

Welcome to the Spokane University District's first U-Forward Monthly e-newsletter. We are excited to share with you the developments, the people, the world-class institutions, and the events that make up this innovative district in the Intermountain Northwest.

The University District is a 770-acre revitalization area and public development authority working to build a thriving, integrated, and equitable life sciences and smart-city urban village just east of downtown. Collaboration is central to the work that we do. We hope that this newsletter can serve as a tool for just that—to keep the greater region connected to our work and inspire others to join us as we move ahead. We look forward to building a strong University District with you!

Juliet Sinisterra, CEO



Urban Moves Around New Transit Stations

Principal Jason Graf at Center-Based Planning + Urban Design recently completed a Transit Oriented Development study for the UD. Jason brings 15+ years of experience in creating downtown, corridor, and neighborhood urban design plans—locally and across the country—from cities such as Spokane, Seattle, Portland, Denver, and Minneapolis, to suburbs such as Englewood and Aurora. Jason sees TOD planning as essential to the city now and in the future.

“TOD can help increase opportunities for development around stations along high-capacity transit lines. Improvements include public transit buses moving faster and more frequently which will improve driving times and the experience for drivers all around,” says Jason. He sees the additions to the Pine Street City Line Station and the new Sprague and Sherman high-capacity station providing opportunities for citizens to enjoy new and safe connections for walking and biking.

“Both STA stations can lead to the creation of new activity hubs that will catalyze surrounding businesses,” adds Jason. For example, in 2019, 30% of all new commercial development growth occurred along the high-frequency transit lines in Minneapolis. To learn more about TOD plans for the University District, see Jason’s [final report](#).

DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Boxcar Apartments has begun pre-leasing its 136 apartment units.

Joya Child and Family Development plans to host open house events on May 20 and June 11. More info to follow.

430 East Sprague: A local development group has just closed on this property. They plan to develop a mixed-use, five-story multi-family project.

Copeland and internationally-awarded Liberty Ciderworks

The Washington legislature’s approved Transportation Budget includes \$3.9 million for the Pacific Avenue Greenway Bicycle Pedestrian Path linking the UD to downtown Spokane. [‘Move Ahead Washington’ Launches a New Era of Transportation Planning in Washington State](#) | [Planetizen News](#)

Construction is underway on The District a 29-unit (first phase), multi-family

will be opening their offices and a Cider Tasting Room at 217 East 3rd Avenue this coming Fall 2022.

project located on a 13.16 acre parcel along the Spokane River that sits partially under the Hamilton Street overpass. Garco Construction is the contractor and ALSC is the architect.



Gratitude to Dr. O'Brien

Departing UD board member, Dr. David O'Brien served as the Senior VP and Chief Executive of MultiCare's Inland Northwest region but has now been named the Chief Executive for MultiCare's South Sound region.

"It was a pleasure to have Dr. O'Brien serve on our Board and Executive Committee. His kindness, patience, and wisdom will be greatly missed. We wish him all the best in his new role," says Juliet Sinisterra, CEO of the Spokane University District.

Dr. O'Brien provided valuable guidance to the UD and is excited for the momentum that has been built these past few years, "When I first saw that bridge, it was spectacular. You built an iconic structure for Spokane. It shows the UD's belief in education, progress, and the future!"

april/may



Saranac Art Projects April Exhibition

April 1-29

Enjoy works depicting urban environments from two internationally-recognized Spokane printmakers.



WSU Health Sciences Spokane Lecture: Our Global Climate Crisis: What Can and Should Healthcare Do?

April 12

Hear ways to decarbonize healthcare while enjoying networking, poster presentations, and a keynote on the intersection of healthcare and the climate crisis



Whitworth Lecture: Why Virtuous People Won't Save the Earth

April 26



Sparks Weekend at the Catalyst Building

This talk explores the role, limits, and pitfalls of virtue in environmental ethics

April 29-31

Sparks will fly at this three-day, jam packed event featuring panel parley, rapid-fire elevator pitches, and networking



**First Annual State of
Downtown event hosted by
DSP**

May 11

Special community award presentations and a thought-provoking talk by futurist Michael J. Berne

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