

Values and Vision

Edits of proposed Comp Plan Amendment language
submitted for discussion by Carole Richmond, OPC Commissioner

[...]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that Olympia resides within the traditional lands of the **Steh-Chass of Budd Inlet (aka the Squaxin Island Tribe)**. The Tribe has offered these words for acknowledgement: “The Squaxin Island Tribe’s habitation of what is now Olympia spans thousands of years. The ancestral families who lived and thrived here named it Steh-Chass, and occupied prosperous villages along the shores. Archeological findings of ancestral artifacts in the area suggest habitation by Squaxin ancestors since the retreat of the glaciers during the last Ice Age. Today, the Squaxin people continue stewardship of these ancestral lands, from the Deschutes watershed and what is now Budd Inlet. The Steh-Chass (Squaxin) continue to call themselves ‘People of the Water’ because of the bounty of the region’s waterways, which have sustained the people for millennia.”

The City of Olympia will continue to strengthen our government-to-government relationship with the Squaxin Island Tribe to support our shared environmental, economic, and community goals.

EQUITY

What Olympia Values:

Olympians value and respect the identities and lived experiences of all of our community members, **regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, class, gender, age, or ability**. We believe that embracing equity enhances the livability and vibrancy of our beautiful city for all residents.

Our Vision for the Future

As evident through the City’s Housing Needs Assessment **and the 2020 U.S. Census**, our community is becoming more diverse. This includes changes in racial demographics, an increase in the number of aging adults, and changes in average household size and income. We understand that in order to build a truly livable and vibrant city, we must provide equitable access to the necessities of life, including housing, mobility, food, services, education, and meaningful work. We must consider the diverse needs of our residents in planning the long-term growth and development of Olympia. Giving everyone increased opportunities to participate in the civic, economic, and cultural life of our city translates to greater quality of life, resulting in a **more dynamic** and sustainable local economy.