# Rainier Beach Action Coalition (RBAC) - rbactioncoalition@gmail.com ACHIEVING SOCIAL EQUITY AROUND LIGHT RAIL

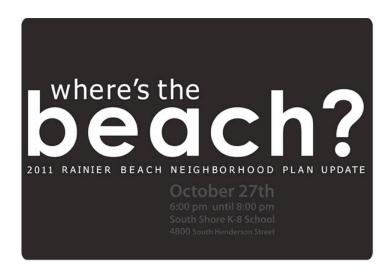
"Everybody likes Rainier Beach; it is high and healthy; finest soil in county; boating, fishing, bathing, free wood and water. With the improvement underway and contemplated, values will double or treble in the next year or two.

Don't miss the opportunity of securing a few lots now, either for home or investment. Book of photos, maps, etc., for the asking. See owner."

C. K. Sturtevant, 1904

#### 1. From NAC to RBAC

- At the onset was an 18 month Neighborhood Plan Update led by the City of Seattle on the basis of the Rainier Beach 2014 Plan. This process included the creation of a Neighborhood Advisory Committee, and extensive public outreach via open house meetings.
- This led a group of volunteers to form RBAC and embrace an Action Plan focusing on 4 areas:
- A Place for Everyone
- Lifelong Learning
- Growing Food to Develop a Healthy Industry
- A Beautiful Safe Place



## 2. From Plan to Implementation: A vision in the making



Flectric Car at the Rainter Beach Station

- During the Plan Update, several key factors were highlighted by the community: the need for good jobs, affordable housing, quality education, arts and safety.
- Building on the neighborhood's assets, rich cultural diversity, multiple schools, public investments (library, community center, light rail), parks, waterfront access, historical and retail cores, urban farm, light industrial zoning, and gateway to the city with connection to transportation, food unite individuals, provide health & jobs.
- A cradle to college campus, an active urban farm, green technology manufacturing are all part of the vision for a Food Innovation District and World Cuisine destination.

## 3. Urban Design & Development Framework

- The Department of Planning and Development is working on a re-zone for the area around the light rail station to accommodate the establishment of a Community College, as well as other institutions or incubator spaces geared towards Food preparation, training and entrepreneurship.
- Rainier Beach has a history of relying on transit, just like it did in the early 1900's with the Electric Car. Businesses & patrons still favor the district around the former station.

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4. Do For Self

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With such diversity, the community needs to get organized and empower minorities to get involved. To drive collective impact, only an equitable approach will give all a voice and allow change. RBMF is building relationships with partners and stakeholder in order to align the goals to the community vision. Building on programs like Puget Sound Sage's Leadership Institute and Rainier Valley Corps Fellows, RBMF is empowering people of color to leverage their community.

### 5. Moving the Needle

Support organizations like Got-Green & S-CORE that successfully campaign to advocate for policy change:

- Priority Hire (Construction jobs)
- \$15 Min. Wage / Linkage Fee

### 6. A Model for Equitable Development

- Continue successful events (Town Hall, Back-2-School Bash, Artwalk, Clean Up Homecoming), seek matching funds towards street, waterfront improvements.
- Partner with Merchant Association and local schools to promote internships.
- Establish a Neighborhood Office, share resources, increase visibility & outreach.
- Advocate with funders like Communities of Opportunity and elected officials to convene stakeholder and develop an Economic Opportunity Center.
- Start first hub/food incubator with Southeast Effective Development and Seattle Tilth to establish a catalyst and spur further investment.

"Fruits, vegetables, chickens and... children. That's what you can raise if you own a home of your own in Sturtevant's Rainier Beach."



