ABOUT US

Friends of Little Saigon is a grassroots community development organization launched in 2011. Our programs focus on community organizing and advocacy, economic development, and cultural preservation.

MISSION

The mission of Friends of Little Saigon is to preserve and enhance Little Saigon's cultural, economic, and historic vitality.

VISION

Little Saigon is the hub of the Vietnamese American community where all families and businesses are thriving.

CONTACT

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Little Saigon Creative Space** - A site and lease was secured for the build-out of the Little Saigon Creative Space, a community space with a Vietnamese coffee shop, arts exhibition, a community library and small business resources.

- **Small Business Support** - This past year, we supported 14 businesses in Little Saigon through our small business case management. We support local business with social media, marketing, business planning, permits, and public safety concerns.

CULTURAL PRESERVATION

- **Vietnamese Language Class** - This is the first year of our Vietnamese Language and Culture Course. A 10 week course for Vietnamese American young professionals who want to enhance their understanding of culture and language. 30 students were enrolled in 2019.

- **Little Saigon History Research** - Our community researchers Becky & Cara took on the Little Saigon Cultural Asset Mapping Project to identify longstanding and present-day cultural assets in Little Saigon, build a community narrative, and lay a foundation for future placemaking and development in the neighborhood.

ADVOCACY & ORGANIZING

- **Community Coalitions** - Community Coalitions: Community of Opportunity, Race & Social Equity Taskforce, Chinatown ID Public Safety Council, Chinatown ID Homeless Coordination, Equitable Development Initiative Interim Advisory Board, Crescent Collaborative

- **Little Saigon Community Research** - Brought on Tiffany, a Research & Advocacy Intern to conduct a Little Saigon Community Research report highlighting Little Saigon’s pressing topics around small business, housing, and the changing Vietnamese community. From this report, developed short term solutions and recommendations to increase awareness and advocacy efforts.
FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

- City of Seattle Office of Planning & Community Development, Equitable Development Initiative, Office of Economic Development, Office of Arts & Culture, Department of Transportation, Department of Neighborhoods
- Chinatown International District Business Improvement Area (CIDBIA)
- King County & Seattle Foundation Communities of Opportunity
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
- Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation & Development Authority (SCIDpda)
- Wing Luke Museum
- Van Lang Cultural School

CAPACITY BUILDING

Friends of Little Saigon received the Historic Seattle Award for Community Advocate. We also welcomed Little Saigon Community Researchers Cara Nguyen, Becky Tran & Tiffany Truong.

2019 GRANT AWARDS

- Community of Opportunity $30,000
- Equitable Development Initiative Fund $75,000
- Historic South Downtown $35,000
- Muckleshoot Tribe $5,000
- Local Initiatives Support Corp $15,675
- Department of Neighborhoods Small Sparks $5,000

2019 OPERATING BUDGET: $197,782.44

- Personnel: $134,855.24 68%
- Programs: $33,864.62 17%
- Admin & Operations: $29,062.18 15%
2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Valerie Tran, BDS Urban Planning & Design
Yenvy Pham, Pho Bac
Stephen Scheele, Attorney General's Office
Tam Nguyen, Tamarind Tree
Tam Dinh, Saint Martin's University
Josh Brevoort, Zero Plus
Teizi Mersai, Lam's Seafood Market

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