



Food Innovation District

City of Tacoma | Community and Economic
Development Department

Economic Development Committee

DECEMBER 10, 2019

ITEM #2



OVERVIEW



The purpose of this presentation is to provide an overview of the current conditions on the Eastside of Tacoma relating to healthy food accessibility and to present options and seek feedback for the development of an economic development action plan.

BACKGROUND



Recent studies of food equity barriers on the Eastside

- In 2015 the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department prepared a Health Equity assessment
- In 2015 residents formed the East Tacoma Collaborative with the vision of a safe, healthy, thriving and equitable East Tacoma.
- In 2015, the Eastside Farmers Market was launched.
- In 2017-18 the City of Tacoma partnered with the UW and the Livable City Year Research project.
- In 2019, the City Council identified a Food Innovation District as one of their priorities at their February strategic work session.

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



- East Tacoma Collaborative
- Tacoma Pierce County Health Department
SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
Program) Education

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EASTSIDE - ASSETS



Food Related Assets on the Eastside

- Farmers market
- Community gardens (urban farms)
- Ethnic grocery stores
- Culturally diverse restaurants
- Local markets
- Emerald Queen Casino
- Eloise's Cooking Pot Food Bank
- Eastside Community Center

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EASTSIDE – OPPORTUNITIES



Food Related Opportunities on the Eastside

- Promotion of local food options
- Diversify product mix in existing stores
- Incubator/accelerator programs
- Encourage local food supply chain
- Zoning review
- Year-round public market
- Distribution center/food hub
- Warehouse/storage center
- Training center (skills and academic)

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FOOD INNOVATION DISTRICT



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FOOD INNOVATION DISTRICT



A Food Innovation District is a geographical concentration of food-oriented businesses, services, and community activities that local governments support through planning and economic development initiatives in order to promote a positive business environment, spur regional food system development, and increase access to local food” Michigan State University (2013)



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GOALS



Food Innovation District Goals:

- Strengthen local food economy
- Promote/Model healthy eating
- Celebrate culinary diversity

Tacoma 2025 Goals:

- Livability
- Economy and Workforce
- Equity and Accessibility

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DETROIT EASTERN MARKET



- 240-acre district with 6-acre core market area
 - Restaurants
 - Shops
 - Food processors and distributors
 - Twice-weekly retail farmers markets
- Detroit Eastern Market Corporation (EMC) manages it
- City of Detroit owns Eastern Market's assets and city leaders serve on the EMC Board

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PENNSYLVANIA & ANAHEIM



Pennsylvania – Fresh Food Financing Initiative

- Public-Private Partnership
- Support supermarket and grocery stores in underserved urban and rural communities
- 88 fresh food retails
- 5,000 jobs created
- 400,000 state residents have access to healthy foods
- State invested \$30 million

Anaheim – Foodie District

- Grassroots dining district located at the old Packing House
 - 42,000 sq. ft. open air market place
 - 28 gourmet food and beverage vendors and merchants
 - Communal dining surrounded by cafes and kiosks
 - 2-acre Farmer's Park
 - Live Entertainment Venue
- City invested \$10.4 million

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KING COUNTY



Rainier Beach Food Innovation

- Light Rail Station area
- Large Urban farm
- Wealth of Ethnic food
- Farm & Wetland food production
- Farm & Food Hub



Tukwila's Food Innovation Network

- 5.76-acre owned by the City of Tukwila
- Developed by Senior Housing Assistance Group
- Incubation/Acceleration
- Training programs



Kent's Project Feast

- Apprenticeship Cooking Program
- Ubuntu Café
- Catering Services
- Immigrants and Refugees
- Individuals and institution donors



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NEXT STEPS



Staff will seek resources in the 2021-2022 budget to conduct a feasibility study of a Food Innovation District on the Eastside to include land use, transportation accessibility and site development potential leading to Food Innovation models for public/private investment.

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