



**City of Seattle**  
Edward B. Murray  
Mayor

March 31, 2016

Leon Garnett,  
Central Area Collaborative  
722 18th Ave  
Seattle, WA 98122

Dear Mr. Garnett,

Congratulations! I am pleased to announce that the Central Area has been awarded a grant from the Office of Economic Development (OED) for \$102,000 from Only in Seattle in support of Central Area Collaborative's comprehensive work in the business district. In addition, Central Area Collaborative will have access to \$120,000 to achieve the goals identified in the Central Area Commercial Revitalization Plan and \$100,000 for preserving, sustaining and strengthening the cultural identity in the Central Area.

I look forward to your effort in aligning resources and activities in the neighborhood to achieve the collective vision for the business district. I share your commitment to small businesses and am encouraged by the innovative ways you will support new and existing businesses with the technical assistance they need to grow. Also, expanding on the existing marketing and promotional efforts in the Central Area will indeed attract more local and regional customers and create a vibrant business district.

It was a very competitive process and we were not able to fund all requests. We received 32 proposals requesting \$2.8 million for action planning, infrastructure and façade grants. We are making 24 funding awards to organizations like yours in addition to providing some combination of BIA consulting, racial equity training and outreach, and cultural place-making support in at least 10 districts. The Office of Economic Development will follow up with more specific information about your award.

The Only in Seattle Initiative strives to empower business district leaders to organize around a common vision and take action. When community leaders like you come together in partnership with the City, there is great potential to make lasting positive changes in your business district. I appreciate all of your hard work in the Central Area and am excited to support it. I look forward to a great partnership between the City and the Central Area this year.

Sincerely,

Edward B. Murray  
Mayor, City of Seattle

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