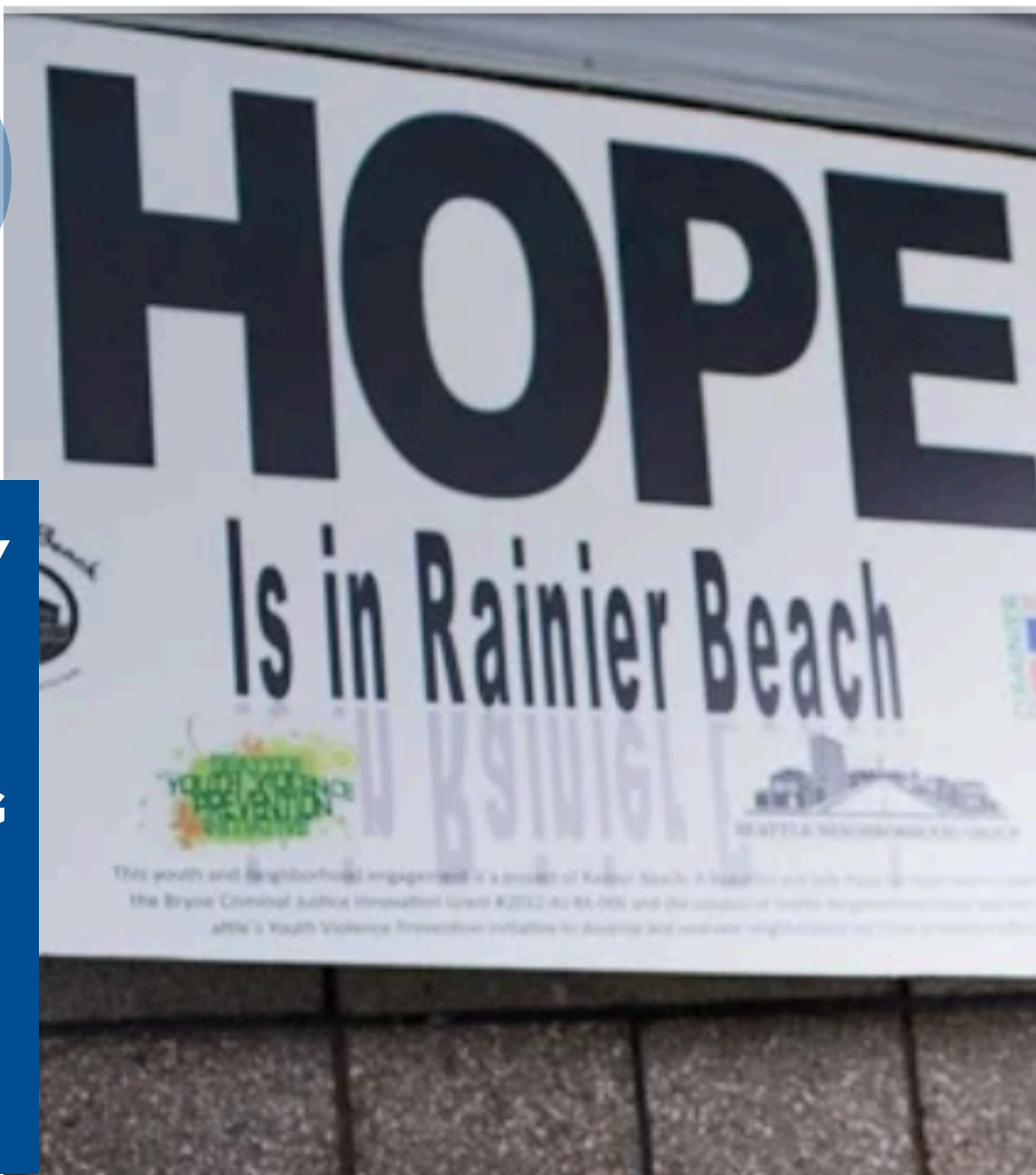
# Rainier Beach

A Beautiful Safe Place for Youth

# 2023

**COMMUNITY  
LOOKBACK  
REPORT**

**EMPOWERING  
Community,  
moving  
Rainier  
Beach  
forward**



# Rainier Beach: A Beautiful Safe Place For Youth!



## Seattle Neighborhoods

Seattle Neighborhood Group (SNG) provides overall coordination and support to the initiative's Core Team, Intervention Team, and Community Task Force. SNG supports the implementation of mutually supportive, non-arrest youth crime prevention interventions. The mission of SNG is to prevent crime and build community through partnerships with residents, businesses, law enforcement, and other organizations.



### SEATTLE NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Neighborhood Snapshot

Core Team Partner Letters

Seattle Neighborhood Group

Rainier Beach Action Coalition

Boys & Girls Club of King County

Seattle University

Seattle Public Schools

Seattle Police Department

Department of Neighborhoods

Activation Partners

Meet The Core Team

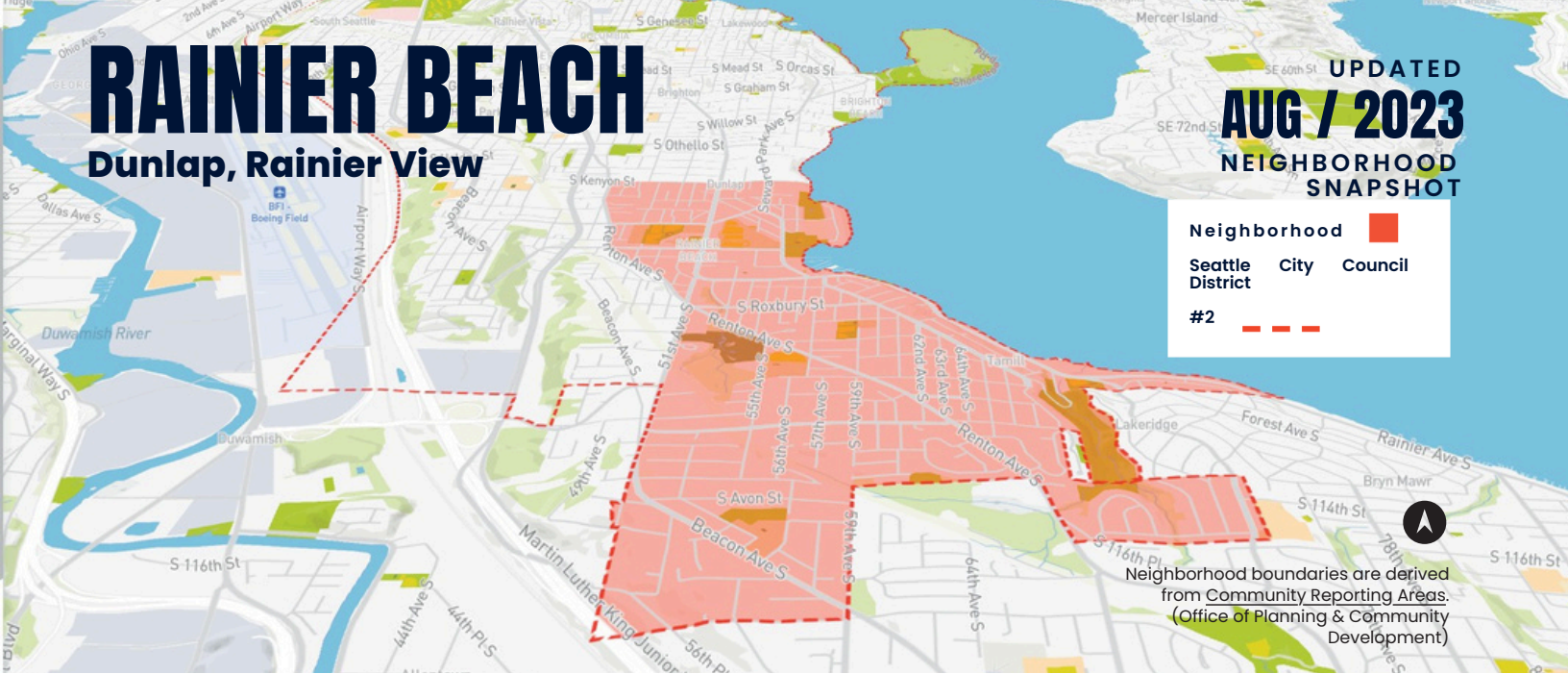


# RAINIER BEACH

Dunlap, Rainier View

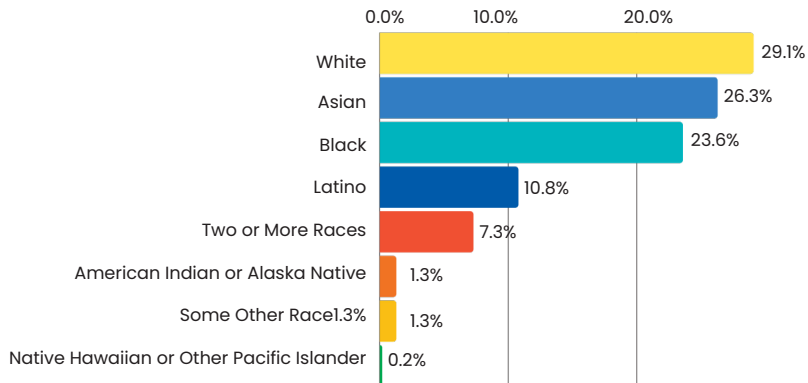
UPDATED  
**AUG / 2023**  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
SNAPSHOT

Neighborhood ■  
Seattle District City Council  
#2 - - -



Neighborhood boundaries are derived from Community Reporting Areas. (Office of Planning & Community Development)

## RACE & ETHNICITY



Percentage of residents speaking a language other than English at home (age 5 and older)

## LANGUAGES

Languages to consider when communicating with residents in this Community Reporting Area (CRA). Languages are in descending order from most spoken to least spoken.

**SPANISH, VIETNAMESE, SOMALI, AMHARIC, TIGRINYA, OROMO, MANDARIN, CANTONESE, TAGALOG, LAOTIAN, OTHER ASIAN OR PACIFIC ISLAND LANGUAGES, ARABIC**

Languages from 2015 5 year and 2021 5-year ACS

This is not a complete list of languages spoken in this area. To obtain information about the city's top-tier languages or if you need advice for providing language services, please contact the [City of Seattle Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Language Access Program](#).

**35.0% vs. 22.1%**  
In this area Citywide

## BLACK, INDIGENOUS, & PEOPLE OF COLOR (BIPOC)

**70.9% vs. 37.8%**  
In this area Citywide

	In this area	Citywide
Median household income	<b>\$99,681</b>	<b>\$105,391</b>
Renter households	<b>28.8%</b>	<b>54.8%</b>
High school or higher	<b>86.9%</b>	<b>95.5%</b>

Bachelor's degree or higher **38.0%** **65.9%**

**22.9%**  
People under 18 years of age vs. 14.5% Citywide

**5.3%**  
Unemployed vs. 4.3% Citywide

**13.0%**  
65 years of age and older vs. 12.3% Citywide

**13.8%**  
Population below poverty level vs. 10.0% Citywide

Source: 2021 5-year American Community Survey (ACS) estimates

Contact us for questions about the Neighborhood Snapshots!

**Department of Neighborhoods**  
seattleneighborhoods@seattle.gov  
(206) 684-0464

Contact us for questions about [demographic data!](#)

**Office of Planning & Community Development**  
opcd@seattle.gov  
(206) 386-1010

Contact us for questions about languages!

**Office of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs**  
oira@seattle.gov  
(206) 727-8515



**Seattle**



Thomasina Schmitt, Executive Director  
[thomasina@sngi.org](mailto:thomasina@sngi.org)

As the Executive Director of the Seattle Neighborhood Group (SNG), I am thrilled to share our involvement in the Rainier Beach: A Beautiful Safe Place for Youth initiative. At SNG, we are deeply committed to fostering safe and supportive environments for young people, and this initiative perfectly aligns with our mission.

The Rainier Beach: A Beautiful Safe Place for Youth initiative aims to create a thriving community where youth feel safe, valued, and empowered to reach their full potential. Through collaborative efforts with local organizations, businesses, and community members, we are working to address safety concerns, promote positive youth development, and enhance access to resources and opportunities for young people in the Rainier Beach area.

At SNG, we believe that every young person deserves the chance to thrive in a safe and nurturing environment. By participating in this initiative, we are actively contributing to the creation of a community where youth feel supported, heard, and empowered to succeed. Through our partnership with the Rainier Beach: A Beautiful Safe Place for Youth initiative, we are committed to making a meaningful difference in the lives of young people in Rainier Beach and beyond.

Together, we can build a brighter future for our youth and create a community where everyone feels welcome, valued, and safe. Thank you for your support and partnership as we work together to make Rainier Beach a beautiful and safe place for all youth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomasina Schmitt".

Thomasina Schmitt  
Executive Director  
Seattle Neighborhood Group





*Empowering community,  
Moving Rainier Beach Forward*

Gregory Davis  
Managing Strategist  
Rainier Beach Action Coalition (RBAC)  
9013 Martin Luther King Jr Way S, Seattle, WA 98118

March 27, 2023

On behalf of myself and the organization I help lead (Rainier Beach Action Coalition (RBAC)) that serves the Rainier Beach neighborhood and beyond – we want to take this opportunity to share how important RBABSPY is. RBAC is a grassroots, Black-led organization devoted to locally driven development. Since 2003 RBAC has promoted quality education, living wage jobs, affordable transportation and housing, and building community capacity in Seattle’s Rainier Beach neighborhood. Our mission “to promote the “made in Rainier Beach” quality education, living wage jobs, affordable transportation and housing for all” drives us to promote a safe place where people thrive, a neighborhood they call home.

First, how could someone not like a model that combines guardianship, youth and neighborhood engagement, crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED), business engagement, positive behavioral intervention (PBIS) supports and restorative justice. These methodologies, in tandem, have contributed to a reduction in the incidents that contribute to youth crime to the degree not seen before in Rainier Beach.

The Corner Greeter, PBIS and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design projects RBAC offers have not only contributed to crime reduction, they have developed leaders among the young people in the neighborhood. Every neighborhood needs its young people to be involved in helping make it a better place. This not only enhances their esteem, it assures the gains established through their work are sustained. We applaud our partners in this work, particularly for carrying it forward during an global pandemic, this make all the difference in the world to our success.

RBAC as a founding member of the initiative is proud and honored to be associated with RBABSPY. We want to thank the Rainier Beach neighborhood for embracing RBABSPY, the funders and supporters for their commitment to it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Davis", written over a horizontal line.

Gregory Davis  
Managing Strategist



**Marty Jackson**  
**SE Network Executive Director**  
**SE Network SafetyNet – Boys & Girls Clubs of King County**  
**4520 MLK Jr. Way So.**  
**Seattle, WA 98108**

April 30, 2024

On behalf of myself and SE Network SafetyNet at Boys & Girls Clubs of King County (BGCKC), we would like to take this opportunity to share the importance and impact of Rainier Beach: A Beautiful Safe Place for Youth (RBABSPY). The mission of Boys & Girls Clubs of King County is to, *inspire and enable young people who need us the most, to realize their full potential as a productive, responsible, and caring citizens*. However, we recognize that some youth need specialized, non-traditional programming and services to reach their full potential so we have the SE Network SafetyNet Program in collaboration with community partners to provide a SafetyNet of specialized programming and services to youth and families in Southeast Seattle. These services work to buffer the consequences of the many risk factors that pull our youth away from Academic Success, Good Character and Citizenship and Healthy Lifestyles.

We are a proud founding member of the RBABSPY Initiative which is a place-based, community-led and data driven approach to addressing crime that affects youth at “hot spots” in the Rainier Beach neighborhood. Our model combines guardianship, youth and neighborhood engagement, crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED), community-wide restorative justice, and positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS). These innovative, non-arrest interventions have been making a difference and have contributed to a reduction in violent crime within Rainier Beach. SE Network at BGCKC leads the Safe Passage and Community-Wide Restorative Justice work in the Rainier Beach neighborhood. Safe Passage is a non-arrest intervention that provides guardianship in the neighborhood by caring adults from the community. Our Community-Wide Restorative Justice work has been implemented in the Rainier Beach community through holding peace/healing circles for youth, parents, and community members, peace/healing circle keeper trainings, and community engagement events implemented for hot spot remediation. Both intervention strategies have not only contributed to crime reduction, but also to changing the feel and culture of the neighborhood by creating an environment of healing and safe space for community members to grieve and know that their community cares for them.

The collective efforts and commitment of all of our RBABSPY partners in this work, the Rainier Beach community, our funders, and supporters have greatly contributed to the success of this Initiative and we are proud to be a part of it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marty Jackson", written over a white background.

Marty Jackson  
SE Network Executive Director



April 23, 2024

On behalf of the Seattle University Crime & Justice Research Center, I offer this letter of support for the *Rainier Beach: A Beautiful Safe Place for Youth (ABSPY)*. The Seattle University Crime & Justice Research Center took over the work that has been done by George Mason University evaluating the Rainier Beach ABSPY initiative since 2012.

The Seattle University Crime & Justice Research Center evaluation of the Rainier Beach ABSPY continues the work of George Mason University to collect data on crime and calls for service and community perceptions of public safety in Seattle's Rainier Beach neighborhood incorporating the addition of Community-Police Dialogues facilitated with Rainier Beach youth and adults. The goal of this project is to evaluate the Rainier Beach ABSPY initiative through data on community perception of public safety and crime and calls for service in Seattle's Rainier Beach neighborhood. Our research team is comprised of two faculty members (me and Dr. Matthew Hickman) and four student research analysts who work with the Core Rainier Beach ABSPY Core team to integrate our research efforts with the Rainier Beach ABSPY work in the Rainier Beach Community.

The Seattle University Crime & Justice Research Center also collaborates on the Seattle Police Department's (SPD) Micro-Community Policing Plans (MCP) comprising the annual Seattle Public Safety Survey and Community-Police Dialogues. Our involvement in both the evaluation of the Rainier Beach ABSPY initiative and the SPD MCP offers an opportunity to connect the work we have done over the past ten years with the SPD MCP with the important work that has been done and that continues through the Rainier Beach ABSPY. The Rainier Beach ABSPY is an extraordinary example of what can be done within one Seattle neighborhood to utilize crime and community perception data about public safety in coordination with ongoing work being done within and in collaboration between community organizations, city departments, businesses, and residents working together for a safer community. Our city is fortunate to have the *Rainier Beach ABSPY* initiative as an example of what can be done in every neighborhood in Seattle to increase public safety and improve neighborhood quality of life.

It is an honor to partner with *Rainier Beach ABSPY*. On behalf of our research team, we look forward to continued partnership that will enable our local team to work with the *Rainier Beach ABSPY* to continue to expand and improve the work being done through initiative to show how community members can work together with community and city agencies to increase public safety in ways that benefit both Rainier Beach and the entire city by offering a stellar example about what can be done in any neighborhood within any city to make the world a better place.

Sincerely,

Jackie Helfgott

**JACQUELINE B. HELFGOTT, PHD** (She/Her/Hers)  
Professor/Director, [Crime & Justice Research Center](#).  
Phone 206-296-5477 Mobile 206-954-5132  
Web [jbhelfgott.com](http://jbhelfgott.com) Email [jbhelfgot@seattleu.edu](mailto:jbhelfgot@seattleu.edu)  
Seattle University | Casey 330-12 | 901 12th Ave | 98122



Dear Rainier Beach Community Member,

As part of the Restorative Practices (RP) Team in Seattle Public Schools under Coordinated School Health, it has been an honor to serve on the Rainier Beach: A Safe Beautiful Place for Youth Core Team since 2016. I was invited to share some reflections of this past year as it relates to the work within district and schools in our collective efforts to create safe, welcoming, and just environments where all students feel a deep sense of belonging, are valued, learn, and thrive. In this Look Back Letter, I'd like to thank and highlight the Rainier Beach Community-based organizations, school teams, educators, families and students for their ongoing commitment and dedication to improving the safety, supports and success of Rainier Beach neighborhood schools in care, partnership and service of students and youth.

### Community of Practice Events

This year, the SPS Restorative Practices Team continued partnering with WA-Bloc, Huayruro and other Community Partners to host four Community of Practice Events to provide opportunities for educators, administrators, and community partners to build community, sit in circle and strengthen school-based restorative practices. We listened, shared ideas, built connections and cultivated a relational space to come together and learn with and from one another. We started this school year with a shared vision statement harvested from the previous year's Community of Practice events. This statement aimed to capture the words and ideas from the SPS Community to communicate the hope in what will be achieved through a restorative practices approach in SPS.

### Community Vision for Restorative Practices in SPS

*Seattle Public Schools are at the heart of the city. SPS Restorative Practices empowers school communities and centers students' wellness and joy in learning and in life. We engage in a relational and healing-centered process to foster community connectedness, combat the harms of systemic racism, and cultivate racially just, equitable, and inclusive schools. We are a community that celebrates our individual and shared humanity.*



## Shared Training Events and Resources

To support our district and school-based community teams' work toward that vision, our team created an SPS Restorative Practices Website to build common definitions and understanding, a shared place to elevate and acknowledge community partners, a calendar of events, celebrate and highlight school successes, and links to registration for professional development:

The first link below is a for all SPS Community Members with public external website.

<https://www.seattleschools.org/departments/restorative-practices-program/>

This second link is for SPS Community Members Who Are Also SPS Employees with internal access.

[SPS Restorative Practices Program Website](#)

The SPS RP Team worked in partnership with members of the Department of Racial Equity Advancement and Health Education to offer bi-monthly training opportunities for school teams that included restorative circles.

1) Restorative Practices 101: Fundamentals of Circles - These sessions covered the core philosophy and history of Restorative Practices. Sharing key elements of circle practice allowed Educators to walk away ready for Tier 1 Community Building circles in classrooms. 2) The Seattle TFI: Cultivating an Equitable and Restorative Culture and Climate – These PD sessions aimed to build community and orient teams to the Seattle-Tiered Fidelity Inventory (Sea-TFI) within a restorative circle process. This experience and guiding tool offered a process through an anti-racist and equity focused lens for teams to examine and improve current systems and practices through a co-design model toward an equity-first framework for safe, just, and joyful school.

## 2023-2024 SPS, Rainier Beach Schools and Community Highlights

- 20th Annual Back 2 School Bash on August 24th a community event celebrating and preparing the young scholars of Rainier Beach packed with fun, food, backpack giveaways, and school supplies.
- Back to School Days for SPS Staff - Dunlap's Pride Team and SPS RP Team elevated a restorative approach through community building circles with the whole staff exploring themes around equity and belonging.
- Fall 2023 WA-BLOC, SPS RP Team, Wing Luke and Emerson Faculty engaged in restorative circles, networking and collaboration elevating a restorative approach and building community.
- African American Males Achievement (AAMA) 9th Grade Quarterly Awards Assembly, RBHS Little Theatre
- WA-BLOC Circle Keeper, Keisha Kelley, engaged with Emerson 4th and 5th Grade Students in an eight-week Restorative Practices Leadership Series graduating young circle keepers.
- Rainier Beach High School hosted The Seattle Black College Expo November 4, 2023, in partnership between Seattle Public Schools and the National College Resource Foundation (NCRF) with 50 HBCUs
- Rainier Beach, Dunlap, South Shore, Emerson, MLK, Jr continued efforts to build community and support educators and students through restorative practices and circle keeping.
- Rainier Beach Community Center housed this year's Childcare Community Alignment Summit that included SEL and Restorative Practices Team members aligning with childcare providers elevating SEL and RP

Feeling inspired,

Trish



Trish Hagerty

Student Services & Restorative Practices Team

2445 3rd Ave S. Seattle, WA 98134

[SPS Student Support Services](#)

---

"To truly listen is to risk being changed forever." – Sakej Youngblood Henderson

Department of  
Neighborhoods City of  
Seattle 600 4th Avenue,  
Seattle, WA 98104

On behalf of the Department of Neighborhoods, we express our support for Rainier Beach: A Beautiful Safe Place for Youth (RB:ABSPY) and its impactful work in the Rainier Beach Community. Our role in this community-led effort is to manage the City's contracts with our community-based organization partners.

RB: ABSPY's community-led approach to bolstering safety through youth advocacy and Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is essential and serves as a model of inspiration that the community has championed. Strategies like Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), Corner Greeters, Safe Passage, space activations, and Pearls monitoring work to advance the positive impact of creating safe points of connection within the community, contribute to crime reduction, and empower youth to take ownership of their surroundings.

ABSPY's vision of a community where all young people are safe, healthy, and valued resonates deeply with us. The Department of Neighborhoods is proud to partner with the RB:ABSPY collaborative and work toward creating a safer environment in one of the city's most diverse neighborhoods.

In conclusion, the Department of Neighborhoods supports Rainier Beach: A Beautiful Safe Place for Youth and their dedication to creating partnerships and collaboration with the community. Their hands-on approach to community safety and genuine passion for serving the community make this initiative an invaluable asset to the Rainier Beach neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Daniel Sims, Alvin Edwards, and Jenn Brandon

Department of Neighborhoods



# WHO WE ARE

## CORE TEAM

Partnerships and Collaboration are at the heart of ABSPY  
Rainier Beach: A Beautiful Safe Place for Youth receives support and resources in collaboration with the following partners:

- Boys and Girls Clubs of King County
- City of Seattle Auditor's Office
- CHAMPS Resource Service Center
- Link 2 Lake Steering Committee
- Rainier Beach Action Coalition
- Rainier Beach Merchants Association
- Seattle Neighborhood Group
- Seattle Public Schools
- Seattle Police Department
- Seattle University
- Seattle Department of Neighborhoods
- Seattle Office of Planning & Development
- Seattle Parks and Recreation
- Seattle Human Services



# WHAT WE DO

## Intervention Partners

In addition to the Core Team partners, leadership and critical support of ABSPY non-arrest interventions are provided by community partners, including South East Effective Development (SEED), the Rainier Beach Merchants Association, Seattle Public Schools, and many others.

## Community Task Force (CTF)

The Community Task Force (CTF) consisted of approximately 125 community members who represented the diversity of the Rainier Beach neighborhood. CTF members live, work, or go to school near the five focus areas and worked in Hotspot Teams. The CTF met over a nine-month period in 2013-14. Their goal was to determine the conditions that contributed to youth crime at the five hotspot locations. Finally, they identified non-arrest interventions.



# WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED IN 2023



## YOUTH & NEIGHBORHOOD ENGAGEMENT CORNER GREETERS | CLEAN CREW

- 39 Corner Greeter Activations
- 418 Public Safety Surveys
- 616 FreedomNet Posts made
- Back2School Bash
  - 37 Vendors
  - 12 Barbers
  - Over \$30,000 raised
- 4 Town Hall Events

*The Rainier Beach Corner Greeters host regular pop-up style events that activate hotspots of Rainier Beach and provide opportunities to bring people together and foster positive interactions.*

## SAFE PASSAGE | COMMUNITY HEALING CIRCLES



*The Safe Passage Team provides active place-based guardianship weekly during and after school hours and uses non-arrest intervention strategies to de-escalate fight disturbances and connect youth and young adults to positive opportunities.*



## CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN CPTED

*The Clean Crew provides regular clean up and beautification of high visibility public areas of Rainier Beach.*

- 10 Signature Projects Completed
- 115 Volunteers Recruited
- Completed numerous Graffiti Paint Over Projects
- Partnered with Seattle Kidney Association, Link to Lake, The Mission Continues, Serve Ethiopia, Green Seattle, Seattle Parks & More for several clean up projects around Rainier Beach



# DETECTIVE COOKIE CHESS PARK

In 2006, Seattle Police Detective Denise "Cookie" Bouldin started a chess club for Rainier Beach youth. The game served well as a metaphor for life's important decisions. Since then, Detective Cookie's chess club has provided a safe haven and created an opportunity for neighbors of all ages to interact and build community.

To honor Det. Cookie and to carry forth the positive momentum of her work, a group of community leaders and volunteers formed the Friends of Det. Cookie Chess Park (FDCCP) and began work on a permanent chess park and community gathering space.





# CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (CPTED) & YOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD ENGAGEMENT (YNE) 2023

“Neighborhood pearls” are what crime prevention researchers and practitioners refer to as “hotspots”. Residents in Rainier Beach preferred the asset-based term of pearls rather than use the term hotspots.



The pearls being activated in Rainier Beach are: the RB Light-Rail station area, Rainier & Henderson, Rose Street and Rainier, Lake WA Apartments (Mapes Creek Walkway at 52nd Ave South and Henderson), Rainier and Seward Park Avenue and Hutchinson Park. These locations are known to have high incidences that contribute to youth crime and therefore are primarily where we choose to activate.

‘Activations’ are how we choose to impact these spaces. By having pop-up neighborhood events that promote community safety we take up the space and change the environment to be more positive. Activations are a space where resources, information and nutrition can be distributed to the neighborhood. It could be either a flier for an upcoming town hall, job-fair, community event or even the back2school Bash. This form of engagement is essential for keeping the community informed on local events.

The primary goal is to develop a following of neighborhood volunteers (residents, businesses, youth, families, and organizations) to provide stewardship of the pearls and engagement at the geographic focus area, a space they live, work and/or play in.



## Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

is a crime prevention methodology where physical improvement in public spaces occurs including storefront improvements of small businesses designed to increase safety and improve marketability.

### The four levels of CPTED

- Level 1 - Litter pickup of the areas, a great activity for volunteers
- Level 2 - Find it, Fix it reporting of issues like illegal dumping, graffiti, damaged signs etc. (A City of Seattle Service request app).
- Level 3 - Cleanup of debris, blackberries and leaves across sidewalks, trimming bushes in public right of ways
- Level 4 - Planting flowers, installing signs, creating community volunteer projects, installing benches or other high level activities.



# WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED IN 2023

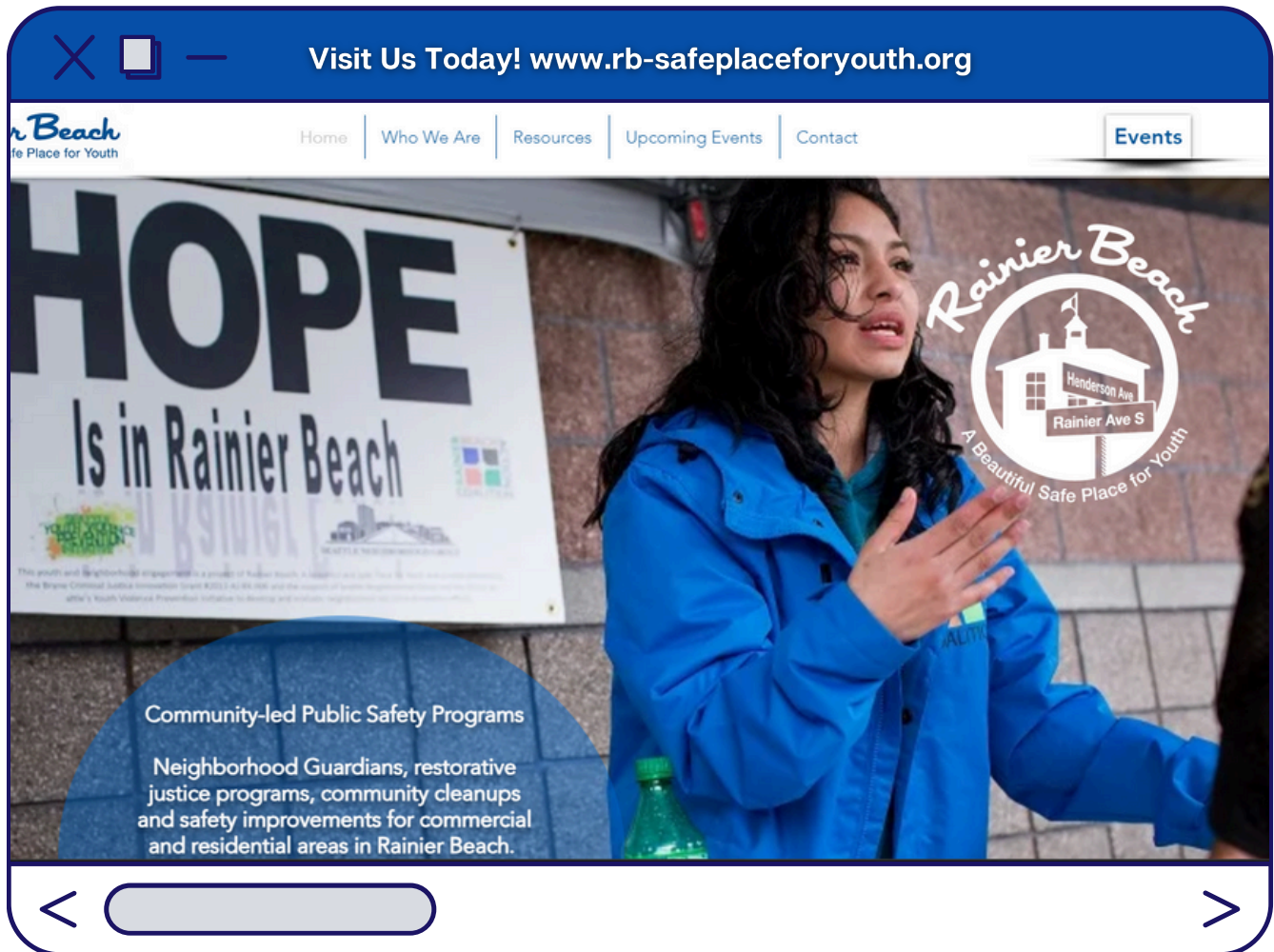




## OUR NEW WEBSITE IS LIVE!

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new website, designed with the heart of the Rainier Beach community in mind.

Discover a hub that's not just a website but a digital home for the vibrant community of Rainier Beach! Our new platform is dedicated to fostering connections, sharing information, and celebrating the unique spirit of our neighborhood.



### What's New?

**Community Focus:** Dive into a space that revolves around you – the community. Our website is crafted to be an interactive and engaging platform where everyone can come together, share stories, and build a stronger sense of unity.

**Event Central:** Looking for exciting happenings in Rainier Beach? Look no further! Our Events section is your go-to for all the latest community events, gatherings, and initiatives. Stay in the loop and be part of the buzz!

**Local Spotlights:** Celebrate the stories of our incredible residents, businesses, and organizations. Discover the richness of Rainier Beach through features that shine a spotlight on the unique aspects that make our neighborhood so special.

**Get Involved:** Wondering how you can contribute? Explore opportunities to get involved in community projects, volunteer initiatives, and more. Your participation is what makes Rainier Beach thrive!

Step into the heart of Rainier Beach with our new website. Your community, your stories, your home.



*Seattle Neighborhood Group (SNG) provides overall coordination and support to the initiative's Core Team, Intervention Team, and Community Task Force. SNG supports the implementation of mutually supportive, non-arrest youth crime prevention interventions. The mission of SNG is to prevent crime and build community through partnerships with residents, businesses, law enforcement, and other organizations.*

**For more information, please contact:**

**Cathie Wilmore, Project Manager**

Email: [cathie@sngi.org](mailto:cathie@sngi.org)

Phone: (206) 228-6460

[www.rb-safeplaceforyouth.com](http://www.rb-safeplaceforyouth.com)

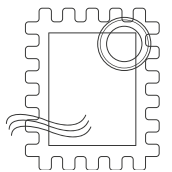
**Rainier Beach: A Beautiful Safe Place for Youth**

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

