



# COMMUNITY Connections

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## To Make a Difference, Youth Initiative Starts With Immediate Neighborhood

**S**tart small, build a shared vision with the community and plan measurable objectives.

It sounds simple enough, yet the success of the Seattle University Youth Initiative (SUYI) involves complex underlying issues. The university shares the community concern that too many children are falling behind in standardized test scores, not going to college or becoming victims of violence. To address this, SU plans to focus many of its resources on this youth initiative.

The guiding concept behind the initiative involves engaging, listening and working with youth and their families. It also means strengthening university-community partnerships in the neighborhood.

Now in its development phase, SUYI draws on university capabilities in service-learning, community-based research, clinical and internship experiences, community service, campus facilities and staff and faculty expertise. Kent Koth, special assistant to the provost and the driving force for this phase of SUYI, says the initiative could have sizable impact on the university's identity and eventually become a national model.

First, says Koth, who also directs SU's Center for Service and Community Engagement, it's crucial to define the boundaries of the Bailey Gatzert neighborhood, the initial focus of the initiative. Eventually, more areas could become part of the initiative, Koth notes, but only once it's clear no Bailey Gatzert youths have been overlooked.

"We want it to be a small enough neighborhood where we can make a difference," he says. "It's where we have our most significant community partnerships and resources and where we can have the greatest measurable impact."

Leading up to implementation, numerous outreach forums have engaged SU students, faculty, administrators and staff with city and school officials, parents, and civic and com-



*Mentors, tutors and role models for neighborhood youth are among the elements of the Youth Initiative's long-term community commitment.*

munity organizations to collect feedback and strategize. A campus-community conference in May seeks greater youth involvement and SU students are key to that planning.

Koth anticipates refined objectives for the initiative by summer and a plan ready by fall. To learn more or watch the progress of SUYI, visit <http://www.seattleu.edu/SUYI/>.

### Bailey Gatzert neighborhood

BOUNDARIES

North | James St. / Cherry St.  
East | 23rd Ave.  
South | Dearborn Ave.  
West | Puget Sound

# Community Partnerships in the Future For Legendary Elliott Bay Book Company



The new Capitol Hill home of Elliott Bay Book Co., on 10th Avenue between Pike and Pine Streets, is reminiscent of its former Pioneer Square location.

As the Elliott Bay Book Company settles into its new home at 1521 10th Ave., there's excitement about what the legendary Pioneer Square bookstore brings to Capitol Hill.

Numerous neighbors—including the Capitol Hill Chamber of Commerce, Richard Hugo House and Seattle University—are reaching out to bookstore owner Peter Aaron.

Aaron says he envisions several opportunities for collaborations with SU.

"I've always had a dream of hosting a literary festival with readings, seminars and panel discussions," he says. "It would be great to do that in conjunction with Seattle University's Department of English or creative writing program. I'm definitely looking forward to meeting with SU's provost and deans to discuss the possibilities."

Aaron scouted many pos-

sible locations before deciding on what ultimately was the very first space he saw for the bookstore.

The former Ford truck repair shop between Pike and Pine streets offers retail space identical to the Pioneer Square location with a more compact non-selling area.

"The environment had to be just right because we were leaving a place that was so special and unique. This space adds a little and takes a little away."

Plusses include parking, no sports stadium conflicts, great foot traffic and close proximity to a community college, a center for the literary arts and SU.

Aaron smiles as he describes the building's charm, including squeaky wooden floors much like those at the previous store. Tamara Murphy will continue to oversee operations at the successful Elliott Bay Café in both the old location and the new one.

And what about the more than 600 published authors the store attracts annually for readings and book signings?

"They'll continue to span the full scale of the hierarchy of the literary heavens," Aaron says with a grin. "Wouldn't it be wonderful to bring them into the classroom at Seattle University, too? That seems very natural and desirable to do."



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 <http://www.facebook.com/seattleu>

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## CONNECTIONS

*Connections* is published in the fall, winter and spring by Marketing Communications at Seattle University, 901 12th Ave., PO Box 222000, Seattle, WA 98122-1090. Distributed without charge to the SU community and surrounding neighborhoods.

Also available online at [www.seattleu.edu/connections](http://www.seattleu.edu/connections)

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Photos by Chris Joseph Taylor, university photographer



# Q and A

with Shannon Britton  
SU Grounds and Landscaping Manager

Seattle U to feed us in mind, body and spirit. We are pursuing improved landscape aesthetics on the James and Jefferson corridors with the community and sustainability in mind.

I love opportunities to get involved with the community. Sustainable living and landscaping is about that, both now and in the future with the global changes that are happening.

► *You're working to preserve bees in the urban environment. Can you describe the pollinator pathway project and how it connects university and community?*

► As we learn about bees, we're planting to increase their population for better food production.

The Squire Park Community Council is working on getting a grant to explore ways to create a stronger pollinator pathway in the neighborhood east of campus, something SU also has been investigating on campus. Squire Park wants us to be part of the project to strengthen its proposal. We're just beginning those conversations.

► *In what other ways do the grounds of SU link with the community?*

► The SU campus is an urban oasis of lush, iconic gardens. The open borders of campus invite the community to experience that.

People walk their dogs here a lot. I think it's great those in the community feel they can do that. It's great for those on campus, too.

► *Do you offer tours if community members want to know more about SU's grounds, plantings or compost tea operation?*

► We offer tours on request to anyone interested. Often they're school kids, garden clubs, senior citizens, youth at risk. Typically, a tour group might be five or more people.

We don't need much notice, maybe a few weeks to a month, and several of our gardeners are terrific tour guides. To arrange a tour, people can call grounds and landscaping at 296-6440 or call me directly at 296-6439.

When Shannon Britton was considering a job opening at Seattle University as grounds and landscaping manager, she came to the campus on a Sunday in spring with a mission. She picked a less frenetic day so she could hear the birds, smell the blossoms, experience nature at SU.

"To engage with that in an intensely urban setting convinced me I'd found the right place," she says.

Britton explains just a few ways she invites community participation and links the neighborhood with the beauty of the campus landscape.

► *What about your job connects you best to the community?*

► Since I arrived last June, I've enjoyed exploring what we can do on the grounds of

SPRING

## You're Invited

MAY

### Albers Business Plan Competition, Campion Ballroom

► May 12, Noon-5:30 p.m.

Watch the best student teams pitch their innovative business plans to a panel of judges. The winning team walks away with \$10,000 and a chance to put its dreams into action.

[www.seattleu.edu/albers](http://www.seattleu.edu/albers)

### Carthaginians, Lee Center for the Arts

► Runs May 13-23

This landmark play by one of Ireland's leading contemporary playwrights follows outcasts touched by the violent memory of the day when an army fired into a crowd of civilians.

Information and tickets:  
206-296-2244

### Intended Consequences, Hedreen & Kinsey Galleries

► Closes May 29

A collection of stunning images by internationally renowned photographer Jonathan Torgovnik addresses the aftermath of the 1994 Rwanda genocide on women who survived and their children.

[www.seattleu.edu/artsci](http://www.seattleu.edu/artsci)

JUNE-AUGUST

### Summer Sports Camps

► Dates in June through August

Summer programs are available for boys and girls in basketball, volleyball, baseball and soccer. They offer a great opportunity for youth to improve their skills and gain valuable experience. Coaching is provided by Seattle University staff and players.

[www.goseattleu.com](http://www.goseattleu.com)

For more events, visit  
[www.seattleu.edu/events](http://www.seattleu.edu/events)



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# Meet Your Neighbor

*Sheely Mauck, Boys & Girls Club education director*

In her role as education director of the Rotary Boys & Girls Club in Seattle's Central District, Seattle University alumna Sheely Mauck has connected hundreds of SU students with area kids to provide help with tutoring, art and sports.

The Boys & Girls Club serves neighborhood youth ages 6 to 18 with a focus on recreation, arts, education, career development, health and character and leadership development.

Mauck works closely with SU's Center for Service and Community Engagement year-round to place service-learning students

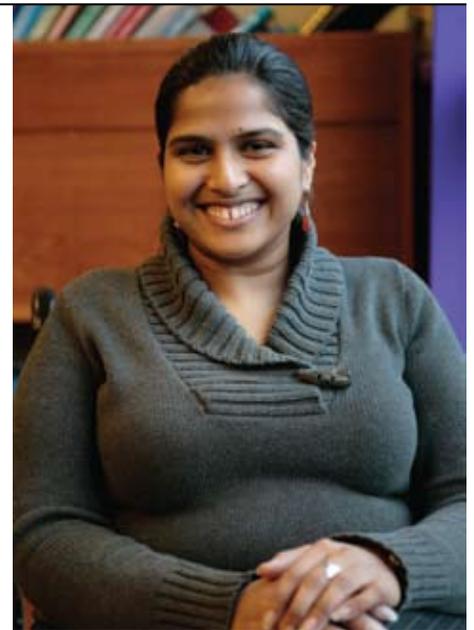
and other volunteers at the Boys & Girls Club. The hours students put in provide a boost to many of her programs and some volunteers are now employees.

"SU service-learning students add a huge value to the program," says Mauck. "They also get kids thinking about attending college, showing them an option that's literally just down the road."

Mauck benefited from the Boys & Girls Club while growing up in Tacoma, where she was a regular at the Gonyea branch.

She later joined the Rotary branch in Seattle and completed her master's degree in public administration at SU in 2009. Ultimately she hopes to use her degree to develop policies that benefit youth in Washington and continue the mission of Boys & Girls Club.

Every afternoon, Mauck directs the action at the building on 19th and Alder as kids pour in after school. She matches kids



*Rotary Boys & Girls Club's Sheely Mauck, '09*

Sheely Mauck has connected hundreds of SU students with area kids to provide help with tutoring, art and sports.

with volunteers to help with homework and meets with members of the "Smart Girls" program, which provides a support group and brings in speakers to encourage girls to be successful and healthy in school and life. "We want to create well-rounded young people who are healthy and have the skills to become future leaders," she says.