

ORDER NO. 2021-12

AN ORDER OF THE PORT OF SEATTLE COMMISSION

...to rename the South King County Fund and to direct the Executive Director to review the Port’s South King County Fund grant program prior to the end of the program; to assess the programs impacts; to develop recommendations on the future of the program and possible extension.

**ADOPTED
NOVEMBER 16, 2021**

INTRODUCTION

In 2019 the Commission established a grant fund of \$10,000,000 to be distributed to community programs over five years. The South King County Fund started distributing grants in 2020 and is expected to continue through the end of 2024. In its first two years \$3,500,000 went to programs in South King County supporting environmental restoration, economic revitalization, and community capacity building.

This Order directs the Executive Director to initiate a review of the program, evaluate relative merits, and make any necessary changes and recommendations for the future.

TEXT OF THE ORDER

The Port Commission hereby directs the Executive Director to conduct a program evaluation of the impact of the South King County Fund prior to the end of year five of the program (2024). This evaluation shall include:

1. Objective measures of community impact co-developed by Port staff and community stakeholders;
2. Community assessment of Port funding structures and processes; and
3. The co-development of a “theory of change” clearly articulating shared Port and community goals and objective measures against which future success can be evaluated.

Contingent upon the outcome of that review, the Executive Director shall develop a recommendation on the extension of the program for the next five years at \$10,000,000.

The South King County Fund shall be renamed the “**South King County Community Impact Fund.**”

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE ORDER

On June 25, 2019, the Port of Seattle Commission passed Motion 2019-10, adopting principles to guide outreach and development of the South King County Fund policy. Since its inception, the Fund has distributed approximately \$3.5m to diverse programs in near-airport communities and organizations throughout South King County. In many cases it is doubtful these projects would have been accomplished without financial support from the Port.

The review called for in this Order will add confidence to antidotal evidence suggesting the program's success. A thorough review will assist in charting a path forward, more closely linking the program to Port's Century Agenda goals, economic development priorities, and broader goals of equity, inclusion, and environmental sustainability. The review may also point to ways to work more closely with communities and constituents of King County.

The King County Fund has provided support for a variety of community programs including:

- in collaboration with the Green Cities Stewardship plan increase tree cover in communities; Planting of trees especially in areas tree stewardship;
- formal gardens, cultural spaces and community gardens providing access to safe and healthy food;
- instruction on native plants and waste reductions, composting and long-term park stewardship;
- improved parks amenities including sports courts and culturally-relevant art;
- expanding a botanical garden impacted by airport expansion;
- providing virtual beach habitat and stewardship classes and ongoing beach clean-up efforts;
- removing invasive plant species and replacement with native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants;
- empowering youth leaders and immigrant and refugee families to clean up our waterways;
- partnerships with local immigrants and refugees in training urban farmers, installing rain gardens, and restoring habitat and community gardens;
- ...and more.

Committing an additional \$10 million in funding at this point prior to the end of the original program funding will provide necessary continuity, confidence and longevity in the program, which will provide funded organizations the confidence necessary to plan for the future.

Changing the name to the 'South King County Community Impact Fund' will more accurately describe the intent of the program.