



## University District Development Association (UDDA)

### Board of Directors' Retreat Agenda

**Wednesday, June 5, 2024, 10 AM - 2 PM**

In-person only at Empire Health Foundation, 1020 W Riverside Ave, Spokane, lower level

**Retreat Objectives:** To hear an overview of the University District's historical context and to engage around the District Conceptual Plan (DCP) work with the Mithun team and how the DCP specifically helps to implement the U Vision 2044.

**10:00 Welcome, Retreat Objectives, and Land Acknowledgment** - *Dugger*

**10:10 Introductions: Why are we here?** – *Sinisterra*

**10:30 “A Peoples’ History of the UD”:** Understanding Historical Context – *Sinisterra*

**11:10 Overview: UD Urban Ecological Development Tool** – *Sinisterra*

**11:20 Presentation: An Overview of the District Conceptual Plan** – *Mithun Team*

Mithun will present an overview of the design and engagement approach to the District Conceptual Plan effort and how it builds upon the U Vision 2044.

**11:50 Break for Buffet Lunch**

**12:20 Group Exercise: [Just Communities](#) Visioning** – *Mithun Team*

**1:20 Closing Remarks: District Conceptual Plan and U Vision 2044** – *Sinisterra*

**1:30 Group Feedback Exercise** – *Sinisterra*

**2:00 Adjourn**

### 2024 UD Board Meetings

- September 4 (annual meeting) – hosted by WSU at the new Medicine Bldg
- October 2 – hosted by Avista
- December 4 – at Spokane Art School (Holiday Party, Impact Award presentation, DCP poster exhibit, no business meeting)

## UD Urban Ecological Development Tool

5/2024



*The Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations stress the importance of local ecosystems and suggest that all aspects of a city—its buildings, infrastructure, and natural surroundings—should actively contribute to environmental health. This includes maintaining clean air and water, healthy soil, sequestered carbon, cycled nutrients, reduced erosion, reduced heat, and supporting biodiversity. Dayna Baumeister and Nicole Miller, Innovation for Ecological Transformation*

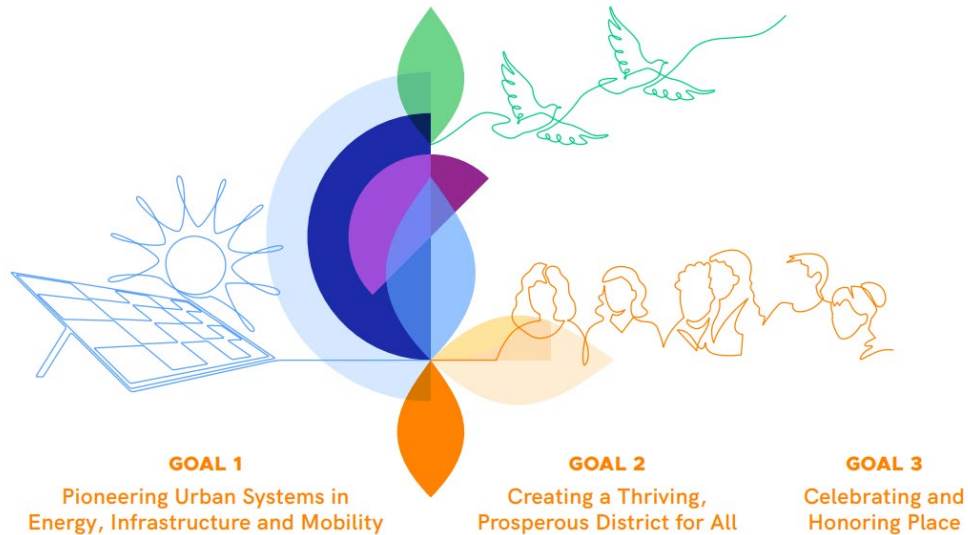
The world faces the converging crises of biodiversity loss, oceanic acidification, climate change and human development inequities. The urban environment, as a whole, can play an active role in carbon sequestration and natural system restoration.

As an innovative life sciences and energy district, the UD aims to become a national leader in how an ecological framework can inform urban development and the long-term health of a district's entire ecosystem; sequester carbon; minimize energy use; respond to the Earth's ecological limits; and serve as a "living lab" for the district's six higher education institutions.

In 2023, the UDDA Board approved the U Vision 2044 Strategic Investment Plan prioritizing investments in the district over the next 40 years. Central to this plan is investing in community innovation, resiliency, and prosperity. The recently completed UD Ecological Asset Study looked at the following ecosystem services and started to create baseline measurements going forward:

- Air Filtration
- Biodiversity
- Carbon Sequestration

- Energy Provision
- Fire Adaptation
- Nutrient Cycling
- Pollination
- Stormwater Management
- Temperature Regulation
- Waste Generation and Management
- Water Cycling
- Human Health and Wellbeing



The [Future of Nature and Business](#) report estimates that a nature positive economy can unlock \$10 trillion of business opportunities by transforming the three economic systems that are responsible for almost 80% of nature loss: food, infrastructure and energy.

**Current Development Partners:**

- City of Spokane
- Avista Utilities
- Urbanova
- Spokane Conservation District
- The Lands Council
- WSU Integrated Design + Construction Lab
- Gonzaga Institute for Climate, Water, and the Environment
- Spokane River Keeper



Image: Riparian Corridor and Cloudburst Street

### **Outcomes:**

- Create measurable performance-based goals that define a healthy, urban ecosystem
- Finalize a nature-based District Conceptual Plan (Mithun and Biomimicry 3.8) that meets or exceeds performance metrics
- Translate and incentivize the district's ecosystem services into tangible design targets for the built environment
- Establish a replicable tool to be used nationwide by municipalities, communities and institutions

### **Needs:**

The UD has hired Urbanova to develop a database engine and business platform using Microsoft Azure to compile baselines and future measurements in relation to the established ecosystem services. Urbanova is working to incorporate Avista CEIP data into these baselines. Additional data requests include the following:

#### Clean Energy:

- Total MWh of distributed energy resources 5 MW and under
- Total MWh of energy storage resources under 5 MW and under
- Number (sites, projects, etc.) of distributed renewable energy resources and energy storage resources.
- kWh generated by renewable energy resources
- Number of public charging stations located in UD

#### Energy Efficiency:

- Buildings with energy efficiency audit performed
- Commercial Interior and Exterior Lighting Projects (kWh savings/year)
- Percentage of customers, by class, who participate in energy efficiency programs

#### Energy Utilization:

- Average annual bill, by class, by census block group
- Average, high month, and low month utilization (kWh) by customer class, by block group



# MEET OUR TEAM



**MITHŪN  
BUSS**



**Erin Christensen  
Ishizaki**

Partner in Charge  
AIA, AICP, LEED ND AP

Erin's practice advances sustainable, healthy development to support physical and social community. She integrates community-based research and health methods into co-design and is actively involved with ULI's Health and Resilience Initiatives



**Sandra  
Giris**

Project Manager  
MCIP, RPP

Sandra is a creative, results driven, and design-focused urban planner and project manager. Sandra brings experience collaborating with complex stakeholder groups, from institutions and agencies, to local governments and community groups.



**Deb  
Guenther**

Partner  
FASLA, SITES  
AP, LEED AP BD+C

Deb's work showcases her dedication to natural and cultural processes. Her projects address carbon reduction, climate adaptation, and social justice, collaborating with environmental justice communities. She serves on the Advisory Council for the JUST Communities Initiative.



**Dorothy  
Faris**

Partner  
ASLA, LEED GA

Dorothy leads landscape architecture, public realm, and third place design in public and private projects across the Northwest. She brings extensive knowledge working with institutions and design-build projects including University of Washington, UC Irvine, and for private developers.



**Nazanin  
Mehrin**

Associate  
LEED Green Associate,  
EcoDistricts AP

Nazanin is inspired by cities and their complexity. She is interested in understanding the way cities tackle environmental, social, political and cultural challenges, especially as they relate to transportation and new mobility planning. Her interdisciplinary design approach works to transform cities of today into the cities of tomorrow.



**Monserratt  
Cortés**

Urban Designer  
LEED Green Associate

Monserratt is a creative designer passionate about storytelling in communities, with a background in architecture and urban design. She is especially passionate about projects that value not only the socioeconomic benefits but also the bio-cultural relationships.



**Steven  
Baumgartner**

Urban Systems Strategist,  
Director, BUSS, PE

Steven is an engineer and planner specializing in integrated systems solutions for campuses, communities, and cities. He has seen the power of systems approaches across scales and boundaries to create equitable, sustainable, and resilient campuses, communities, and cities.