



# Equity Subcommittee

Wednesday, May 20th, 2026

12-1:30pm

City Hall Lobby, Tribal Room

**Times given are an estimate and are subject to change**

## Land Acknowledgment & Welcome

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 12:00 | Welcome and Introductions   |
| 12:05 | <a href="#">City of Spokane Land Acknowledgement</a> , and attendance |
| 12:10 | Approve April Minutes   |

## Subcommittee Briefing Session:

|       |                                       |  |
|-------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 12:15 | Update on 10 Year Plan to End Poverty | Lindsay Morgan Tracy, WA Economic Justice Alliance |
| 12:45 | Wellbeing and Civic Muscle            | WA Economic Justice Alliance                       |
| 1:00  | Workplan: Priority Exercise           | Sebastian Ruiz                                     |

## Standing Update(s):

|  |  |                      |
|--|--|----------------------|
|  | Council Liaison Update                             | Council Member Dixit |
|  | Share successes in life, work, or advancing equity | All                  |
|  | Equity meetings moving forward                     | Sebastian Ruiz       |

## 1:30 Adjournment

- 1) Next Equity Subcommittee Meeting, June 17th, 2026, 12-1:30pm at Tribal Room, City Hall

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**EQUITY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**City of Spokane**  
**Equity Subcommittee**  
**PICA Office 1215 N Monroe**  
**4/15/2026**

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**Call to Order:** 12:09pm

**Attendance**

Subcommittee Members Present:

Sebastian Ruiz (Chair), Kiana McKena, Patricia Castaneda, KJ January,

Absent:

Staff Present:

Alex Gibilisco, Sebastian Pedinielli, CM Sarah Dixit

Others Present:

**Approval of Minutes**

- Voted to approve February minutes

**Agenda Items**

**Briefing Items**

1. Equitable Budgeting Workgroup Update – Sebastian Ruiz, Kiana McKenna
  - Sebastian R. and Kiana presented a slideshow setting guidelines for equitable budgeting framework for the city
  - Presented to CP Wilkerson and will be presented to CM Dillon and CM Zappone
    - Committee members gave feedback on the presentation to strengthen the information and identify potential weaknesses
2. Workplan: Priority Exercise–Sebastian Ruiz
  - Sebastian R. asked the members which of the five key purposes the committee should focus on for the rest of the year
    - Pat suggested collaborating with other sub-committees as an achievable and successful goal to focus on
    - Alex and Sebastian R. decided that members should rank which of the purposes are most to least important

- Kiana and KJ agreed that the top three were most important, there was consensus that these were what should be focused on

3. Lessons Learned from Atlanta – Kiana McKenna, Sarah Dixit

- CM Dixit was optimistic after her time in Atlanta and thought it demonstrated the progress that Spokane is making
- Kiana found that there were a lot of different challenges that communities were facing, but there were significant similarities as well
  - Kiana was also impressed with the accessibility of the city and county's budgets

Standing Updates

- Council Updates cut for time

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:37

Next Equity Subcommittee Meeting, May 17<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00pm, City Hall, Tribal Room (1<sup>st</sup> floor)

Prepared by:

Sebastian Pardinielli, Legislative Assistant to CM Dixit

Approved by:

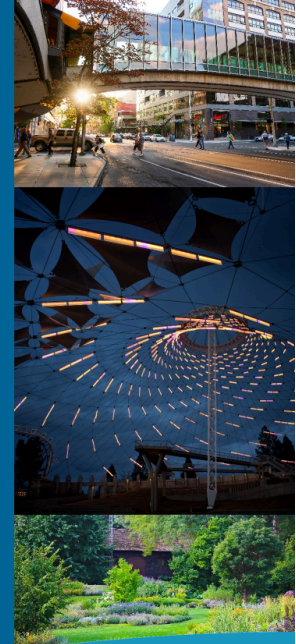
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Sebastian Ruiz  
Equity Subcommittee Chair



# DRAFT - Equitable Budgeting

For Council Members



 In Spokane  
We All Belong



## Summary - Edit

- [Council 2025-2026 Biennium Budget Modification Timeline](#)
- Literature Review
- Definitions
- Timeline
- Outreach Strategies



 In Spokane  
We All Belong



## Timeline

- Two workgroup meetings between Oct and Nov subcommittee meetings
- Present initial findings to Equity SC
  - Set up community engagement workgroup
- ★ Continued workgroup meetings
- Present/ check in with Finance and Administration chair and co-chair
- Present to council committee deliverables for January (tentative)
  - Equity Framework
  - What it means for CC, Mayor & agencies
  - How it impacts budget process timeline
  - Definitions in the framework

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## What we have done - edit

- Equitable budget – presentations
  - Council Budget Director
  - ARPA – Equitable process
- Literature review
- Recommendations

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## Current Scope of Work

Identify, propose, and get buy-in for:

- Overarching goals for all budgets
- Principles to guide that budgeting process
- Outreach strategies
  - Alexander's tool follows the GARE model, meaning we can

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## Literature Review Takeaways

- Tacoma, Austin & SLC embedded equity evaluations in budget and program proposals.
  - Outreach strategy depends on equity infrastructure
- Training for *-and buy-in from-* electeds, agency leads & senior budgeting staff.
- Some succinct frameworks can be exported and adapted
  - E.G. SLC Equity Scoring Matrix
- Need to differentiate:
  - Equity in Process/Decisions and Equity in Outcome/Goals
    - **Outreach & Process Equity are related**
  - Breadth of impact (how many people are affected)
  - Scope of Impact (how are different communities/demographics impacted)
  - Depth of Impact (whether proposal/budget envisions long-term impacts)

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## Definitions

- From the WA state office of Equity:
  - Equity is not equality. Equity requires developing, strengthening, and supporting policies and procedures that distribute and prioritize resources to people in identified groups who have been historically and currently are marginalized, including tribes;
  - Equity requires the elimination of systemic barriers that have been deeply entrenched in systems of inequality and oppression; and
  - Equity achieves procedural and outcome fairness, promoting dignity, honor, and respect for all people.
- One pager, includes other definitions

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## Overarching Goals

- **DISPARITY MITIGATION:** Does the budget aim at (or at least avoid worsening) social disparities?
  - Disparities all budgets should acknowledge: race, sex, gender, people with disabilities, geography, and income
- **DATA DRIVEN:** Does the budget enhance data collection, tracking and utility across agencies?
- **OUTREACH:** Has the finance committee liaison attended equity subcommittee meetings?
- **COMMUNITY INPUT:** Does the budget name the concerns that guided the budget design? Do those concerns reflect community priorities?
  - I.e. public safety, program efficiency, healthcare access, food security
- **COLLABROTATIVE FUNDING STREAMS:** what budget elements could be supported by private funders/philanthropy? State and federal agencies (coordinate with City's grant office)

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## Guiding Principles

- Accountability
  - Evidence-based budget design
  - Data-driven policy priorities
- Community-informed allocation of resources
- [Collaborative governance](#): bilateral communications between city electeds, community orgs and potential funders, sponsors and philanthropy.
  - Outreach? Via ESC?
- Deepened, more authentic relationships with Spokane communities

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## Outreach Strategies

| Type                    | Description  | Example   | Pros  | Cons   |
|-------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Open forums             | Listening sessions, town halls   |   | Depth & breadth of feedback   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Time intensive</li> <li>•Labor intensive</li> <li>•Iterative</li> <li>•Continuing &amp; fluctuating costs</li> </ul>             |
| Participatory budgeting | Residents vote on allocation arrangements or itemized priorities. Subcommittees like ours are the liaison between residents and electeds | <a href="#">Durham Participatory budgeting</a>                              | Depth & breadth of feedback   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Time intensive</li> <li>•Labor intensive</li> <li>•Iterative</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Subcommittees</b>    | Subcommittees serve as platforms for community orgs & individuals to participate   | Spokane (us***)<br><a href="#">SLC racial equity in policing commission</a> | Expedient<br>Accountable  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Depth &amp; breadth of community input depends on who makes it to the committee.</li> <li>•Uncertain impact/authority</li> </ul> |
| Online platforms        | Allows individuals to peruse issues and contribute to conversation online  | <a href="#">WA-DOH equitable rule-making</a>                                | Individual accessibility and convenience?<br>ADA & Language access? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Cost</li> <li>•Monitoring</li> <li>•Accountability</li> <li>•Usefulness?</li> </ul>  |

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## Brainstorm: Community Engagement

- Considering the communities our organizations serve; considering our workload as volunteers in the ESC; what outreach strategies can we suggest?
- Examples:
  - Council liaison in all ESC meetings
  - Invite non-member orgs to ESC meetings, share links.
  - One-on-one meetings between ESC members and their district councilmembers.
  - Consolidate Immigrant & Refugee Affairs Committee (Mayor's advisory committee)

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## Next steps- Edit

- Pitch goals, principles and strategies to select Council Members, gauge buy-in and usefulness.
- Engage and build trust with Council Members and staff (ideally, all)
- Thoughts?

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## Literature Review

- [Tacoma resolution 40622](#)
- [City of Madison Budget Guide \[error\]](#)
- [SLC UT Budgeting for Equity presentation](#)
- [Tacoma 2025](#)
- Bartle, J., & Rubin, M. (2024). Social Equity in budgeting. *Public Finance Journal*, 1(2), 93–103. <https://doi.org/10.59469/pfj.2024.33>