

Welcome to the 2024 UD e-newsletter! We are excited for 2024 and are proud of the following milestones that staff, the Board and committees accomplished in 2023.

- Completed and adopted the [U Vision 2044 Strategic Plan](#) that prioritizes UD investments in the next 10 to 15 years
- Completed outreach to UD businesses via the UPulse Survey to inform capital priorities and needs
- Received \$45,000 in ARPA grant funding
- Established over 20 new community partnerships for future funding and initiatives
- Launched a community planning effort around green jobs/maker space
- Launched social media marketing on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram
- Co-hosted Innovative Urbanism Symposium with over 60 attendees
- Applied/supported applications for over \$1M in grant funding

There is much more to come in 2024! We look forward to sharing our work as it moves forward and building a healthier, more sustainable and equitable district with you.

Juliet Sinisterra, CEO





U Vision 2044 adopted goals.

Board Focus

We are excited and pleased to announce our new 2024 University District Development Association (UDDA) Board Members!



LaVerne Biel, Executive Director, ESBA and the PBIA (Sprague Union BID)

LaVerne has lived in Spokane for 51 years and has been an East Central resident for 34 years. She holds an MBA from Corban University and has been the ESBA Executive Director since 2020. In her role, she works with city personnel, ratepayers, and the BID board to implement the city contract. She was the president of the Associated Builders and Contractors Association in 2003 and has served on the East Central Community Organization board and Neighborhood Council Board.

Lois Bollenback, Executive Director, Spokane Regional Transportation Council

Lois Bollenback has worked in the



field of transportation planning and transit management for just over 20 years. Early in her career, she worked in the Quality Control department of Kennedy Space Center and served in the US Air Force. After returning from active duty, she enrolled in the University of Central Florida earning a Bachelor's of Business Administration and a Master's of Applied Economics.

In 1999, Ms. Bollenback entered the transportation sector working for a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Over the years, she worked in both the public and private sectors increasing her knowledge and experience in transportation planning, transit operations and management, project development and funding, and organizational leadership. Ms. Bollenback served as the General Manager of Votran, a public transit operation and as the Director of the River to Sea TPO both in Volusia County, Florida. In 2021 Lois became the Executive Director of the Spokane Regional Transportation Council (SRTC). Most recently, she served on the Commercial Aviation Coordinating Committee (CACC) and as the 2023 Chair of the MPO-RTPO-WSDOT Coordinating Committee.



Lisa Brown, Mayor, City of Spokane

Lisa Brown is the 48th Mayor of the City of Spokane. As an economist, former state legislator, former Chancellor of WSU Spokane, and the former Director of the Washington State Department of Commerce, Lisa has spent her career working to bring resources and investments to Spokane. She loves this city for its people, neighborhoods, and quality of life, including abundant access to nature. On the weekends, you can find Lisa hiking with her husband Brian across the

many trails in the region or enjoying one of Spokane's many parks with her grandson Blaze. Lisa is a proud resident of the West Central Neighborhood.



Stacie Maier, Director of Business and Public Affairs, Avista Corporation

Stacie received her Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Idaho and Master's in Business Administration from Whitworth University. She also is a registered professional engineer in Washington state. She currently serves as the Women in Engineering Chair for the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Spokane Chapter and serves on the boards of the Boys and Girls Club of Spokane County and the Downtown Spokane Partnership.



Jonathan Teeters, M.B.A., Policy Director, Empire Health Foundation

Jonathan has 20 years of experience leading values-based racial, social equity, environmental, and economic change campaigns for candidates and organizations across electoral, non-profit, government and private sectors. As Policy Director for Empire Health Foundation and the Empire Health Community Advocacy Fund, Jonathan drives the Foundation's policy programming and government affairs strategies in supporting power shifts and political and systems change within BIPOC,

LGBTQ2IAS+ and rural underserved communities in the Inland Northwest.

A native Washingtonian, he earned degrees in conservation biology, ecology, and Spanish from the University of Idaho—all while playing on the University of Idaho football team—and then went on to earn an MBA in Sustainable Business Systems. Jonathan enjoys cultivating his connection to nature and outdoor recreation as an avid fisherman and hunter.



**Betsy Wilkerson, President,
Spokane City Council**

Newly elected Council President Betsy Wilkerson is a long-time small business owner and community servant who grew up in Spokane and has strong family roots in District 2. She is the first African American woman to serve as Council President in Spokane's history. In addition to serving as a Council Member, Betsy is very familiar with the volunteer and non-profit sector, and she recently chaired the Carl Maxey Center board of directors and led two capital campaigns to raise funds for the Center (named after the civil rights icon) in the historic East Central Neighborhood.

Betsy also runs a family business that houses individuals with disabilities and works with organizations and non-profit boards that make grants to support basic needs and education in the community. Council President Wilkerson serves on both the UDDA and the University District Public Development Authority (UDPDA) boards.

Noteworthy Community Events



Sustainable Commodities

January 23

Gonzaga Institute for Climate, Water and the Environment presents Deborah Di Bernardo to discuss how her local company, Roast House, has worked to address deforestation and the climate change it creates.



Exhibit: One Day a Fuse Blew Up in My House

February 2 - 24

Saranac Art Projects presents the work of Mariah Boyle and Dan McCann, both exhibiting new work.



Health Justice and Belonging Conference

February 7 - 8

WSU Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine presents this 5th annual conference featuring medical and community leaders as well as organizations dedicated to solving problems in challenging healthcare environments.



Gonzaga Institute for Climate, Water and the Environment presents Montana v. Held: Montana Youth Use the Courts to Fight for a Livable Climate

February 14

Montana is one of only a handful of



Washington Energy Navigator Ongoing

The WA Dept of Commerce is exploring the development of a tool to help homeowners, renters, and small commercial building owners access electrification and energy efficiency services throughout the state, as well as future home energy rebates. Your input is critical to the success of this effort.

states that recognizes a constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment, including the climate. Hear from the lawyers Barbara Chillcott and Melissa Hornbein who won the first youth climate case to go to trial in U.S. history.

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