

**Community
Action
Research &
Empowerment**

Vietnamese Friendship Association

Youth Action Team
October 2009

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What is CARE?

- **Community**
 - A group of people sharing a common interest or ownership in a particular area
- **Action Research**
 - A strategic planning process for intervention, development and changes within a community
 - “As designers and stakeholders, researchers work with others to propose a new course of action to help their community improve its work practices” ([Center for Collaborative Action Research](#)).
- **Empowerment**
 - Strengthen, making the most of competence

What is CARE?

- CARE is a *strategic planning process* aimed to *address the social and economic inequities* in the *Vietnamese* community of Seattle.
- All members of the community, including elders, youth, and family representatives, can offer unique and valuable perspectives on community needs, values and priorities.
- CARE will be run for the community, by the community.

GOALS & Community Benefits

- **Promote greater civic participation**
 - Encourage more voice from the Vietnamese community
 - Seattle organizations and service providers are more aware and responsive to Vietnamese Community needs.
- **Foster positive youth development**
 - Contribute to community
 - Enrich critical career skills
- **Provide an opportunity for intergenerational collaboration**
 - Close in on cultural differences and promote better understanding from different backgrounds
- **Develop a community-based plan that is transferrable to other communities**
 - Increase cohesion, fostering stronger participation in the broader community
 - Development of programs that improve youth violence, affordable housing and/or other issues that benefit all community members.

Strategies

- 1. Outreach and education**
- 2. Create Advisory Committee, Community Task Force and Youth Action Team**
- 3. Training in community planning**
- 4. Training and conducting assessments**
- 5. Develop a community mobilization plan**

CARE's 3 Teams

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- 8-12 multicultural community members
- Guide the CTF and YAT in their work, helping to coordinating trainings and consultancy as needed
- Act as liaison, and provide feedback from broader community, including non-Vietnamese
- Outreach

COMMUNITY TASK FORCE

- 10-12 community members (ie business owners, religious leaders, residents, etc)
- Analyze & interpret data
- Guide the participatory action research by using connections and knowledge to shape the assessment questions
- Develop community plans
- Outreach

Youth Action Team

- 12 young adults between ages 16 and 20
- Attend trainings and retreats
- Receive stipends for their services
- Gather data through focus groups, surveys, photojournalism and mapping
- Assist in developing community plan
- Outreach

Youth Action Team Involvement

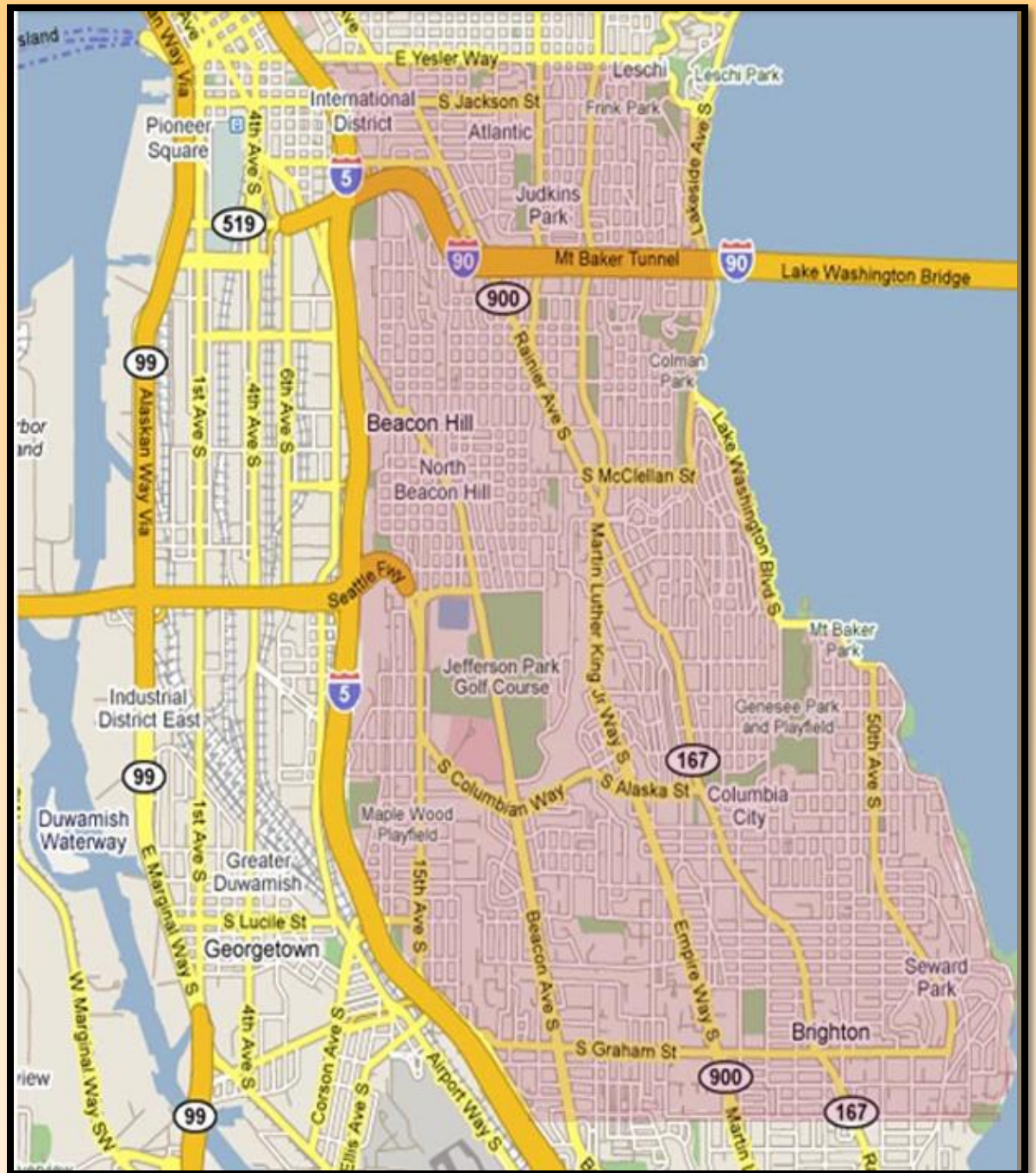
- Attend trainings – leadership, PAR, community analysis, GIS, social injustice, etc.
 - Networking – meet with prominent community members
 - Community mapping – photojournalism, gathering statistics
 - Form surveys and collect data – interview elders, businesses, families, etc
- Compile data – learn different ways of organizing data, focus groups, reports, etc
- Host a community forum – obtain feedback, compare data
 - Help Vietnamese community prioritize issues and necessities
 - Help other committees develop a 3-5 year community plan

Community Mapping

Some of the questions you'll be answering may include:

- What community facilities/resources such as YMCA, community health centers, senior services, youth centers, etc. are available to the community? Are those services accessible and utilized?
- What businesses exist in the community? What challenges do they experience?
- Are there affordable rental housing properties in the community?
- Where in the region is job growth occurring? Does the community have access to these jobs?
- What are the implications of new transportation developments like the Light Rail, how have they been affecting the community?
- What are obstacles that prevent the Vietnamese community from interacting with their neighbors?
- We will also focus on assets, using questions such as: What's great about the Southeast District? What characteristics of the Vietnamese community do you like most? Are there times when the Vietnamese community came together successfully for a common goal? What connections have you built with your non-Vietnamese neighbors?

CARE will explore and map the areas south of Yesler and north of Othello between I-5 and Lake Washington.



Essentials to your success

- Application and Interview
- Attend retreats, trainings, community forums...
- Positive attitude and Open Mindedness
- Willingness and TRUE Passion to make a difference for your community
- 400 hours of service

In the end...

You will :

- Understand various methodologies of data collection, community organizing, and action research
- Gain knowledge about your Vietnamese community and its interaction
- Greater leadership capabilities and impact
- Have a generous network of supporters to guide you through your future endeavors
- \$1,000 for completing the 400 hours of service 😊

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

This is a part-time service position (approximately 10 hours per week, including Saturdays) which pays \$2300 over the next 10-11 months. After completing 400 hours of service, you will receive \$1,000 as an educational bonus. Overnight retreats and attendance at major events are mandatory. Serious inquiries only!

application: www.vfaseattle.org
project details: www.vfaseattle.org/care

Questions?

Email kathy.ho@vfaseattle.org

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