



From the Pages of @AfricatownSea: Imagining Africatown, From Vision to Reality

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When the community envisions a future in which Black people are supported and can provide themselves the resources to grow and thrive, it becomes clear that the blueprint for such an environment is actually quite straight forward.

As a concept, the idea of **Africatown** is not far from that of ethnic neighborhoods that exist all over the country. Every major city in the United States has a **Chinatown**, and areas such as **Germantown**, **Koreatown**, **Little Italy** and **Spanish Harlem** can be found in regions where those groups are more densely populated.

Africatown Seattle can be all that comes to mind when you think of these established communities and more:

- A space where the businesses, products and services reflect the needs of Black Seattleites and offer economic opportunities for entrepreneurs and workers alike;
- A sensory experience created through the lens of Black aesthetic heritage and innovation;
- A tourist destination for those interested in Black American and African culture as expressed through the uniqueness of the Seattle experience;
- And a gathering place where Blackness is embraced and traditions maintained through community events.

Establishing Africatown celebrates the legacy of Black Seattle that has been evolving for almost 140 years.

Located in the **Central District** in a city named after an indigenous leader, a county named after a civil rights icon and a state named after a slave-holding president - all on the settler occupied territory of the **Duwamish** people, Africatown can become a beacon of community driven healing, equity and restitution in action.

In today's Seattle where the median annual family income for white families is \$112,000 and \$43,500 for Black families, where Black workers are three times more likely to be unemployed than white workers and where many can no longer afford to live in the city limits, it is critical to have a place where Black livelihood is cultivated and prioritized.

From the vast libraries of Timbuktu to the ever-reverberating invention of Hip Hop, Black excellence and innovation have always shaped world culture.

Now, as the community comes together to imagine Africatown, we ensure that our history is a living legacy that projects a holistic and sustainable vision for Black people into the future of Seattle and gives way for the transformative power of our creative genius to shine.

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