

sea.citi



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

sea.citi

Friends,



Nicholas Merriam
CEO, sea.citi

In late 2018, we launched sea.citi to better connect the local tech workforce with our community. The need was clear — those working in tech want to better understand and engage in solving our region's most pressing problems. The opportunity is significant as the workforce numbers near 300,000 citizens who want to see our region thrive.

In our first year, sea.citi took a thoughtful approach to building informative and engaging programs tailored to the workforce. We surveyed 1,600 tech workers from 51 companies to unearth insights on the civic and community behaviors of this growing population. We connected community leaders and workers to strengthen civic dialogue. Sixteen companies joined our membership and committed to supporting our work.

The result was 650 workers attended sea.citi events and volunteered in schools. We discussed current local transportation policy, highlighted innovative solutions to housing and homelessness, and learned how schools are funded. *Innovators Engage* — our get out the vote campaign — brought together city council candidates and workers to learn about each other. We delivered workshops on local civics across the industry and tabled at meet-up groups to ask tech to vote.



Eileen Sullivan
Amazon

Today, more than ever, we need proactive civic dialogue to address the growing challenges in our region. Addressing the issues of our time — housing affordability, climate change, and transportation infrastructure — will require cross sector collaboration and innovative approaches. Tech has brought our region world-class talent that is ready to pitch-in and lend a hand. Join us as we ignite civic action across the industry.

Nicholas Merriam
CEO, sea.citi



Eileen Sullivan
President, sea.citi



What We Do

OUR VISION

We are building the region of tomorrow as residents committed to fostering a vibrant, diverse, and thriving community and innovation economy.

OUR MISSION

sea.citi is a network of tech and innovation companies strengthening Seattle by promoting civic engagement and building relationships between community, government, and innovation workers.

OUR FOCUS: REGIONAL CHALLENGES

Housing Affordability. Climate Change. Transportation Infrastructure.

We hear about these problems every day and want to support solutions. Finding a clear path to support solutions should not be difficult.

OUR NETWORK

The sea.citi membership is made up of 85,000+ local innovation workers. By providing straightforward pathways for engagement and understanding, sea.citi makes it easy for them to get involved in our community.

WE CONNECT

Connect with your community through impactful volunteerism and educational events.

WE INFORM

Educate yourself as a community member about the challenges facing Seattle.

WE EXCITE

You can engage with our community and leaders to make a positive impact.

sea.citi is activating our local innovation economy as a force for civic action. sea.citi designs and deploys campaigns across our membership on critical civic issues to raise awareness, garner support, and highlight direct pathways for action. We stimulate engagement across our industry and work in partnership with existing community organizations to strengthen their programs and organizations. In 2019 sea.citi hosted 18 events on complex community issues to highlight pathways for industry workers to take action and supported Seattle Public Schools by connecting STEM programming and volunteers to low-income schools through our greenlight program.

"We have an untapped resource of innovative thinkers who live and work here in our city and they want to better understand the civic challenges that Seattle's facing. sea.citi provides direct support to the Seattle community and offers impactful employee engagement opportunities."

- Eileen Sullivan, Public Policy at Amazon & sea.citi President

Impact in 2019

In one year, we have made in-roads with the industry and community. We're just getting started.



650
tech workers
attended events



1,618
workers surveyed



\$75,000
supplies, services,
and funds to schools



16
Members



3
Programs



9
Earned Media Hits

"We are really dedicated to and interested in getting tech workers to vote, volunteer or donate... Working across the innovation economy, we'll invite others to join us in these initiatives, tackling some of the most pressing problems we face as a community," said sea.citi CEO Nick Merriam - Geekwire

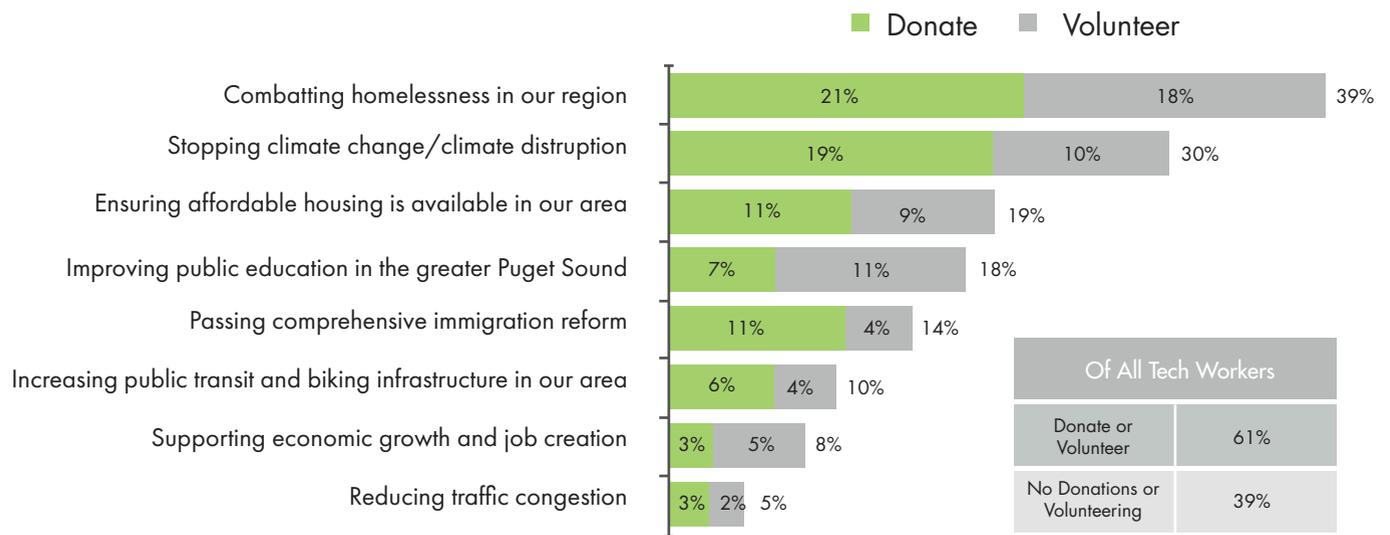
GeekWire

Tech Civic Survey

The Puget Sound region has experienced a growing presence of tech workers which is now comprised of approximately 300,000 employees. Little has been known about this growing workforce, especially their civic and community attitudes, engagement, and interests. Conducted by EMC Research, sea.citi surveyed tech workers in partnership with companies and industry organizations to understand their views on the local community. The result was 1,618 responses from 51 companies.

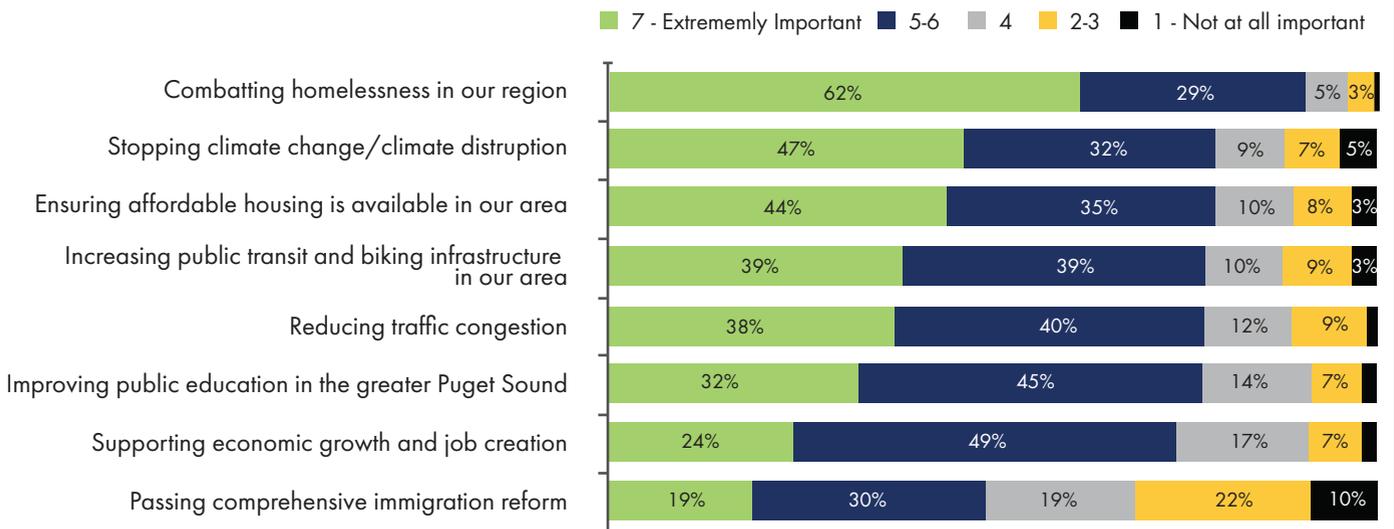
Tech workers are taking action

61% of respondents volunteered or donated on important regional issues in the last year



Tech workers care about the issues

The top three issues are homelessness, stopping climate disruption, and ensuring affordable housing



For more insights visit seaciti.org/techsurvey2019

We Connect

Connecting tech and innovation workers to each other and opportunities in their community where they can learn and make a difference, together.



greenlight: Supporting Local Schools

greenlight was formed to better connect low-income schools in Seattle with the growing innovation economy. We volunteered, brought students to tech companies, and raised nearly \$50,000 to help students across Seattle on their educational journey. Funds raised were placed in stewardship of Communities in Schools to ensure timely response to immediate needs students faced. These funds provided family support after a fire, helped with an overdue electric bill, provided middle schoolers a snowboarding trip, and more.

sea.citi Supports Education Levies

The 2019 renewal of the education levies is critical to supporting a high-functioning school district. The Educational Programs and Operations Levy covers the operating gaps the State currently does not fund. For example, the State funds nine nurses, the district employs 63. The Building Excellence V Capital Levy funds the construction of new buildings, design for future schools, and equitable technology investments in classrooms.

"Zillow Group is proud to be an inaugural member of sea.citi. We believe in a Seattle community where every young person can thrive and are excited to work alongside other sea.citi companies to help make that belief a reality."

- Racquel Russell, Vice President of Government Relations and Public Affairs Zillow Group



Tech City Summit

We were pleased to represent Seattle and join seven other organizations working on local tech advocacy from across the U.S. and Canada, representing the tech hubs in Austin, Montreal, Nashville, New York City, San Francisco, Toronto, and Waterloo.



Science on Wheels: Supporting Students

Through our partnership with Pacific Science Center and Communities in Schools of Seattle, we were pleased to help provide free STEM programming to qualifying schools for the 2018-2019 school year. Denny Middle School, South Shore Elementary, Van Asselt Elementary, Pathfinder K-8, Aki Kurose Middle School, and Highland Park Elementary participated.



Volunteering: Teacher Appreciation

With our partner Communities in Schools of Seattle we rallied volunteers and headed to Van Asselt Elementary and South preK-8 to show hard-working teachers we appreciate their work. Regularly, these teachers go above and beyond the call of duty of teaching and help young people overcome barriers like transportation, food, housing, or behavioral support.

We Inform

Informing our members and their employees on the issues we face in Seattle through events with local experts.



January, 2019

Legislative Session Preview

sea.citi CEO Nicholas Merriam and Amazon executive Eileen Sullivan led a conversation which included a broad range of topics, providing Democratic Representatives an opportunity to highlight their priorities, especially the “must address” issues for the upcoming session. Representatives Lauren Davis (District 32), Nicole Macri (District 43), and Noel Frame (District 36) were on hand in part to talk with their constituents.



May, 2019

Effective Interventions to Seattle Homelessness

sea.citi member Google hosted lunch with 160 tech workers to hear from local experts on homelessness. We explored how policy, programmatic tactics, and other factors influence this complex problem. Panelists included: Gordon McHenry Jr, CEO, Solid Ground; Paul Lambros, Executive Director, Plymouth Housing; Arthur Padilla, Interim Executive Director, Roots Young Adult Shelter. Alice Shobe, Director, Amazon in the Community moderated the event.



October, 2019

Sustainability at work in local transit policy

Uber hosted an environmentalism and sustainability themed event—hallmark issues in our region. As climate concerns continue to increase, our communities look for local solutions to help address the problem. We had an informative and action-oriented discussion with Former Councilmember Rob Johnson and Kelsey Mesher of Transportation Choices on how our community is taking on this challenge and what innovation workers can do to help.

December, 2019

Innovations in Homelessness

sea.citi member Madrona Venture Group and partner CREATE33 hosted this L&L hearing from entrepreneurial leaders who are rethinking how our community engages on homelessness. Attendees learned about how they're attempting to address key issues as they blend technology, innovation and community. They learned about this complex ecosystem, how these models fill gaps, and what they could do to help! Panelists included: Shkelqim Kelmendi, Executive Director, Housing Connector and Jonathan Kumar, CEO, Samaritan.



"Flying Fish Partners is incredibly excited to join sea.citi as an inaugural member. One of the driving forces behind our firm is to help grow and strengthen Seattle by providing opportunities and promoting innovation. We see sea.citi as the perfect partner to help us achieve these goals, and create a more connected community in the process!"

- Heather Redman, Co-Founder and Management Partner at Flying Fish Partners

Innovators Engage!

Pledge To Vote

The 2019 November local elections had a direct impact on our daily lives: from how we get around, where we can afford to live, how we innovate, and how we are caring for our most vulnerable neighbors. sea.citi championed the election season by reminding workers about important voting deadlines, hosted candidate forums, and sent resources to make sure they felt informed and engaged in voting this year.



February, 2019

sea.citi Member Exclusive: Demystifying Seattle School Funding

McCleary, February school levies, and a looming school district deficit. The funding of Seattle schools is complex. This event focused on how local and state policy affects funding Seattle's public educational system and where innovation workers can make a difference. Panelists included: JoLynn Berge, CFO, Seattle Public Schools, Rene Murry, Policy Director, Youth Development Executives of King County, Greg Wong, Past President, SchoolsFirst!





October, 2019

Candidate Night Out

sea.citi members Pacific Science Center, Zillow, and WeWork led a friendly chat with the candidates that will help Seattle continue to move forward. We talked about important community issues and discussed the role of technology and innovation, critical factors unique to our city. Attendees got up close and personal with these future elected officials. Moderators included: Elizabeth Scallon, Head of WeWork Labs; and Racquel Russell, VP of Government Relations and Public Affairs at Zillow.

sea.CIVICS

sea.civics is a 20 minute educational workshop for innovation workers to delve deeper into the basics of local civic and political life. sea.civics provided workers a basic introduction to civic life in Seattle: from how to vote to democracy vouchers to the role local government plays in daily life. Participants left with tools to stay plugged into civic life.



"Tableau is proud to be a part of a community that gives its time, talent, and resources to making this a great place to live and work. Being a part of sea.citi is a great opportunity for our team to connect with important issues in our area, listen to a variety of voices, and meaningfully engage in ways that can make a difference."

- Steve Schwartz, Head of Public Affairs at Tableau.

We Excite

sea.citi tells the story of how tech workers and the industry are supporting our region. We shine a light on great examples of engagement to encourage and inspire others. Inspirational Innovators provide basic tips on how to lean in on community engagement.

These employees shared with sea.citi words of advice for anyone interested in helping our community, but are unsure where to start.

“ FIND A COMMUNITY AND GET TO WORK ”

There are LOTS of other people who care about the same issues that you do and want you to join them. In America we are often overwhelmed by the myth of the individual – especially when it comes to politics, activism, and social change. We focus on individuals and create a story about how they’re the only one doing anything and that if we want to do something meaningful, it has to be at that level or it’s not worth doing (think MLK, AOC, etc.). The reality is that every meaningful change in American history has been accomplished through sustained, collective action. So my first piece of advice is to find a community and get to work!

- Charmila Ajmera, Sales Readiness Program Manager at **Tableau**

“ BUILD CONNECTIONS WITH PEOPLE ”

Pair up. If you’re just getting started, I think it’s great to partner with somebody who will hold you accountable for making good on your desire to engage. One thing that’s really important to internalize, coming from the private sector, is how under-resourced most non-profits are, so it’s really important to show up with an adaptive mindset and be ready to pitch in wherever you think you might be able to help.

- Sam McVeety, Technical Lead for Cloud Data Analytics at **Google** Seattle





Support and Enable Organizations

“My advice would be ask yourself what type of volunteer work you want to be doing, what type of causes you want to be supporting, and what types of clients you want to aid. Once you have answered those, start looking for local organizations that map roughly to your interests.” - Jamie Anderson, **Zillow**

Accessible Community Engagement

“My advice is to narrow the issues you’re looking to put your energies towards to two or three, then decide how much time you are able / willing to dedicate, and then research local organizations knee deep in those areas. Reach out to them – due to varying levels of busy-ness, you will likely hear back from only a few. Volunteer a few times with each and decide which one or two organizations you can really spend your time with.” - Delaney Gaughan, **Amperity**

Think deeply about what you care about

“Think deeply about what it is that you care about. Is it homelessness, is it sustainability, is it education? Once you’re clear on what matters to you or what ranks as one of the things that matters most to you, there are plenty of ways to plug in. (For Seattle area tech workers, sea.citi for example.)” - Heather Lewis, Government Affairs Manager at **Rover**.

Everyone Has Something to Give

“First, for those unsure of their ability to contribute – everyone has something to give. Whether it’s your career skills, your education, your lived experiences, your social media support, your time, your money, or simply your presence – the local community can benefit from it. If there are certain social issues in Seattle that interest you – anything from immigration to the arts – there’s likely an advisory board or commission that exists for it in Seattle” - Steven Maheshwary, Marketing for Underserved Populations & Special Projects at **Amazon**

Start with One Action

“My advice is to start small. Figure out a way you can get involved at your workplace, in your neighborhood district, in a community you’re already a part of. Starting with just one action step can help and make your organizing efforts a lot more effective than trying to get involved in every issue that a community faces all at once.” - Sarah Sedky, Software Engineer at **Remitly, Inc**



Thank You

2019 Executive Committee & CEO



Racquel Russell
Zillow Group



Eileen Sullivan
Amazon



Barb Willson
Vulcan



Nicholas Merriam
sea.citi CEO

2019 Board of Directors



Tom Alberg
Madrona



Brian Boland
Facebook



Katherine Cheng
Expedia Group



Milt Doumit
Verizon



Heather Redman
Flying Fish Partners



Steve Schwartz
Tableau Software



Brent Turner
Rover



Susie Vowinkel
Google

Special thanks to our partners:

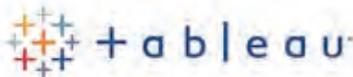
Ground Floor Public Affairs • Monument Advocacy • Communities In Schools of Seattle • MsJones Design
Abigail Doerr • Leah Scott, CPA • Create33 • EMC Research

Thank You

2019 sea.citi Members



FLYING FISH



Uber

verizon



wework

Zillow GROUP



For more information about how you can get involved, contact sea.citi's CEO, Nicholas Merriam, at nicholas@seaciti.org or call 206-867-5309.

www.seaciti.org