

Housing. It seems to be the hot topic right now. According to the [National Association of Realtors](#), active listings for homes nationwide is down 22%, with inventories this past December being at the lowest level ever recorded. The report also states that since 2008, growth in nationwide housing inventory has seen a steady decline which has created an estimated housing gap of 5.5 million to 6.8 million housing units in the US (there were 1.6 million new construction housing starts in 2021). Here in the University District, we are excited that there are presently 571 urban housing units under construction (or just completed) with more on the way.

Housing catalyzes urbanism. Jim Frank, the founder of Greenstone Homes, likes to see a 1:1 development ratio between housing and commercial space for his walkable urban neighborhoods. The City of Spokane Planning Department has recently released a Spokane Housing Action Plan (see below) and the UD has just contracted with Cascadia Partners out of Portland to help us set, among other standards, housing development goals for the next 10 to 20 years. We aim to be thoughtful, innovative, and solution-oriented around housing development. A strong, dense housing sector in the UD will in turn create the vibrant, walkable place to live, learn, work, and play that we envision.

Juliet Sinisterra, CEO





"The Bridge" is a 296-unit multi-family project currently under construction in the south UD. Please note unit number correction from April newsletter.

Spokane Housing Looking Ahead

"Addressing the national underbuilding gap will require a coordinated approach to planning, funding and development of all forms of infrastructure to not only build more housing, but also build better housing that will be more inclusive and well-integrated into local communities."

- Housing is Critical Infrastructure, National Association of Realtors

Recently, City staff presented the Spokane Housing Action Plan to the UD Development Committee. The Spokane Housing Action Plan includes seven code amendments to be reviewed by the Plan Commission and written in response to the [Housing Emergency Proclamation](#) from July 2021. The plan is based on three pillars: plans for more housing, increased housing diversity type, and additional affordable housing. According to City of Spokane Planning Director, Spencer Gardner, "I think what's exciting about the Spokane Housing Action Plan is the community conversation that went into it and the energy around the three pillars."

"If I were to paint a vision for the future, we could create a version of Spokane that still provides the lower-scale, pleasant, quiet, neighborhood atmosphere that most residents love, but do it in a way that provides opportunity for more neighbors everywhere in all of our neighborhoods. These proposals are trying to create an opportunity for this vision to come alive," says Gardner.

To comment on the plan and for more information, please visit [Click Here.](#)

Board Member Focus

Former UDDA Board Member, [Elaine Couture](#), was recently recognized by Whitworth University



with their Distinguished Leadership Award. Elaine served as Providence's Health & Services' Executive VP and Regional Chief for Washington and Montana. During her role Couture oversaw operations for 11 hospitals, numerous clinics in Washington and Montana, and more than 21,000 employees. "We were so blessed to have such a strong community leader like Elaine support the UD and our board," says UDDA and UDPDA Board Chair, Lindsey Myhre.

Noteworthy Community Events



Saranac Art Projects May Exhibition

May 6-28

Accidental Intimacy; collaborative works by Jenny Hyde, Rachel Smith, Lenora J. Lopez Schindler & Richard J. Schindler.



"Spokane Climate Project": Documentary Screening

May 16

An engaging film that looks into five ways that Spokane's climate is changing.





Joya Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

May 20

Join Joya Child & Family Development as they celebrate their new home in Spokane's University District.



SP3NW Startup Advisor Lunch & Learn Series

May 26

Learn about early-stage companies and the importance of agreements.



2022 Women in Leadership

June 1

The Journal of Business returns with this popular annual community event.

Welcome to the University District's e-newsletter. You are on our email list as a University District partner, collaborator, community member, or interested party. If you would like to opt-out of future mailings, please use the Unsubscribe link.

© 2022 University District
120 N Pine St, Ste 292
Spokane, WA 99202
info@spokaneudistrict.org
www.spokaneudistrict.org

[View web version](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)