



mount baker food incubator

a tool for community resilience

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context

Mt. Baker is home to a multi-cultural and independent business community that serves its diverse population. However, these businesses occupy low density auto-oriented structures in a neighborhood that is moving towards an urban Town Center development. Without action taken, the character these businesses bring to the neighborhood will be lost. In the wake of redevelopment, a food incubator could provide opportunities for residents to keep the local flavor that creates a sense of place in Mt. Baker.



POLICY 2B: provide support to small culturally based businesses

GOAL 2: a neighborhood with ethnic and cultural diversity

north rainier neighborhood action plan

precedents



- > san francisco, ca
- > aiming to create an innovative, vibrant, and inclusive economic landscape
- > primarily focus on women from communities of color and immigrant communities
- > drop in market
- > business critique fair



- > new york city, ny
- > working to steer a food system towards equitability while supporting culinary tradition and innovation
- > "four pronged approach"
 - > commercial kitchen access
 - > business development support
 - > culinary community
 - > market access



- > salt lake city, ut
- > seeks to develop food businesses, preserve culinary traditions, and share these cultural assets with salt lake city
- > primarily focus on immigrant communities and disadvantaged community members
- > "spice to go"
- > every thursday boxed-meal service cooked fresh by a featured entrepreneur



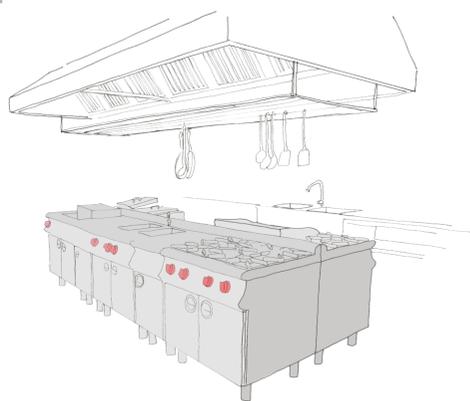
- > seatac, wa
- > aims to provide opportunities for new businesses while enhancing the local food system and providing resource sharing for seatac's diverse community
- > provides assistance to businesses for:
 - > food service and catering
 - > food processing and packaging

guiding principles

- > recognize that the mt. baker light rail station, the mt. rainier hub urban village designation, and the seattle housing crises are catalyzing change in mt. baker
- > recognize food's importance in cultural identity
- > foster entrepreneurship through lowering barriers of entry
- > enhance the local food system
- > support resource and idea sharing
- > create a destination through food culture assets
- > cultivate social capital



idea recommendations



commercial kitchens reduce the risk of getting a food business started



providing public space and hosting events helps bring the community together while supporting entrepreneurs



partnering with larger city-wide networks provides greater opportunities for marketing

- > commercial kitchen/ co-packing facility
 - affordable start-up space
 - resource sharing
- > educational center
 - access to workshops and educational resources
 - small business training and mentoring
- > plaza
 - host events that market startups to community and greater seattle
 - create a space that functions as a gathering space for the community
 - connect to greater seattle events to market new start-ups

potential partners



outdoor retail: develop an open air, multicultural market at the station or in new open space, to provide affordable commercial space and enliven public space.

mt. baker urban design framework

