



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Lance Matteson

306-760-4281

[LMatteson@seedseattle.org](mailto:LMatteson@seedseattle.org)

## Rainier Community Food & Farm Hub Launches with Garden Supplies, Local Produce and Fresh Vision for Shared Commercial Space

Seattle, Aug. 25, 2015 --An innovative team of businesses comprises the Rainier Community Food and Farm Hub, which launches on September 17, 2015 in Southeast Seattle at 5131 S. Director St., Seattle, WA 98118. Housed in a 5,600 square foot previously underutilized warehouse, Juicebox, Seattle Farm Co-op and Seattle Tilth are joining forces to create a more sustainable food system and an equitable green economy.

[South East Effective Development](#) (SEED) established the hub concept, brought the businesses together, and signed a master lease on the building. SEED sub-leases to each tenant and provides expert facility management. According to SEED Executive Director Lance Matteson, "SEED is delighted to spearhead this new Food and Farm Hub. For 40 years, SEED has led efforts to improve the quality of life in our region. The creative synergy of these enterprises will enhance local food-related business opportunities, as well as the nutritional and overall well-being of our diverse communities. We are excited about the food tech and manufacturing opportunities this project will generate, on and off-site."

[Seattle Farm Co-op](#) offers gardeners, urban farmers and co-op members access to animal feed, tools, supplies, workshops and a supportive community for backyard food production in Southeast Seattle and beyond. They boast open hours throughout the week, posted on [seattlefarmcoop.com](http://seattlefarmcoop.com),

[Seattle Tilth Produce](#) uses the space as a local food packing and distribution center. They receive fresh, organic produce and food from local farmers and then distribute it to the community through weekly Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) boxes, subsidized Good Food Bags and local restaurants. The Seattle Tilth Produce farm stand will be open to the public on Saturdays, 10am-3pm with fresh produce grown by local farmers and for CSA members to pick up pre-ordered boxes.





[Juicebox](#) began in 2012 and specializes in cold-pressed organic juice and vegetable-focused cuisine. They bottle juices at the Rainier Community Food and Farm Hub, which are available at their Juice Bar and Café on Capitol Hill and online.

[Rainier Beach Action Coalition](#) Stewards of neighborhood participatory outreach and engagement are thrilled to see yet another building block of our community vision for a Rainier Beach Food Innovation District, as outlined in the RB Neighborhood Plan Update. Gregory Davis, one of the group's co-chairs along with David Sauvion, states "This new approach to economic development takes into account the existing assets such as the RB Urban Farm & Wetlands, unparalleled global restaurant scene, and current built and programmatic infrastructure that positions Rainier Beach to implement successful pathways to education and jobs creation in the food industry." This infrastructure includes five neighborhood schools and three community centers fostering healthy food practices, supported by culinary and learning programs, including Community Kitchens NW, Rainier Beach Learning Garden and Somali Senior Dinners at the Farm. The Rainier Beach Action Coalition will share office space at the Food and Farm Hub, which will offer an additional point of contact for the community.



The space will have segregated areas for fresh food processing by Juicebox and Seattle Tilth Produce, and dry storage for Seattle Farm Co-op.

Dry storage space remains available in the main warehouse, and soon a separate unit on the back of the building may become available. Interested parties can contact SEED's Asset Manager Clarence Nelson at [cnelson@seedseattle.org](mailto:cnelson@seedseattle.org) / 206-760-4267.

### **About SEED**

SEED is a non-profit community development corporation. Founded in 1975, SEED's mission is to improve the quality of life in Southeast Seattle by creating partnerships and inspiring investments in housing, arts and economic development – with a special focus on residents with fewer opportunities and resources. Early SEED Board leaders included Gary Locke, Ron Sims and Norm Rice – prior to their political prominence. SEED has been instrumental in helping to revive the historic Columbia City business district, improving access to health care, expanding affordable housing in the region, and nurturing a vibrant arts scene in SE Seattle. SEED is deeply committed to advancing social justice and equity.

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