

# FIRST HILL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020



**FIRST HILL**  
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

[firsthill.org](http://firsthill.org)

# A NOTE FROM YOUR NEIGHBOR

If you're reading this, you survived 2020! It's been a whirlwind of a year, to say the least, but the First Hill Improvement Association remains committed to our community. I am proud that despite our organization's small size, we continue to advocate, engage, inform, and collaborate with our First Hill neighbors.

Although the world seemed to grind to a halt, FHIA adapted in response to COVID-19 with a stronger digital presence through online meetings and increased email communication and newsletters. In some ways, COVID-19 has brought us closer together.

2020 taught me just how resilient First Hill is. I continue to be inspired by our neighborhood, whether it be the medical workers who put their own health on the line to care for our region, or the weekly rallies by residents advocating for racial justice. Whether it's the local businesses that persevere despite not knowing what tomorrow will bring, or the social service providers who consistently keep our most vulnerable neighbors fed. First Hill is a place where you don't need to look hard to be inspired.

It was a tough year, but I would especially like to thank all those who never gave up on First Hill, despite the mounting challenges. Thank you and onwards!

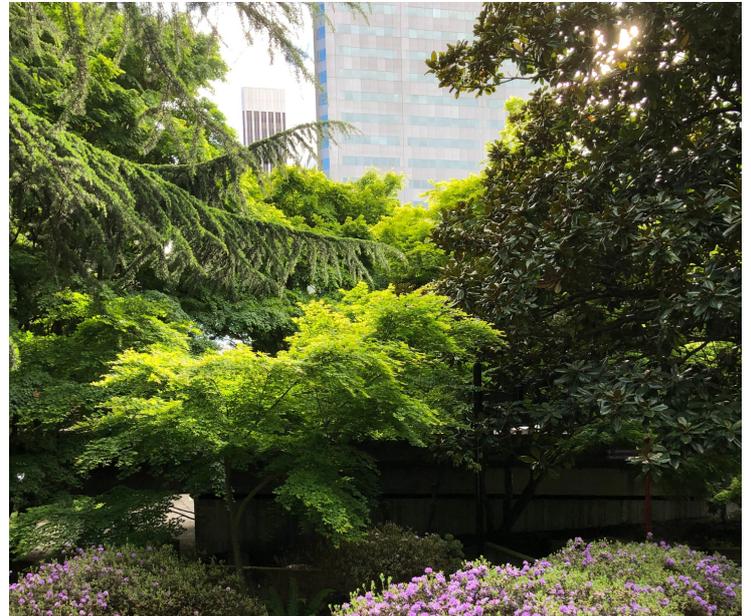
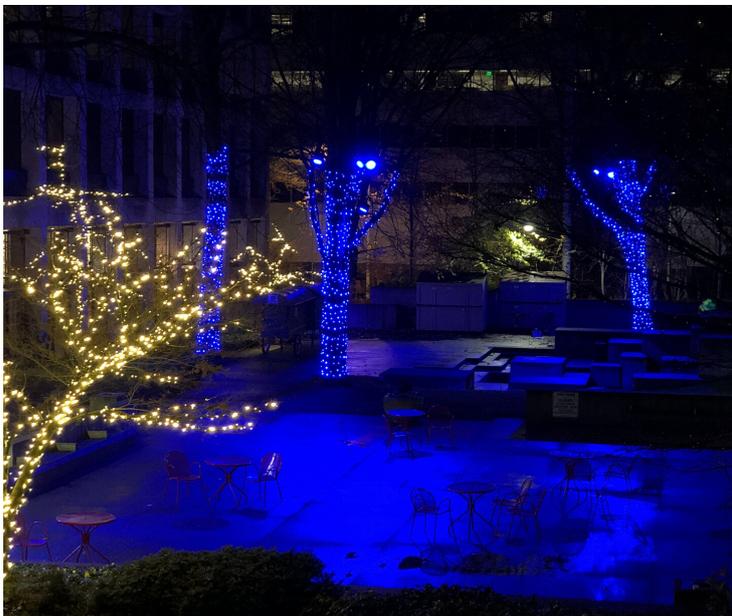
*Doug Holtom*  
Doug Holtom  
Executive Director

# 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Successfully advocated for continued City funding for Homeless Outreach into 2021
- Touched-up the murals under Interstate 5 with help from Urban Artworks
- Published 42 online newsletters to keep subscribers up-to-date with all things First Hill
- Monitored proposed and under-construction development projects
- Completed the 30% design for Terry Avenue
- Installed flexible pavement along certain stretches of 8th and 9th Avenues
- Collected hundreds of pounds of clothing for donation to neighborhood social service providers
- Curated the First Hill Scavenger Hunt with over fifty \$75 gift cards to local businesses
- Created a YouTube informational series
- Monitored changes and updates to the Madison Rapid Ride G Line
- Partnered with Seattle Parks and Recreation to ensure completion of First Hill Park renovation and public art installation
- Coordinated with SDOT Arborists to plant over a dozen new trees throughout the neighborhood
- Hosted online committee meetings

# PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

- First Hill Park began construction after 4 years of planning and fundraising, with the finishing touches in the works! A community celebration will occur when it is safe to do so
- Advocacy for privately owned public spaces has paid off with over 15,000 square feet of new open space under construction at 800 Columbia Street (the Graystone) and 1101 8th Avenue (Ovation Towers)



# GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

FHIA tracks, works with neighbors, and collaborates with developers to identify priorities for new developments in the neighborhood. While many proposed development projects were put on hold in 2020, here are the projects that were either completed or continued:

Newly completed construction at:

- 1103 Summit Avenue (the Summit Flats)
- 125 Boren Avenue South (Emerson Seattle)

Total of new apartments in 2020 in First Hill stands at 379

Current projects under construction are:

- 1101 8th Avenue (the Ovation Towers)
- 800 Columbia Street (the Graystone)
- 715 8th Avenue (Olympic Tower)
- 1327 Minor Avenue townhomes
- 707 Terry Avenue
- 209 10th Avenue South
- 1020 South Main Street

A total of 1,906 market-rate apartments and condos will be coming online in the upcoming year or beyond



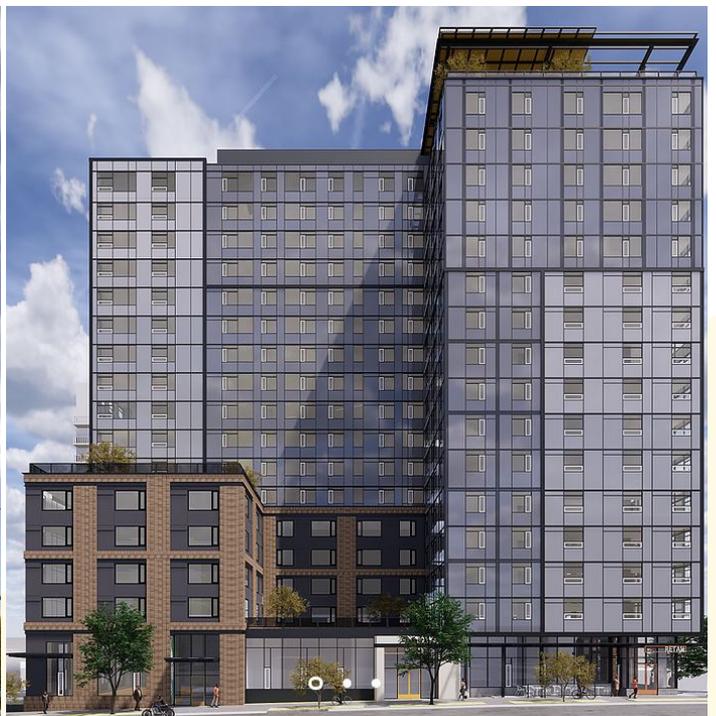
# AFFORDABLE HOUSING

FHIA understands the desperate need for affordable housing in not only our neighborhood, but the entire city of Seattle. That is why we advocate for affordable housing in our neighborhood, and/or encourage new developments to participate in the multifamily tax exemption (MFTE) program.

Affordable housing units currently under-construction:

- 1400 Madison Street (Madison/Boylston)
- 110 10th Avenue South (the Hinoki)

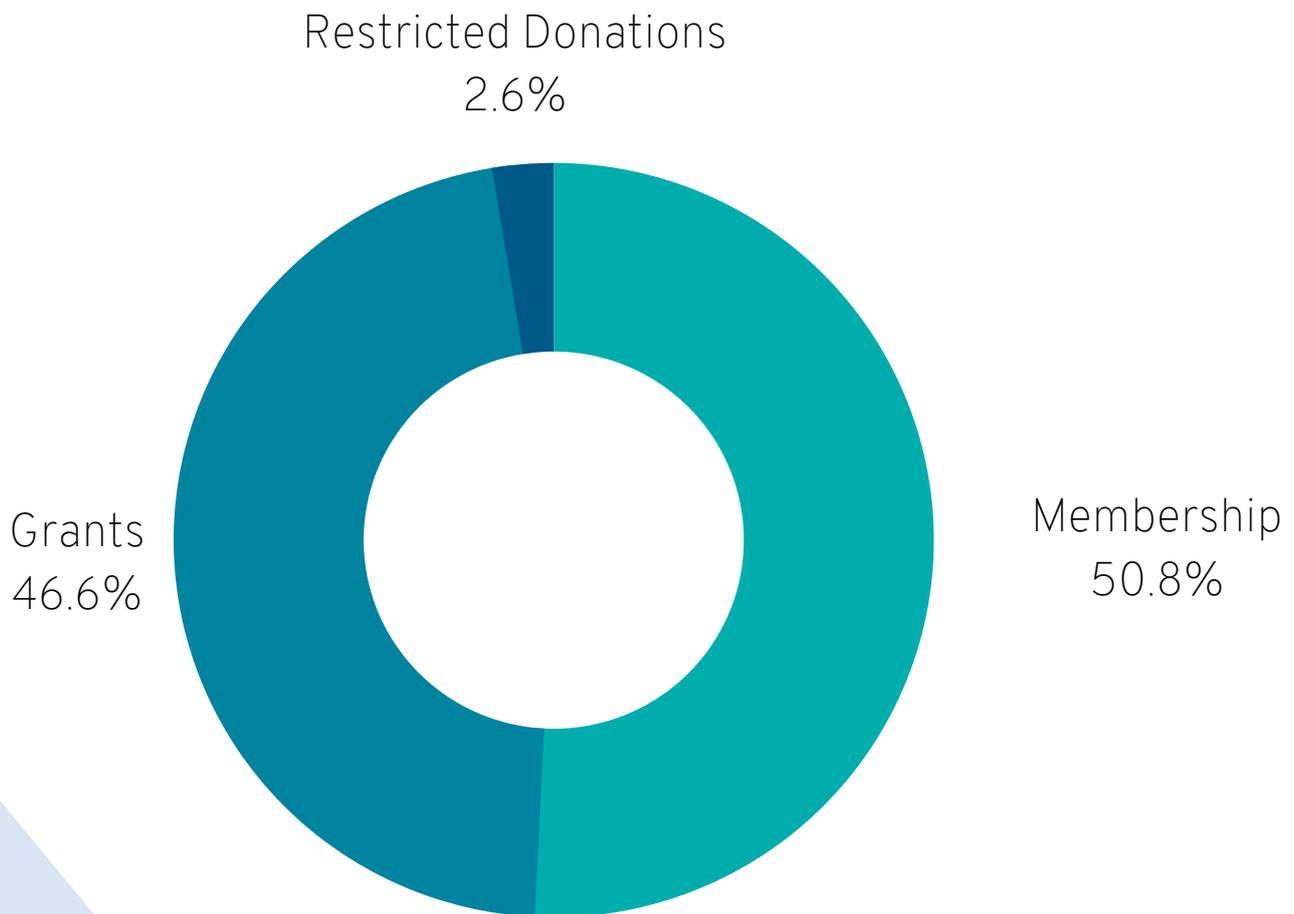
Reaching a total of 510 affordable housing units



# STAFF AND OPERATIONS

2020 was a challenge for everyone. This year, FHIA transitioned from two full-time employees to one. We also made the difficult decision to move our offices out of the Stimson-Green Mansion. Even though these are big changes for the organization, our work continues!

## 2020 FINANCES



# FIRST HILL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

Dani Nouné - Board President First Hill Resident

Ted Klainer - Board Vice President - Harborview Medical Center

Heather Hutchison - Treasurer - First Hill Plaza

Bob Terrell - Secretary - First Hill Resident

Alex Zeiler - Frye Art Museum

Betsy Braun - Virginia Mason Medical Center

Darel Grothaus - Trinity Parish

Eli Lemanski - Horizon House

Ella McRae - Seattle Housing Authority

John Carrico - Business Owner



## THANK YOU FOR BEING OUR NEIGHBOR!



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