

Building One Seattle

The Harrell Administration,
2022 - 2025



City of Seattle

Letter to Seattle

Dear Seattle neighbors,

As I reflect on the last four years, I want to express my gratitude for what we achieved together. When I entered office, it was with a commitment to **One Seattle** – that by bringing everyone together, we can inspire the best in one another – achieving more to define our city’s narrative toward excellence by leading with equity, kindness, inclusion, and humility.

From the depths of a global pandemic, our mission was clear: Restore the best qualities of this city we love and set a pioneering trajectory for Seattle – get back to basics and create the future we want to see today.

We got to work right away – taking urgent action to address unacceptable conditions, challenge status quo thinking, and improve quality of life for our residents. We installed a talented and diverse leadership team to ensure City government functioned the way it’s supposed to. We rebuilt relationships that had frayed between branches of government and community partners. We hit the gas pedal to accelerate momentum on longstanding projects and new priorities.

And we did it together, embracing the politics of “and” – recognizing we have more in common than we have opposed, and that we achieve more when we bring everyone to the table. Not for more Seattle process, but instead for Seattle progress. There is perhaps no more meaningful representation of this approach than our One Seattle Day of Service, which every year brought thousands together to beautify our city and support our neighbors in need.

Our shared approach allowed us to reduce crime from recent highs, restore police hiring from decades-low staffing levels, and make our parks, playfields, and sidewalks safe, welcoming, and accessible to our entire community. We reimagined public safety – building the CARE Department from scratch and shifting the national public safety paradigm by making Seattle the largest city in the country with this model of diversified response. We rebuilt the park ranger program and doubled down on saving lives through community-based violence interruption.

Combating our housing crisis required bold and major action, and we took that action. Historic investments of over \$1 billion to open thousands of affordable and supportive homes and provide spaces to help bring thousands inside on a path to recovery and stability; the most pro-housing zoning policy in City history – doubling our capacity to allow 330,000 new homes; and permitting reform that will cut the time it takes to build housing in half.



With your buy-in, we made monumental investments in our future. Setting the path to foster the next generation of Seattle leaders through our Every Child Ready Initiative; setting the foundation to repair aging bridges and infrastructure while building out new sidewalks and connections to transit through our Transportation Levy; and setting the blueprint to build thousands of more affordable homes through our Housing Levy.

We brought Downtown back from life support and reimagined it as a neighborhood that runs on people – with new housing, activities, events, and businesses. We completed the Waterfront project that began when I was on the City Council to give Seattle a magnificent new front porch. We found the funding and put the shovels in the ground for a brand new Memorial Stadium. For the first time in decades, we put in place new industrial and maritime lands zoning to protect local jobs and allow new housing.

Focused on strengthening community roots and maintaining the diverse places that make Seattle special, we invested millions in equitable development. With our high minimum wage and by passing first-in-the-nation protections for gig workers, we kept working people at Seattle's forefront. To support the next set of globally recognized Seattle companies, we created new programs and rewrote our city's tax code to help small businesses and entrepreneurs.

With climate change bearing down on us, we led the movement to pass a nation-leading Building Emissions Performance Standard and successfully fought efforts that would set us back on declining fossil fuels. We redesigned our tree code and issued executive orders to protect thousands of trees, plant thousands more, and build needed housing.

We faced our share of challenges – from a regressive state tax code that year after year created hundred-million-dollar deficits to a new federal administration that attacks our city's people, principles, and core values. We've taken on the Trump administration by speaking up, passing new laws, and winning in court – a true commitment to supporting our neighbors, no matter their background.



While our country responds to the worst challenges of the scourge of polarization, we know we will face those same issues here. Tribalism, black-and-white thinking, hostility, and hate. We cannot let those stand in the way of diversity and commonality, nuance and understanding, unity, love, and progress. The Seattle I know rises above, and as I said at the beginning of the year, Seattle is on the rise.

We have so much to be proud of in this city, and there's much more work to do. I wish Mayor-elect Wilson and her incoming administration all the best. Thank you for being part of this journey together. It has been the honor of my lifetime to serve as your mayor.

Bruce A. Harrell
54th and 57th Mayor of Seattle
Working together to build One Seattle.

Four Years By the Numbers

600+

bills passed

42%

decrease in homicide crimes from 2024 to 2025

80%

decrease in tent encampments

7,627

shelter referrals to bring people indoors

8,200

affordable homes created, preserved, or funded through City investments

90%

of small and medium businesses exempted or rate lowered from City B&O Tax

\$632M

in budget deficits solved over four years

3-0

in lawsuits initiated and won against the Trump administration

6

new parks opened over four years

AAA

bond rating sustained

330K

homes allowed under One Seattle Plan

150K+

trees protected

368

police officers hired over four years

\$21.30

per hour minimum wage, among highest in the nation

\$1.1B

invested in affordable housing

3rd

public safety department created

Four Years By the Numbers

10K+

volunteers for One
Seattle Day of
Service

25%

decrease in total
reported violent crime
downtown from 2022
to 2025

50%

decrease in RV
encampments

316

new permanently
affordable homes for
ownership funded,
exceeding number created
in prior 20 years combined

43%

drop in fatal
overdoses from
Seattle's peak

166

buprenorphine doses
administered by SFD
responders

\$396M

in federal grants
protected via legal
action

4,500

new childcare and
pre-K slots

100K+

assets cleaned of
graffiti

80+

murals installed
citywide

44%

decrease in fatal
shootings in 2025

\$91M

in equitable community
investments over four
years

33%

increase in the
percentage of
confirmed shelter
enrollments

50%

planned decrease in
housing permitting
times via PACT
initiative

70%

decrease in
gunshots related to
encampments from
2022 to 2025



Harrell Administration Record

Under Mayor Bruce Harrell's leadership, this administration brought our city back from the depths of the pandemic, restored essential City services and systems, and set a forward-looking trajectory for the Seattle of the future. With a commitment to **One Seattle**, Mayor Harrell brought together diverse communities, organizations, and stakeholders to launch major new initiatives focused on safety, housing, and creating a thriving, livable city for all.

Building on his [esteemed three-term City Council record](#), Mayor Harrell's administration and executive departments transmitted more than 600 bills to the City Council for consideration. Not a single one was voted down by the Council, and more than 90% were passed unanimously. With a spirit of collaboration and *Space Needle Thinking*, Mayor Harrell's administration solved problems of the time and worked to bring Seattle into its next era.

Select Accomplishments of the Harrell Administration

Founding the CARE Department: Mayor Harrell designed and built the Community Assisted Response and Engagement (CARE) Department from scratch to better serve people in crisis – taking CARE from proposal to pilot to a permanent public safety department, a paradigm shift in how the city responds to behavioral crisis events. Under Mayor Harrell, Seattle is the largest city in the country to embrace this model with a third public safety department, and the City is now often looked to nationally for cities considering the same innovation. Following Mayor Harrell's vision, the department grew from six



Mayor Harrell with the three public safety chiefs and City leaders.

responders to twenty-four, with plans to double in size in 2026. Additionally, for the first time, thanks to labor conditions negotiated by the Harrell Administration, responders can address a wide array of public safety needs and can be directly and solo dispatched, the biggest increase in civilianization for these kinds of safety needs in the history of the City of Seattle.

Comprehensive Approach to Public Safety: Mayor Harrell brought a holistic approach to public safety, investing in upstream solutions to break the cycle of crime, while also advancing new technology solutions like the Real Time Crime Center and legislation to better address dangerous vacant buildings and chronic nuisances. The mayor led a robust effort to strengthen youth safety, from nearly \$30 million in investment toward violence interruption resources to a summer safety strategy focused on parks and public spaces.





Mayor Harrell with Police Chief Shon Barnes and family.

Police Staffing: Entering office with the lowest police staffing since at least the 1990s, Mayor Harrell instituted a police recruitment and retention plan that modernized and redesigned the Seattle Police Department’s staffing process, leading to the hiring of hundreds of officers. With a record pace of applications and recruits, SPD hired over 160 officers in 2025, a record for the department and double how many were hired in 2024. Mayor Harrell also proudly appointed Chief Shon Barnes, a nationally recognized leader in reducing crime, improving community-police relations, and driving culture change.

Police Reform: Under Mayor Harrell’s leadership, the City and Seattle Police Department exited a 13-year Consent Decree after Judge James Robart determined SPD had reached full and sustained compliance with the order. Mayor Harrell promoted SPD as a learning, growing organization, introducing new community-based programs including Before the Badge. Contracts negotiated by the Harrell administration helped further align Seattle’s nationally recognized accountability system with accountability ordinance goals, including around the 180-day rule and arbitration. The Harrell administration significantly increased civilianization of SPD and the Office of Police Accountability, including expanding civilian investigation capacity, red light camera enforcement, backgrounding and recruitment, and CARE response.



Modernizing Sexual Assault Investigations: Mayor Harrell made it a priority to strengthen, improve, and reform how the City investigates and addresses sexual assault and domestic violence. Under actions taken by Mayor Harrell’s administration, detective staffing in the sexual assault unit has more than doubled despite a historic 30-year low in police staffing; patrol officers receive trauma-informed training; and the City has increased investments in King County Sexual Assault Resource Center, the Sexual Violence Law Center, and the Seattle Indian Health Board.



Medic crews from Health One and Health 99 units with a patient.

Addiction and Public Health: Mayor Harrell was the first elected official in the region to issue an Executive Order on the crisis of fentanyl, charting a course for the City to significantly reduce fatal overdoses through a dual public health and public safety approach. The mayor’s action supported a 43% decline in fatal overdoses, and it created new City and City-supported initiatives like the Seattle Fire Department’s Health 99 Post-Overdose Response Team, a first-in-the-nation buprenorphine pilot, DESC’s ORCA Post-Overdose Center, and millions of dollars toward treatment options for those in need. Mayor Harrell proposed and passed the most progressive public drug use ordinance in the state to create safer communities and help people access treatment diversion, and City efforts helped increase drug trafficking prosecutions by over 42% in 2025 compared to 2024.



Homelessness Response: Mayor Harrell established the Unified Care Team, addressing the impacts of unsheltered homelessness with urgency and compassion, helping people access needed shelter with services, and restoring parks, playfields, and sidewalks for public use. The Harrell Administration's efforts led to significant declines in the number of unauthorized tent and RV encampments, shooting incidents connected to homelessness, and encampment fires. Under Mayor Harrell's leadership, City-funded shelter capacity will increase to over 3,100 units. The City preserved and expanded critical shelter capacity, saving hundreds of units that were set to close with the loss of temporary federal assistance and adding new units tailored to the needs of those who remain unhoused.

The Harrell Administration provided thousands of shelter referrals per year at record levels and increased the number of people exiting shelter into permanent housing by 50%, with City-funded shelter programs surpassing the national average for the percentage of people who transitioned from temporary shelter to permanent housing. Mayor Harrell ensured that every City-funded unit includes wraparound supportive services such as meals, hygiene, case workers, and housing navigation, which help people heal and take the next steps toward long-term stability. Nearly 1,600 units of supportive housing have opened during Mayor Harrell's administration.

Mayor Harrell advanced sustainable and upstream solutions to homelessness, leading efforts to redesign the King County Regional Homelessness Authority



With City support, including the Unified Care Team and outreach partners, Sheryl transitioned from an encampment (left) to permanent housing (right). She is now sober, has launched a small business, and actively helps people and animals in need. [Watch her story.](#)

and reorienting its mission around effective results and regionalism; increasing rental assistance for those facing homelessness; and focusing on the ultimate root cause of the issue – the need for more housing.

Housing Action: Mayor Harrell made increasing housing supply and affordable homes a key focus throughout his administration. The Harrell Administration made record investments in affordable housing year after year, totaling over \$1 billion. Additionally, Mayor Harrell designed and championed a \$970 million Housing Levy in 2023, which is on track to develop and preserve more than 3,500 affordable rental homes, help 9,000 low-income households stay in their homes, and create nearly 300 new homeownership opportunities. Mayor Harrell made significant progress advancing the Fort Lawton project and invested in Seattle Housing Authority's Northgate Commons project.

Mayor Harrell took an all-of-the-above approach to increasing housing supply through the [One Seattle Housing Agenda](#): doubling housing capacity by proposing and passing the largest pro-housing zoning increase in City history with the One Seattle Comprehensive Plan Update; supporting innovative solutions like office-to-residential conversions; and advancing efforts to reduce design review burdens, permitting timelines, and other barriers to housing. Mayor Harrell issued an anti-displacement Executive Order and passed legislation to protect vulnerable residents, while also investing in the City's first Anti-Displacement and Reparations Housing Fund.



Mayor Harrell helps volunteers build a tiny house.



Above: Mayor Harrell opening the Cheryl Chow Park in Rainier Valley.

Restoring Our Parks: From Woodland Park to City Hall Park, many of Seattle’s greatest assets across the city were in disrepair through the pandemic. Mayor Harrell worked not only to restore these treasured recreation areas, but to maintain and strengthen their vibrancy and vitality for use by the entire community. The mayor passed a new Parks District investment plan, putting hundreds of millions of dollars toward improvements, new parks, renovations, bathroom openings, and more. Mayor Harrell revived and reimagined the Park Ranger program, expanding from two rangers to twenty-eight, from Downtown to the entire city, all focused on helping neighbors and addressing public safety needs without police action. Seattle Parks have consistently been ranked among the best in the nation under Mayor Harrell.

Education: Mayor Harrell created and championed the Every Child Ready Initiative – culminating in the passage of a historic \$1.3 billion renewal of the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy. Focused on ensuring Seattle kids have access to the opportunity to succeed, Mayor Harrell doubled access to affordable childcare and expanded Seattle’s preschool program, which won national recognition during his tenure as mayor. Mayor Harrell reinvested in the Seattle Promise program he piloted as a Councilmember, providing free tuition and expenses for up to two years at Seattle



Mayor Harrell reading to students at Beacon Hill International.

Colleges for all Seattle high school graduates, while also creating a new Path to Trades program to help youth prepare to enter the workforce. Mayor Harrell created the Swim Seattle Program – an initiative to remove barriers to learning to swim and to eradicate disproportionate drownings among youth of color.

Youth Mental Health: Working with and listening to young people in Seattle impacted by post-pandemic challenges, the Harrell Administration established innovative on-demand youth mental health support – allowing every Seattle kid through age 24 to have access to care. Mayor Harrell worked with Seattle Public Schools to expand school-based health centers to more schools, ensuring they are all fully staffed and available at every high school and middle school as part of the Every Child Ready Initiative. Every young person in Seattle can now access culturally competent mental health services, with resources via telehealth programming and at school.



Mayor Harrell re-opens the Pratt Spraypark in the Central District.



Mayor Harrell visits Rising Star Elementary summer program.

Transportation: Focused on safety for every neighbor, Mayor Harrell united leaders across modes of transportation to pass the largest transportation levy in the history of the City of Seattle. The levy is a \$1.55 billion investment in the future of mobility in Seattle – accelerating sidewalk and protected bike lane construction, increasing access to transit, refurbishing bridges and infrastructure, and supporting climate action. Mayor Harrell saw through to completion the opening of the G-Line Rapid Ride and major 2015 Transportation Levy Projects, and he reopened the West Seattle Bridge after its unexpected 2020 closure.



Mayor Harrell joins Seattle's future gardeners for Arbor day.



Mayor Harrell signing legislation to send the Transportation Levy to voters.

Sound Transit: As a Sound Transit board member, Mayor Harrell oversaw the openings of more than 15 light rail stations and over 25 miles of service. The mayor issued an Executive Order and passed multiple pieces of legislation to streamline permitting for future Seattle Sound Transit projects, reducing timelines by at least a year. Mayor Harrell was a strong advocate for Seattle light rail expansion and worked with board members across the region to advocate for West Seattle and Ballard expansion.

Seattle's successful efforts to prevent a harmful state initiative to expand fossil fuel use and worked to provide rebates for climate efficient heat pumps for residents.

Trees: In a first for the City in over fifteen years, Mayor Harrell instituted new protections for Seattle's trees and recommitted to our 30% canopy goal. Through legislation and two Executive Orders, the Harrell Administration put in place stronger regulations to preserve trees and prevent illegal cutting and initiated the development of a tree conservation easement program, while also providing clear standards to allow needed housing production. Mayor Harrell also prioritized planting new trees – more than 30,000 over four years – establishing a tree equity fund to support underserved neighborhoods, creating a 3-for-1 replacement requirement, enhancing Seattle's Trees for Neighborhoods program, and designing and opening a new City of Seattle tree nursery. When President Joe Biden signed an executive order protecting America's forests on Earth Day, he chose to do it in Seattle with Mayor Harrell.

Climate: Seattle received global recognition for climate action under Mayor Harrell's leadership, including from C40 Cities, a coalition of global cities leading on climate change. Mayor Harrell proposed and shepherded the passage of Seattle's landmark nationally recognized Building Emission Performance Standard to significantly reduce climate pollution from Seattle's largest buildings. Through major Executive Orders and record budget investments, Mayor Harrell directed the creation of a new climate action plan, and advanced numerous electrification initiatives, clean transportation efforts, and green jobs opportunities. The mayor championed



Mayor Harrell celebrates Earth Day with President Biden in Seward Park.



*Above: Mayor Harrell packing meals at the Byrd Barr Turkey Giveaway.
Below: Mayor Harrell serving meals at a senior center in Wallingford.*

Food Access: The Harrell Administration led efforts to update the City’s Food Action Plan for the first time since its inception ten years ago – providing a roadmap for expanding access to healthy, affordable food for neighbors across the city. Mayor Harrell led efforts to significantly grow the renowned Fresh Bucks program, serving thousands of more Seattle families, and led efforts to take on anti-competitive practices from large grocery corporations. Mayor Harrell issued a Limited Civil Emergency in response to a lapse in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) payments due to the federal government shutdown, providing up to \$3 million in emergency food assistance to approximately 30 food banks, over 20 community meal programs, over 40 preschools, over 40 childcare programs, and 98 Seattle Public School sites.

Race and Social Justice: Mayor Harrell demonstrated Seattle’s commitment to advancing race and social justice principles throughout his tenure as mayor. He signed legislation codifying the Race and Social Justice Initiative he created on the City Council, invested over \$90 million through the Equitable Development Initiative, and issued an Executive Order to expand opportunities for Seattle’s women and minority owned small businesses.

Standing up for Workers: Mayor Harrell was named the elected official of the year by MLK Labor, reflecting his personal commitment to supporting working families in Seattle. The mayor championed the minimum wage law that he helped negotiate while on the City Council, advocated for and implemented first-in-the-nation protections for gig workers, supported efforts to advance fairness in the cannabis industry, and reached agreement with City employees on a new contract with significant equity adjustments to support low wage workers. Mayor Harrell led the first significant and successful update to Seattle’s maritime and industrial lands zoning to protect union jobs, increase housing, and create new opportunities for working families.

Small Business: From day one of his administration, Mayor Harrell worked to support small businesses and give them the tools and resources to succeed. Mayor Harrell rewrote the City’s Business and Occupation Tax to give small businesses a tax break, created the Liberty Project to support Black entrepreneurs and other business owners of color, and implemented innovative programs to increase small businesses’ access to affordable real estate and capital through programs like the Back to Business Fund, Tenant Improvement Fund, Capital Access Program, and first-in-the-nation Business Community Ownership Fund. The Harrell Administration reduced red tape, improved permitting, and removed other obstacles to starting or running a business in Seattle.



Mayor Harrell meets vendors at the Capitol Hill Farmers Market.

Downtown: A core component of the Harrell Administration’s agenda has been rebuilding and reimagining Downtown following pandemic impacts where foot traffic was low and the center city felt unsafe and unwelcoming. Mayor Harrell planted a flag in the ground for a new kind of downtown with the Downtown Activation Plan (DAP), recognizing Downtown runs on people. From the Chinatown International District to Belltown, this initiative supported meaningful short-term improvements in the built environment – new lighting, encampment resolutions, murals and graffiti removal, the Seattle Restored program putting entrepreneurs and artists in formerly vacant spaces, along with more ambassadors and public safety officers. Mayor Harrell initiated a new public-private partnership with philanthropy to bring public safety ambassadors to the CID for the first time in City history. The mayor’s Downtown Activation Team led daily restoration events on 3rd Avenue and in Little Saigon that drove meaningful and sustainable safety improvements, reducing street disorder and creating a welcoming environment.



Mayor Harrell announces his Downtown Activation Plan (DAP).

DAP also put in place the policy solutions to support Downtown’s next era, as Mayor Harrell proposed and passed legislation to support building new housing, hotels, and office-to-residential conversions, permanently fill vacant storefronts, and foster more arts, entertainment, and culture events. Along with the completion of the Waterfront, Mayor Harrell helped cut the ribbon on the new Convention Center and led efforts to fund and begin construction on the new Memorial Stadium at Seattle Center. Mayor Harrell led the visioning effort for the future of Westlake Park, establishing a forward momentum to transform it into a civic and transit hub for decades to come.

Waterfront: Mayor Harrell saw through to completion Seattle’s landmark \$4 billion Waterfront transformation— Seattle’s largest civic project since the 1962 World Fair. This once-in-a-generation accomplishment brings 20 acres of new public space Seattle’s shoreline and reconnects Elliot Bay to downtown, Pioneer Square, and SODO. Mayor Harrell brought to fruition a collection of interconnected public projects that define the project including opening the Overlook Walk pedestrian bridge, Pier 58, the Seattle Aquarium’s Ocean Pavilion, Pike/Pine improvements, and more. The mayor worked with philanthropists to create Elliott Bay Connections, a public-private partnership to restore parks beyond the Waterfront and install a pedestrian and bicycle trail. The mayor championed increased walkability at Pike Place Market, working with the residents, vendors, and the market to establish a limited vehicle pilot, significantly increasing the pedestrian experience.



*Above: Mayor Harrell cutting the ribbon to open Overlook Walk.
Below: Thousands of visitors enjoying the new connection.*

City Beautification: The Harrell Administration worked to ensure the beauty of our city matched that of Seattle’s incredible natural surroundings. After incidents of graffiti tagging exploded during and following the pandemic, Mayor Harrell launched a comprehensive strategy to clean up graffiti, install new murals, and create outlets for artists and young people to positively express themselves through mentorship, paint jams, and City-provided canvases. The Harrell Administration created a new partnership between the City and Uplift Northwest, a nonprofit helping formerly homeless individuals with job training and employment at graffiti abatement specialists, allowing the city to offer removal services to small business that could not otherwise afford abatement services. Originally a necessity of pandemic life, Mayor Harrell led efforts to make permanent and sustainable outdoor eating spaces and street cafes in neighborhoods across Seattle.

Arts and Culture: Mayor Harrell’s administration prioritized fostering arts and culture in our city, championing opportunities for new and developing artists and organizations through Hope Corps; uplifting major organizations struggling in the aftermath of the pandemic from 5th Avenue Theater to SIFF, Wing Luke Museum to the Nordic Museum; and promoting Seattle as a hub for the growing creative economy. Mayor Harrell supported new affordable housing for artists and signed a lease agreement with Cultural Space Agency to bring arts non-profits to King Street Station.



Mayor Harrell announcing the Executive Order to establish the DAT pilot as part of the City’s comprehensive approach to safety.

Technology and Innovation: Seattle’s reputation as a city is one of a leading technology innovator, and Mayor Harrell embraced this narrative, bringing new technologies to neighbors to improve quality of life, the economy, and City services. Mayor Harrell championed the growth of CiviForm – a one-stop-shop affordability portal that makes it easier to apply for discounts and services, which was named one of the greatest inventions in the country by Time Magazine. Building relationships with major institutions like the University of Washington and local technology companies and nonprofits, the Harrell Administration cofounded incubators like AI House and the Climate Innovation Hub to develop new technologies meeting real needs.

Government Collaboration: Collaboration is at the center of Mayor Harrell’s governing philosophy, and this approach facilitated numerous joint efforts with federal, state, county, port and municipal leaders. Mayor Harrell’s relationships with Biden Administration Cabinet officials supported more than \$100 million in direct grant investments for the City of Seattle toward safer streets, transit expansion, tree planting, and clean buildings. Mayor Harrell worked with Governor Inslee and the Legislature to address encampments on state highways and support more housing statewide. Mayor Harrell convened the first ever government-to-government Tribal Nations Summit between the City and sovereign tribes, creating channels of intergovernmental dialogue that previously were not open.



Mayor Harrell announces Liberty Project to expand entrepreneurship.

Fighting for Our Rights: In the face of national headwinds taking aim at Seattle’s people and values, Mayor Harrell stood strong to protect the rights of our neighbors. In the wake of the Supreme Courts’ Dobbs decision, Mayor Harrell signed into law new protections for reproductive rights, and with Trump’s unrelenting attacks on LGBTQ+ communities, Mayor Harrell proposed and passed a new law to safeguard gender affirming care and reproductive rights. Joining and initiating lawsuits against the Trump Administration, the City of Seattle has won every case filed so far, with an emphasis on getting injunctions against Trump’s attacks on immigrants and refugees, DEI, and the LGBTQ+ community and preserving hundreds of millions in federal funding. Mayor Harrell has been a stalwart supporter of immigrant and refugee communities – increasing the City’s Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs budget by 70%, and challenging Trump’s attacks on due process by proposing groundbreaking bills to prevent obstructive face coverings of federal agents and staging of immigration enforcement on City properties.

Boosting Civic Pride: Mayor Harrell is proud to be a Seattleite – and his administration worked to give everyone in our city the opportunity to demonstrate their civic pride. Mayor Harrell created the One Seattle Day of Service, providing thousands of volunteer opportunities to residents annually to give back to the place they call home and one another. Under the Harrell Administration, Seattle hosted the MLB All Star Game and won a bid to host FIFA World Cup 2026 matches. Mayor Harrell was a booster not just for Seattle sports, but for how sports bring us together,



ensuring the positive impact on our community far extends any individual game.

The mayor’s approach meant investments from MLB in renovating Rainier Playfield, a legacy-focused plan for the World Cup, and statues celebrating leaders like Sue Bird and Lenny Wilkens. Mayor Harrell has been a consistent and vocal advocate for the return of the Seattle SuperSonics, facilitating connections between City leaders, investors, and community members in support of this mission.



Mayor Harrell hosting Seattle’s Tribal Nations Summit.



Mayor Harrell celebrating Seattle sports past and future with Pete Carroll (top-left), local FIFA committee (top-right), Lenny Wilkens (bottom-left), and Sue Bird (bottom-right).





Mayor Harrell delivering his budget speech before City Council in 2024.

National and International Leadership: In rooms big and small, nationally and internationally, Mayor Harrell represented Seattle’s interests, values, and people. Mayor Harrell served on boards of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the African American Mayors Association, served as chair of the U.S. Mayoral Roundtable, and was a member of the Bloomberg Harvard Leadership Initiative. Under Mayor Harrell, Seattle won multiple All-America City Awards, reflecting the city’s rising profile nationally. Mayor Harrell was the only local elected official invited to the G7 in Ise-Shima, Japan, presenting with US Department of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg on achieving accessible and sustainable transportation through innovation. Under the Harrell Administration, Seattle hosted the APEC Summit, the first in 20 years in the region.

Throughout his term, Mayor Harrell met foreign dignitaries, including international leaders and ambassadors, as well as foreign business leaders to pitch our city, leading to partnerships with organizations like KOSME supporting collaboration, investment, and job creation. After Russia’s unprovoked war in Ukraine, Mayor Harrell issued an Executive Order, galvanized civic support, and met with impacted Ukrainian mayors to demonstrate Seattle’s support.



COVID Response and Recovery: Entering office as the pandemic resurged, Mayor Harrell continued and implemented new public health strategies to ensure Seattle had one of the nation’s safest pandemic responses. From mobile vaccination clinics to testing hubs, the Harrell Administration followed the science and worked to ensure every neighbor – no matter their background or income – was supported in this trying time. As the pandemic receded, Mayor Harrell wound down the City’s emergency declaration and began long-term efforts to restore economic and social norms and positive outcomes.

Good Governance: Mayor Harrell’s North Star included leaving the City of Seattle a better place than when the administration began. The mayor issued Executive Orders to make City communication more accessible to all, to better support families impacted by violence, and to strengthen overall customer service. The mayor proposed, and voters passed, a renewal of the City’s nation-leading Democracy Voucher program. The mayor designed and instituted plans to organize, inform, and improve City efforts around public safety, housing and homelessness, revenue, and responsible use of new technologies like artificial intelligence.

Budget Leadership: Constrained and caused by the state’s regressive tax system, the Harrell Administration faced projected deficits every year, solving for a combined \$632 million in forecasted deficits. Mayor Harrell invested in needed priorities, maintaining essential services, and raising new progressive revenues. Mayor Harrell made significant investments in effective public safety, provided record funding for affordable housing, and supported resources for underserved and vulnerable communities.

Seattle Mayor’s Office: Mayor Harrell built and appointed the most diverse administration and Cabinet in the history of the City of Seattle, with the lowest turnover of any Mayor’s Office in at least 30 years. Mayor Harrell prioritized mentorship and youth development, reinstating the Mayor’s Fellowship program and creating platforms throughout his administration to foster the next generation of Seattle leaders.

What People Are Saying



Tom Graff – Chair, Belltown United

“Mayor Harrell and his team have been an instrumental partner to Belltown during his 4 years as Mayor of the Emerald City. His leadership on small business storefront activation, graffiti removal & mural production, and strong maintenance of streets & parks have been instrumental in the transformation of the center city as a place to live/work/play. Belltown thanks him for his service and values his partnership.”

Jon Scholes – President and CEO, Downtown Seattle Association

“Mayor Harrell has been a tremendous partner and leader in the revitalization of downtown Seattle following some very challenging years. Because of his actions, downtown Seattle can claim a record residential population, a strong visitor economy, and millions of dollars of investment in key projects at Westlake Park, Memorial Stadium and Myrtle Edwards and Centennial Parks. Mayor Harrell’s legacy will be felt for decades to come in Seattle’s urban core.”



Erin Goodman – Executive Director, SODO Business Improvement Area

“When Mayor Harrell took office in 2022, his administration faced the challenge of restarting City systems for a post-COVID Seattle- and did so with clear intention and purpose. In SODO, that impact was tangible, from murals created through the Hope Corps Grant to repaired storefronts supported by the Storefront Improvement Program, reflecting a commitment to a thriving, innovative, and equitable city. We are grateful for Mayor Harrell’s leadership and the partnership of his administration that made this progress possible.”



Photo from sodoseattle.org

Joy Shigaki – President & CEO, Friends of Waterfront Park

“Friends of Waterfront Park is grateful for the partnership with the Mayor’s Office in marking the historic grand opening of Waterfront Park and welcoming the community back to Seattle’s central shoreline. With the City’s support, Friends serves as the dedicated nonprofit steward, ensuring Waterfront Park is actively programmed and resourced to be a shared civic space for the people of Seattle now and into the future.”



*Courtesy of Friends of Waterfront Park.
Photo by Brandon Patoc.*

Charlotte Starck – President, Alki Community Council

“Alki, in Lushootseed, means hope for the future. During a time when crime directly affected my neighborhood and my family, Mayor Bruce Harrell’s leadership gave me strength and resolve. It inspired me to organize neighbors, speak up for what’s right, and work together to protect our community and the land we share. I’m proud of the progress made in Alki over the past four years and grateful for leadership that respected and elevated community voices.”



Photo from integritas3.com



Lisa Dixon Howard – Executive Director, Alliance For Pioneer Square

“In partnership with Mayor Harrell’s administration, we have made meaningful progress in revitalizing Pioneer Square. Over the past four years, we’ve seen long-term projects completed, new doors open, a significant number of small businesses move into the neighborhood, and renewed confidence from residents, businesses, and visitors alike—laying a strong foundation for continued recovery and a vibrant, safe future for our historic neighborhood.”

Tija Petrovich – Chair, Pioneer Square Residence Council

“From reopening City Hall Park for all, creating public safety plans, and restoring the connection of the waterfront to our historic district, Mayor Harrell has steered us through some tough times with great results. Our neighborhood has benefited from Seattle Restored, Storefront Funding, the Unified Care Team, the new East-West Connections and so much more. Thank you Mayor Harrell.”



Photo from galandabroadman.com

Gabriel S. Galanda – Attorney at Law, Galanda Broadman, PLLC

“I’m grateful to Mayor Harrell and his administration for helping restore public safety to northeast Seattle and for making our entire city more vibrant and prosperous. I’m also grateful for his efforts to give our city’s small businesses much needed local tax relief.”



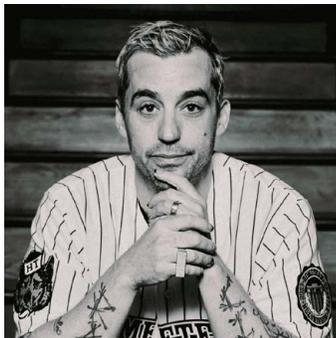
Donna Moodie – Chief Impact Officer and EcoDistrict Executive Director, Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle & Owner, Marjorie

“I appreciate Mayor Harrell’s support of small businesses, his advocacy for housing and his efforts to activate public spaces. This administration has been supportive of creative approaches to solving many of these challenges that linger in the City of Seattle post pandemic.”

Photo from seattlefoundation.org

Efrem Fesaha – CEO & Founder, Boon Boona Coffee

“Grateful to Mayor Harrell and all of those at the City for their support during the pandemic - especially with the window repair program, outdoor dining permit and other permit related support that helped small businesses navigate some of the challenges faced. We’re also grateful to OED under the leadership of Markham McIntyre consistently serving as a trusted and accessible avenue of support throughout the administration.”



Marcus Lalaro – CEO, Sugar Shack Limited

“Mayor Harrell was pivotal in getting downtown and pioneer square turned around. From the free concerts to the Club World Cup activations. We were grateful with how his administration understood and supported small businesses.”

Denise Moriguchi – President, Uwajimaiya

“In his time in office, Mayor Harrell prioritized bringing diverse perspectives to the table to address Seattle’s most complex challenges. He engaged community members, residents and business leaders across sectors in productive discussion with the shared goal of making our city better. He took new approaches to help restore the vibrancy of our treasured neighborhoods through his One Seattle vision, which resulted in meaningful improvements to public safety and economic vitality. Thank you Mayor Harrell.”



Marianna Hyke – Political Coordinator Western States Regional Council of Carpenters

"Mayor Bruce Harrell has demonstrated a deep and enduring commitment to working people by advancing Priority Hire as a meaningful pathway to life-changing careers for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities. His leadership has supported state-recognized pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs that lift vulnerable communities and expand access to family-supporting wages and benefits across the construction trades. Through grants supported by his administration, labor organizations, including the Western States Regional Council of Carpenters, have been able to grow pre-apprenticeship opportunities and open doors for individuals who once felt there were no options available to them. His hard work has created lasting opportunity, and its impact will be felt by working families and communities for generations to come."



Monty Anderson – Executive Secretary, Seattle Building & Construction Trades Council



"The Seattle Building Trades stands for values and priorities that Mayor Bruce Harrell shares and fought for every day of his Administration and throughout his decades-long career in public service – improving lives, strengthening communities and increasing equity and opportunity, social justice, dignity and worker well-being and safety. Mayor Harrell is a strong and visionary leader, an outstanding human, and a die-hard Seattle-ite who understands that effective economic development requires healthy and growing employers. We are grateful for his leadership in support of the City's Priority Hire program, as the first sponsor of the legislation while on the City Council in 2015, and as a champion throughout his Mayoral Administration. Thanks to Bruce Harrell, countless community members – women, people of color, veterans and others with social and economic disadvantages – have had and will have for decades to come access to construction careers and pathways out of poverty."

Ollie Garrett – President/CEO, Tabor 100

“Over the years, I’ve watched Mayor Bruce Harrell lead with both strength... and heart. He’s made real progress, safer neighborhoods, more affordable housing, and support for the small businesses that keep our city strong. Through my work with Tabor 100 and the Liberty Project, I’ve seen Bruce’s commitment up close. He doesn’t just talk about equity he puts it into action. He listened. He showed up. And he followed through. Bruce has always believed in what we’re building, that when you lift up small businesses, you lift up entire communities.



Avery Barnes – Founder, TASWIRA

“I’m deeply grateful to Mayor Harrell’s administration for its commitment to supporting small businesses and the arts post-pandemic. That investment was instrumental in allowing me to launch and build our gallery, and its lasting impact is reflected in the success of supported stakeholders and the continued revitalization of Seattle’s cultural landscape in service of our communities.”

Beth Knox – President & CEO, Seattle Sports Commission and SSC Foundation

“In just four years, Seattle has positioned itself as a world class sports market for fans, teams and investors. We hosted NCAA national tournaments, MLB All-Star Game and NHL Winter Classic, an international sailing race, FIFA Club World Cup, youth sports clinics, and formed a local organizing committee for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Seattle also lived out its values in celebrating women’s sports by welcoming the return of Seattle Reign FC to Lumen Field and the inaugural launch of professional women’s hockey at Climate Pledge Arena—making Seattle the first city to be home to the WNBA, NWSL and PWHL. In a long list of firsts, the statue of Seattle Storm legend Sue Bird made her the first WNBA player to receive such an honor. Throughout it all, Mayor Harrell has been a passionate champion who played a critical role in the momentum of Seattle sports.”



Photo Credit: Jordan Somers, Converge Media.

Four Years Appendix

Community and Public Engagement

1065 Community Engagement Events Across Council Districts

364 Press and Media-Related Engagements

Legislative Snapshot

29 Department Directors Confirmed by City Council

639 Pieces of Mayor Harrell-Transmitted Legislation Approved by Council

578 of the 639 pieces of legislation were unanimously approved, over 90%

864 of the Mayor's Board & Commission Appointments/Reappointments Approved

Executive Orders

2022 – 7 Executive Orders to bring Seattle back from the depths of the COVID pandemic, support the local Ukrainian community, and improve crime investigations.

2023 – 8 Executive Orders to support refugee families during tragedies, improve our tree canopy, support people struggling with opioid addiction, increase affordability, make contracting more equitable, and data more connected.

2024 – 2 Executive Orders to address gun violence and youth mental health as well as downtown activation and neighborhood safety and vibrancy strategies.

2025 – 10 Executive Orders that helped improve anti-displacement efforts, transit, protection for immigrant communities, tree preservation, permitting times, and grocery regulations.

Prior End of Year Reports

2022 - [One Year of Building One Seattle](#)

2023 - [Making Progress Building One Seattle](#)

2024 - [A Safe and Thriving One Seattle](#)

2025 - [Building One Seattle](#)