



Executive Summary

The Mariner Community Campus is an ambitious project for an underserved neighborhood. Phase 1 of the project focused on building a Partner Group, convened by State Senator Marko Liias and Sno-Isle Libraries, as well as beginning to understand community needs. Phase 2, which this report documents, was about engaging the community in meaningful ways to help shape what will happen at the campus.

The vision of the future campus has taken hold in the imaginations of many Mariner community members. In the first half of 2019, through a series of community engagement strategies, we began to uncover community priorities for the campus.

Values

The people, schools, library, and diversity are the main indicators of what people love about the Mariner Neighborhood. In regards to the campus, the community spoke overwhelmingly about the values of celebrating diversity, safety, access for everyone, healthy minds and bodies, learning and knowledge.

Campus Elements & Activities

The community clearly articulated the desire for a generous mix of functions at the campus, mixing social/informal and learning/service activities, indoor and outdoor spaces, and flexible and fixed spaces. The library consistently arose as an anchor tenant that could provide many of the services community members were suggesting - tutoring, computer labs, homework clubs, community navigators, and other flexible, multi-use spaces that could meet multiple needs. Participating community members wanted to ensure that the campus will be able to adapt to future changes. Another theme was that indoor spaces compliment outdoor spaces where people can prepare food and eat together.

Community engagement steps included:

- focus groups with 66 people
- surveys completed by 352 people
- a website (available in eight languages)
- forming a Convening Group of 13 people to help convene the engagement process, and
- two Community Meetings with about 50 people in attendance at each.

The following report outlines the steps taken, highlights the findings and recommendations for next steps. It will be posted on <http://marinercommunity.org>, as well as distributed widely throughout the community. This report is presented by the team at [Pomegranate Center](#).



Project Background

In February 2017, Sno-Isle Libraries opened the Mariner Library in a storefront as a demonstration project. This library proved to be very successful. Since doors opened, there have been more than 140,000 visits to this library.

State Senator Marko Liias, D-Mukilteo, who is well acquainted with the challenges of access to services faced by area residents, looked at the community response to the library and saw an opportunity to increase the impact further.

In 2017, conversations began about the concept for a permanent Mariner Community Campus with Sno-Isle Libraries, the Snohomish Health District, Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers, the Mukilteo School District, United Way of Snohomish County and others. Through those talks and Sen. Liias' work in the Legislature, the state's 2018 Capital Budget included an allocation of \$322,000 to begin shaping the vision for a Mariner Community Campus.

Pomegranate Center, a non-profit with 32 years of experience in community-based planning, was selected through an RFP process to partner with Sno-Isle Libraries. The Pomegranate Center Method was utilized to lead the community engagement process, beginning in January 2019, with a completion date of May 31, 2019.

The Mariner Community Campus' geographic boundaries

The area for this assessment is bounded by Everett to the north, Lynnwood to the south, east of Highway 99 and west of I-5. More than 25,000 people live in the area. By 2025, the area's population is expected to grow 20 percent. The development density is expected to increase 23 percent by 2025.

For this engagement process, the definition of community includes "anyone who lives, works, goes to school or uses services in this geographic area."

