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October 2025

Building Port-Related Careers in the Duwamish Valley



Dear Friends,

The Duwamish Valley community has long faced unique barriers to economic opportunity, despite living at the center of our region's trade, travel, and transportation infrastructure. Previous Port-funded initiatives like the [Duwamish Valley Green Jobs Program](#) worked with residents to build skills in environmental and habitat stewardship but also highlighted a need for clearer pathways to actual employment.

To address this need, the Port of Seattle recently launched Career Navigation Services, connecting job-seekers to the port-related industries of aviation, maritime, green industries, and the skilled trades and providing clear, equitable pathways to family-wage careers. Through personalized coaching with wraparound support — including assistance with training and application costs, work gear, and transportation — Career Navigation Services gives job-seekers the tools and resources they need to succeed.

Led by [TRAC \(Training, Rehabilitation, Assessment, Counseling\) Associates](#) and funded by the Port, Career Navigation Services provides one-on-one support to community members to overcome barriers and take the next step toward meaningful employment. Whether it's career exploration, direct employment opportunities, preparing for a pre-apprenticeship program, or enrolling in an existing training program, the service is designed to meet people where they are and create a personalized roadmap to success.

This initiative reflects the Port's broader [community benefits commitment](#) to advance equity and environmental justice in the Duwamish Valley and address Port operations that impact this community. By investing in workforce development, the Port is reducing barriers, expanding opportunities, and ensuring residents can access stable, well-paying jobs while continuing to live,

work, and thrive in their community.

TRAC Associates brings decades of experience in training, rehabilitation, assessment, and career counseling, and is now in the discovery phase of working directly with Duwamish Valley residents. A [community launch event](#) is planned for November 5 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Duwamish River Community Hub (8600 14th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108) to celebrate the program's start and connect more people to these opportunities. [Learn more about the program](#) and how to connect with a Career Navigator.

The Duwamish Valley Career Navigation Services initiative is one way the Port is putting its equity commitments into action. By connecting residents to real opportunities, the program builds careers that support families, strengthen neighborhoods, and create a lasting impact for generations to come.

In Unity,



Bookda Gheisar

Senior Director, Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Centering Equity and Taking Action

Port of Seattle Commission reaffirms commitment to immigrant communities and international visitors



On October 28, the Port of Seattle Commission unanimously adopted an updated [Welcoming Port Policy Directive](#), reaffirming the Port of Seattle's commitment to ensuring that all people — regardless of immigration status — are treated with dignity, respect, and fairness across all Port facilities. The updated policy adds direction to Port employees regarding immigration-related activities on Port property — from prohibiting the use of time or resources to support civil immigration enforcement unless required by law to providing clear steps to respond to immigration-related inquiries. It also ensures that individuals with limited English proficiency have meaningful access to services and that personal information is protected against unauthorized disclosure. [Read the October 28 press release →](#)

\$500,000 in Port funding available for community-led environmental improvements



The Port of Seattle is now accepting applications from community-based organizations for projects that improve the environment in historically underrepresented communities that surround Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA) and South King County, extending up to Beacon Hill, Rainier Valley, and the Duwamish Valley.

A total of \$500,000 is available in this cycle of the South King and Port Communities Fund (formerly the South King County Community Impact Fund)

Environmental Improvements Program (EIP). Proposals must be submitted by 12 p.m. PST on October 31, 2025. [Learn how to apply for EIP funds →](#)

Community-led organizations to receive \$2.7 million in Port funding

Ten community-led organizations across South King County, Beacon Hill, and Duwamish Valley will receive combined funds of \$2.7 million through the Port's South King and Port Communities Fund (formerly South King County Community Impact Fund) [Economic Opportunities for Communities](#) (EOC) Program.



The EOC program connects underrepresented communities in South King County, Beacon Hill, and the Duwamish Valley to opportunities for living-wage jobs and careers in port-related industries. [Read about the ten organizations receiving funding →](#)

Hispanic Heritage Month Port Spotlight with Yanet Maldonado



This year, two celebratory events meaningful to the Port and the Diversity in Contracting team — Hispanic Heritage Month and Construction Inclusion Week — overlapped. Hispanic Heritage Month, observed September 15 - October 15, recognizes contributions of Hispanic culture and people to the nation's achievements, culture, and history.

Construction Inclusion Week, observed October 13-17 this year, focuses on promoting opportunities in the construction industry and enhancing the experience of all construction professionals. [Read our blog post about Yanet Maldonado](#), the Port's Construction Contracting Manager.

Celebrating Construction Inclusion with Port small business owners

On October 13-17, we observed the fifth annual Construction Inclusion Week, promoting opportunities in the construction industry and focusing on enhancing the experience of all construction professionals.



Throughout the past few years, the Port's Diversity in Contracting team has interviewed small construction and construction-related firms to hear about the challenges they have faced in being included, as well as how they have managed to succeed and thrive. [Read interviews and stories](#) from some of our business partners.

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