

How We Listened & What We Heard



NORTHGATE
Urban Center

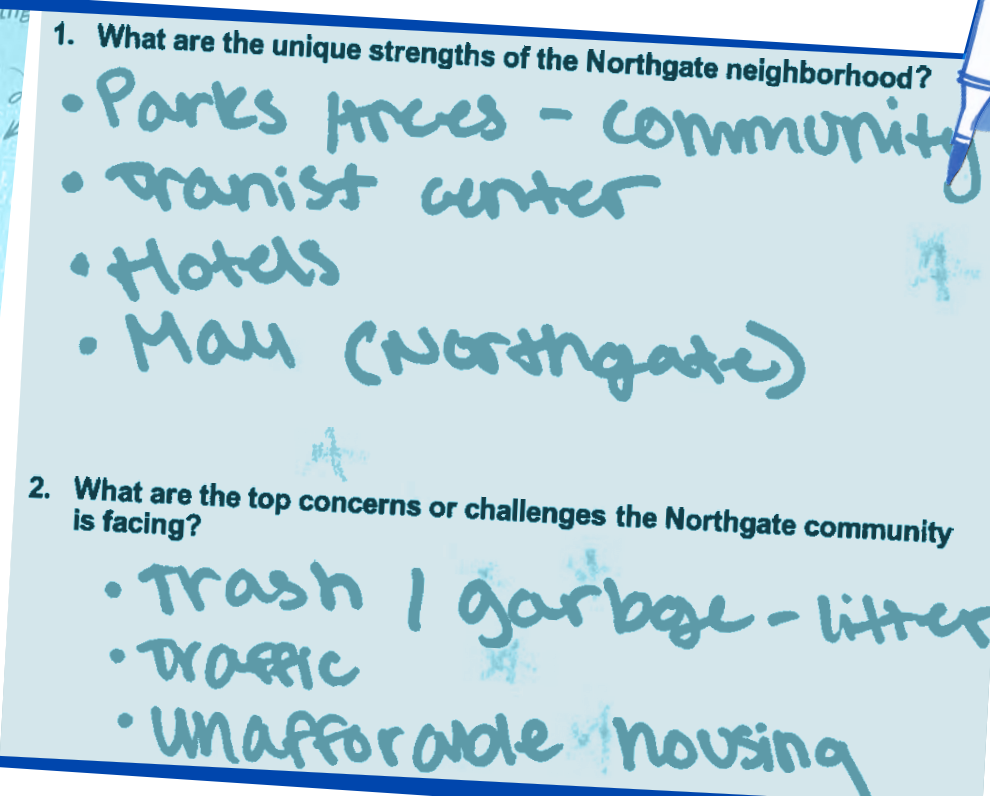


1,028
Community survey
participants provided valuable insights into things like neighborhood quality of life issues, strengths to build on, and challenges to address. The survey was broadly distributed via ethnic media outlets, flyers with QR codes, social media, and through partner organizations.

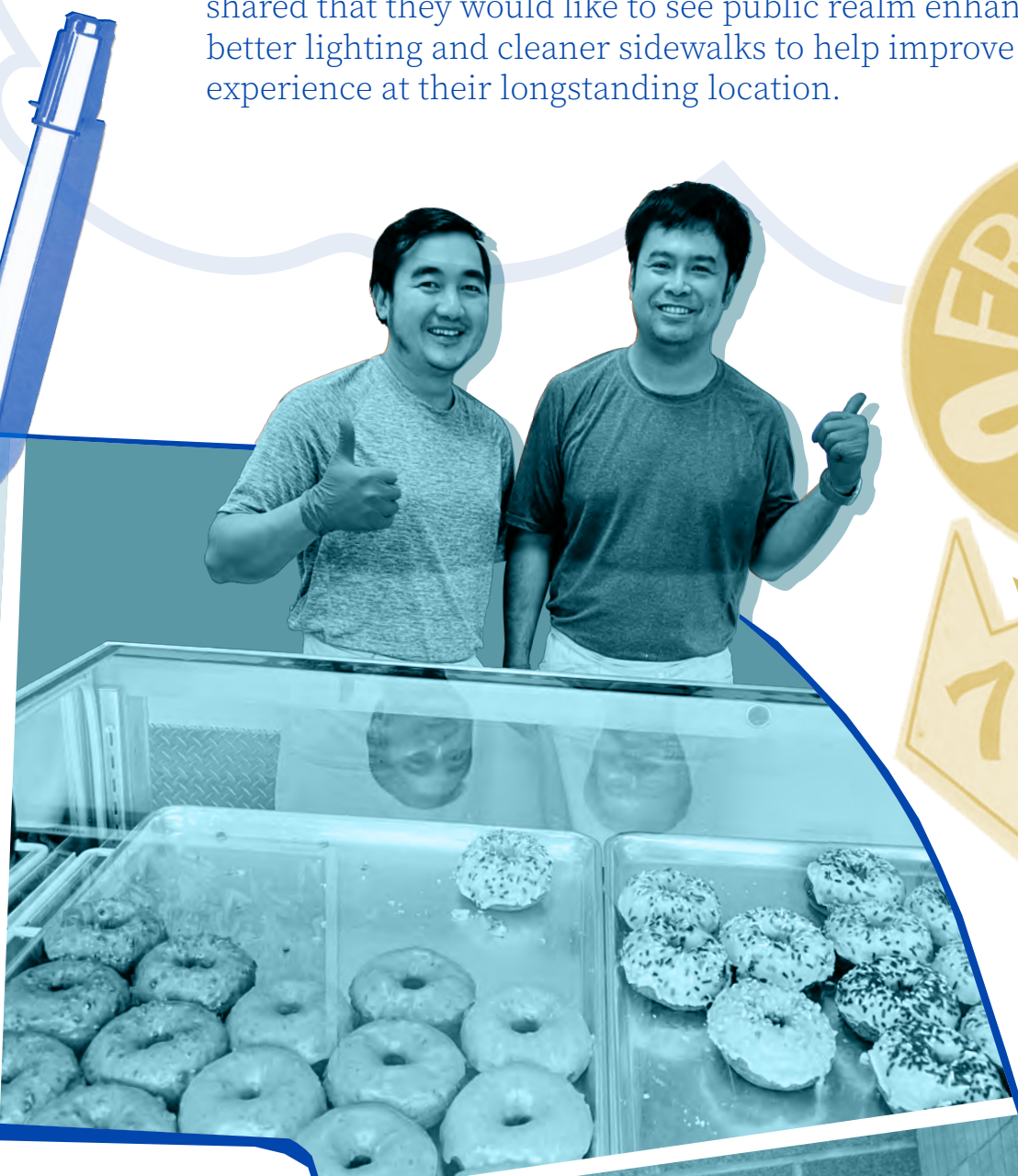
5
Listening sessions
provided opportunities for in-depth conversations with indigenous youth, East African elders, neighborhood service providers, environmental advocates, and Hispanic families.



55
Youth participants
at James Baldwin Elementary shed some light on how young people experience quality of life and public realm issues living and going to school in Northgate.

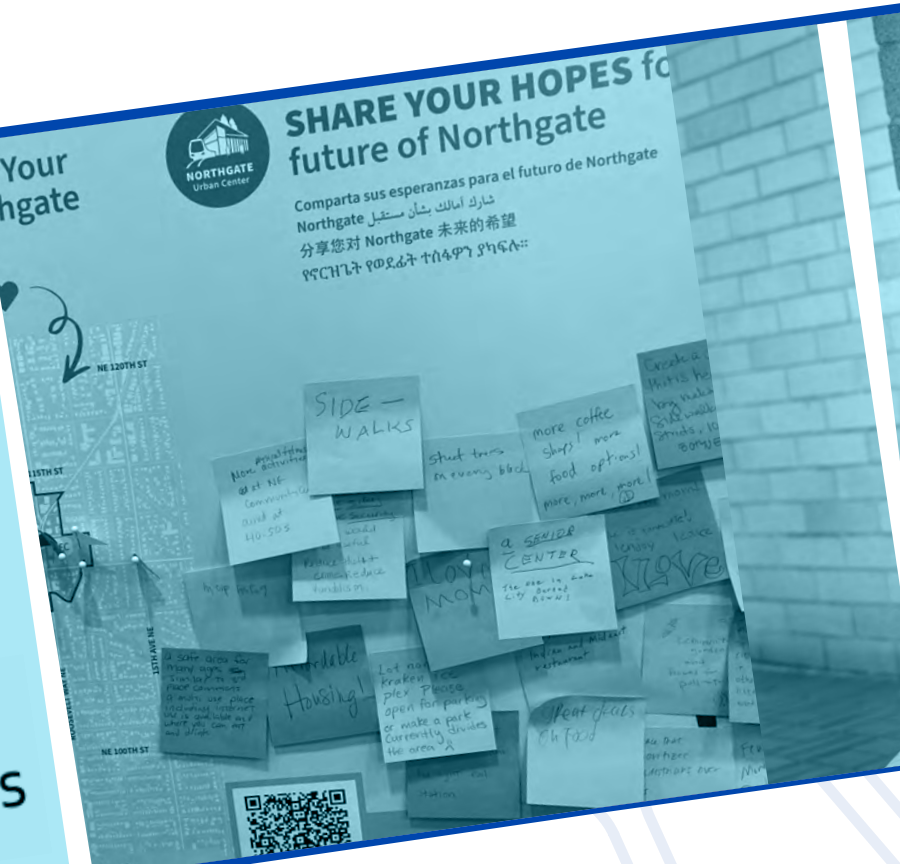


Partner Profile: Family Donut
Family Donut, true to its name, is a family-run donut shop in Northgate. The business started in 1993 by a Cambodian family, who continues to operate the store today. Family Donut has established itself as a local gem with consistently high-quality apple fritters, traditional glazed donuts, fruit donuts, and more. Staff report that local customers often come from the nearby hospital and North Seattle College, and even cruise ship tourists make the trek for a donut. During the interview they shared that they would like to see public realm enhancements such as better lighting and cleaner sidewalks to help improve customer experience at their longstanding location.



6
Interagency interviews
with Metro, Sound Transit, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, Seattle Housing Authority, Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections, and Seattle Public Schools provided opportunities for targeted discussions around public services in Northgate.

306
Post-its and map pins
were collected from interactive installation boards placed at four popular neighborhood spots to collect insights from the community.



14
Interviews
included members of Idris Mosque and the Urban League; employees at local restaurants; local community-based organizations; and staff at the library, community center, college, and hospital. Through these interviews we learned about various and diverse social networks in the existing community, concerns for park access and quality across the neighborhood, and the need for walkability improvements.

Community

Northgate is **diverse**, with pockets of **tight knit communities**. However, **more housing** is needed to meet a **variety of family sizes and incomes**. Feedback highlighted the need for **improved amenities** for the neighborhood's oldest and youngest members, such as affordable childcare and indoor spaces to spend time on hot or rainy days.

Identity

While one of Northgate's assets is its **proximity** to jobs and activity downtown and to the North, some noted that Northgate itself has a **suburban or underdeveloped feeling** that lacks its own **sense of distinct identity**. Public art, color, and improved pedestrian areas were identified desires for the future.

Activity Level

Many noted that the **void left by the Mall** has left the neighborhood without a gathering place and much **local activity**. While the Kraken Iceplex has been a boost, there is a desire for **continued new development** that includes small and mid-sized businesses, and that does not displace the existing community.

Green Spaces

Thornton Creek and Beaver Pond are **important environmental assets** and are appreciated by many who live nearby. Others aren't as connected to these areas and feel a lack of connection to nature with a desire for **more and better parks, more trees, and access to open space**.

Getting Around

Most people **love the light rail**, but connections to the station could use improvement. The **pedestrian network** in general has many **gaps and deficiencies**, which creates **safety concerns** when you're not in a car. Mobility is particularly tough for anyone with added accessibility considerations.