

# Squire Park Community Council

Our Central Area neighborhood Quarterly Newsletter

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April 2025

## SPCC Quarterly General Meeting

Saturday, April 19, 2025

10:00 a.m. to Noon

Byrd Barr Place

722 18th Ave

Join your neighbors at this social meeting with coffee and snacks and make some new acquaintances.

### Agenda includes

1. Introductions, News and Neighborhood Comments.
2. Meet Casa Latina
3. SU Museum
4. Cherry Street Farm
5. Volunteer for the Board
6. Community Updates
7. Other Announcements

## LEARN MORE ABOUT CASA LATINA AT APRIL 19 MEEING

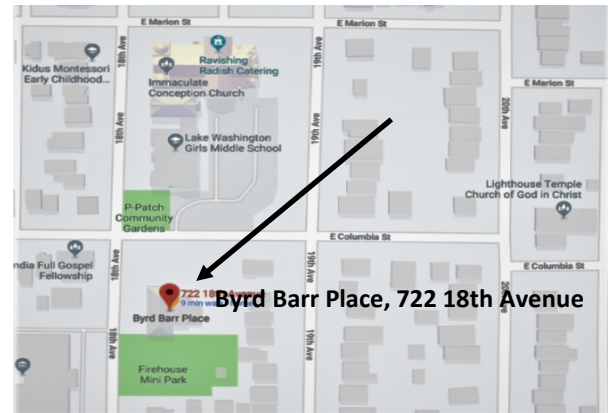
Meet Vania Adasme, co-Executive director of Casa Latina. Learn more about their mission and their current challenges, and how all can benefit from their work. (See page 2)

## ART MUSEUM GAINED, BUT THEATER TO BE LOST

A major new art museum will be located in the neighborhood.

According to Seattle University

President Peñalver, it is envisioned by the University to be a bridge between campus and city, "expanding access to the arts for traditionally underserved communities and helping (SU) realize (its) mission," . However, it might mean the displacement of a theater, one of only two in the Central Area (Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center being the other.) Learn more at the April 19 meeting. (See p.3)



## Thank you for Supporting your Community Council

For the production of the April newsletter. SPCC is extremely grateful for the contribution of the **Central Area Collaborative (www.cacseattle.org)**, a community-based organization working on behalf of small, local businesses. If you have a local business you'd like to see in our newsletter or online, let us know by reaching out to Travis Dobler at [doblertj@gmail.com](mailto:doblertj@gmail.com) to purchase ads. For more information on how to volunteer and contribute go to <https://squirepark.cc/>

## President's Message

As we embark on a tumultuous and uncertain 2025, I'd like to remind everyone that it is us, neighbors, that we depend on day in and day out. I'd encourage everyone in our little neighborhood to spend some time this spring meeting the people on your street, both established residents and new families. The number of people I've met by simply having a picnic in my front yard with my two children has been astounding. The Squire Park Community Council newsletter has been around since I moved into my little duplex in 2004; I've come to cherish the little tidbits and reminders that things are afoot, and I'm welcome to get involved. I hope this newsletter finds you well, healthy, and excited to participate in making our community better than yesterday. Enjoy!

**Stefan Schachtell, President, Squire Park Community Council**



### SPCC WELCOMES DIRECTOR OF CASA LATINA

Please come on April 19 to meet Vania Adasme, co-executive director of Casa Latina, an important institution for immigrants from Latin America, located in Squire Park. We will hear more about Casa Latina's work and current challenges.

You may know Casa Latina as a convenient and reliable source of workers for temporary household jobs. But their mission includes much more: "to advance the power of Seattle's Latino immigrants by providing them educational and economic opportunities, giving people the tools they need to work, live, and support their families."

Casa Latina has been an important institution located in Squire Park for over fifteen years, first renting a site just off Jackson Street and then, in 2012, moving to their own remodeled and newly built facilities at 17<sup>th</sup> and Jackson.

Casa Latina has three principal business lines: The *Employment Line* dispatches day laborers and domestic workers. Casa Latina can connect you with skilled experts in house cleaning, gardening, moving, construction work, and more. Members receive 100% of their wages. <https://casa-latina.org/house-cleaning-seattle/> The *Community Organizing Line* seeks "to

promote strong voices in the Latino community through civic engagement, immigration reform advocacy, and workers' rights organizing." A current focus is advocacy to ensure wage and working conditions protections to domestic workers in a bill before the Washington Legislature, ESSB 5023; Sen. Rebecca Saldaña is a prime sponsor. The *Education Line* includes jobs skills classes, safety training, workers rights workshops, and free English classes for immigrant workers.

For as long as Casa Latina has been in Squire Park it has offered Spanish classes, for a fee, to non-Spanish speaker. This program, *Somos Vecinos!* (we are neighbors) was conceived of and inspired by a most venerated leader of the Squire Park Community Council and community, the late John Jeannot.

*Somos Vecinos!* classes are dynamic and interactive and taught by native Spanish speakers. There are three levels of instruction including one for complete beginners. Most classes are offered online. However, in this quarter one intermediate level class will be offered in person. If you are interested in learning Spanish while gaining a deeper understanding of Latin American culture this is the perfect time to enroll. The new quarter of classes will begin the week of April 7. <https://casa-latina.org/work/spanish>

### Neighborhood Litter Cleanup Always Welcomes New Hands

A dedicated group of volunteers is continuing to work picking up and disposing of neighborhood litter. Every month, neighbor Chris Tremonte organizes residents and businesses to contribute to the greater beauty of the neighborhood. They have conducted nearly fifty cleanups, put in more than 1600 volunteer hours, and collected more than 600 bags of trash.

New hands are always welcome. The next opportunity to pitch in is Sunday, April 20. If you want to help, come at 10:00 AM to Powell Barnett Park. Tools, gloves and trash bags are provided. For more information: <http://tinyurl.com/JaxlerCleanup>

### Squire Park Community Council's Web Site Is Now Live!

Scan the QR code or head over to [squirepark.cc](http://squirepark.cc) to get all the latest in your community.



Here you can find pictures from community gatherings, information on events in the neighborhood and share your voice heard with your council.

You can navigate to <https://squirepark.cc/events/> to view our calendar of upcoming events. Want to share information or advertise an event that isn't listed? Reach out to [gostefan-go@gmail.com](mailto:gostefan-go@gmail.com) to share details and request a feature on the site.

What's next: two way communication coming soon! We want to hear feedback from you and give you a place to centralize requests to your neighborhood council.

### **Squire Park Community Council Board Meetings**

See Squire Park Community Council <https://squirepark.cc/> . Board meetings are generally on the second Tuesday of the month via Zoom.

### **Our Next Community Meetings are scheduled for April 19 and July 18, 10:00 AM to noon at**

Byrd Barr Place, 722 18th Ave  
SPCC meetings are open to all residents, business owners, and interested parties. Please come. Bring a neighbor.

### **Your 2025 Community Board**

Joanna Cullen, **Secretary**

Travis Dobler

Leon Garnett

George Hacker

Joy Jacobson, **Treasurer**

Stefan Schachtell, **President**

Kathy Yasi

William Zosel

Thank you **Brad Barber and Stefan Schachtell** for the SPCC Website.

### **UNIVERSITY ENVISIONS ART MUSEUM AS “BRIDGE BETWEEN CAMPUS AND CITY EXPANDING ACCESS TO THE ARTS FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES”**

In March 2024 Seattle University announced the gift of a 200-piece art collection from property developer Dick Hedreen featuring works by artists from Gainsborough to de Kooning, Rauschenberg, Lichtenstein, to Andy Warhol, and many others. The gift also includes \$25 million as seed money for the construction of a new art museum. Announcing the gift, SU President Eduardo Peñalver stated: “In a single magnificent gesture, Dick Hedreen has provided Seattle University with the world-class holdings for a teaching museum that will span centuries of art history and spark learning and discussion across the entire curriculum. ... Just as important, this new museum will serve as a bridge between our campus and the city, expanding access to the arts for traditionally underserved communities and helping us realize our mission.”

The Capitol Hill Seattle blog first reported that the design proposed for the new museum would require the razing of the Lee Center for the Arts. That plan has caused consternation on and off campus. <https://www.capitolhillseattle.com/2025/02/theater-kids-push-back-on-seattle-us-big-plans-for-new-art-museum-to-replace-lee-center/> The Lee Center features a 150-seat theater in a building renovated at a cost of \$6.75 million in 2006. Stakeholders who advocate keeping the Lee Center theater - which they say is uniquely suited to function as a theater arts teaching facility - have asked why the new museum and the Lee Center could not coexist together. They point to a large surface parking lot behind and wrapping around the Lee Center.

The “Seattle Times” has reported that “the University isn’t unsympathetic to the concerns of its theater advocates,” but chooses not to retain the theater “citing impacts on campus aesthetics and the nearby chapel of St. Ignatius,” A published conceptual design appears to show the space currently occupied by the Lee Center as a void, allowing a view into the campus featuring the chapel. See: <https://tinyurl.com/efzsrrc5>

The Major Institution Master Plan (MIMP), a set of guidelines that the City Council established for all future University development, requires that the design of new building contribute to the pedestrian vitality of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue in specific ways. The MIMP also includes a commitment by SU to vigorously pursue goals of sustainable development, including the preservation of existing physical resources. See: <https://tinyurl.com/4xya76y6>

The committee established to monitor the University’s development proposals (like development on all larger institutions, e.g. Swedish Medical Center --- see another story in this newsletter) was not given the opportunity to review and comment prior to the University’s release of a conceptual design. A meeting of the committee, known as the Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC), should be held in the coming weeks. To request notification of future IAC meetings, contact the Department of Neighborhoods [nelson.pesigan@seattle.gov](mailto:nelson.pesigan@seattle.gov)

With regrets the University president has notified SPCC that, as Easter weekend is a busy and important time to the Catholic university, he can’t take this opportunity to meet with us. Advocates for retaining the theater have also been invited to attend.

### SPCC Newsletter

The Squire Park Community Council newsletter is published four times a year--January, April, July and October. Articles for the newsletter are always welcome. We edit for length and syntax. Please submit articles electronically to [jfoxcullen@gmail.com](mailto:jfoxcullen@gmail.com). **The (June/July) newsletter submission deadline is around June 15th, 2025**

At least two board members review the contents of every issue before publication. Opinions of contributors to the newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the Board of Directors.

Publisher: SPCC Board of Directors Editorial Overview: SPCC Board of Directors

Editing: Bill Zosel (Thank you for the articles.) , Joy Jacobson., Joanna Cullen (layout),

Distribution: SPCC Board and Squire Park Neighbors. We hand-deliver the SPCC newsletter four times a year to more than 3400 residences within Squire Park. **Volunteers Appreciated!**

## NEIGHBORS FILE LAND USE CODE VIOLATION COMPLAINTS

### Institution violates Code; City looks the other way.

Neighbors of the Providence/Swedish Cherry Hill medical center, led by members of a City-appointed committee whose role is to monitor the implementation of the institution's Master Plan (MIMP), have filed two complaints with the Seattle Department of Construction and Land Use (SDCI) describing violations of the Land Use Code.

One complaint states that Providence/Swedish has failed to reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles (SOV's) driven by commuters to and from the medical center. Limiting vehicle traffic is one of the most important provisions of the Code intended to preserve the livability of the surrounding residential neighborhood. The applicable rule states that the number of commuters to the Cherry Hill campus arriving in a SOV shall be no more than 42% of total hospital commuters and that the rate shall decrease each year. However, the actual rate is closer to 57% and it has been increasing.

SDCI has refused to enforce the Code, claiming that the Transportation Management Plan is "aspirational". This, even though the Code and the related Director's Interpretation clearly state that it is mandatory.

The second complaint states that SDCI has permitted the construction of a hotel on the Cherry Hill Campus in violation of a provision that would allow a hotel to be built only if it is "substantially related to the central mission" of the medical center.

SDCI relied on a five-year old memo which, SDCI claimed, established that the hotel, proposed by non-Swedish developer Perfect Wealth Management, meets that test. However, SDCI approved the permit application while failing to acknowledge a more recent letter it received from Providence. That letter stated that, because of substantial changes to the hotel plans, it no longer is related to the central mission of the institution. Providence asked SDCI to consider the new information before issuing a permit. The request was ignored.

Not only did SDCI ignore the changed circumstances when it approved the permit, also when the hotel project was under consideration by a City of Seattle Hearing Examiner, SDCI failed to bring the recent letter to the attention of the Examiner.

The decision regarding whether or not a Land Use Code violation has occurred is the responsibility of SDCI, the same department that has allowed the violations to occur. For the integrity of the Land Use Code and the Major Institution Master Plan to be protected, the SDCI will have to take the provisions of the Code more seriously. The two complaints can be found at <https://squirepark.cc/>



**Teenager who has experience with pet sitting can pet sit around the 23rd and Union area. Text Ardea at (206) 898 5086 if you want more info.**

*The vitality and effectiveness of the Community Council depends on making the experience of neighborhood volunteers rewarding. If the goals of the community council speak to you, don't hesitate to offer your skills and passions to the group.*