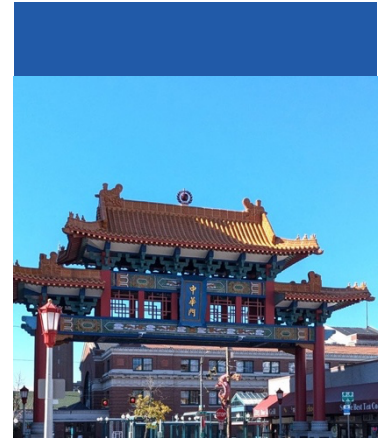
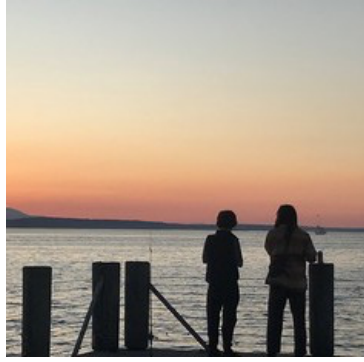


# Through the Lens of Community: A Photovoice Exploration of Health and Environmental Connections

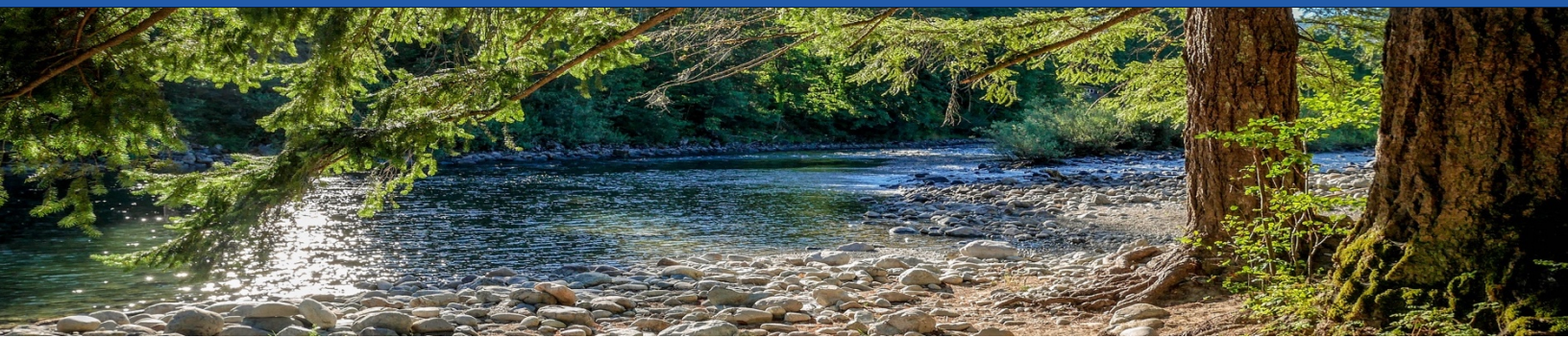




Since its inception in 1989, the Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County (Haz Waste Program) has become a regional coalition of government agencies all working together on a common goal: to make the Puget Sound region the cleanest in the country. The Haz Waste Program serves over 2 million people, two tribal nations, and 70,000 businesses in King County.

The participating agencies include the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Public Health – Seattle & King County, Seattle Public Utilities, and Sound Cities Association. Together, these agencies work to protect and improve public health and environmental quality in the region by leveraging their resources, effecting system change, and addressing disproportionality in the services and community outcomes.

The services provided include regional education, outreach, research and evaluation, community support, information resources, collections services, and assistance for businesses in managing hazardous waste.



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## Acronyms and Nomenclatures

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>BIPOC</b>                        | Black, Indigenous, and People of Color  |
| <b>CBPR</b>                         | Community-Based Participatory Research  |
| <b>CE&amp;E</b>                     | Creative Evaluation & Engagement  |
| <b>Collaborative Research Group</b> | Researchers, community partners, invested groups, and organizations working together to address identified issues through a co-equal partnership in the research process.   |
| <b>Community Engagement Session</b> | "Community engagement session" or "engagement session" will be used to describe the focus group that took place with participants. This term was chosen because the gathering was designed to be participatory to foster broader community dialogue and incorporate interactive activities. Unlike traditional focus groups, which typically aim to collect specific qualitative data in a structured format, these interactive sessions allowed for flexibility and open discussion among participants. While there was a recommended facilitation guideline, the parameters were intended as suggestions to support the conversation so community partners could freely share their insights and experiences in a supportive environment. |
| <b>Community Member</b>             | All individuals who live and work in King County.   |
| <b>Community Partner</b>            | King County community members who participated in this project. This term was used to emphasize collaboration, mutual respect, and shared decision-making, which align with the principles of community-based participatory research. This approach fosters a sense of ownership, partnership, and empowerment among participants by ensuring that their voices and perspectives are integral to the research process.  |
| <b>DOC</b>                          | Dissolved Organic Carbon  |
| <b>Haz Waste Program</b>            | Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County   |
| <b>NOTIS</b>                        | Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society  |
| <b>Project Team</b>                 | Haz Waste Program staff members and contracted service providers.   |





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## Executive Summary

The Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County ([Haz Waste Program](#)) strives to protect and enhance public health and environmental quality for all individuals living and working in King County through the safe use and disposal of hazardous waste. To better understand the motivations for safe and responsible engagement with these products, the Haz Waste Program has conducted research and evaluations to address this important issue. The insights gained from these studies have informed the development of messaging and outreach strategies throughout the region. However, while the findings were valuable, significant gaps remained in understanding the perspectives and needs of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color ([BIPOC](#)) community members.

In 2024, the Haz Waste Program, in collaboration with Culture Shift Consulting and Coco Canary Consulting, conducted a community-centric study to address the gaps identified in previous research. This initiative emphasizes active engagement with community partners as co-creators throughout the process rather than treating them as mere subjects of the research. By using collaborative feedback approaches, the Haz Waste Program aims to develop the most relevant solutions and messaging for the diverse communities in the county.

This report presents the findings of a community-based Photovoice project designed to amplify the lived experiences, insights, and visions of those who live and work in King County. Through photography and storytelling, community partners reflected on their personal interactions with hazardous waste and its impact on their communities, their understanding of public systems' roles in addressing environmental contaminants, and how they envision a more just and supportive society.

The emerging themes—belonging and exclusion, system failure and survival, and healing and safety—offer a powerful lens into how individuals navigate daily life amidst systems that often feel disconnected and disengaged from their needs. These reflections highlight the value of centering lived experience in evaluation, research, and strategy development.

This project not only uncovers critical insights but also demonstrates what is possible when community partners are positioned and empowered as co-creators of change. Their voices provide essential guidance for leaders committed to building trust, fostering accountability, and creating more effective systems.

This study used the following approaches and methodologies:

**Creative Evaluation & Engagement (CE&E):** A qualitative, arts-based, and community-centered approach that encompasses four fluid phases including context gathering, relationship building, and planning (align); data collection (learn); synthesis (adapt); and communication of results through shared experiences and, when beneficial, art (embody).

**Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR):** A set of principles and best practices that integrates community partners, organizational representatives, government agencies, and researchers in a collaborative research process.

**Photovoice:** A qualitative, arts-based methodological framework that uses CBPR to harness the power of photography for social action. Participants are encouraged to think creatively and capture compelling images that reflect their experiences and perspectives.



The project focused on recruiting community partners from the Black community and residents of South King County. These communities are disproportionately affected by the impacts of hazardous waste, yet they represented a small percentage of participants in prior research projects. The project team assembled a group of eight community partners who self-identified as Black, Chinese, Muckleshoot, Nuu Savi, Samoan or Pacific Islander, Thai, and Zambian. These community partners took photographs in response to prompts related to their perceptions and motivations regarding the safe use and disposal of hazardous products, followed by an interactive in-person community engagement session to explore their photographs in greater depth.

Through the photographs and engagement session, the following data were collected:

- 126 photographs
- Captions explaining the meaning of 40 of these photographs
- Four key themes that illustrate why the safe use and disposal of hazardous waste is important to community partners:
  - Environmental Health and Connection
  - Human Health
  - Community, Culture, and Social Justice
  - Food Sovereignty
- Community engagement session commentary further explains the connection between human health and the safe use and disposal of hazardous products
- A list of 28 actions to promote the safe use and disposal of hazardous products

The project team recommends continuing to use CBPR to obtain meaningful input from community partners, particularly from those who have been underrepresented in prior projects. To further integrate community perspectives into the outreach strategies of the Haz Waste Program, the project team will assemble a community task force to develop a Community Engagement Model using the findings, insights, and opportunities for improvement presented in this report as a foundation.

## Insights and Opportunities for Improvement

This research identified several insights and opportunities for improvement to enhance community understanding and engagement. By implementing these strategies, the Haz Waste Program can strengthen its outreach efforts, promote involvement, and contribute to improved public health and environmental quality.

- Perception of the Term "Hazardous": Community partners equate "hazardous" with health risks, while highlighting the need for clear communication about why certain items are considered hazardous and the importance of their proper disposal. The safe use and disposal of hazardous products require both communication support and structural changes.
- Health Impacts: The primary concern is the adverse effects of hazardous products on human health. Stories shared by community partners emphasize the real health risks associated with the improper handling and disposal of hazardous materials.
- Environmental and Food Sovereignty Concerns: There is a strong connection between environmental health and human health, particularly regarding food contamination. Community partners emphasized the importance of protecting ecosystems to ensure food safety and sovereignty.





- **Role of Stories and Data:** Personal narratives combined with data effectively communicate the importance of safe hazardous waste practices. Stories resonate emotionally, while data provides validation and encourages informed decision-making.
- **Community Fatigue:** The pervasive presence of hazardous products leads to fatigue among community members, and this has negatively impacted their mental and physical health.
- **Community Engagement:** Collective community actions and gatherings are powerful motivators for taking action, promoting safe practices, and can enhance outreach. Both individual actions and systemic changes are essential for the safe use and disposal of hazardous products.

### **Opportunities for Improvement**

- Clearly define "hazardous" in messaging and emphasize its health and environmental implications.
- Highlight direct health impacts to motivate safe practices and provide examples of common health risks.
- Incorporate community engagement through events and cultural activities and ensuring accessibility through language justice.
- Use storytelling alongside data to effectively communicate risks and benefits.
- Address community fatigue with empowering and practical advice that are paired with updates on efforts by the Haz Waste Program.
- Foster community collaboration and frame gatherings as opportunities for learning and advocacy.

During the engagement session, community partners collaborated to identify actionable steps for enhancing the safe use and disposal of hazardous waste. The following comprehensive list emphasizes the significance of education, accessibility, and community involvement in addressing challenges and promoting sustainable solutions.

### **Community and Government Engagement**

- Streamline collection schedules and rules across Haz Waste Program websites and social media platforms to improve navigation for community members.
- Create platforms for communities to share their experiences with hazardous products directly with government agencies.
- Develop neighborhood websites to disseminate information about disposal activities.

### **Education Initiatives**

- Introduce education on responsible hazardous waste disposal and using safer products starting in elementary school.
- Produce and distribute culturally relevant educational materials in multiple languages to raise awareness about hazardous products and proper disposal techniques.



## Hazardous Waste Management Solutions

- Expand the number of fixed collection sites and Wastemobile events to improve disposal.
- Offer curbside collection for hazardous waste at all King County homes.
- Increase access to electronic waste disposal options.
- Encourage the purchase of safer products and adherence to safe cleaning and disposal practices.
- Raise awareness about toxic products and promote the use of at-home alternatives.
- Provide incentives for the proper disposal of hazardous waste and recycling.
- Start collecting empty makeup containers and electronics
- Collect motor oil directly from parking lots
- Reduce toxic foam exposure for firefighters.

## Research and Development

- Conduct additional studies to understand the impacts of hazardous waste and explore effective solutions.
- Advocate for policies that impose fees on companies producing hazardous products and ensure clear labeling of those products.
- Support policies aimed at mitigating hazardous waste impacts and promoting sustainable practices.

## Lessons Learned about Community-Based Participatory Research

The results advocate for the continued use of community-based participatory research principles to enhance meaningful data collection and foster stronger partnerships with different communities. By implementing these lessons, the Haz Waste Program can ensure that community partnerships are effective, inclusive, and responsive. This report serves as a guide for future initiatives by promoting an understanding of these principles and their application in environmental and public health.

- **Community Engagement and Respect:** Community partners expressed a desire for ongoing community-based participatory research projects. They felt this approach was effective in making community partners feel valued and respected. The Haz Waste Program should maintain this collaborative approach to facilitate shared decision-making and mutual learning.
- **Flexibility in Collaboration:** The project team successfully navigated challenges such as changes in community partner availability and different working styles through adaptability and a positive attitude. Future projects should prioritize flexibility to enhance community partner engagement and satisfaction.
- **Language Access:** The project successfully included English, Spanish, and Thai but identified the need for improved language support at every stage. Future initiatives should consider the availability of interpreters and allow sufficient time for translation to ensure inclusivity.
- **Recruitment Strategies:** The approach to multilingual recruitment should balance flexibility and inclusivity. It is essential to understand community partners' language needs early in the process and adapt recruitment materials accordingly.



- **Facilitation of Multilingual Conversations:** Given the small number of community partners speaking different languages, the use of interpreters was more effective than direct facilitation in multiple languages. Future sessions should encourage the use of all languages spoken by community partners to foster comfort and engagement.
- **Building Partnerships:** More frequent interactions between community partners prior to engagement sessions are recommended to enhance comfort and collaboration. Project timelines and budgets should account for these additional engagements.
- **Context and Support Awareness:** The timing of community engagement sessions, such as immediately following significant events like elections, can influence community partners' emotional states. Facilitators should be aware of and address these contexts to foster supportive environments.

## Acknowledgment

The Haz Waste Program would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to the King County community partners who participated in this project for their unwavering dedication and commitment throughout the process. Your insights and the trust you placed in us have had a profound impact. A special thank you to Sully Moreno of Culture Shift Consulting and Molly C. O'Connor of Coco Canary Consulting for their expertise and resources, which greatly enhanced the quality of this project. All of your contributions will be essential in guiding future approaches, initiatives, and outcomes at the Haz Waste Program.

The Haz Waste Program genuinely appreciates the spirit of collaboration and partnership that has been demonstrated. This project exemplifies the remarkable results that can be achieved when community partners and government agencies work as co-creators to find meaningful solutions. Together, we are making strides toward improving public and environmental health for all. It has been an inspiring and uplifting journey, and the Haz Waste Program looks forward to continuing this partnership.





## Introduction

The Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County ([Haz Waste Program](#)) envisions to have a Puget Sound region that is the cleanest in the country and free from hazardous chemical exposure. One of the goals is to reach the most underrepresented and underserved communities of King County through community partnerships, direct initiatives, and outreach efforts to address the racial disparities that exist for communities of color in King County around toxic exposure.<sup>1</sup>

Since 2022, the Haz Waste Program has conducted a multi-year research study to better understand residents and community partners by focusing on how to engage effectively with them, particularly Black, Indigenous, and People of Color ([BIPOC](#)), resource-limited individuals, and younger community members (Millennials and Gen Z). While previous studies revealed important engagement insights, several areas for improvement remained:

- Perspectives from Black and Indigenous communities
- Active community-led engagement and ownership of initiatives and services
- Motivations and knowledge levels related to the proper disposal and use of hazardous products

To address this gap, in February 2024, the Haz Waste Program conducted research using the Photovoice approach to examine the following questions:

- Why does safely using and disposing of hazardous products matter to community partners?
- How can the Haz Waste Program shape engagement and outreach that are more relevant to the community, specifically from historically underserved and marginalized communities?

The core project team consists of:

- Celina Kareiva, Communications Lead, Hazardous Waste Management Program
- Anahi Sandoval, Communications Lead, Hazardous Waste Management Program
- Roger J. Chin, Epidemiologist, Hazardous Waste Management Program
- Sully Moreno, Community Engagement Specialist, Culture Shift Consulting
- Molly C. O'Connor, Creative Evaluator Specialist, Coco Canary Consulting

This research documents the completion of Phase 1 of the project, and the report includes the following sections:



### Methodologies and Approaches

- An overview of the research and evaluation approaches used.
- A detailed description of the steps the project team took to recruit participants, collect data, and analyze data.
- A summary of how the project team embedded equity into the project.





### Data Collection Process and Analysis

- An overview of the photograph elicitation method where community partners captured images to express their perspectives and experiences.
- Insights gathered during the community engagement session, which enriched the information from the data collected.
- A summary of the data analysis methods used to interpret the findings and provide meaningful outcomes.



### Equity and Language Justice

- Overview of the various accommodations provided to ensure that community partners can participate comfortably and effectively with this project.
- Accommodations included flexible scheduling, multiple communication channels, dietary considerations, language access through interpretation and translation services, technology support, transportation assistance, and financial compensation.



### Findings and Outcomes

- Summary of items community partners identified as hazardous products.
- Thematic analysis of the photograph captions.
- A summary of the community engagement session discussions.



### Insights and Opportunities for Improvement

- The interpretation by the project team of the findings and suggested next steps for the Haz Waste Program to integrate insights into its outreach strategies and future community engagement initiatives.



### Lessons Learned from Community-Based Participatory Research

- Feedback for improving and enhancing the experience of community partners on future projects that uses community-based participatory research.



### Looking Ahead

- Questions that remain at the conclusion of the project and how these questions may be addressed in the next phase during the community task force.



## Nomenclatures

For this report, the terms “community partner” and “Collaborative Research Group” will be used to describe the community members who participated in the project and the co-equal partnership formed during the research process.

“Community partners” emphasizes collaboration, mutual respect, and shared decision-making, which align with the principles of community-based participatory research. This approach fosters a sense of ownership, partnership, and empowerment among participants by ensuring that their voices and perspectives are integral to the research process. Community partners are individuals or community organizations that actively engage in the research to ensure it reflects the needs and priorities of the community. The term “community member” will sometimes be used in the report to describe all individuals who live and work in King County.

The “Collaborative Research Group” refers to the researchers, community partners, invested groups, and various organizations that work together to address identified issues through a co-equal partnership in the research process. This collaborative effort is essential for achieving meaningful outcomes that benefit the communities and build lasting relationships based on trust and mutual understanding.

“Community engagement session” or “engagement session” will be used to describe the focus group that took place with community partners. This term was chosen because the gathering was designed to be participatory to foster broader community dialogue and incorporate interactive activities. Unlike traditional focus groups, which typically aim to collect specific qualitative data in a structured format, these interactive sessions allowed for flexibility and open discussion among community partners. While there was a recommended facilitation guideline, the parameters were intended as suggestions to support the conversation so community partners could freely share their insights and experiences in a supportive environment.





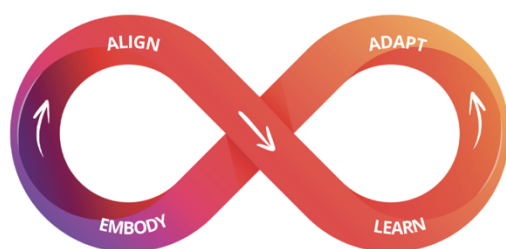
## Methodologies and Approaches

This project follows a Creative Evaluation & Engagement (CE&E) approach and adheres to best practices in Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR).<sup>2</sup>

### Creative Evaluation & Engagement

CE&E is a qualitative, arts-based, and community-centered approach that consists of four fluid phases: context gathering, relationship building, and planning (align); data collection (learn); synthesis (adapt); and communicating results through shared experiences and, when beneficial, art (embody).<sup>3</sup> Figure 1 provides a visual representation of the CE&E approach, while Table 1 outlines each of the phases.

**Figure 1. Visual of the Creative Evaluation & Engagement Approach**



Source: Johnson, N. M. & Johnson, A. (2022). *Creative Evaluation and Engagement: Essentials (Volume 1). Inspire to Change.*

**Table 1. The Phases of Creative Evaluation & Engagement Approach**

| Phase         | Description  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>Align</b>  | Review project content and context, build trust and relationships between project team and community partners, and establish goals and guiding principles.                             |
| <b>Learn</b>  | Design evaluation activities, collect data using relational and arts-based approaches, and make sense of what they see and hear.   |
| <b>Adapt</b>  | Derive actions and new possibilities from the data collected and organize into opportunities for improvement.  |
| <b>Embody</b> | An “evocative playback” performance or artistic presentation of data findings for everyone who was part of the process. This allows for deeper reflection, discussion, and embodiment. |

CE&E embraces uncertainty, strives for transformation, and engages the heart, mind, body, and spirit. The method uses a suite of arts-based strategies rooted in social justice, anti-racism, and community development. It is particularly well-suited for projects that need to be responsive to emerging needs and learnings, since it allows for flexibility in moving between phases or working on multiple phases simultaneously (Figure 2).

**Figure 2. CE&E Framework Fluctuations Throughout a Project**



*Illustrated by Molly C. O'Connor, Coco Canary Consulting*

## Community-Based Participatory Research

CBPR is a set of principles and best practices that integrates community partners, organizational representatives, government agencies, and researchers in a collaborative process from research inception to conclusion. The goal of this approach is to improve community needs and encourage social transformation through strong partnerships that respect diverse cultures and adhere to ethical standards. CBPR involves collaborative data collection and analysis to discern community strengths, challenges, priorities, and potential solutions and initiatives.

The process emphasizes empowerment and consensus-building among all participants by ensuring that different community perspectives are considered, respected, and valued. By engaging community partners as equal partners and co-creators throughout the research process, CBPR facilitates shared decision-making and mutual learning, which could lead to research that is not only culturally appropriate but builds lasting collaborative relationships, fosters trust, promotes positive change, and establishes beneficial solutions for the community.

## Photovoice

Photovoice is a qualitative, arts-based methodological framework that uses CBPR to connect the power of photography with social action. As a tool for education and advocacy, Photovoice empowers community partners by using their photographs to stimulate dialogue, foster reflection on community needs, promote collaboration, and encourage action for policy changes.

Community partners are encouraged to think creatively and capture compelling images reflecting their experiences and views. Photovoice follows an iterative format, which often includes the following phases: (1) Recruitment for the Collaborative Research Group, (2) Research methods planning and coordination, (3) Data collection using photograph elicitation and engagement sessions, and (4) Showcase opportunities for improvement to decision-makers and community Leaders.

The Photovoice methodology offers numerous benefits such as:

- Empowering community partners by amplifying perspectives that may otherwise be overlooked.
- Encouraging different communication approaches.
- Providing visibility to issues that are often ignored.
- Offering opportunities for cultural representation.



- Conveying ideas that are difficult to communicate through words alone.
- Inspiring active engagement from community partners.
- Establishing trust and building networks within the community.

Photovoice uses photographs and storytelling to bring attention to complex issues and concerns, while highlighting areas that require improvement and addressing community needs. The visual documentation generated through Photovoice can be more impactful than written text because it fosters a holistic understanding of issues and potential solutions.

### How do these approaches align with the Community Engagement Continuum?

The King County Community Engagement Continuum outlines five levels of community engagement.<sup>4</sup> It serves as a resource for King County project teams to determine how to engage community partners in ways that advance goals while promoting participation and building trust with the community (Table 2).

**Table 2. King County Continuum of Community Engagement**

|   | Level                              | Description   |
|---|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | County informs                     | King County initiates an effort, coordinates with departments, and uses a variety of channels to inform the community to take action. |
| 2 | County consults                    | King County gathers information from the community to inform county-led interventions.  |
| 3 | County engages in dialogue         | King County engages community partners to shape county priorities and plans.  |
| 4 | County and community work together | Community partners and King County share in decision-making to co-create solutions together.  |
| 5 | Community directs action           | Community partners initiate and direct strategy and action with participation and technical assistance from King County.              |

Participatory approaches such as CE&E, CBPR, and Photovoice have the potential to achieve Levels 3 and 4 of community engagement. Levels 3 and 4 are characterized by two-way communication, multiple interactions, medium- to long-term duration, and the advancement of solutions to complex problems.

Therefore, this research incorporates elements of Levels 2 and 3 of community engagement. The 8-month project duration is relatively short, and the outcomes of the study will primarily inform King County initiatives. The input collected through from the community partners will help inform Haz Waste Program priorities and goals. This study is expected to continue at Level 4 during the implementation of the next phase, which includes a community task force focused on developing a Community Engagement Model. This model will recommend principles and mechanisms for long-term, ongoing engagement with priority communities, best practices for community partnership, and culturally competent communication channels.





## Recruitment

The Haz Waste Program aimed to assemble a group of eight to ten community leaders, influencers, advocates, and activists for the study, focusing on Black community partners and residents of South King County. These communities are disproportionately affected by the impacts of hazardous waste, yet they represented a small percentage of participants in previous research studies. The project team created an outreach list that included a mix of leaders from community-based organizations and community partners actively involved in outreach efforts or advocacy for their communities.

Contacts received direct messages personally inviting them to participate in the project. Outreach messages emphasized the community need for the project and the reasons for inviting the recipient. The messages also included a flyer with more information about Photovoice and the time commitment required for participation. Recipients were provided with a direct contact for questions and the option to schedule a 30-minute call if they wished to discuss the project before committing to participation.

Due to limited space for participation, the project team sent outreach messages in waves of eight at a time. Additional messages were sent after a recipient declined the invitation or after the team reached out to community partners who had not responded to the initial invitation or a follow-up email within two weeks. Once a recipient accepted the invitation, they were asked to complete a brief form indicating their availability for scheduling an onboarding session and a community engagement session.

The project team successfully recruited eight community partners for the project. Based on their introductions during the engagement session, the following identities were represented in the group:

- Black
- Chinese
- Muckleshoot
- Nuu Savi<sup>5</sup>
- Samoan or Pacific Islander
- Thai
- Zambian



## Data Collection Process and Analysis

The project team scheduled an onboarding session in September 2024 to cover the following topics:

- Introduce the project team to community partners
- Introduce community partners to each other
- Overview of the purpose of the Haz Waste Program and services offered
- Review project goals
- Explain the photograph elicitation method and the app (Lense app) that would be used for taking photographs
- Share the prompts that would guide their photograph taking process
- Provide the timeline and instructions for sharing images with the project team

To accommodate the availability of community partners, the project team hosted one group onboarding session and offered individual onboarding conversations to participants who had scheduling conflicts during the group session. In total, the project team hosted four onboarding sessions (Table 3).

**Table 3. List of Onboarding Sessions**

|   | Type                  | Date               | # of Participants |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Group onboarding      | September 18, 2024 | 6                 |
| 2 | Individual onboarding | September 20, 2024 | 1                 |
| 3 | Individual onboarding | September 30, 2024 | 1                 |
| 4 | Individual onboarding | October 2, 2024    | 1                 |

*Note: Total number of participants equals nine since one participant withdrew and was replaced after the onboarding session.*

### Photograph Elicitation (September–October 2024)

Photovoice uses the arts-based method of photograph elicitation, in which community partners provide images to answer specific questions. Between September 23 and October 7, community partners were tasked with taking photographs in response to prompts.

The project team provided community partners with detailed instructions for taking and sharing photographs (Table 4). Most community partners used the Lense App, a smartphone application that automatically stored photographs in a shared gallery accessible to the project team. One community partner requested a digital camera, which was loaned by the Haz Waste Program.

The prompts were divided into three themes and each with a suggested schedule to help community partners manage their time effectively. They were asked to take at least three photographs for each theme. The themes and questions were:



**Table 4. Photograph Elicitation Guidelines**

|   | Theme   | Questions   | Suggested Timeline |
|---|---|---|--------------------|
| 1 | Getting to know you                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do you value most in your neighborhood?</li> <li>• Why is environmental health important to you?</li> <li>• What role does the environment play in your life?</li> <li>• What does a healthy environment look like in your community?</li> <li>• What do you like to do outdoors?</li> </ul>  | September 23-25    |
| 2 | Impacts of hazardous waste                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are some things in your home, yard, or garage that are toxic or hazardous?</li> <li>• What are some things in your neighborhood that are toxic or hazardous?</li> <li>• What does the <b>impact</b> of toxic chemicals and/or hazardous waste look like to you (in your house, in your neighborhood, and in the broader community)?</li> </ul>                                    | September 26-30    |
| 3 | Motivators to reduce the impacts of hazardous waste | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why is it important to be a good steward of the environment?</li> <li>• What <b>actions</b> do you take to be a good steward of the environment?</li> <li>• Why is it important to use and dispose of toxic chemicals safely?</li> <li>• What <b>actions</b> do you take to use and dispose of toxic chemicals safely?</li> <li>• What motivates you to take these actions?</li> </ul> | October 1-7        |

In total, community partners took 126 photographs with an average of 16 photographs per participant. The project team selected 5 photographs from each individual (40 photographs total) to be captioned and displayed during the community engagement session.



## Photograph Captions (October 2024)

With any art-based method, it is important to allow the artist to describe the meaning behind their art piece because the description is what is used as the data, not the art itself. Therefore, community partners were asked to draft captions to explain the significance of select photographs.

To retrieve the captions, the project team made a survey that included the following questions:

- Full name
- Title of the photograph
- 1 to 3 sentences describing the photograph.
- Is there anything else that feels important to share?

One community partner preferred answering via email and one community partner preferred to verbally share responses to questions on a telephone call. These images and captions were prepared for use in the engagement discussion, and this research used thematic analysis to determine patterns and themes from photograph captions.

## Community Engagement Session (November 2024)

The project team planned and facilitated a community engagement session on Saturday, November 9, 2024, from 10 am to 12 pm at the Burien Community Center in Burien, Washington (Figure 3).

Event reminders were sent through group and individual emails. In total, there were 14 attendees:

- 1 Haz Waste Program Epidemiologist
- 1 Community Engagement Specialist (contracted service provider)
- 1 Creative Evaluation Specialist (contracted service provider)
- 2 Spanish interpreters
- 1 Thai interpreter
- 8 community partners

The goal of the engagement session was to better understand the motivations of community partners regarding the proper disposal and safe use of hazardous products. Additionally, the session intended to generate a list of actions that community partners could take to ensure the safe usage and disposal of these products. The session included refreshments, Haz Waste Program outreach and engagement items, a prize drawing, and time for connection to create an inviting and enjoyable atmosphere.

The project team used a recommended facilitation guide to direct the discussions, and the engagement session consisted of two parts:

**Photograph Gallery Walk:** The project team created posters displaying the captioned photographs. Community partners walked around the room viewing the photographs and reading the captions while writing notes with comments about the similarities and differences they observed between the photographs and their own experiences, as well as patterns that emerged across all the images (Figures 4 and 5).





**Facilitated Discussion:** The project team presented the themes derived from the initial thematic analysis of the captions and led a discussion to elicit additional themes. Community partners then selected the theme they felt was most connected to the safe use and disposal of hazardous products. The project team facilitated a discussion to better understand what this theme meant to the community partners. Lastly, the engagement facilitator guided community partners in generating a list of actions that promote the safe use and disposal of hazardous products (Figure 6).

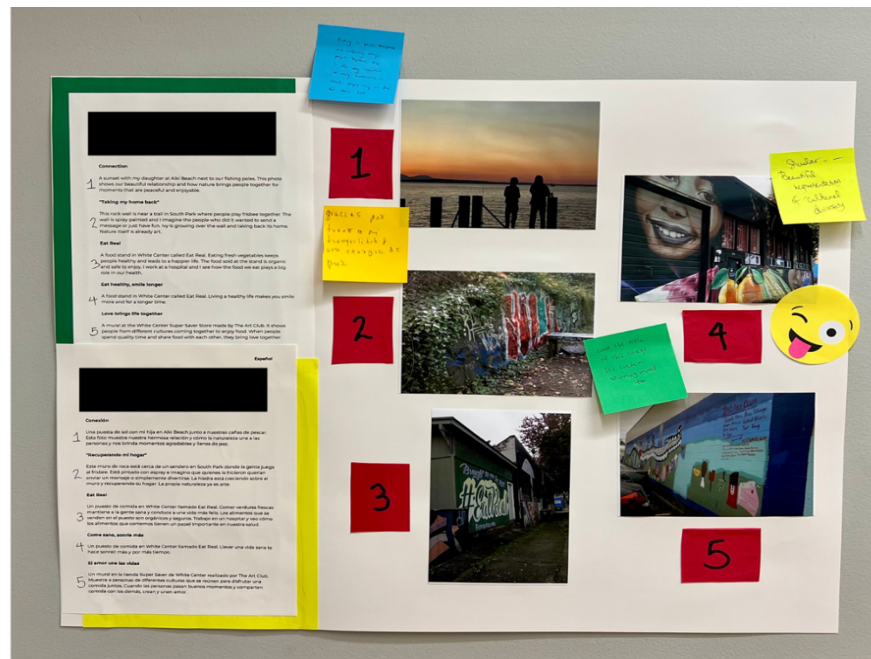
## Data Analysis

This research used thematic analysis to identify patterns and themes from the qualitative data. This approach is particularly suitable for this project because it allows for a flexible and detailed examination of the written data to capture the diverse experiences and perspectives of the community partners. Thematic analysis facilitates the identification of common patterns, which can inform the understanding of community concerns related to hazardous waste. For example, during the photograph elicitation phase, community partners were tasked with writing captions for five images they took over a three-week period—the final images were selected by the project team. These captions were initially categorized into themes, which were then reviewed and finalized during the engagement session. Community participation in the evaluation process, along with direct quotes from community partners, helped to reduce the potential for researcher bias.

**Figure 3. Community Engagement Session at the Burien Community Center**

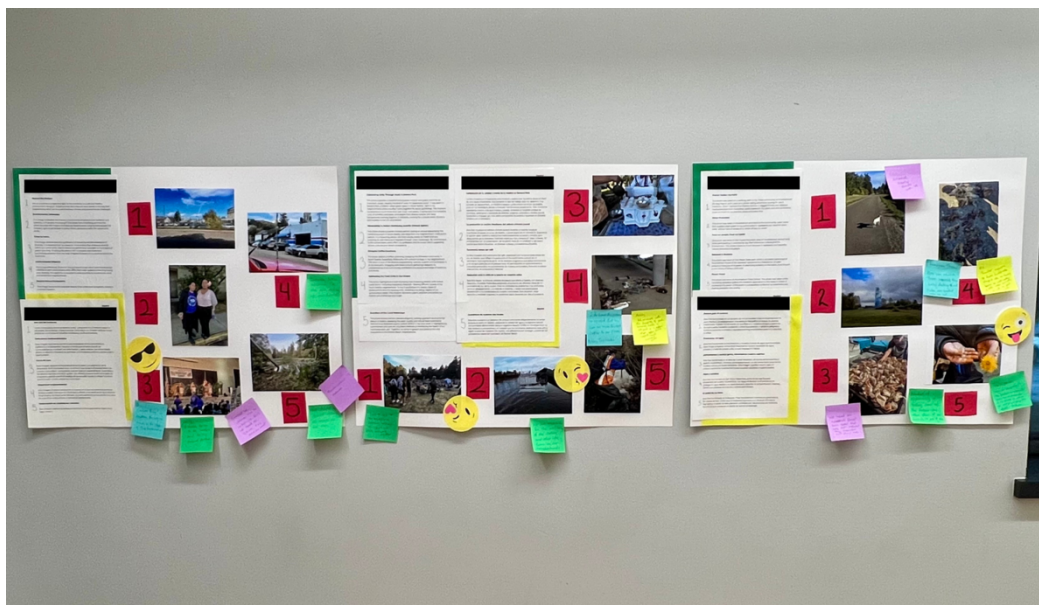


**Figure 4. Example of Photograph and Caption Posters After the Gallery Walk**



*Note: Names and personally identifiable information on the posters were redacted for the report.*

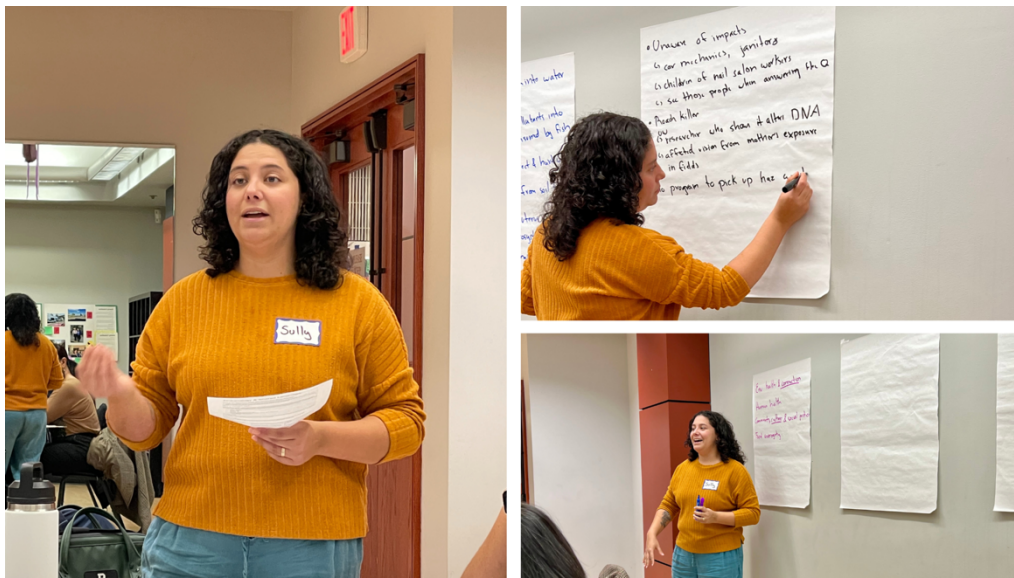
**Figure 5. Example of a Photograph and Caption Poster After the Gallery Walk**



*Note: Names and personally identifiable information on the posters were redacted for the report.*



**Figure 6. Discussion and Community Engagement Session Facilitation**



## Equity and Language Justice

Community partners had varying levels of English proficiency, availability of technology, and access to transportation. Designing a project with equity at the center means implementing accommodations to ensure that all community partners have what they need to complete the project tasks with relative ease. The project team established the following accommodations to achieve this goal (Table 5):

**Table 5. List of Accommodations for Community Partners**

|                 | Accommodations   |
|-----------------|--|
| Availability    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Scheduled the community engagement session on a weekend to accommodate community partners' schedules</li></ul>   |
| Communication   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Communicated with community partners via email, telephone call, and text message to accommodate their preferences</li></ul>  |
| Refreshments    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Obtained a list of dietary restrictions and offered refreshments at the community engagement session that accommodated these needs</li></ul>   |
| Language Access | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provided interpretation services in Spanish and Thai</li><li>Provided translation services in Spanish</li></ul>  |
| Technology      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Purchased digital cameras to loan to community partners who did not have a device to take photographs</li><li>Delivered and picked up digital camera for one community partner who needed it</li></ul>   |
| Transportation  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Collaborated with Sound Transit to provide free transportation passes to community partners who used transit to travel to the community engagement session</li><li>Selected an engagement session location accessible by public transportation</li></ul> |

The project team designed the community engagement session to embody the concept of language justice.<sup>6</sup> This means creating a space where no language dominates others and where all community partners can engage meaningfully in the language they speak. To implement a trilingual meeting where all community partners could communicate freely, the following types of interpretation were used:

- Simultaneous interpretation:** Community partners listen to real-time interpretation of what is being said through headsets.
- Consecutive interpretation:** A community partner makes a statement, which is then repeated back in another language by an interpreter.
- Relay interpretation:** An interpreter listens to a message in its original language and interprets it into a second language spoken by all interpreters in the meeting. Then, a second interpreter translates it into a third language for community partners who do not speak either the original or second language.



In the community engagement session, this process looked like:

- The facilitator posed a question in English, and community partners who spoke Spanish and Thai heard the interpretation in their languages in real-time through their headsets.
- A community partner shared a response in Spanish, which was then repeated back in English by an interpreter.
- While the first interpreter repeated the response in English, the Thai-speaking community partner heard the English-Thai interpretation in real-time through their headsets.

In addition to these accommodations, a different section of this report will discuss other measures provided to community partners to facilitate their participation in the project and foster strong partnerships. In the section titled "Community-based processes require flexibility and creativity," the report will elaborate on how maintaining a positive attitude, adapting to unexpected challenges, and supporting diverse needs can enhance outcomes.

## Compensation

The assignments required the community partners to dedicate approximately 10 hours of their time, and each community partner received \$500 for completing the following tasks:

- Attending a virtual 1-hour onboarding session
- Taking and sharing photographs that responded to the photograph elicitation prompts
- Writing captions explaining up to five of their photographs
- Attending an in-person 2-hour community engagement session

At the end of the engagement session, a drawing was held for two community partners to receive a safer cookware. Each community partner also received their financial compensation for completing the project, along with a bag of outreach and engagement items from the Haz Waste Program (Figure 7).

**Figure 7. Outreach and Engagement Items for Community Partners**



*Note: Generous contribution of engagement items was provided by the Business Services Program, Residential Services Program, and Research Services Team of the Haz Waste Program.*



## Findings and Outcomes

This section summarizes what the project team learned from the Collaborative Research Group through photographs, captions, and discussions during the engagement session.

### What do community partners see as hazardous waste?

During the second week of the photograph elicitation activity, community partners were asked to take photographs of items in their home, yard, garage, or neighborhood that they believe are toxic or hazardous (Figure 8).

**Figure 8. Photographs of Perceived Hazardous Waste by Community Partners**



Below is a list of the products or items that community partners believed were hazardous or toxic based on the photographs they took:

- Beer
- Bug spray
- Car oil drops
- Cleaning products
  - Bleach
  - Chlorine tabs
  - Drain cleaner
  - Laundry detergent
  - Pipe or tile cleaners
  - Stainless steel cleanser
  - Toilet cleaner
- Construction equipment

- Discolored or corroded metal
- Drug paraphernalia
- General trash (trash in bags, litter, etc.)
- Household items
  - Batteries
  - Candles
  - Chargers
  - Lightbulbs
  - Paint
- Lighter fluid
- Processed foods and drinks
- Propane
- Stormwater runoff
- Vapes
- Waterproofing sealer
- Weed killer

### Initial Thematic Analysis (Photograph Captions)

The first set of themes emerged from a thematic analysis of the photograph captions paired with the respective images from the community partners. A total of 40 captions were analyzed (Appendix A), and each caption often contained more than one theme. Below are the initial themes presented from highest to lowest frequency, along with accompanying quotes from the photograph captions and gallery walk comments (Figure 9 and Table 6).

**Figure 9. Word Cloud of Initial Themes**



**Table 6. Photograph Caption and Gallery Walk Initial Themes and Frequencies**

| Theme                       | Example   | Frequency (%)<br>n= 40 |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------------|
| <b>Environmental Health</b> | <p><i>"Motor oil leaks, improper dumping of motor oils, even very tiny little drops, when adding up, would contribute to soil and water contamination, air pollution, and ultimately, harms to everyone in the environment."</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Photograph Caption<br/>Community Partner 1</i></p> <p><i>"This photo was taken in the Crystal Mountain area on Muckleshoot owned land, while participating in community day that honors our culture and the Environment. This photo means so much because it represents our beautiful natural resources and people."</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Photograph Caption<br/>Community Partner 2</i></p> <p><i>"This photo shows a stream steward diligently walking upstream during the fall season in Seattle, assessing the water quality and natural foam (commonly referred to as dissolved organic carbon [DOC]) in my local creek. It highlights the commitment and care we volunteers dedicate to monitoring the health of our waterways each year. Together, we strive to protect and preserve the vital ecosystems in the Rainier Beach neighborhood."</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Photograph Caption<br/>Community Partner 3</i></p> <p><i>"We are responsible for the well-being of nature and other life forms in our neighborhood."</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Gallery Walk</i></p> <p><i>"We need to harvest food from lakes that are not infested by impurities and chemicals"</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Gallery Walk</i></p> | <b>63</b>              |
| <b>Social Justice</b>       | <p><i>"This image embodies the themes of community empowerment, resilience, and solidarity. It illustrates the strength that arises from mobilizing communities when accurate information and data are disseminated. Communities possess the inherent right to participate in policy-driven discussions when the opportunity arises."</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Photograph Caption<br/>Community Partner 4</i></p>   | <b>50</b>              |



| Theme               | Example   | Frequency (%)<br>n= 40 |
|---------------------|---|------------------------|
|                     | <p><i>"This photo shows a juvenile chinook salmon during an annual stewardship fish monitoring event in South Seattle, just steps from my neighborhood. Holding the salmon in a measuring device, we meticulously assess its health and size, ensuring its well-being as it migrates through urban waterways. My commitment to fish conservation stems from my profession and its crucial role in supporting diverse cultures and vibrant ecosystems."</i></p> <p><i>Photograph Caption<br/>Community Partner 3</i></p>   |                        |
| <b>Human Health</b> | <p><i>"A food stand in White Center called Eat Real. Eating fresh vegetables keeps people healthy and lead to a happier life. The food sold at the stand is organic and safe to enjoy. I work at a hospital, and I see how the food we eat plays a big role in our health."</i></p> <p><i>Photograph Caption<br/>Community Partner 5</i></p> <p><i>"This photo highlights the trash dumping crisis impacting Seattle, with various waste items—including hazardous materials—littering different streets of my South Seattle neighborhood. To me, it symbolizes the deeper issues of displacement and the housing crisis, revealing a troubling neglect of our community's needs. This situation demands urgent attention and action; we cannot turn a blind eye any longer."</i></p> <p><i>Photograph Caption<br/>Community Partner 3</i></p> <p><i>"Everyone is responsible to leave our future generations a healthy environment so they can grow healthy and thrive"</i></p> <p><i>Gallery Walk</i></p> | <b>48</b>              |
| <b>Community</b>    | <p><i>"A mural at the White Center Super Saver Store made by The Art Club. It shows people from different cultures coming together to enjoy food. When people spend quality time and share food with each other, they bring love together."</i></p> <p><i>Photograph Caption<br/>Community Partner 5</i></p> <p><i>"There are lots of concrete buildings in Chinatown/International District. Green space is sacred, and we are gracious to have Hing Hay Park</i></p>  | <b>40</b>              |



| Theme         | Example   | Frequency (%)<br>n= 40 |
|---------------|---|------------------------|
|               | <p><i>in the heart of the neighborhood that provide space and opportunity for community members to rest and recuperate in the nature."</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Photograph Caption<br/>Community Partner 1</i></p> <p><i>"Love to see the beauty in a community gathering to support each other and work together"</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Gallery Walk</i></p>  |                        |
| <b>Safety</b> | <p><i>"This draws attention to the potential hidden dangers of common household items like candles, which may contain harmful chemicals if not properly handled or disposed of."</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Photograph Caption<br/>Community Partner 6</i></p> <p><i>"We as a community have the right to live and thrive in a safe and healthy environment. However, infrastructures like these are what stands in the way from experiencing what can be a world without climate and environmental challenges."</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Photograph Caption<br/>Community Partner 4</i></p> <p><i>"This is a fruit and vegetable distribution that I support every month to give to the community. This photo was taken in South Park on October 20, close to the library. We were making a train to unload things, especially watermelon. Later we saw that our hands were very dirty, and we worried about whether there were chemicals on the watermelon that could have stayed behind on our clothes and hands."</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Photograph Caption<br/>Community Partner 7</i></p> | <b>26</b>              |
| <b>Beauty</b> | <p><i>"I took this photo of the wooden troll artwork on October 21 when I was on a walk in Lincoln Park in West Seattle. One thing that I like a lot about seeing this art is that you have to walk to it, since cars can't go to it. There's another one on the seashore and every time I go, I like that there is no garbage. People respect and value art, the troll is beautiful artwork to me. I feel tranquility and a rush of emotion when I see art."</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Photograph Caption<br/>Community Partner 7</i></p>   | <b>25</b>              |





| Theme                                   | Example  | Frequency (%)<br>n= 40 |
|---|--|------------------------|
|   | <p><i>"This image captures the exquisite beauty of an untouched ecosystem, nestled in a remote location."</i></p> <p>Photograph Caption<br/>Community Partner 4</p>  |                        |
| <b>Water Health</b>                     | <p><i>"This photo was taken at Salt Water State park which is ancestral waterways of Muckleshoot People and the seaweed represents the importance of water protection because of its power of absorbing pollution in the water. And it's such a cool variety of texture and color."</i></p> <p>Photograph Caption<br/>Community Partner 2</p> <p><i>"This photo was taken in Muckleshoot and depicts the community water tower that supplies clean water to my community! It represents our need for clean water and our lack of access to it, which drives my work!!"</i></p> <p>Photograph Caption<br/>Community Partner 2</p> <p><i>"This image effectively illustrates the pathway through which toxic chemicals can infiltrate streams and subsequently affect freshwater systems in the King County area. Notably, this operation is situated in close proximity to a community clinic and residential neighborhoods."</i></p> <p>Photograph Caption<br/>Community Partner 4</p> | <b>23</b>              |
| <b>Gardening, Farming, and Foraging</b> | <p><i>"I took this photo at a farm in Kent on October 22. The King County Open Space Cabinet took us to this site to meet the families who farm there. ... One of the topics they spoke about during the visit were the toxic residues on these lands that go through the crops and then to the Green River. We worry about how to educate the population so they do not throw hazardous products along the river that can reach the crops through the water..."</i></p> <p>Photograph Caption<br/>Community Partner 7</p> <p><i>"This image shows the area of my apartment that I call my "apothecary". It houses all the herbs and spices I use to cook, some were grown in my garden. It is surrounded by houseplants that I am consistently nurturing. This area shows a clear</i></p>   | <b>20</b>              |



| Theme                | Example  | Frequency (%)<br>n= 40 |
|----------------------|--|------------------------|
|                      | <p><i>example of the role the environment plays in my life."</i></p> <p><i>Photograph Caption<br/>Community Partner 8</i></p>  |                        |
| <b>Culture</b>       | <p><i>"A photo I just took on August 31 at an event hosted by Pueblos Originarios, a collective of Indigenous people in King County. The dance of the tiliches comes from a community in Oaxaca, Mexico. The word tiliches means having a lot of things grouped together, like in a garage. This dance reminds each person of everything we already have inside of us. Sometimes we say, "I don't have anything," but if we start seeing our qualities and everything that is good and beautiful in our person we would end up as loaded up as the tiliches. The dance reminds us that we could sit down naked and still feel blanketed by everything we have. Each dancer takes everything good around them, and for each quality and good thing they put on a cape made up of pieces of fabric until they have so much that they feel hot. This reminds us of how privileged we all are."</i></p> <p><i>Photograph Caption<br/>Community Partner 7</i></p> | <b>15</b>              |
| <b>Tranquility</b>   | <p><i>"A sunset with my daughter at Alki Beach next to our fishing poles. This photo shows our beautiful relationship and how nature brings people together for moments that are peaceful and enjoyable."</i></p> <p><i>Photograph Caption<br/>Community Partner 5</i></p>   | <b>13</b>              |
| <b>Animal Health</b> | <p><i>"This photo was taken on a walking path in my Tribal community at Muckleshoot! My dog Peanut and I were on a photo taking adventure looking for plant medicine, when I realized that Peanut and our 4-legged friends and relatives need protection from hazardous waste exposure! Our plant and animal relatives mean so much to me and this photo embodies that."</i></p> <p><i>Photograph Caption<br/>Community Partner 2</i></p> <p><i>"This image is of a seal I spotted in the Ballard Locks. It's one of the places in my neighborhood that I visit to be close to wildlife."</i></p> <p><i>Photograph Caption<br/>Community Partner 8</i></p>   | <b>10</b>              |



| Theme      | Example  | Frequency (%)<br>n = 40 |
|------------|--|-------------------------|
| Climate    | <p><i>"This image underscores the significance of inclusivity and the celebration of diversity. It is essential that we create an environment that embraces diversity within our community. Island nations are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of global warming. Ongoing discussions aim to propose and implement eco-friendly practices that can help mitigate the strain on our environment at the local level."</i></p> <p><i>Photograph Caption<br/>Community Partner 4</i></p> <p><i>"This photograph captures a political ad displayed on my bedroom TV, advocating against Washington Initiative 2117. The screen shows a woman speaking out, alongside the bold message "NO 2117: A Bad Deal for Washington." For me it is extremely important for everyone to stand up for climate justice."</i></p> <p><i>Photograph Caption<br/>Community Partner 6</i></p> | 10                      |
| Connection | <p><i>"Seeing plants dying in the neighborhood reminds me the correlation between our actions and the environment. Whatever we do have direct impact on the environment, whether it is visible/noticeable or not."</i></p> <p><i>Photograph Caption<br/>Community Partner 1</i></p> <p><i>"I have a community garden plot in the Ballard P-Patch and it's yet another space that I go to connect with my environment more intimately. I can get my hands in the dirt and chat with my fellow gardeners, sometimes learning new gossip that reminds me how interconnected we all are."</i></p> <p><i>Photograph Caption<br/>Community Partner 8</i></p>   | 8                       |



## Revised and Emergent Themes

After discussing which photographs resonated most with community partners, the project team introduced three predefined themes:

- Environmental Health
- Human Health
- Community and Social Justice

These themes were derived from the initial thematic analysis of the photograph captions. As a second layer of corroboration, facilitators cross-checked these themes with notes written by community partners during the gallery walk, which explained how the photographs they observed were similar to or different from their own experiences, as well as the commonalities across all images. The facilitators asked community partners to react to the predefined themes, determine if they resonated, and, if not, to offer suggestions for improvement. Community partners shared the following feedback:

- **Environmental Health:** Add the element of human connection with nature to this theme.
- **Community and Social Justice:** Add culture as an additional layer to this theme.
- Add **Food Sovereignty** as a fourth theme.

As a result, the themes were updated as follows:

**Table 7. Original and Updated Themes**

| # | Original Themes              | Updated Themes                                 |
|---|------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Environmental Health         | Environmental Health and <u>Connection</u>     |
| 2 | Human Health                 | Human Health                                   |
| 3 | Community and Social Justice | Community, <u>Culture</u> , and Social Justice |
| 4 |                              | <u>Food Sovereignty</u>                        |

Table 7 and Figure 10 reveal key insights into participants' priorities. Themes one through three were among the most frequent themes identified in Photovoice captions, while theme four was included in the most frequent themes from gallery walk notes. Environmental Health consistently ranks as the top theme across all phases, which highlights its significance. The shift in emphasis between Human Health and Social Justice indicates that different interactive activities and open dialogues among community partners—particularly those involving the sharing of experiences and life histories—can influence their preferences.

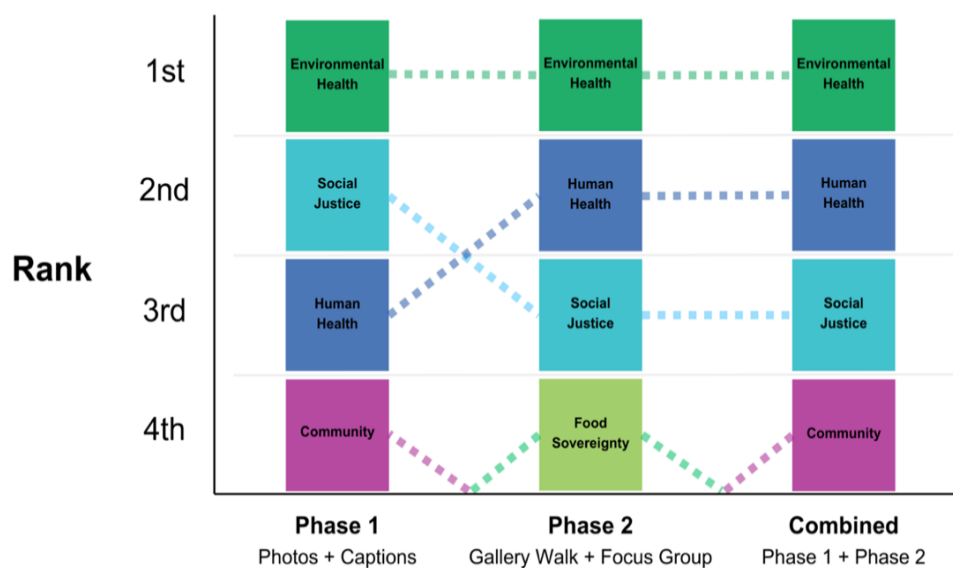
Food sovereignty is a concept rooted in Indigeneity. Valerie Segrest, a member of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and a Native foods educator defines it as "Indigenous people's right to choose what they want to eat again." The First Nations Development Institute defines food sovereignty as "the legal ability of a tribal community to define its own food system and laws and regulations that may affect their food system."

The shift in emphasis between Community and the new theme of Food Sovereignty<sup>2</sup> suggests two things:

- The emergence of Food Sovereignty demonstrates the value of interactive methods in uncovering concerns that may not have been initially addressed.
- The consistently lower ranking of Community suggests that it may be overshadowed by more urgent issues such as health and justice. However, it is important to note that Community was one of the most common secondary or tertiary themes in the captions. Secondary and tertiary themes were not counted in this ranking.

Overall, the variations in themes emphasize the importance of using various methodologies and activities to achieve a comprehensive understanding of different perspectives

**Figure 10. Photovoice Captions and Engagement Session Theme Rankings**



## Theme Descriptions

Each section consists of a theme title, an example of a photograph that fits the theme, and a definition of the theme.

### Theme One: Environmental Health and Connection

- Keeping the environment clean is essential for the safety of humans, animals, and plants that interact with the environment (Figure 11).
- Access to clean green spaces and blue spaces (e.g., waterways, rivers, lakes, etc.) where people can spend time in nature is important for their well-being.
- Witnessing harm to humans, animals, and plants due to the impacts of hazardous waste causes distress.
- The health of the environment directly affects human health; when toxic substances enter the ecosystem, the substances return to humans through the air being breathed and the food that is consumed.



- When people feel a connection to and gratitude for nature, they develop a sense of responsibility to protect it through advocacy, their work, or by volunteering in conservation, restoration, and other environmental initiatives.

**Figure 11. Titled “Stewardship in Action: Monitoring Juvenile Chinook Salmon”**



## Theme Two: Human Health

- Encountering hazardous waste through the food people eat, the water they drink, and the air they breathe negatively impacts their health (Figure 12).
- The products people use, the food they consume, and the environments where they spend time must be free of toxic substances.
- Everyday items in homes, such as laundry detergent, can be dangerous to human and animal health if not used properly. Ensuring the safety of children and pets from these items can cause anxiety and fear for caregivers.

**Figure 12. Titled “Eat Healthy, Smile Longer”**



### Theme Three: Community, Culture, and Social Justice

- Spending time in the community brings people joy. They find it important to connect with others who share their culture, engage in multicultural groups, and participate in activities such as cultural ceremonies and events that celebrate all cultures (Figure 13).
- Individuals feel a sense of responsibility for protecting the rights and well-being of their communities. They do this by volunteering, voting, and participating in events and groups focused on various causes, such as food justice, climate advocacy, water protection, and more.

**Figure 13. Titled “Close to Home”**



### Theme Four: Food Sovereignty

- Growing their own food is empowering for individuals and the community as a whole. It reduces food insecurity and gives people confidence that the food they grow is safe to eat and free of toxic substances (Figure 14).

**Figure 14. Titled “Flower Power”**



### Thematic Deep Dive: Human Health

Community partners voted on which of the emergent themes had the strongest connection to the safe use and disposal of hazardous waste. The majority selected Human Health as the theme with the greatest connection (Table 8).

**Table 8. Vote Total for the Question “Which theme has the greatest connection with safely using and disposing of hazardous waste?”**

| Themes                                 | # of Votes |
|--|------------|
| Environmental Health and Connection    | 0          |
| Human Health                           | 5          |
| Community, Culture, and Social Justice | 0          |
| Food Sovereignty                       | 3          |

The project team then led a discussion to answer the questions:

- How do you think safely using and disposing of hazardous waste helps promote human health?
- Why does this matter to you?



## Discussion Summary

While the question was framed around promoting human health through the safe use and disposal of hazardous products, community partners focused on how the presence of these products leads to negative health impacts.

### **The impacts of hazardous waste in the environment are long-lasting and ultimately return to humans.**

- When people flush medicines down the toilet, these toxins return to the water and soil, ultimately making their way back into the foods that are eaten.
- Products like plastics and cigarettes break down into micropollutants that can persist in the environment for hundreds of years and are consumed by fish.
- Pesticides and weed killers remain in the food system and can be detected in people's bodies (sperm and urine).
- Cattle and chickens ingest harmful chemicals that then appear in their meat as carcinogens.
- Pouring coffee down the street harms fish, since the liquid is carried into the sewer by stormwater, and the caffeine negatively impacts aquatic life.
- The companies that produce these products are not held accountable or responsible for safe disposal because they have the financial resources and power to challenge regulations and lawsuits.

The connection between human health and environmental health emerged organically during the discussion through the examples provided.

### **Exposure to hazardous products as part of work leads to harmful impacts to workers and their families.**

- Car mechanics and janitors exposed to various chemicals and cleaning supplies have higher rates of allergies.
- The children of individuals who work in nail salons experience health issues linked to their exposure to the chemicals used in the salons.
- In Tribal Nations, the wood processing industry is a major employer, and workers have demonstrated elevated rates of breast cancer.
- One community partner was personally impacted by the effects of lye to which their mother was exposed while working in agricultural fields, which led to vision impairments because the chemicals impacted the development of the optic nerves of the participant.

### **The ubiquity of hazardous waste causes people anxiety and distress.**

- Hazardous waste continues to accumulate in people's homes because they are unsure of how to dispose of it properly.
- A lack of transparency and reporting regarding what happens to items after disposal leads to distrust. People are uncertain whether their waste is being managed correctly after they place it in the bin or take it to a collection site.
- There is insufficient data on the impacts of inhaling hazardous products. For example, one community partner noted that they wore gloves and a mask when using a stove cleaning product for years, but they could not avoid inhaling the scent of the product. This concerns them, as they are unsure whether this exposure could have negative health effects.





- The prevalence of hazardous products is overwhelming, and it negatively affects people's mental health to know they are surrounded by items that could pose dangers to their physical health.

## Actions List

Community partners were asked to generate a list of actions that they believed community members could take to safely use or dispose of hazardous waste. First, each community partner wrote their own list of actions individually. Then, they took turns sharing one item from their list to contribute to a collective list. These actions were intended as opportunities for improvement for the Haz Waste Program.

The following is the complete list of actions that emerged from this activity. For some actions, community partners provided additional comments during the discussion, which are documented in Table 9.

**Table 9. Actions List**

|   | Action  | Comments   |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Provide education starting in childhood   | Starting in elementary school, instill the importance of responsible usage and proper disposal of hazardous waste through educational programming or resources for youth.  |
| 2 | Provide culturally relevant information   | Educational programming, resources, and events are needed for adults to build awareness about hazardous products and provide skill-building for safer cleaning, proper disposal, and buying safer products. Culturally relevant information should be available both online and physically in the community, in various languages. |
| 3 | Purchase safe cleaning products   | There is a perception that safer products are not as effective at cleaning. However, what is overlooked is the negative impact that products with chemicals will have on the environment in the decades to come.   |
| 4 | Follow safe cleaning practices  |  |
| 5 | Follow safe disposal instructions   |  |
| 6 | Create opportunities for community to educate government agencies about their experiences with hazardous products | Education must flow from the community toward the government. The government needs to listen to and learn from community experiences and practices related to hazardous waste.   |
| 7 | Make at-home alternatives to hazardous products   |  |



|    | Action   | Comments   |
|----|--|--|
| 8  | Raise awareness of what products are toxic   | If people avoid using hazardous products in the first place, that eliminates the worry about disposing of them properly.   |
| 9  | Create neighborhood-level websites to share disposal activities in the neighborhood (like Wastemobile collection days) | One community partner shared that a neighbor had created a simple website where residents can post about events in the neighborhood. They suggested that adding information about Wastemobile collection days would be helpful.  |
| 10 | Provide multiple disposal services for electronics   | It can be difficult for working class community members to make time to take items to collection sites if there are not any located near them.   |
| 11 | Provide collection trucks  |  |
| 12 | Impose fee or tax on companies who make hazardous products   | <p>Companies who make and sell hazardous products should be responsible for clearly labeling what is in the product and teaching their customers how to properly dispose of their product.</p> <p>Companies that are working to mitigate the negative impacts of their products on human and environmental health should be financially supported.</p>       |
| 13 | Reduce toxic foam exposure for firefighters  | As wildfires become more prevalent in our region, firefighters have more work to do and have higher exposure to the chemicals used to put out fires.   |
| 14 | Compost  | If food waste is put in the garbage, it produces methane once it reaches the landfill, so properly disposing of it should be a priority. Community farms and food sovereignty organizations are potential partners for initiatives related to food waste, and these types of organizations could both produce compost and receive compost for their efforts. |
| 15 | Avoid bringing toxic products into their lives   |  |
| 16 | Learn how to replace toxic products with others  |  |
| 17 | Drop off empty makeup products at recycling stations at department stores.   |  |





|    | Action  | Comments   |
|----|---|--|
| 18 | Take products like old laptops, batteries, televisions, and other electronics to collection sites |  |
| 19 | Advocate for policies that mitigate impacts of hazardous waste                                    |  |
| 20 | Reduce the toxicity of products   |  |
| 21 | Increase Wastemobile services   | Increase the number of locations, both for fixed collection sites and Wastemobile collection.  |
| 22 | Provide incentives to people who recycle  |  |
| 23 | Conduct more studies  |  |
| 24 | Change government policies  |  |
| 25 | Provide curbside collection for hazardous waste   | Not everyone has easy access to collection sites or Wastemobile collection. Private collection companies are an option for at-home collection, but not everyone can afford this service. |
| 26 | Add secure compartment for batteries to garbage bins  |  |
| 27 | Collect motor oil directly from parking lots  |  |
| 28 | Provide cache to collect kitchen oil so it does not go into waterways                             |  |



## Insights and Opportunities for Improvement

This research recommends using the following insights to guide the outreach and engagement strategies of the Haz Waste Program:

### 1. People interpret “hazardous” as “bad for your health”

During the photograph elicitation phase, community partners shared pictures of hazardous items they encountered in their homes and neighborhoods. The photographs included items that are accepted at Haz Waste Program collection sites as well as those that are not (Table 10).

**Table 10. Items that Community Partners Labeled as Hazardous Waste**

| Accepted at Haz Waste Program collection sites  | Not accepted at Haz Waste Program collection sites   |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Automotive fluids and oils</li><li>• Batteries</li><li>• Bleach</li><li>• Cleaning products</li><li>• Concrete sealer</li><li>• Drain cleaner</li><li>• E-cigarettes and vape cartridges</li><li>• Fluorescent light ballasts, bulbs, and tubes</li><li>• Lead-based paint and chips</li><li>• Lighter fluid</li><li>• Pesticides</li><li>• Propane and butane tanks</li><li>• Stainless steel cleanser</li><li>• Toilet bowl cleaner</li><li>• Waterproofing sealer</li><li>• Weed killers</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beer</li><li>• Candles</li><li>• Chargers</li><li>• Chlorine tabs</li><li>• Cigarettes</li><li>• Discolored or corroded metal</li><li>• Drug paraphernalia</li><li>• General trash</li><li>• Household items</li><li>• Laundry detergent</li><li>• Processed food and drinks</li><li>• Stormwater runoff</li></ul> |

The items not accepted at collection sites are those that people consider harmful to their health or detrimental to the environment. The connection between human health and environmental health emerged as the highest priority theme for community partners, which makes this list consistent with that finding.

### Opportunities for Improvement

- Explicitly communicate in Haz Waste Program messaging that “hazardous” refers to items that can cause significant harm to human health and the environment. This distinction clarifies why certain products are designated as hazardous and underscores the importance of their proper use and disposal.
- Make it clear that there is a distinction between products that are generally unhealthy or harmful to the environment and those accepted at Haz Waste Program collection sites.
- Adhere to the principles of language justice to ensure that information is accessible to all community members.



- Incorporate community engagement through in-person events and cultural activities into the communications strategy.

## 2. Safely using and disposing of hazardous products matters because of its impacts on human health

Human health emerged as the primary reason community partners find it important to safely use and dispose of hazardous products. They shared stories about the harmful effects of hazardous waste they have witnessed in their own health and in the health of their family members (including pets). They also referenced research and anecdotal evidence indicating that high exposure to hazardous waste increases the negative health impacts experienced by individuals.

### Opportunities for Improvement

- Emphasize the direct impact that hazardous products can have on human health to motivate the public to safely use and dispose of these items.
- Include examples of common health risks associated with the improper use or disposal of hazardous materials.
- Incorporate messaging about safer products to hazardous household products in the communications strategy.
- Provide messaging and resources to assist people in creating their own safer products to hazardous household products.
- Foster collaborations with community members and healthcare providers to disseminate information linking hazardous waste exposure to health issues. This partnership can validate the real health impacts through the trusted voices of medical professionals.

## 3. Human health is intertwined with environmental health and food sovereignty

Community partners are concerned about both direct exposure to hazardous products and exposure through air, water, and food contaminated with hazardous waste. Their worries include consuming food grown in soil treated with pesticides, eating fish from waters polluted with hazardous products, and consuming meat from animals that have ingested these harmful substances.

These concerns reflect their recognition of the deep interconnection across all parts of the ecosystem. When hazardous waste enters the ecosystem, it ultimately impacts human health. Therefore, community partners view the protection of environmental health as a means to safeguard human health as well. An example of this concept is the role that salmon play in Indigenous communities in the Pacific Northwest. In a report produced by Earth Economics for the Pacific Salmon Commission, discussions with Tribal and First Nations citizens revealed that: "Discussions around food and livelihoods frequently stressed the need for salmon not only for food and economic security, but also for sustaining human and ecosystem health."<sup>8</sup>

Concerns about consuming food contaminated with hazardous waste emphasize the connection community partners perceive between hazardous waste and food sovereignty. When people have the autonomy to grow their own food, they can be confident about how it was grown or raised and assured that it did not come into contact with hazardous waste.



## Opportunities for Improvement

- Emphasize in Haz Waste Program messaging that keeping hazardous waste out of the environment protects human health.
- Draw connections between environmental impacts and health outcomes in Haz Waste Program communications.
- Recognize the interconnectedness of all parts of the ecosystem in Haz Waste Program messaging.
- Partner with community organizations and members to lead workshops or seminars that educate the public about hazardous waste management with a focus on the health and environmental benefits of proper disposal.
- Ascertain feedback during these workshops and seminars to enhance the effectiveness of initiatives based on community input.
- Collaborate with community partners to develop creative materials that illustrate the relationship between maintaining an environment free of hazardous waste and protecting human health.

## 4. Stories and data both serve a purpose when communicating about hazardous waste

Community partners shared both personal stories and data during the community engagement session. The stories illustrated why safe use and disposal of hazardous waste were important to them. These narratives left a lasting impression and significantly influenced the behavior of the community partners. For instance, one participant recounted how their child accidentally poured laundry detergent into their pet fish's bowl, which resulted in the death of the fish. Even though this incident occurred over a decade ago, the participant still vividly remembers the incident and remains cautious about misusing household cleaning products.

In contrast, community partners sought data to verify the safety or risks associated with specific behaviors. For example, they looked for information on which products are safe to use and the potential effects of exposure to hazardous substances. One community partner mentioned examining the impact of inhaling the strong scent of a stove cleaner they used.

Community partners felt validated when data corroborated their personal experiences and stories. For instance, one community partner received confirmation from medical professionals that their health issues were linked to their mother's exposure to hazardous products while working in agricultural fields. This reinforced their belief in the importance of protecting the community from such products.

## Opportunities for Improvement

- Lead with stories in Haz Waste Program messaging to explain the importance of safely using and disposing of hazardous waste.
- Include data and sources in Haz Waste Program messaging when making statements about safe ways to use and dispose of hazardous waste products (e.g., studies show that inhaling hazardous waste causes these effects).
- Conduct focused campaigns on social media platforms that highlight stories or case studies demonstrating the consequences of improper disposal and the benefits of following Haz Waste Program guidelines, thereby reinforcing the message through practical examples.



- Provide easy access to data regarding the safety and risks associated with hazardous waste products to ensure it is understandable to non-experts. This can help individuals make informed decisions about the products they use daily.
- Keep the community informed about the latest research and developments in hazardous waste management, including updates on new laws, technological advancements, or findings from recent studies.
- Feature testimonials and case studies in outreach materials to highlight individual and community-level experiences related to the effects of hazardous waste. These narratives can humanize the data, illuminate structural barriers, and encourage community engagement.

## 5. People experience fatigue from the constant effort to avoid negative impacts from hazardous products and waste

Community partners reported feeling overwhelmed by the constant presence of hazardous products and waste. Since these products are ubiquitous, it can feel impossible to avoid them entirely. One community partner shared that this situation negatively impacted their mental and physical health.

### Opportunities for Improvement

- Use a reassuring tone in Haz Waste Program messaging to empower individuals to feel they have the agency to protect themselves.
- Provide practical tips for safeguarding human and environmental health.
- Pair individual action tips with information about what the Haz Waste Program is doing at the collection, research, and policy levels to prevent negative impacts.

## 6. Coming together as a community for causes that matter to them motivates people to take action

Many of the images submitted by community partners featured community events, and during the photograph gallery walk, several of them commented on how seeing other community partners come together to advocate resonated with them. Even though the community partners viewed other themes as having a stronger connection to the safe use and disposal of hazardous products, community gatherings can serve as an effective outreach strategy.

### Opportunities for Improvement

- Include occasions for people to come together through in-person events and cultural activities as part of the Haz Waste Program outreach and engagement strategies.
- Frame these gatherings as a way for individuals to learn how they can protect what matters to them, including human and environmental health.
- Collaborate with community organizations that are already working to protect human and environmental health to host the events and make connections between these topics and the safe use and disposal of hazardous waste.





## 7. Both Individual actions and systemic changes have a role in the safe use and disposal of hazardous products

When community partners formulated the list of actions for the safe use and disposal of hazardous products, they identified both individual actions they could take and actions they would like institutions like the Haz Waste Program to support or implement. Examples of individual actions included purchasing safe cleaning products and taking hazardous waste to collection sites, while examples of systemic changes included imposing fees on companies that produce hazardous waste and implementing stricter regulations on the toxicity of products.

### Opportunities for Improvement

- Include information about individual actions and systemic changes that the Haz Waste Program supports in messaging.
- Provide incentives to encourage individuals to adopt desired changes.
- Provide clear and practical guidelines, along with demonstrations on the safe use, storage, and disposal of hazardous products, through workshops and online video tutorials to effectively communicate individual actions.
- Streamline schedules and rules across websites and social media platforms to make it easier for community members to navigate the system.
- Share feedback on the systemic changes that community partners included in the list with Haz Waste Program staff members whose work aligns with those topics.

## 8. The safe use and disposal of hazardous products require both communications support and structural changes

Community partners indicated that for outreach and engagement strategies to be effective, they must be paired with structural changes. They believe that increased education about the safe use and disposal of hazardous products is essential, and that for this education to result in behavior change, structural changes are necessary to make it easier for community members to engage in the desired behaviors. Community partners strongly urge the Haz Waste Program to increase the number of hazardous waste collection sites, enhance the Wastemobile schedule with additional collection dates and locations, and consider offering curbside collection. Additionally, community partners would like to see more options for disposing of electronics, which are a common type of hazardous waste not accepted at collection sites.

### Opportunities for Improvement

- Share feedback about the structural barriers that community partners identified with Haz Waste Program staff members whose work is aligned with those topics.



## Lessons Learned about Community-Based Participatory Research

This research strongly recommends that the Haz Waste Program continue using CBPR principles to collect meaningful data from community partners, and community partners expressed a desire to see more projects of this nature. CBPR is ideal to meet the goals of the Haz Waste Program because it is an approach designed to integrate community members, government agencies, and researchers as co-creators in a collaborative process. This approach enables the Haz Waste Program to engage community partners in ways that make them feel considered, respected, and valued. Community partner comments indicate that this project was successful in achieving those goals.

"I would like for Haz Waste to have more projects like this one that are teamwork between Haz Waste staff, consultants, and the community, bringing together community members with people who have professional knowledge about the topic."

– Community Partner

"This was the first project with a government agency where I felt like the staff really cared about the participants and valued our time."

– Community Partner

Leveraging CBPR can advance the Haz Waste Program along the King County continuum of community engagement by promoting shared decision-making and mutual learning, which ultimately results in the implementation of strategies and solutions that provide benefits to diverse communities. For this project, CBPR supported the Haz Waste Program to address gaps left by previous studies, particularly in engaging communities of color and gathering input that extended beyond awareness and behavior to encompass values and motivations. The lessons learned documented in this section are intended to guide the Haz Waste Program in continuing to use these methods and delivering positive experiences to different communities.

### Community-based processes require flexibility and creativity

Community partners lead busy lives, which limits their attention and capacity to collaborate on research projects. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the project team to facilitate the completion of required tasks for community partners and to determine ways to adapt, as necessary.

Examples of how the project team adapted to various situations include:

- **Changes in participant capacity:** After the initial onboarding, one participant realized they could not continue with the project and recommended another participant who could provide a similar perspective. The project team contacted the alternate participant and created a condensed onboarding schedule to facilitate their involvement in the photograph elicitation.
- **Unexpected schedule changes:** One participant encountered a last-minute scheduling conflict with the onboarding session, so the project team arranged an alternative time to meet with them.

- **Different work styles:** For one participant, submitting captions through an online form was challenging. To accommodate this, the project team scheduled a telephone call to allow the participant to provide the necessary information verbally. The team then documented the captions in writing and shared them with the participant for confirmation to ensure accuracy.

When encountered with these situations, the project team will achieve better outcomes by maintaining a positive attitude. If the team conveys that these adaptations are overly burdensome or views the community partner as a nuisance for requesting adjustments and accommodations, they may sense this negativity and become disengaged from the project. Furthermore, this could lead to reluctance in collaborating with the Haz Waste Program on future endeavors.

### Language access is an ongoing process

This project was initially scoped to include up to three languages and ultimately incorporated English, Spanish, and Thai. The project team reflected on how language access was integrated at each stage and considered potential improvements for future projects with additional time and resources.

### Recruitment

Teams may choose between two different approaches for multilingual projects:

- Asking prospective community partners if they need language support and incorporating that support in the languages they specify.
- Selecting a set of languages to offer and creating recruitment materials in those languages.

Each approach has its benefits and limitations. Incorporating language support upon request allows for flexibility in including languages that may not be among the top three to five spoken in the area; however, it requires community partners to have a certain level of English comprehension to understand the recruitment materials. Conversely, selecting languages in advance fosters a more inclusive recruitment process, as materials can be shared in languages other than English, but it limits the languages offered from the beginning. This approach is typically better suited for projects with a specific priority group.

This project followed the first approach, and the project team identified Thai interpreters through the Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society ([NOTIS](#)) and hired Spanish interpreters previously engaged by the contracted service provider. When languages are identified by prospective community partners, it is important to consider that the availability of interpreters and translators varies by language. For instance, there are 263 Spanish interpreters available through NOTIS, while only 8 Thai interpreters are available. When working with a language that has lower interpreter and translator availability, project timelines may need to be adjusted to accommodate both community partner and interpreter availability.



## Photograph Elicitation

The project team includes a Spanish speaker who was able to translate the Photovoice instructions and the photographs captions form into Spanish and provide support throughout the process in that language. However, similar support was not available in Thai.

The project budget allocated funds for translation, which were used to translate the photograph captions into Spanish. Due to the project timeline, the project team did not outsource translation for other materials. For future projects, this study recommends allowing two weeks after finalizing a document to arrange for translation. Additionally, the overall project timeline should be structured to accommodate emerging translation needs like the addition of photograph captions during the methodology design phase.

To address the lack of translated materials in Thai, the project team provided ample individual support. For instance, when the project team sent a message in English to all community partners, they followed up individually with the community partner who requested Thai interpretation to ensure there was an opportunity for clarifying questions. The team also allowed community partners to share information either verbally or in writing, based on their preferred mode of communication.

In general, comprehensive support in all languages at all times can only be achieved by including speakers of every language incorporated into the project. While planned communications can be translated in advance, there will always be emerging communication needs, such as providing clarifications or answering questions. These needs can only be addressed promptly if someone is available who speaks the required language. This is one of the challenges of adding languages to the project upon request, since the project team was assembled before knowing which languages would be needed.

## Community Engagement Session

Teams may choose between two approaches to facilitate multilingual conversations:

- Working with facilitators who speak all the languages in the room and breaking into language-specific groups for some of the discussion.
- Working with interpreters to ensure that all community partners can understand what is being communicated.

Facilitating conversations directly in all the languages present works best for large groups with several participants speaking each language. Since this project had eight participants, with only one speaking Spanish and another speaking Thai, the second approach was more suitable.

The meeting was conducted in English, and interpretation allowed community partners to contribute in English, Spanish, and Thai. For future research, the project team recommends including remarks in all languages spoken in the room to ensure everyone feels comfortable using their preferred languages. At times, community partners may feel self-conscious speaking a language other than English if they are the only ones doing so. This highlights the benefit of having project team members who speak all the languages included in the project.



During simultaneous interpretation, interpreters whisper the translation while facilitators or community partners are speaking. Even though interpreters are skilled at being unobtrusive, the acoustics in the room can make it challenging for community partners to filter out the whispering. The engagement session was conducted in a room with slight echoing, which contributed to some distractions.

### Spending time on grounding and connection fosters deeper engagement in conversations

Community partners met briefly for an onboarding session before completing the photograph elicitation exercises. Afterward, the next time they saw each other was two months later at the community engagement session. The project team received feedback from community partners indicating that they would have liked more time to get to know each other prior to the engagement session with one community partner stating:

“To enhance our interaction, it would have been beneficial to incorporate a ‘getting to know you’ segment before diving into the main 1-hour session focused on the photographs we took. This could involve some preparatory activities where we learn more about each other’s backgrounds, interests, and perspectives. Going beyond just basic introductions at the start of the session, this additional engagement could help foster a richer, more connected discussion environment. Such a structured prelude would not only warm up the session but also deepen our understanding and appreciation of the perspectives each participant brings to the table.”

- Community Partner

In future studies, the project team recommends incorporating more touchpoints between community partners. Project timelines should be developed to allow sufficient time for these interactions, and project budgets must account for providing compensation to community partners for additional touchpoints.

Furthermore, the community engagement session was conducted four days after the 2024 United States presidential election. The facilitators anticipated that the results might have affected some community partners, so they included time to acknowledge the outcome of the recent election. Given that community partners had shared photographs related to civic engagement and social justice, facilitators also highlighted the connections between the election results and the themes that emerged from the photographs. For instance, one community partner shared a photograph related to a statewide ballot initiative. Facilitators encouraged community partners to mention the outcome of the election if they were relevant to the discussion.

The project team recommends addressing topics that may occupy community partners' thoughts, even if those topics are sensitive. When these issues are left unspoken, they can become a greater distraction than if they are addressed. Additionally, verbally confirming that it is acceptable to bring up these topics, if relevant, alleviates any pressure community partners may feel about expressing themselves.





## Begin data collection and analysis before the community engagement session to make the most out of the discussion time

A significant advantage of CBPR is that data collection begins long before the engagement session occurs. To maximize the discussion, the project team analyzed the data that community partners had already provided prior to the session and reflected this information back during the engagement session. This approach allows the discussion to become a collaborative opportunity for community partners to derive meaning from the data.

The following tools and techniques assisted the project team in streamlining data collection and effectively reflect the data back:

- **Lense app:** Community partners have busy schedules, so the project team aimed to make the photograph elicitation process as convenient as possible with minimal steps. The Lense app automatically saved the pictures community partners took to a shared gallery and eliminated the need for emailing or uploading them to a shared folder.
- **Collecting captions:** Captions allowed the project team to conduct a thematic analysis before the community engagement session. This enabled the discussion during the session to focus on themes rather than starting with individual photographs.
- **Gallery walk:** Community partners were able to absorb the meaning of the photographs and add their own commentary across all images in a significantly shorter time than it would have taken to review each photograph individually. The comments provided the project team with initial corroboration that the themes identified in the thematic analysis aligned with those perceived by the community partners. After reviewing all the photographs at their own pace, community partners were prepared to engage in discussions about the themes.
- **Individual reflection:** The project team allotted time for individual reflection, allowing community partners to generate lists of actions for safely using and disposing of hazardous products. This preparation enabled them to share their thoughts during group discussions, and the written lists served as documentation for the project team to incorporate into the findings.

## Community-based participatory research generates opportunities for improvement about system change

This research focuses on outreach and engagement strategies, while the concepts of CBPR, particularly Photovoice, are designed to lead to social action. The project generated findings that provided valuable insights and opportunities for improvement; however, due to the nature of the approach, it also yielded findings related to programmatic and structural changes.

For this project, feedback regarding programmatic and structural changes will be shared with the appropriate Haz Waste Program leadership and staff member. For future research, the project team recommends assembling teams that include leadership and programmatic decision-makers.

Arts-based approaches, such as Photovoice, offer deeper insights, emotional resonance, and both tangible and intangible impacts. Throughout the project, members of the Collaborative Research Group shared how their involvement impacted them. One community partner remarked:



“While the report does a great job of encapsulating our shared ideas, some of the intangible aspects of our Photovoice experience might not be fully conveyed through photos and written text alone. For instance, the emotional impact of the stories behind the photos and the personal connections we made during the process could provide deeper insights into community concerns and values that are harder to capture in a formal report. These emotional resonances and the subtle interactions that occurred could further inform the Haz Waste Program by offering a more nuanced understanding of how community members relate to and are affected by hazardous waste issues. This level of insight is crucial for tailoring communication and engagement strategies that resonate on a more personal and impactful level with the community.”

- Community Partner

For future studies, teams may want to explore the emotional impact of stories more deeply through the activities and questions included in community engagement sessions or other discussions. Additionally, teams could consider pairing a written report with alternative deliverables, such as artwork, to better capture the emotional resonance of the projects. These types of deliverables can serve as inspiration for future messaging approaches that emphasize storytelling.



## Looking Ahead

### Concluding Phase 1

This research represents Phase 1 of the Haz Waste Program community-based participatory research and community-led engagement project. To conclude this phase, this report will be shared with the community partners who participated in the Photovoice process and presented to other decision-makers in the Haz Waste Program in Spring 2025.

The community partners will be asked to review the report for accuracy, and the primary goal of their review will be to identify any areas for improvement in how the data should inform the strategies of the Haz Waste Program. Community partners will also have the opportunity to co-present at a scheduled presentation in Spring 2025 for King County staff members and other interested individuals.

### Implementing Phase 2

After presenting the Phase 1 outcomes, the project team will shift their focus to Phase 2, which involves facilitating a community task force. This task force will develop a Community Engagement Model that recommends principles and mechanisms for long-term, ongoing engagement with priority communities, best practices for community partnerships, culturally competent communication channels, and more.

The Haz Waste Program could benefit from a more thorough examination of the images collected during the Photovoice experience. The task force could delve deeper into the visual details—such as the labels on items, the types of materials depicted, and their sources—to assist the Haz Waste Program gain additional comprehensions.

As the Haz Waste Program recruits for the task force, the project team will reflect on which perspectives may enhance the insights gained from the Photovoice process. For example, Photovoice participants noted that incorporating young people into these conversations would add value, since they may also be using and disposing of common hazardous products like batteries. The task force will build on the insights generated through this research and address gaps in questions that the project team did not have time to cover during the community engagement session:

- How are other key themes (Community, Culture, Social Justice, and Food Sovereignty) connected to the safe use and disposal of hazardous products?
- How do actions to promote the safe use and disposal of hazardous products also support the key themes identified through this research?

The outcomes of the community task force will guide the Haz Waste Program by incorporating suggestions from community partners and informing decisions on resource allocation, initiative implementation, and service funding.



## End Notes

- <sup>1</sup> "Racial Equity Strategic Plan." Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County, October 2018.
- <sup>2</sup> Wallerstein N., Duran B., Oetzel J., Minkler M. (Eds.). (2018). *Community-based participatory research for health: Advancing social and health equity (3rd ed.)*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
- <sup>3</sup> Johnson, N. M. & Johnson, A. (2022). *Creative Evaluation and Engagement: Essentials (Vol 1)*. Inspire to Change.
- <sup>4</sup> King County Community Engagement Guide  
<https://kingcounty.gov/~media/elected/executive/equity-social-justice/documents/CommunityEngagementGuideContinuum2011.ashx?la=en>
- <sup>5</sup> Nuu Savi is an Indigenous people whose ancestral land is in what is now known as Oaxaca, Mexico.
- <sup>6</sup> Aire, A. (2020) How to Build Language Justice. [https://antenaantena.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/AntenaAire\\_HowToBuildLanguageJustice-2020.pdf](https://antenaantena.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/AntenaAire_HowToBuildLanguageJustice-2020.pdf)
- <sup>7</sup> First Nations Development Institute. (2015). Food Sovereignty. First Nations Development Institute's Native Agricultural and Food Systems Investments <https://www.firstnations.org/publications/fact-sheet-9-food-sovereignty/>
- <sup>8</sup> Earth Economics. (2021). The Sociocultural Significance of Pacific Salmon to Tribes and First Nations. Special Report to the Pacific Salmon Commission.  
[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/561dc6e4b039470e9afc00/t/60e77b5e577df265e8abf91e/1730503736305/EE\\_PSC\\_SpecialReport\\_6821.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/561dc6e4b039470e9afc00/t/60e77b5e577df265e8abf91e/1730503736305/EE_PSC_SpecialReport_6821.pdf)



## Appendices

### Appendix A: Photographs and Captions

| Photographs   | English  | Español  |
|---|--|--|
|    | <p><b>Beyond the Horizon</b></p> <p>We as a community have the right to live and thrive in a safe and healthy environment. However, infrastructures like these are what stands in the way from experiencing what can be a world without climate and environmental challenges.</p>  | <p><b>Más allá del horizonte</b></p> <p>Como comunidad, tenemos derecho a vivir y prosperar en un entorno seguro y saludable. Sin embargo, infraestructuras como estas nos impiden disfrutar lo que podría ser un mundo sin desafíos climáticos y medioambientales.</p>  |
|  | <p><b>Environmental Advocates</b></p> <p>This image embodies the themes of community empowerment, resilience, and solidarity. It illustrates the strength that arises from mobilizing communities when accurate information and data are disseminated. Communities possess the inherent right to participate in policy-driven discussions when the opportunity arises.</p> | <p><b>Defensores medioambientales</b></p> <p>Esta imagen representa los temas del empoderamiento comunitario, la resiliencia y la solidaridad. Muestra la fuerza que emerge cuando las comunidades se movilizan con información y datos veraces. Las comunidades tienen el derecho inherente de participar en los debates políticos cuando surge la oportunidad.</p> |





| Photographs   | English   | Español   |
|---|---|---|
|    | <p><b>Close to Home</b></p> <p>This image underscores the significance of inclusivity and the celebration of diversity. It is essential that we create an environment that embraces diversity within our community.</p> <p>Island nations are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of global warming. Ongoing discussions aim to propose and implement eco- friendly practices that can help mitigate the strain on our environment at the local level.</p> | <p><b>Cerca de casa</b></p> <p>Esta imagen destaca la importancia de la inclusión y la celebración de la diversidad. Es fundamental crear un entorno que acoja la diversidad dentro de nuestra comunidad. Las naciones que son islas son especialmente vulnerables a los efectos del calentamiento global. Los debates actuales tienen el propósito de proponer y aplicar prácticas ecológicas que puedan ayudar a mitigar la presión sobre nuestro medio ambiente a nivel local.</p> |
|  | <p><b>Environmental Disparity</b></p> <p>This image effectively illustrates the pathway through which toxic chemicals can infiltrate streams and subsequently affect freshwater systems in the King County area. Notably, this operation is situated in close proximity to a community clinic and residential neighborhoods.</p>  | <p><b>Disparidad medioambiental</b></p> <p>Esta imagen muestra claramente la manera en la que las sustancias químicas tóxicas pueden infiltrarse en los arroyos y afectar a los sistemas de agua dulce en King County. Es importante destacar que esta operación se encuentra muy cerca de una clínica comunitaria y vecindarios residenciales.</p>   |



| Photographs  | English  | Español  |
|--|--|--|
|   | <p><b>Restore Natural Ecosystems</b></p> <p>This image captures the exquisite beauty of an untouched ecosystem, nestled in a remote location.</p>  | <p><b>Restauración de ecosistemas naturales</b></p> <p>Esta imagen captura la belleza extraordinaria de un ecosistema virgen en un lugar remoto.</p>   |
|  | <p><b>Celebrating Unity Through Music in Seward Park</b></p> <p>The photo captures a powerful social justice musical and poetry event for an important cause—exactly the kind of work I'm passionate about. It was taken in Seward Park, a historic urban green space in South Seattle, right in my neighborhood where we often come together for social gatherings.</p> <p>This moment represents so much more than just music and poetry; it symbolizes the incredible unity of activists, advocates, and people from diverse cultural and racial backgrounds coming together in solidarity, working for a shared vision of justice and equality in the U.S. and abroad.</p> | <p><b>Celebración de la unidad a través de la música en Seward Park</b></p> <p>La foto muestra un impactante acto musical y poético por la justicia social en favor de una causa importante, exactamente el tipo de trabajo que me apasiona. Fue tomada en Seward Park, un histórico espacio verde urbano en el sur de Seattle, justo en mi vecindario, donde a menudo nos reunimos socialmente. Este momento representa mucho más que música y poesía; simboliza la increíble unidad de activistas, defensores y personas de diversos orígenes culturales y raciales que se solidarizan y trabajan por una visión compartida de justicia e igualdad en Estados Unidos y en el extranjero.</p> |





| Photographs   | English  | Español  |
|---|--|--|
|    | <p><b>Stewardship in Action: Monitoring Juvenile Chinook Salmon</b></p> <p>This photo shows a juvenile chinook salmon during an annual stewardship fish monitoring event in South Seattle, just steps from my neighborhood. Holding the salmon in a measuring device, we meticulously assess its health and size, ensuring its well- being as it migrates through urban waterways. My commitment to fish conservation stems from my profession and its crucial role in supporting diverse cultures and vibrant ecosystems.</p> | <p><b>La protección en acción: Monitoreo del salmón chinook juvenil</b></p> <p>Esta foto muestra un salmón chinook juvenil durante un evento anual de monitoreo de peces en el sur de Seattle, a pocos pasos de mi vecindario. Sujetamos el salmón para medirlo y evaluamos meticulosamente su salud y tamaño, para asegurarnos de su bienestar mientras migra por ríos y arroyos en áreas urbanas. Mi compromiso con la conservación de los peces nace de mi profesión y del papel crucial que tienen los peces en diversas culturas y ecosistemas vibrantes.</p> |
|  | <p><b>Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony</b></p> <p>The photo depicts a coffee ceremony, hosted by the Ethiopian community in South Seattle, beautifully reflects the rich cultural heritage in my neighborhood. This event is part of the diverse programming I actively support and participate in at my local park. Engaging with these cultural gatherings deepens my understanding of our community and fosters the valuable exchange of traditions and stories.</p>   | <p><b>Ceremonia etíope del café</b></p> <p>La foto muestra una ceremonia del café, organizada por la comunidad etíope del sur de Seattle, que refleja a la perfección el rico patrimonio cultural de mi vecindario. Este evento es parte de los diversos programas que apoyo activamente y en los que participo en mi parque local. Mi participación en estos encuentros culturales profundiza mi conocimiento de nuestra comunidad y fomenta el valioso intercambio de tradiciones e historias.</p>   |






| Photographs   | English   | Español   |
|---|---|---|
|    | <p><b>Addressing the Trash Crisis in Our Streets</b></p> <p>This photo highlights the trash dumping crisis impacting Seattle, with various waste items—including hazardous materials—littering different streets of my South Seattle neighborhood. To me, it symbolizes the deeper issues of displacement and the housing crisis, revealing a troubling neglect of our community's needs. This situation demands urgent attention and action; we cannot turn a blind eye any longer.</p>              | <p><b>Respuesta ante la crisis de la basura en nuestras calles</b></p> <p>Esta foto ilustra la crisis de vertidos de basura que afecta a Seattle, con diversos desechos, incluidos materiales peligrosos, ensuciando las distintas calles de mi vecindario del sur de la ciudad. Para mí, simboliza los problemas más profundos como el desalojamiento y la crisis de la vivienda, y revela una preocupante desatención a las necesidades de nuestra comunidad. Esta situación exige atención y medidas urgentes; no podemos seguir pasando por alto el problema.</p> |
|  | <p><b>Guardians of Our Local Waterways</b></p> <p>This photo shows a stream steward diligently walking upstream during the fall season in Seattle, assessing the water quality and natural foam (commonly referred to as dissolved organic carbon (DOC)) in my local creek. It highlights the commitment and care we volunteers dedicate to monitoring the health of our waterways each year. Together, we strive to protect and preserve the vital ecosystems in the Rainier Beach neighborhood.</p> | <p><b>Guardianes de nuestros ríos locales</b></p> <p>Esta foto muestra a un defensor de arroyos caminando diligentemente río arriba durante el otoño en Seattle, evaluando la calidad del agua y la espuma natural, comúnmente denominada carbono orgánico disuelto (COD), en mi arroyo local. La foto destaca el compromiso y el cuidado que los voluntarios dedicamos cada año a vigilar la salud de nuestros ríos. Juntos, nos esforzamos por proteger y preservar los ecosistemas vitales del vecindario de Rainier Beach.</p>                                    |



| Photographs   | English   | Español  |
|---|---|--|
|    | <p><b>Soil to Table: Naturally Grown Zucchini</b></p> <p>This photograph showcases a vibrant, naturally grown zucchini nestled among its leafy green vines in my backyard garden. The rich, dark green vegetable emerges from the soil, free from chemicals and cultivated with care. It represents my commitment to healthy, sustainable living, and the joy of harvesting fresh, homegrown produce straight from the earth.</p> | <p><b>De la tierra a la mesa: Calabacines cultivados de forma natural</b></p> <p>Esta fotografía muestra un llamativo calabacín cultivado naturalmente entre las frondosas enredaderas verdes en el jardín de mi patio trasero. La verdura, de un verde intenso y oscuro, emerge de la tierra, libre de productos químicos y cultivada con esmero. Representa mi compromiso con una vida sana y sostenible, y la alegría de cosechar productos frescos, cultivados en casa, directamente de la tierra.</p> |
|  | <p><b>Silent Threats: Household Chemicals in Everyday Items</b></p> <p>This draws attention to the potential hidden dangers of common household items like candles, which may contain harmful chemicals if not properly handled or disposed of. This candle was taken in my kitchen, on the island next to my fresh fruit basket.</p>   | <p><b>Amenazas silenciosas: Sustancias químicas domésticas en artículos de uso cotidiano</b></p> <p>Esta foto llama atención a los posibles peligros ocultos de artículos domésticos comunes como las velas, que pueden contener sustancias químicas nocivas si no se utilizan o eliminan adecuadamente. Esta foto de una vela fue tomada en la isla en mi cocina, junto a la cesta de fruta fresca.</p>   |



| Photographs   | English  | Español  |
|---|--|--|
|    | <p><b>VOTE No to I-2117</b></p> <p>This photograph captures a political ad displayed on my bedroom TV, advocating against Washington Initiative 2117. The screen shows a woman speaking out, alongside the bold message "NO 2117: A Bad Deal for Washington." For me it is extremely important for everyone to stand up for climate justice.</p> | <p><b>VOTA NO a la I-2117</b></p> <p>Esta fotografía muestra un anuncio político en la televisión de mi habitación, en contra de la Iniciativa 2117 de Washington. En la pantalla, una mujer habla junto a un mensaje en letras destacadas que dice «NO 2117: Un pésimo acuerdo para Washington». Para mí, es sumamente importante que todo el mundo defienda la justicia climática.</p> |
|  | <p><b>Breathing Treatment</b></p> <p>My daughter and niece both suffer from asthma/bronchitis. Air quality is very important to me when considering where I want my family to live. This picture was taken 13 years ago in my home in Indiana.</p>   | <p><b>Tratamiento para la respiración</b></p> <p>Mi hija y mi sobrina sufren de asma y bronquitis. La calidad del aire es muy importante para mí a la hora de decidir dónde quiero que viva mi familia. Esta foto fue tomada hace 13 años en mi casa de Indiana.</p>   |






| Photographs  | English  | Español   |
|--|--|---|
|   | <p><b>Bye Bye Swimmy</b></p> <p>Our family goldfish, Swimmy, was killed when my daughter accidentally dropped a detergent pod in the tank.</p> <p>This was taken in our home in Indiana. Lesson, everyday household stuff can be dangerous if not managed and handled with care</p>  | <p><b>Adiós Swimmy</b></p> <p>El pez dorado de nuestra familia, Swimmy, murió cuando a mi hija se le cayó accidentalmente una cápsula de detergente en la pecera. Esta foto fue tomada en nuestra casa de Indiana. Lección: las cosas cotidianas del hogar pueden ser peligrosas si no se manejan con cuidado.</p>  |
|  | <p><b>Peanut Guides my Path!</b></p> <p>This photo was taken on a walking path in my Tribal community at Muckleshoot! My dog Peanut and I were on a photo taking adventure looking for plant medicine, when I realized that Peanut and our 4-legged friends and relatives need protection from hazardous waste exposure! Our plant and animal relatives mean so much to me and this photo embodies that.</p> | <p><b>Peanut guía mi camino!</b></p> <p>¡Esta foto fue tomada en un sendero de mi comunidad tribal en Muckleshoot! Mi perro Peanut y yo estábamos en una aventura fotográfica en busca de plantas medicinales, cuando me di cuenta de que Peanut y nuestros amigos y parientes de cuatro patas necesitan protección contra la exposición a residuos peligrosos. Nuestros parientes animales y vegetales son muy importantes para mí y esta foto lo refleja.</p> |



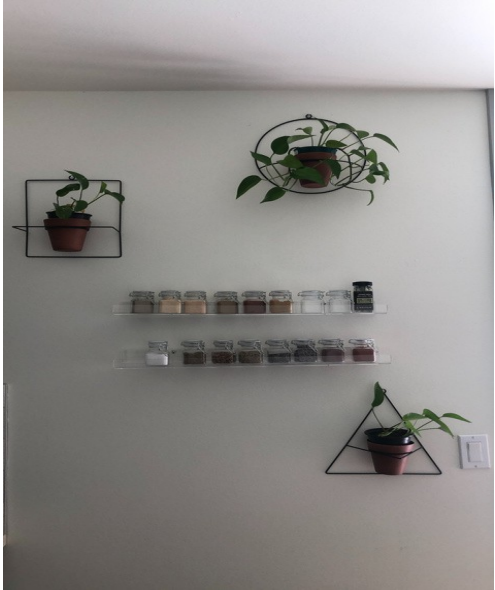

| Photographs   | English  | Español  |
|---|--|--|
|    | <p><b>Water Protectors</b></p> <p>This photo was taken in Muckleshoot and depicts the community water tower that supplies clean water to my community! It represents our need for clean water and our lack of access to it, which drives my work!!</p>   | <p><b>Protectores del agua</b></p> <p>¡Esta foto fue tomada en Muckleshoot y muestra la torre de agua que suministra agua limpia a nuestra comunidad! Representa nuestra necesidad de agua potable y la falta de acceso a ella, lo cual impulsa mi trabajo.</p>  |
|  | <p><b>Feed our people, Feed our Spirit!</b></p> <p>This photo was taken in the Crystal Mountain area on Muckleshoot owned land, while participating in community day that honors our culture and the Environment. This photo means so much because it represents our beautiful natural resources and people.</p> | <p><b>¡Alimentemos a nuestra gente, alimentemos nuestro espíritu!</b></p> <p>Esta foto fue tomada en el área de Crystal Mountain, en tierras pertenecientes al pueblo Muckleshoot, mientras participábamos en un día comunitario para honrar nuestra cultura y el medio ambiente. Esta imagen significa mucho para mí porque representa nuestros hermosos recursos naturales y nuestro pueblo.</p> |







| Photographs   | English  | Español  |
|---|--|--|
|    | <p><b>Seaweed and Shadows</b></p> <p>This photo was taken at Salt Water State park which is ancestral waterways of Muckleshoot People &amp; the seaweed represents the importance of water protection because of its power of absorbing pollution in the water. And it's such a cool variety of texture and color.</p> | <p><b>Algas y sombras</b></p> <p>Esta foto fue tomada en Salt Water State Park, parte de las vías fluviales ancestrales del pueblo Muckleshoot. Las algas simbolizan la importancia de proteger el agua debido a su capacidad para absorber la contaminación. Además, tienen una variedad de texturas y colores asombrosos.</p>                    |
|  | <p><b>Flower Power</b></p> <p>This photo was taken at Muckleshoot Tribal School. This photo was taken while harvesting dandelion before the medicine goes down to the roots in winter. It represents the power of this plant in juxtaposition to Roundup weed killer ads making dandelion the enemy.</p>               | <p><b>El poder de las flores</b></p> <p>Esta foto fue tomada en la Escuela Tribal Muckleshoot mientras se cosechaba la flor diente de león, antes que su medicina baja hasta sus raíces en el invierno. Representa el poder de esta planta en contraste con los anuncios del herbicida Roundup que convierten al diente de león en el enemigo.</p> |




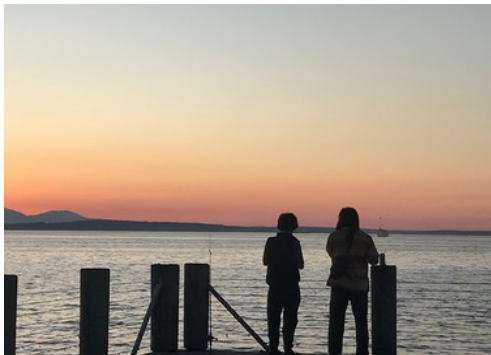
| Photographs   | English  | Español   |
|---|--|---|
|    | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Apothecary</b></p> <p>This image shows the area of my apartment that I call my "apothecary." It houses all the herbs and spices I use to cook; some were grown in my garden. It is surrounded by houseplants that I am consistently nurturing. This area shows a clear example of the role the environment plays in my life.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>"botica"</b></p> <p>Esta imagen muestra el área de mi apartamento que yo llamo mi «botica». Alberga todas las hierbas y especias que utilizo para cocinar, algunas de las cuales cultivo en mi jardín. Está rodeada de plantas que cuido constantemente. Esta parte de mi hogar es un claro ejemplo del papel que tiene el medio ambiente en mi vida.</p> |
|  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Seal Friend</b></p> <p>This image is of a seal I spotted in the Ballard Locks. It's one of the places in my neighborhood that I visit to be close to wildlife.</p>   | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>foca amiga</b></p> <p>Esta imagen muestra una foca que vi en Ballard Locks. Es uno de los lugares de mi vecindario que visito para estar cerca de la fauna.</p>   |



| Photographs   | English  | Español  |
|---|--|--|
|    | <p><b>Community Garden</b></p> <p>I have a community garden plot in the Ballard P-Patch and it's yet another space that I go to connect with my environment more intimately. I can get my hands in the dirt and chat with my fellow gardeners, sometimes learning new gossip that reminds me how interconnected we all are.</p>            | <p><b>jardín comunitario</b></p> <p>Tengo una parcela de en el Ballard P- Patch, un huerto comunitario. Este es otro espacio que visito para conectar más íntimamente con el medio ambiente. Puedo hundir las manos en la tierra y charlar con mis compañeros jardineros; a veces me entero de nuevos chismes que me recuerdan lo interconectados que estamos todos.</p> |
|  | <p><b>Roots? or Branches?</b></p> <p>I took this photo of a very old tree on a walk in the U-District. This photo makes me think about how the roots of the tree closely mirror the branches and how beautifully intricate the plants and animals in our ecosystem are. It makes me feel obligated to learn about and care for it all.</p> | <p><b>¿raíces? o ¿ramas?</b></p> <p>Tomé esta foto de un árbol muy viejo en un paseo por U-District. La imagen me hace pensar en cómo las raíces del árbol son un reflejo de las ramas y en lo maravillosamente complejas que son las plantas y los animales de nuestro ecosistema. Me hace sentir la obligación de conocer y cuidar todo nuestro ecosistema.</p>        |







| Photographs   | English  | Español   |
|---|--|---|
|    | <p><b>Thrown Away</b></p> <p>I took this photo of a video art installation inside the Burke Museum. This scene was telling the story of waste being cleaned up outside a military base in the southwest of the United States. It was a strong reminder that there is no such thing as throwing things "away." All materials we use and consume must be managed and go somewhere.</p> | <p><b>desechado</b></p> <p>Tomé esta foto de una instalación de videoarte dentro del Museo Burke. La escena contaba la historia de la limpieza de desechos en el exterior de una base militar del suroeste de Estados Unidos. Fue un recordatorio contundente de que la idea de "tirar las cosas a la basura" no es real. Todos los materiales que usamos y consumimos pasan por un proceso y terminan en alguna parte.</p> |
|  | <p><b>Connection</b></p> <p>A sunset with my daughter at Alki Beach next to our fishing poles. This photo shows our beautiful relationship and how nature brings people together for moments that are peaceful and enjoyable.</p>  | <p><b>Conexión</b></p> <p>Una puesta de sol con mi hija en Alki Beach junto a nuestras cañas de pescar. Esta foto muestra nuestra hermosa relación y cómo la naturaleza une a las personas y nos brinda momentos agradables y llenos de paz.</p>  |







| Photographs   | English  | Español  |
|---|--|--|
|    | <p><b>Taking my Home Back</b></p> <p>This rock wall is near a trail in South Park where people play frisbee together. The wall is spray painted and I imagine the people who did it wanted to send a message or just have fun.</p> <p>Ivy is growing over the wall and taking back its home. Nature itself is already art.</p> | <p><b>"Recuperando mi hogar"</b></p> <p>Este muro de roca está cerca de un sendero en South Park donde la gente juega al frisbee. Está pintado con espray e imagino que quienes lo hicieron querían enviar un mensaje o simplemente divertirse.</p> <p>La hiedra está creciendo sobre el muro y recuperando su hogar. La propia naturaleza ya es arte.</p> |
|  | <p><b>Eat Real</b></p> <p>A food stand in White Center called Eat Real. Eating fresh vegetables keeps people healthy and lead to a happier life. The food sold at the stand is organic and safe to enjoy. I work at a hospital and I see how the food we eat plays a big role in our health.</p>                               | <p><b>Eat Real</b></p> <p>Un puesto de comida en White Center llamado Eat Real. Comer verduras frescas mantiene a la gente sana y conduce a una vida más feliz. Los alimentos que se venden en el puesto son orgánicos y seguros. Trabajo en un hospital y veo cómo los alimentos que comemos tienen un papel importante en nuestra salud.</p>             |



| Photographs  | English  | Español   |
|--|--|---|
|   | <p><b>Eat healthy, Smile Longer</b></p> <p>A food stand in White Center called Eat Real. Living a healthy life makes you smile more and for a longer time.</p>   | <p><b>Come sano, sonríe más</b></p> <p>Un puesto de comida en White Center llamado Eat Real. Llevar una vida sana te hace sonreír más y por más tiempo.</p>   |
|  | <p><b>Love Brings Life Together</b></p> <p>A mural at the White Center Super Saver Store made by The Art Club. It shows people from different cultures coming together to enjoy food. When people spend quality time and share food with each other, they bring love together.</p> | <p><b>El amor une las vidas</b></p> <p>Un mural en la tienda Super Saver de White Center realizado por The Art Club. Muestra a personas de diferentes culturas que se reúnen para disfrutar una comida juntos. Cuando las personas pasan buenos momentos y comparten comida con los demás, crean y unen amor.</p> |



| Photographs  | English   | Español  |
|--|---|--|
|   | <p><b>Park in the Concrete Forest</b></p> <p>There are lots of concrete buildings in Chinatown/International District. Green space is sacred, and we are gracious to have Hing Hay Park in the heart of the neighborhood that provide space and opportunity for community members to rest and recuperate in the nature.</p> | <p><b>Parque en el bosque de concreto</b></p> <p>Hay muchos edificios de concreto en Chinatown/International District. Los espacios verdes son sagrados y es una dicha que Hing Hay Park esté en el corazón del vecindario. Brinda un espacio y una oportunidad para que los miembros de la comunidad descansen y se recuperen rodeados por la naturaleza.</p> |
|  | <p><b>Withering</b></p> <p>Some trees in the neighborhood are dying because people poured toxic chemicals to the soil of the trees. I feel profound sadness watching the trees wither, once was so full of life, reminding me something beautiful and thrive are slipping away.</p>   | <p><b>Marchitándose</b></p> <p>Algunos de los árboles en el vecindario están muriendo porque la gente derramó químicos tóxicos en la tierra de los árboles. Siento una profunda tristeza viendo cómo se marchitan los árboles, una vez tan llenos de vida, y me recuerda como podemos perder algo hermoso y próspero.</p>                                      |





| Photographs   | English  | Español   |
|---|--|---|
|    | <p><b>Paifang (Gateways)–<br/>Landmark of our<br/>Neighborhood</b></p> <p>Gateways are traditional Chinese architecture and symbolize the resilience and pride of Chinese immigrants.</p>  | <p><b>Paifang (Puerta de entrada)–lugar emblemático de nuestro vecindario</b></p> <p>Las puertas de entrada son parte de la arquitectura tradicional china y simbolizan la resiliencia y el orgullo de los inmigrantes chinos.</p>                                  |
|  | <p><b>Vanishing Greens in the Neighborhood</b></p> <p>Seeing plants dying in the neighborhood reminds me the correlation between our actions and the environment. Whatever we do have direct impact on the environment, whether it is visible/noticeable or not.</p> | <p><b>Se desvanece el verde en nuestro vecindario</b></p> <p>Ver a las plantas muriendo en en vecindario me recuerda a la relación entre nuestras acciones y el ambiente. odo lo que hacemos tiene un impacto directo en el medio ambiente, podamos verlo a no.</p> |



| Photographs  | English  | Español   |
|--|--|---|
|   | <p><b>Little Harmful Materials Adding Up and Causing Harmful Impacts to the Environment</b></p> <p>Motor oil leaks, improper dumping of motor oils, even very tiny little drops, when adding up, would contribute to soil and water contamination, air pollution, and ultimately, harms to everyone in the environment.</p>  | <p><b>Pequeños materiales dañinos que se acumulan y causan un impacto negativo al medio ambiente</b></p> <p>Las fugas de aceite para motor, tirar de manera incorrecta el aceite para motor, hasta en gotitas muy pequeñas, se acumula y contribuye a la contaminación de la tierra y del agua, la contaminación del aire, y a fin de cuentas hace daño a todo el mundo en el ambiente.</p>   |
|  | <p><b>Troll of Silence</b></p> <p>I took this photo of the wooden troll artwork on October 21 when I was on a walk in Lincoln Park in West Seattle. One thing that I like a lot about seeing this art is that you have to walk to it, since cars can't go to it. There's another one on the seashore and every time I go I like that there is no garbage. People respect and value art, the troll is beautiful artwork to me. I feel tranquility and a rush of emotion when I see art.</p> | <p><b>trol del silencio</b></p> <p>Tomé esta foto del arte de madera trol el 21 de octubre en una caminata a Lincoln Park en West Seattle. Algo que me gusta mucho de ver ese arte es que la única manera de llegar es caminando ya que no pueden ingresar autos. Hay otra que se encuentra en la orilla del mar y siempre que voy me gusta que no veo basura. Las personas respetan y valoran el arte, el trol se me hace un arte hermoso. Me da tranquilidad y emoción cuando estoy frente al arte.</p> |



| Photographs   | English  | Español  |
|---|--|--|
|  | <p><b>Tiliches of Abundance</b></p> <p>A photo I just took on August 31 at an event hosted by Pueblos Originarios, a collective of Indigenous people in King County. The dance of the tiliches comes from a community in Oaxaca, Mexico. The word tiliches means having a lot of things grouped together, like in a garage. This dance reminds each person of everything we already have inside of us. Sometimes we say, "I don't have anything," but if we start seeing our qualities and everything that is good and beautiful in our person we would end up as loaded up as the tiliches. The dance reminds us that we could sit down naked and still feel blanketed by everything we have. Each dancer takes everything good around them, and for each quality and good thing they put on a cape made up of pieces of fabric until they have so much that they feel hot. This reminds us of how privileged we all are.</p> | <p><b>Tiliches de abundancia</b></p> <p>Esta es una foto que recién tomé el 31 de agosto en un evento que realizamos Pueblos Originarios, un colectivo de personas indígenas en el condado de King. La danza de los tiliches proviene de una comunidad de Oaxaca, México.</p> <p>La palabra tiliches significa el tener muchas cosas juntas, como en un garaje. Lo que hace esta danza es recordar a cada persona todo lo que tenemos dentro de nosotros mismos. En ocasiones decimos, "no tengo nada," pero si empezamos a ver nuestras cualidades y todo lo bueno y bonito en nuestra persona saldríamos tan cargados como los tiliches. La danza nos recuerda que nos podemos sentar desnudos y podemos terminar tan cobijados con todo lo que tenemos.</p> <p>Cada danzante toma todo lo bueno a su alrededor y por cada cualidad y cosas buenas se pone una capa de pedazos de tela hasta que tiene tanto que le produce calor. Esto nos recuerda lo privilegiados que somos todos.</p> |
|   |  |  |






| Photographs   | English   | Español  |
|---|---|--|
|  | <p><b>Flowering Farm</b></p> <p>I took this photo at a farm in Kent on October 22. The King County Open Space Cabinet took us to this site to meet the families who farm there. They are mostly immigrants from Kenya that farm there to have an income and at the same time donate to the community. This year they have donated two thousand pounds of food to the West Seattle Farmers Market so that the market can gift the food to the community. One of the topics they spoke about during the visit were the toxic residues on these lands that go through the crops and then to the Green River. We worry about how to educate the population so they do not throw hazardous products along the river that can reach the crops through the water. We would like if it there could be drop boxes along the river where people can put aerosols, paints, and other items to avoid pollution.</p> | <p><b>Cultivo del florecer</b></p> <p>Tomé esta foto de una granja que se encuentra en Kent el 22 de octubre. El gabinete de espacio abierto del condado nos llevó a este sitio a visitar a las familias que ahí cultivan. En su mayoría son inmigrantes de Kenia y aquí comenzaron a cultivar para tener ingresos y al mismo tiempo donar a la comunidad. Este año han donado 2 mil libras de productos al farmers market de West Seattle para que a su vez el mercado lo regale a la comunidad. Uno de los temas que hablaron en la visita son los residuos tóxicos por estos terrenos pasan por el cultivo y pasan al río verde. Nos preocupa cómo educar a la población para que no tire productos peligrosos en cualquier transcurso del río y que esto llegue al cultivo por el agua. Nos gustaría que por donde pasan los ríos puedan existir cajas que uno pueda poner botes de aerosol o botes de pintura y de más para evitar contaminación.</p> |
|   |   |  |



| Photographs   | English   | Español   |
|---|---|---|
|  | <p><b>Danger at your Fingertips</b></p> <p>I took this photo on October 25 in my house in Seattle along Rainier Avenue. My small, 1.5-year-old daughter reached her dad's bag, took everything out, and among everything she found some batteries. Just as her dad realized it, she was chewing on a battery and that scared us because she bit down hard and left it flattened.</p> <p>We didn't know what to do, where to call to see if she should see a doctor or if we should call poison control in case the battery has something hazardous. In the end, we didn't know what to do and just kept an eye on her to make sure she was ok.</p> <p>Many times, we don't know where to put hazardous things that we have in our bag, my baby's father said he didn't know where to put used batteries since they can't go in the garbage, but there isn't another place to put them, so he put them in his bag.</p> | <p><b>Peligro a la mano</b></p> <p>Tomé esta foto el 25 de octubre en mi casa en Seattle por la avenida Rainier. Mi hija pequeña de un año y medio alcanzó el bolso de su papá, sacó las cosas y entre ellos encontró unas pilas y baterías. Justo cuando el papá se dio cuenta ella estaba mordiendo una batería y eso nos asustó porque la mordió duro y lo dejó aplastado.</p> <p>Nosotros no supimos qué hacer, a dónde llamar para ver si debía ir al medico o llamar al centro de envenenamiento por si la pila contiene algo peligroso. Encima, no supimos qué hacer y lo dejamos así solo viendo que ella esté bien.</p> <p>Muchas veces no vemos las cosas peligrosas que tenemos en el bolso, el papá de mi bebé dijo que no sabe dónde depositar las pilas que ya fueron usadas porque no deben ir en la basura, pero tampoco hay un sitio donde tirar, por eso lo puso en su bolso.</p> |



| Photographs   | English   | Español  |
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|  | <p><b>Sharing</b></p> <p>This is a fruit and vegetable distribution that I support every month to give to the community. This photo was taken in South Park on October 20, close to the library. We were making a train to unload things, especially watermelon. Later we saw that our hands were very dirty, and we worried about whether there were chemicals on the watermelon that could have stayed behind on our clothes and hands.</p> | <p><b>Compartir en blanco</b></p> <p>Esta es una distribución de frutas y verduras que apoyo cada mes para brindar a la comunidad. Esta foto fue tomada en South Park el 20 de octubre fuera de la librería. Estábamos haciendo un tren para bajar las cosas, sobre todo la sandía. Después vimos nuestras manos muy sucias y nos preocupamos por si hay químicos sobre la sandía que pudieron quedar en nuestra ropa y manos.</p> |



## Appendix B: Gallery Walk Comments

| # | Title                      | Español                               | Caption  | Caption (Español)  | Notes (Focus Group)   |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| 1 | Beyond the Horizon         | Más allá del horizonte                | We as a <b>community</b> have the right to live and thrive in a <b>safe and healthy environment</b> . However, infrastructures like these are what stands in the way from experiencing what can be a world without <b>climate</b> and environmental challenges.  | Como comunidad, tenemos derecho a vivir y prosperar en un entorno seguro y saludable. Sin embargo, infraestructuras como estas nos impiden disfrutar lo que podría ser un mundo sin desafíos climáticos y medioambientales.  |   |
| 2 | Environmental Advocates    | Defensores medioambientales           | This image embodies the themes of <b>community empowerment, resilience, and solidarity</b> . It illustrates the strength that arises from mobilizing <b>communities</b> when accurate information and data are disseminated. Communities possess the inherent <b>right to participate in policy-driven discussions</b> when the opportunity arises.  | Esta imagen representa los temas del empoderamiento comunitario, la resiliencia y la solidaridad. Muestra la fuerza que emerge cuando las comunidades se movilizan con información y datos veraces. Las comunidades tienen el derecho inherente de participar en los debates políticos cuando surge la oportunidad.  |   |
| 3 | Close to home              | Cerca de casa                         | This image underscores the significance of inclusivity and the celebration of diversity. It is essential that we <b>create an environment that embraces diversity within our community</b> . Island nations are particularly <b>vulnerable to the impacts of global warming</b> . Ongoing discussions aim to propose and implement <b>eco-friendly practices that can help mitigate the strain on our environment at the local level</b> . | Esta imagen destaca la importancia de la inclusión y la celebración de la diversidad. Es fundamental crear un entorno que acoja la diversidad dentro de nuestra comunidad. Las naciones que son islas son especialmente vulnerables a los efectos del calentamiento global. Los debates actuales tienen el propósito de proponer y aplicar prácticas ecológicas que puedan ayudar a mitigar la presión sobre nuestro medio ambiente a nivel local. | <p><i>Culture brings lives together, this brings me back to the stage of Thai performance</i></p> <p><i>Unity. Make voices to be louder and being heard better</i></p> <p><i>Similar to voting no to initiative 2117. We need to save our environment</i></p> |
| 4 | Environmental Disparity    | Disparidad medioambiental             | This image effectively illustrates the <b>pathway</b> through which <b>toxic chemicals can infiltrate streams</b> and subsequently affect freshwater systems in the King County area. Notably, this operation is situated in <b>close proximity to a community clinic and residential neighborhoods</b> .  | Esta imagen muestra claramente la manera en la que las sustancias químicas tóxicas pueden infiltrarse en los arroyos y afectar a los sistemas de agua dulce en King County. Es importante destacar que esta operación se encuentra muy cerca de una clínica comunitaria y vecindarios residenciales.   | <i>Invisible toxic materials in the air "eating" up our health!</i>   |
| 5 | Restore Natural Ecosystems | Restauración de ecosistemas naturales | This image captures the exquisite <b>beauty</b> of an <b>untouched</b> ecosystem, <b>nestled</b> in a <b>remote</b> location.  | Esta imagen captura la belleza extraordinaria de un ecosistema virgen en un lugar remoto.  | <p><i>Preservation &amp; Nature</i></p> <p><i>We should save guard nature as much as we can</i></p>   |



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| 6 | Celebrating Unity Through Music in Seward Park            | Celebración de la unidad a través de la música en Seward Park | The photo captures a powerful <b>social justice</b> musical and poetry event for an important cause—exactly the kind of work I'm passionate about. It was taken in Seward Park, a historic urban green space in South Seattle, right in my neighborhood where we often come together for <b>social gatherings</b> . This moment represents so much more than just music and poetry; it symbolizes the incredible unity of activists, advocates, and people from diverse cultural and racial backgrounds coming together in solidarity, <b>working for a shared vision of justice and equality in the U.S. and abroad.</b> | La foto muestra un impactante acto musical y poético por la justicia social en favor de una causa importante, exactamente el tipo de trabajo que me apasiona. Fue tomada en Seward Park, un histórico espacio verde urbano en el sur de Seattle, justo en mi vecindario, donde a menudo nos reunimos socialmente. Este momento representa mucho más que música y poesía; simboliza la increíble unidad de activistas, defensores y personas de diversos orígenes culturales y raciales que se solidarizan y trabajan por una visión compartida de justicia e igualdad en Estados Unidos y en el extranjero. | <i>Love to see the beauty in a community gathering to support each other and work together</i>      |
| 7 | Stewardship in Action: Monitoring Juvenile Chinook Salmon | La protección en acción: Monitoreo del salmón chinook juvenil | This photo shows a juvenile chinook salmon during an annual stewardship fish monitoring event in South Seattle, just steps from my neighborhood. Holding the salmon in a measuring device, we meticulously assess its health and size, ensuring its well-being as it migrates through urban waterways. <b>My commitment to fish conservation stems from my profession and its crucial role in supporting diverse cultures and vibrant ecosystems.</b>   | Esta foto muestra un salmón chinook juvenil durante un evento anual de monitoreo de peces en el sur de Seattle, a pocos pasos de mi vecindario. Sujetamos el salmón para medirlo y evaluamos meticulosamente su salud y tamaño, para asegurarnos de su bienestar mientras migra por ríos y arroyos en áreas urbanas. Mi compromiso con la conservación de los peces nace de mi profesión y del papel crucial que tienen los peces en diversas culturas y ecosistemas vibrantes.   | <i>We are responsible for the well-being of the nature and other life forms in our neighborhood</i> |
| 8 | Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony                                 | Ceremonia etíope del café                                     | The photo depicts a coffee ceremony, hosted by the Ethiopian community in South Seattle, beautifully reflects the rich cultural heritage in my neighborhood. This event is part of the <b>diverse programming I actively support and participate in at my local park</b> . Engaging with these cultural gatherings <b>deepens my understanding of our community and fosters the valuable exchange of traditions and stories.</b>  | La foto muestra una ceremonia del café, organizada por la comunidad etíope del sur de Seattle, que refleja a la perfección el rico patrimonio cultural de mi vecindario. Este evento es parte de los diversos programas que apoyo activamente y en los que participo en mi parque local. Mi participación en estos encuentros culturales profundiza mi conocimiento de nuestra comunidad y fomenta el valioso intercambio de tradiciones e historias.   |   |
| 9 | Addressing the Trash Crisis in Our Streets                | Respuesta ante la crisis de la basura en nuestras calles      | This photo highlights the trash dumping crisis impacting Seattle, with various waste items—including hazardous materials—littering different streets of my South Seattle neighborhood. To me, it symbolizes the deeper issues of  | Esta foto ilustra la crisis de vertidos de basura que afecta a Seattle, con diversos desechos, incluidos materiales peligrosos, ensuciando las distintas calles de mi vecindario del sur de la ciudad. Para mí, simboliza los problemas más profundos como  | <i>I do have this picture in my mind that how can we make this better to our place</i>              |





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|    |   |  | <b>displacement and the housing crisis</b> , revealing a troubling <b>neglect of our community's needs</b> . This situation <b>demands urgent attention and action</b> ; we cannot turn a blind eye any longer.   | el desalojamiento y la crisis de la vivienda, y revela una preocupante desatención a las necesidades de nuestra comunidad. Esta situación exige atención y medidas urgentes; no podemos seguir pasando por alto el problema.  | <i>Resonate with the dumping of trash, housing crisis is all part of a system that often shows neglect, and economic crisis</i> |
| 10 | Guardians of Our Local Waterways                      | Guardianes de nuestros ríos locales  | This photo shows a <b>stream steward</b> diligently walking upstream during the fall season in Seattle, <b>assessing the water quality and natural foam</b> (commonly referred to as dissolved organic carbon (DOC)) in my local creek. It highlights the commitment and care we volunteers dedicate to <b>monitoring the health of our waterways</b> each year. Together, we strive to <b>protect and preserve the vital ecosystems</b> in the Rainier Beach neighborhood. | Esta foto muestra a un defensor de arroyos caminando diligentemente río arriba durante el otoño en Seattle, evaluando la calidad del agua y la espuma natural, comúnmente denominada carbono orgánico disuelto (COD), en mi arroyo local. La foto destaca el compromiso y el cuidado que los voluntarios dedicamos cada año a vigilar la salud de nuestros ríos. Juntos, nos esforzamos por proteger y preservar los ecosistemas vitales del vecindario de Rainier Beach. |   |
| 11 | Soil to Table: Naturally Grown Zucchini               | De la tierra a la mesa: Calabacines cultivados de forma natural                    | This photograph showcases a <b>vibrant, naturally grown zucchini</b> nestled among its leafy green vines in my backyard garden. The rich, dark green vegetable emerges from the soil, <b>free from chemicals</b> and cultivated with care. It represents <b>my commitment to healthy, sustainable living, and the joy of harvesting fresh, homegrown produce straight from the earth</b> .  | Esta fotografía muestra un llamativo calabacín cultivado naturalmente entre las frondosas enredaderas verdes en el jardín de mi patio trasero. La verdura, de un verde intenso y oscuro, emerge de la tierra, libre de productos químicos y cultivada con esmero. Representa mi compromiso con una vida sana y sostenible, y la alegría de cosechar productos frescos, cultivados en casa, directamente de la tierra.   | <i>I love garden and enjoy products from my own grown in my backyard</i>  |
|    |   |  |   |   | <i>Beautiful description, beautiful garden</i>  |
|    |   |  |   |   | <i>I believe growing your own food is empowering and very important in this day and age!</i>                                    |
| 12 | Silent Threats: Household Chemicals in Everyday Items | Amenazas silenciosas: Sustancias químicas domésticas en artículos de uso cotidiano | This draws attention to the potential hidden dangers of common household items like candles, which <b>may contain harmful chemicals</b> if not <b>properly handled or disposed of</b> . This candle was taken in my kitchen, on the island next to my fresh fruit basket.   | Esta foto llama atención a los posibles peligros ocultos de artículos domésticos comunes como las velas, que pueden contener sustancias químicas nocivas si no se utilizan o eliminan adecuadamente. Esta foto de una vela fue tomada en la isla en mi cocina, junto a la cesta de fruta fresca.  |   |
| 13 | VOTE No to I-2117                                     | VOTA NO a la I-2117  | This photograph captures a political ad displayed on my bedroom TV, advocating against Washington Initiative 2117. The screen shows a woman speaking out, alongside the bold message "NO 2117: A Bad Deal for Washington." <b>For me it is extremely important for everyone to stand up for climate justice</b> .   | Esta fotografía muestra un anuncio político en la televisión de mi habitación, en contra de la Iniciativa 2117 de Washington. En la pantalla, una mujer habla junto a un mensaje en letras destacadas que dice «NO 2117: Un pésimo acuerdo para Washington». Para mí, es sumamente importante que todo el mundo defienda la justicia climática.   | <i>Community voices to protect our environment</i>  |
| 14 | Breathing treatment                                   | Tratamiento para la respiración  | My daughter and niece both suffer from asthma/bronchitis. <b>Air quality is very important</b>  | Mi hija y mi sobrina sufren de asma y bronquitis. La calidad del aire es muy importante para mí   | <i>Everyone is responsible to leave our future generations</i>  |





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|    |                                   |   | <p><b>to me when considering where I want my family to live.</b> This picture was taken 13 years ago in my home in Indiana.</p>  | <p>a la hora de decidir dónde quiero que viva mi familia. Esta foto fue tomada hace 13 años en mi casa de Indiana.</p>   | <p><i>a healthy environment so they can grow healthy and thrive</i></p> <p><i>Breathe the real clear air is the best for our kids</i></p> <p><i>Air quality is always an issue especially in locations close to manufacturing companies. Close proximity to heavily polluted location, red lining has brought us here!</i></p> <p><i>It hurts my heart to see the direct health impacts of the environmental injustices in our communities but it also makes the problem so clear and real and not abstract</i></p> |
| 15 | Bye bye swimmy                    | Adiós Swimmy  | <p>Our family goldfish, Swimmy, was killed when my daughter accidentally dropped a detergent pod in the tank. This was taken in our home in Indiana. <b>Lesson, everyday household stuff can be dangerous if not managed and handled with care</b></p>   | <p>El pez dorado de nuestra familia, Swimmy, murió cuando a mi hija se le cayó accidentalmente una cápsula de detergente en la pecera. Esta foto fue tomada en nuestra casa de Indiana. Lección: las cosas cotidianas del hogar pueden ser peligrosas si no se manejan con cuidado.</p>  | <p><i>Safety for animals in communities</i></p> <p><i>Similitud el peligro en casa, el sentimiento de dolor, me impresionó / Similar, the danger at home, the feeling of pain, it impacted me</i></p>   |
| 16 | Peanut Guides my Path!            | iPeanut guía mi camino!                                     | <p>This photo was taken on a <b>walking path in my Tribal community</b> at Muckleshoot! My dog Peanut and I were on a photo taking adventure looking for plant medicine, when I realized that <b>Peanut and our 4- legged friends and relatives need protection from hazardous waste exposure! Our plant and animal relatives mean so much to me</b> and this photo embodies that.</p> | <p>iEsta foto fue tomada en un sendero de mi comunidad tribal en Muckleshoot! Mi perro Peanut y yo estábamos en una aventura fotográfica en busca de plantas medicinales, cuando me di cuenta de que Peanut y nuestros amigos y parientes de cuatro patas necesitan protección contra la exposición a residuos peligrosos. Nuestros parientes animales y vegetales son muy importantes para mí y esta foto lo refleja.</p> | <p><i>Animal safety starts with us</i></p>  |
| 17 | Water Protectors                  | Protectores del agua  | <p>This photo was taken in Muckleshoot and depicts the <b>community water tower that supplies clean water</b> to my community! It represents our need for <b>clean water</b> and <b>our lack of access</b> to it, which <b>drives my work!!</b></p>  | <p>iEsta foto fue tomada en Muckleshoot y muestra la torre de agua que suministra agua limpia a nuestra comunidad! Representa nuestra necesidad de agua potable y la falta de acceso a ella, lo cual impulsa mi trabajo.</p>   |   |
| 18 | Feed our people, Feed our Spirit! | iAlimentemos a nuestra gente, alimentemos nuestro espíritu! | <p>This photo was taken in the Crystal Mountain area on Muckleshoot owned land, while <b>participating in community day</b> that honors our <b>culture and the Environment.</b> This</p>   | <p>Esta foto fue tomada en el área de Crystal Mountain, en tierras pertenecientes al pueblo Muckleshoot, mientras participábamos en un día comunitario para honrar nuestra</p>   | <p><i>We need to harvest food from lakes that are not infested by impurities and chemicals</i></p>  |



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|----|-------------------|------------------------|---|---|--|
|    |                   |                        | photo means so much because it represents our <b>beautiful natural resources and people.</b>  | cultura y el medio ambiente. Esta imagen significa mucho para mí porque representa nuestros hermosos recursos naturales y nuestro pueblo.   |  |
| 19 | Seaweed & Shadows | Algas y sombras        | This photo was taken at Salt Water State park which is ancestral waterways of Muckleshoot People & the <b>seaweed represents the importance of water protection</b> because of its <b>power of absorbing pollution in the water.</b> And it's such a cool variety of texture and color.                                       | Esta foto fue tomada en Salt Water State Park, parte de las vías fluviales ancestrales del pueblo Muckleshoot. Las algas simbolizan la importancia de proteger el agua debido a su capacidad para absorber la contaminación. Además, tienen una variedad de texturas y colores asombrosos.  | <p><i>How can we save these seaweed from being destroy and make our seafood safe to eat?</i></p> <p><i>Similar experience to how acidification plays a role in causing harm to salt water and fresh water animals, as well as reefs</i></p>  |
| 20 | Flower Power      | El poder de las flores | This photo was taken at Muckleshoot Tribal School. This photo was taken while <b>harvesting dandelion before the medicine</b> goes down to the roots in winter. It <b>represents the power of this plant in juxtaposition to Roundup weed killer ads making dandelion the enemy.</b>  | Esta foto fue tomada en la Escuela Tribal Muckleshoot mientras se cosechaba la flor diente de león, antes que su medicina baja hasta sus raíces en el invierno. Representa el poder de esta planta en contraste con los anuncios del herbicida Roundup que convierten al diente de león en el enemigo.                            | <p><i>Windows of opportunity of taking care of the nature are often slim. If we don't do it, we'll miss it</i></p> <p><i>These photos are so beautiful! The dandelion especially shows how our knowledge of the benefits of nature can change your perspective. Not weeds, Medicine!</i></p> |
| 21 | "apothecary"      | "botica"               | This image shows the area of my apartment that I call my "apothecary". It houses all the <b>herbs and spices I use to cook</b> , some were grown in my <b>garden</b> . It is surrounded by houseplants that I am consistently nurturing. This area shows a clear example of <b>the role the environment plays in my life.</b> | Esta imagen muestra el área de mi apartamento que yo llamo mi «botica». Alberga todas las hierbas y especias que utilizo para cocinar, algunas de las cuales cultivo en mi jardín. Está rodeada de plantas que cuido constantemente. Esta parte de mi hogar es un claro ejemplo del papel que tiene el medio ambiente en mi vida. | <i>The herbs and medicine remind me of my home and life</i>  |
| 22 | seal friend       | foca amiga             | This image is of a <b>seal</b> I spotted in the Ballard Locks. It's one of the places in my neighborhood that I visit to be <b>close to wildlife.</b>   | Esta imagen muestra una foca que vi en Ballard Locks. Es uno de los lugares de mi vecindario que visito para estar cerca de la fauna.   |  |
| 23 | community garden  | jardín comunitario     | I have a <b>community garden plot</b> in the Ballard P-Patch and it's yet another space that I go to <b>connect with my environment</b> more <b>intimately</b> . I can get my hands in the dirt and chat with my fellow gardeners, sometimes learning new gossip that <b>reminds me how interconnected we all are.</b>        | Tengo una parcela de en el Ballard P-Patch, un huerto comunitario. Este es otro espacio que visito para conectar más íntimamente con el medio ambiente. Puedo hundir las manos en la tierra y charlar con mis compañeros jardineros; a veces me entero de nuevos chismes que me recuerdan lo interconectados que estamos todos.   | <p><i>Gardening safe live eat clean live longer and smile better</i></p> <p><i>I love that we all have spaces where we can connect to nature and/or share that experience with others (community, family, pets, friends)</i></p>   |



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|    |                           |                        |   |   | <p><i>Deep connection with the land</i></p> <p><i>Similarities - Growing own organic food</i></p>  |
| 24 | roots? or branches?       | ¿raíces? o ¿ramas?     | <p>I took this photo of a very old tree on a walk in the U-District. This photo makes me think about how the roots of the tree closely mirror the branches and how <b>beautifully intricate the plants and animals</b> in our <b>ecosystem</b> are. It makes me feel obligated to <b>learn about and care for it all</b>.</p>   | <p>Tomé esta foto de un árbol muy viejo en un paseo por U-District. La imagen me hace pensar en cómo las raíces del árbol son un reflejo de las ramas y en lo maravillosamente complejas que son las plantas y los animales de nuestro ecosistema. Me hace sentir la obligación de conocer y cuidar todo nuestro ecosistema.</p>  | <p><i>Restore tree canopies in King County, substitutes for a heavily polluted county</i></p>  |
| 25 | thrown away               | desechado              | <p>I took this photo of a video art installation inside the Burke Museum. This scene was telling the story of <b>waste being cleaned up outside a military base</b> in the southwest of the United States. It was a strong reminder that there is <b>no such thing as throwing things "away"</b>. <b>All materials we use and consume must be managed</b> and go somewhere.</p> | <p>Tomé esta foto de una instalación de videoarte dentro del Museo Burke. La escena contaba la historia de la limpieza de desechos en el exterior de una base militar del suroeste de Estados Unidos. Fue un recordatorio contundente de que la idea de "tirar las cosas a la basura" no es real. Todos los materiales que usamos y consumimos pasan por un proceso y terminan en alguna parte.</p> |  |
| 26 | Connection                | Conexión               | <p>A sunset with my daughter at Alki Beach next to our fishing poles. This photo shows our <b>beautiful relationship</b> and how nature brings people together for moments that are <b>peaceful</b> and enjoyable.</p>  | <p>Una puesta de sol con mi hija en Alki Beach junto a nuestras cañas de pescar. Esta foto muestra nuestra hermosa relación y cómo la naturaleza une a las personas y nos brinda momentos agradables y llenos de paz.</p>   | <p><i>Gracias por traer a mi tranquilidad y una energía de paz / Thank you for bringing me tranquility and a peaceful energy</i></p>                                   |
| 27 | "Taking my home back"     | "Recuperando mi hogar" | <p>This rock wall is near a trail in South Park where people play frisbee together. The wall is spray painted and I imagine the people who did it wanted to send a message or just have fun. Ivy is growing over the wall and taking back its home. <b>Nature itself is already art</b>.</p>  | <p>Este muro de roca está cerca de un sendero en South Park donde la gente juega al frisbee. Está pintado con espray e imagino que quienes lo hicieron querían enviar un mensaje o simplemente divertirse. La hiedra está creciendo sobre el muro y recuperando su hogar. La propia naturaleza ya es arte.</p>  | <p><i>Love the title of this image. It's such a stunning visual too</i></p>  |
| 28 | Eat Real                  | Eat Real               | <p>A food stand in White Center called Eat Real. Eating fresh vegetables keeps people <b>healthy</b> and lead to a happier life. The food sold at the stand is organic and safe to enjoy. I work at a hospital and I see how the food we eat plays a big role in our health.</p>  | <p>Un puesto de comida en White Center llamado Eat Real. Comer verduras frescas mantiene a la gente sana y conduce a una vida más feliz. Los alimentos que se venden en el puesto son orgánicos y seguros. Trabajo en un hospital y veo cómo los alimentos que comemos tienen un papel importante en nuestra salud.</p>   | <p><i>Fishing is quite therapeutic and definitely brings people together. Fish is also important in my communities in which people rely on fish for their diet</i></p> |
| 29 | Eat healthy, smile longer | Come sano, sonríe más  | <p>A food stand in White Center called Eat Real. Living a <b>healthy</b> life makes you smile more and for a longer time.</p>   | <p>Un puesto de comida en White Center llamado Eat Real. Llevar una vida sana te hace sonreír más y por más tiempo.</p>   | <p><i>Similar. Beautiful representation of cultural diversity</i></p>  |



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| 30 | Love brings life together   | El amor une las vidas  | A mural at the White Center Super Saver Store made by The Art Club. It shows people from different <b>cultures</b> coming together to enjoy food. When people spend quality time and share food with each other, they bring love together.   | Un mural en la tienda Super Saver de White Center realizado por The Art Club. Muestra a personas de diferentes culturas que se reúnen para disfrutar una comida juntos. Cuando las personas pasan buenos momentos y comparten comida con los demás, crean y unen amor.                                    |  |
| 31 | Park in the concrete forest   | Parque en el bosque de concreto  | There are lots of concrete buildings in Chinatown/International District. <b>Green space is sacred</b> , and we are gracious to have Hing Hay Park in the heart of the neighborhood that provide space and opportunity for <b>community</b> members to <b>rest and recuperate</b> in the nature. | Hay muchos edificios de concreto en Chinatown/International District. Los espacios verdes son sagrados y es una dicha que Hing Hay Park esté en el corazón del vecindario. Brinda un espacio y una oportunidad para que los miembros de la comunidad descansen y se recuperen rodeados por la naturaleza. |  |
| 32 | Withering   | Marchitándose  | Some trees in the neighborhood are dying because people poured toxic chemicals to the soil of the trees. I feel profound <b>sadness</b> watching the trees wither, once was so <b>full of life</b> , reminding me something <b>beautiful and thrive</b> are slipping away.                       | Algunos de los árboles en el vecindario están muriendo porque la gente derramó químicos tóxicos en la tierra de los árboles. Siento una profunda tristeza viendo cómo se marchitan los árboles, una vez tan llenos de vida, y me recuerda como podemos perder algo hermoso y próspero.                    | <i>Constant reminder that nature and cities/towns may not always work together</i>   |
| 33 | Paifang (Gateways) - landmark of our neighborhood                                 | Paifang (Puerta de entrada) - lugar emblemático de nuestro vecindario                      | Gateways are <b>traditional Chinese architecture</b> and symbolize the resilience and pride of Chinese immigrants.   | Las puertas de entrada son parte de la arquitectura tradicional china y simbolizan la resiliencia y el orgullo de los inmigrantes chinos.   | <i>Thank you for sharing, culture is powerful!</i><br><i>Similitud de compartir el vecindario, la preocupación de que desaparezca con tanta construcción / Similar in sharing the neighborhood, the worry that it will disappear with so much construction</i> |
| 34 | Vanishing Greens in the neighborhood  | Se desvanece el verde en nuestro vecindario  | Seeing plants dying in the neighborhood reminds me the <b>correlation between our actions and the environment</b> . Whatever we do have direct <b>impact on the environment</b> , whether it is visible/noticeable or not.   | Ver a las plantas muriendo en el vecindario me recuerda a la relación entre nuestras acciones y el ambiente. odo lo que hacemos tiene un impacto directo en el medio ambiente, podamos verlo a no.  |  |
| 35 | Little harmful materials adding up and causing harmful impacts to the environment | Pequeños materiales dañinos que se acumulan y causan un impacto negativo al medio ambiente | Motor oil leaks, improper dumping of motor oils, even very tiny little drops, when adding up, would contribute to <b>soil and water contamination, air pollution, and ultimately, harms to everyone in the environment</b> .   | Las fugas de aceite para motor, tirar de manera incorrecta el aceite para motor, hasta en gotitas muy pequeñas, se acumula y contribuye a la contaminación de la tierra y del agua, la contaminación del aire, y a fin de cuentas hace daño a todo el mundo en el ambiente.                               |  |



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| 36 | troll of silence      | trol del silencio      | <p>I took this photo of the wooden troll artwork on October 21 when I was on a walk in Lincoln Park in West Seattle. One thing that I like a lot about seeing this art is that you have to walk to it, since cars can't go to it.</p> <p>There's another one on the seashore and every time I go I like that there is no garbage.</p> <p><b>People respect and value art,</b> the troll is <b>beautiful artwork</b> to me. I feel <b>tranquility and a rush of emotion</b> when I see art.</p>   | <p>Tomé esta foto del arte de madera trol el 21 de octubre en una caminata a Lincoln Park en West Seattle. Algo que me gusta mucho de ver ese arte es que la única manera de llegar es caminando ya que no pueden ingresar autos. Hay otra que se encuentra en la orilla del mar y siempre que voy me gusta que no veo basura. Las personas respetan y valoran el arte, el trol se me hace un arte hermoso. Me da tranquilidad y emoción cuando estoy frente al arte.</p>   | <i>Safety troll save troll from any harm of troll home!</i> |
| 37 | Tiliches of abundance | Tiliches de abundancia | <p>A photo I just took on August 31 at an event hosted by <b>Pueblos Originarios, a collective of Indigenous</b> people in King County. The dance of the tiliches comes from a <b>community</b> in Oaxaca, Mexico. The word tiliches means having a lot of things grouped together, like in a garage. This <b>dance</b> reminds each person of everything we already have inside of us. Sometimes we say, "I don't have anything," but if we start seeing our qualities and everything that is good and <b>beautiful</b> in our person we would end up as loaded up as the tiliches. The dance reminds us that we could sit down naked and still feel blanketed by everything we have. Each dancer takes everything good around them, and for each quality and good thing they put on a cape made up of pieces of fabric until they have so much that they feel hot. This reminds us of how privileged we all are.</p> | <p>Esta es una foto que recién tomé el 31 de agosto en un evento que realizamos Pueblos Originarios, un colectivo de personas indígenas en el condado de King. La danza de los tiliches proviene de una comunidad de Oaxaca, México. La palabra tiliches significa el tener muchas cosas juntas, como en un garaje. Lo que hace esta danza es recordar a cada persona todo lo que tenemos dentro de nosotros mismos. En ocasiones decimos, "no tengo nada," pero si empezamos a ver nuestras cualidades y todo lo bueno y bonito en nuestra persona saldríamos tan cargados como los tiliches. La danza nos recuerda que nos podemos sentir desnudos y podemos terminar tan cobijados con todo lo que tenemos. Cada danzante toma todo lo bueno a su alrededor y por cada cualidad y cosas buenas se pone una capa de pedazos de tela hasta que tiene tanto que le produce calor. Esto nos recuerda lo privilegiados que somos todos.</p> |   |
| 38 | Flowering farm        | Cultivo del florecer   | <p>I took this photo at a farm in Kent on October 22. <b>The King County Open Space Cabinet</b> took us to this site to meet the families who farm there. They are mostly immigrants from Kenya that farm there to have an income and at the same time <b>donate to the community</b>. This year they have donated two thousand pounds of food to the West Seattle Farmers Market so that the market can gift the food to the community. One of the topics they spoke about during the visit were the <b>toxic residues on these lands that go through the crops and then to the Green River</b>. We worry about how to <b>educate the population</b> so they do not</p>   | <p>Tomé esta foto de una granja que se encuentra en Kent el 22 de octubre. El gabinete de espacio abierto del condado nos llevó a este sitio a visitar a las familias que ahí cultivan. En su mayoría son inmigrantes de Kenia y aquí comenzaron a cultivar para tener ingresos y al mismo tiempo donar a la comunidad. Este año han donado 2 mil libras de productos al farmers market de West Seattle para que a su vez el mercado lo regale a la comunidad. Uno de los temas que hablaron en la visita son los residuos tóxicos por estos terrenos pasan por el cultivo y pasan al río verde. Nos preocupa cómo educar a la población para que no tire productos peligrosos</p>  | <i>Similarities. Growing organic food</i>                   |





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|    |                           |                     | throw hazardous products along the river that can reach the crops through the water. We would like if it there could be drop boxes along the river where people can put aerosols, paints, and other items to <b>avoid pollution</b> .   | en cualquier transcurso del río y que esto llegue al cultivo por el agua. Nos gustaría que por donde pasan los ríos puedan existir cajas que uno pueda poner botes de aerosol o botes de pintura y de más para evitar contaminación.   |   |
| 39 | Danger at your fingertips | Peligro a la mano   | I took this photo on October 25 in my house in Seattle along Rainier Avenue. My small, 1.5-year-old daughter reached her dad's bag, took everything out, and among everything she found some batteries. Just as her dad realized it, she was chewing on a battery and that scared us because she bit down hard and left it flattened. We didn't know what to do, where to call to see if she should <b>see a doctor or if we should call poison control in case the battery has something hazardous</b> . In the end, we didn't know what to do and just kept an eye on her to make sure she was ok. Many times we don't know where to put hazardous things that we have in our bag, my baby's father said he didn't know where to put used batteries since they can't go in the garbage, but there isn't another place to put them, so he put them in his bag. | Tomé esta foto el 25 de octubre en mi casa en Seattle por la avenida Rainier. Mi hija pequeña de un año y medio alcanzó el bolso de su papá, sacó las cosas y entre ellos encontró unas pilas y baterías. Justo cuando el papá se dio cuenta ella estaba mordiendo una batería y eso nos asustó porque la mordió duro y lo dejó aplastado. Nosotros no supimos qué hacer, a dónde llamar para ver si debía ir al medico o llamar al centro de envenenamiento por si la pila contiene algo peligroso. Encima, no supimos qué hacer y lo dejamos así solo viendo que ella esté bien. Muchas veces no vemos las cosas peligrosas que tenemos en el bolso, el papá de mi bebé dijo que no sabe dónde depositar las pilas que ya fueron usadas porque no deben ir en la basura, pero tampoco hay un sitio donde tirar, por eso lo puso en su bolso. |   |
| 40 | Sharing                   | Compartir en blanco | This is a fruit and vegetable distribution that I support every month to give to the community. This photo was taken in South Park on October 20, close to the library. We were making a train to unload things, especially watermelon. Later we saw that our hands were very dirty and we worried about whether there were <b>chemicals on the watermelon that could have stayed behind on our clothes and hands</b> .   | Esta es una distribución de frutas y verduras que apoyo cada mes para brindar a la comunidad. Esta foto fue tomada en South Park el 20 de octubre fuera de la librería. Estábamos haciendo un tren para bajar las cosas, sobre todo la sandía. Después vimos nuestras manos muy sucias y nos preocupamos por si hay químicos sobre la sandía que pudieron quedar en nuestra ropa y manos.  | <i>Farming, community farming restores wealth, health, and resilience</i> |



## Appendix C: Additional Photographs from Community Partners









