



BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE

Working to meet farmer and community needs for food system infrastructure in King County.

FOOD FACILITY FEASIBILITY STUDY: POTENTIAL FOR INFRASTRUCTURE TO TRANSFORM KING COUNTY'S LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM



PARTNERS

KING COUNTY SOLID WASTE DIVISION
KING COUNTY LOCAL FOOD INITIATIVE
BULLITT FOUNDATION
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Although our region is well known for its abundance of locally grown and produced products, the infrastructure necessary to support small and medium farms and food businesses, and non-profit organizations working to address food access, is severely lacking. Much of the existing food system infrastructure is either not accessible or not properly scaled.



In early 2020, King County's contracted with [ECONorthwest](#) to complete an assessment and business concept for a multi-purpose shared local food facility that would provide cold and dry storage, food processing infrastructure, and serve as a distribution hub for small food and farm businesses and non-profit organizations working in the food access and food recovery sector. This first phase project was completed in late 2020; it helped illustrate viability of a local food facility in the Seattle area. The feasibility study included

analyses of ownership models, economic modeling, and funding for a potential facility. The study is an important next step in the development of this much needed infrastructure that has the potential to have wide-ranging benefits including economic development, food waste reduction, job training, food access, and community development.



SPICE BRIDGE AT TUKWILA VILLAGE CREATES ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR SOUTH KING COUNTY FOOD ENTREPRENEURS



PARTNERS

FOOD INNOVATION NETWORK



On Sept. 1, 2020, [Spice Bridge](#) became home to Food Innovation Network’s Food Business Incubator Program, which supports under-resourced South King County residents, primarily women of color and immigrants. Spice Bridge is a place where food entrepreneurs have access to a commercial kitchen, restaurant space, and a community hub – a place where people gather to learn about and celebrate the community’s rich food traditions.

[Food Innovation Network’s Food Business Incubator Program](#) is helping entrepreneurs launch food businesses, providing training, mentorship, subsidized commercial kitchen access, and support with permitting, licensing, menu planning, and marketing. Food Innovation Network

continued capital campaign fundraising efforts throughout 2020, and by the end of the year had secured 90% of the \$850,000 goal. They are grateful to contributors who have helped make this community dream a reality. If you’re interested in learning more or supporting Spice Bridge, please contact Kara Martin: kara@foodinnovationnetwork.org.

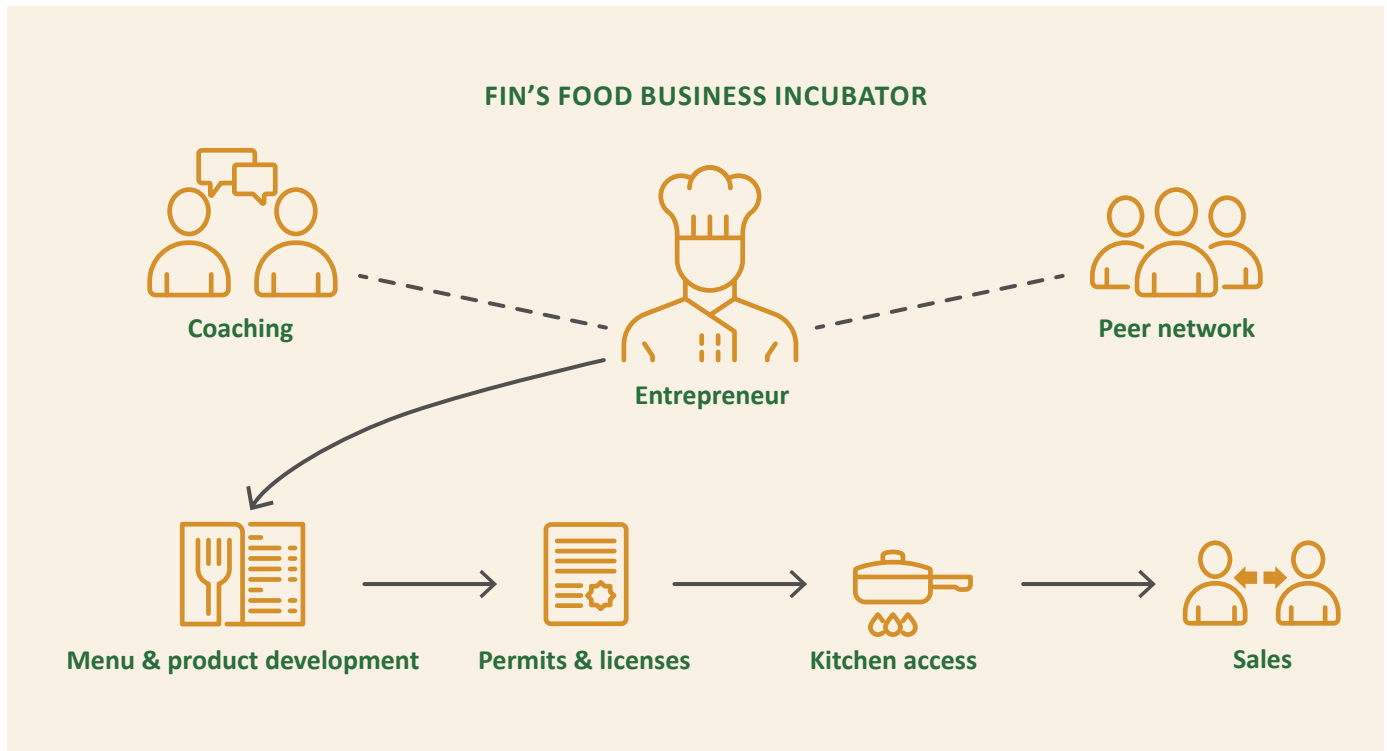


PHOTO COURTESY OF FOOD INNOVATION NETWORK

RAINIER BEACH FOOD INNOVATION CENTER BRINGS A COMMUNITY VISION FOR HEALTH AND JOB CREATION TO LIFE



PARTNERS

RAINIER BEACH ACTION COALITION
CITY OF SEATTLE

In 2012, Rainier Beach residents came together around a renewed neighborhood plan with a vision at the center of which food acted as a catalyst for neighborhood identity, cultural diversity and heritage, health and job creation. This past year, the City of Seattle approved funding to implement the [Rainier Beach Food Innovation Center](#), a project of Rainier Beach Action Coalition (RBAC), which is part of the Rainier Beach Neighborhood Plan and the community’s longstanding vision for the Rainier Beach Food Innovation District.

RBAC is a Black-led community organization that is actively seeking to address racialized economic disparity in a neighborhood where communities of color experience a high risk of residential and cultural displacement. With this funding, RBAC will proceed with closing on a site adjacent the Rainier Beach light rail station.

RBAC’s Food Innovation Center is intended to create jobs and build on the many food cultures of Rainier Beach. The center will support economic opportunity through new small food businesses, as well as education and workforce development for Seattle residents. The concept includes classrooms and teaching kitchens, an entrepreneurship center, a marketplace, food production facility, and community services. Plans for the site also include critically needed affordable housing.

“Investing in community-based organizations to secure ownership of land is critically important for mitigating the impact displacement has on disproportionately impacted BIPOC communities. This is building on the local cultural assets, and setting a new community control of land and development model.”

– Gregory Davis, RBAC Managing Strategist



PHOTO COURTESY OF RAINIER BEACH FOOD INNOVATION CENTER