



## Budget Fact Sheet – Thriving Communities

Healthy, thriving communities are at the core of Mayor Harrell’s **One Seattle** vision – this includes access to a good job, educational opportunities, support for small businesses and entrepreneurs, a vibrant arts and culture scene, and a clean, sustainable environment.

As Seattle’s economy continues to recover from the pandemic and prepares for the upcoming 2026 FIFA World Cup, this budget proposal supports continued [Downtown Activation Plan](#) efforts to foster a robust economic landscape. It makes new investments in arts, culture, and entertainment, supporting new public art and vibrancy across neighborhoods. The proposal retains full funding for the City’s Centering Art and Racial Equity (C.A.R.E.) grant program to support local artists and arts organizations.

The proposed budget continues investments in the award-winning Seattle Preschool Program for early learning and the Seattle Promise program for higher education, as well as a wide range of enrichment, leadership, and recreational programs.

The budget proposal continues the bold climate actions laid out in [the One Seattle Climate Justice Agenda](#). This work is supported by over \$61 million in state and federal grants received by the City in the last year as we work to drive sustainability, grow a healthy tree canopy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from buildings and single-family homes, and create a resilient local food system guided by the newly updated [Food Action Plan](#).

This work spans across a broad array of City departments, including the Office of Economic Development (OED), the Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL), the Office of Arts and Culture (ARTS), Seattle Center (CEN), the Office of Sustainability (OSE), the Office of Housing (OH), and Seattle Public Utilities (SPU).

The proposed 2025 budget broadly maintains the originally projected dollar amounts for Jumpstart Payroll Expense Tax funding of Economic Development and Green New Deal investments.

### Highlights of new investments in the 2025 proposed budget include:

#### Economic Opportunity

COST	INVESTMENT AREA
\$7.4M	Support small and local businesses with help to address commercial displacement, invest in businesses and activate vacant storefronts, and capital access support. (OED)
\$3M	Support Downtown Activation Plan to revitalize and transform Downtown with neighborhood cleanings, public space activations, and focused efforts in South Downtown and Westlake Park. (OED)

<b>\$2M</b>	Support Neighborhood Business Districts with investments in organizational capacity and to foster comprehensive placemaking and place-keeping activities. (OED)
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**Education**

<b>COST</b>	<b>INVESTMENT AREA</b>
<b>\$1.1M</b>	Funding to support worker retention for K-12 educators of color and improve academic outcomes for historically underserved youth. (DEEL)
<b>\$1M</b>	Summer programming with expanded academic, enrichment, and college and career readiness opportunities for K-12 youth. (DEEL)
<b>\$386K</b>	Path to UW to help students participating in the Seattle Promise Program transition to the University of Washington. (DEEL)

**Arts and Events**

<b>COST</b>	<b>INVESTMENT AREA</b>
<b>\$2.5M</b>	Art activations downtown including Benaroya Hall, Union and King Street Station, community grants, Hope Corps, neighborhood festivals, and alleys. (ARTS)
<b>\$2M</b>	Support economic recovery of Seattle arts and culture institutions. (ARTS)
<b>\$500K</b>	Add two new staff and allocate additional staff to support events and upcoming 2026 World Cup events. (CEN)
<b>\$325K</b>	Add two new staff to support Special Events team with ongoing events and in anticipation of increased demand related to 2026 World Cup. (OED)

**Healthy Tree Canopy**

<b>COST</b>	<b>INVESTMENT AREA</b>
<b>\$680K</b>	Add one new staff and fund the building and maintaining a new tree nursery with capacity for 500 trees. (SPU)