



City of Tacoma's Community and Economic Development Quarterly Newsletter

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South Downtown Vitality Creates Quality of Life and High Paying Jobs

The triangle created by the University of Washington Tacoma, the Historic Brewery District, and St. Joseph Medical Center is driving the improving economy in South Downtown Tacoma. Healthcare and public education citywide, including South Downtown, comprise one-third of Tacoma's jobs. These three districts, all within a half-mile radius of one another, offer economic synergies and considerable future potential.



Tacoma Paper & Stationary Building (Image Courtesy of the University of Washington Tacoma)

University of Washington Tacoma Growth

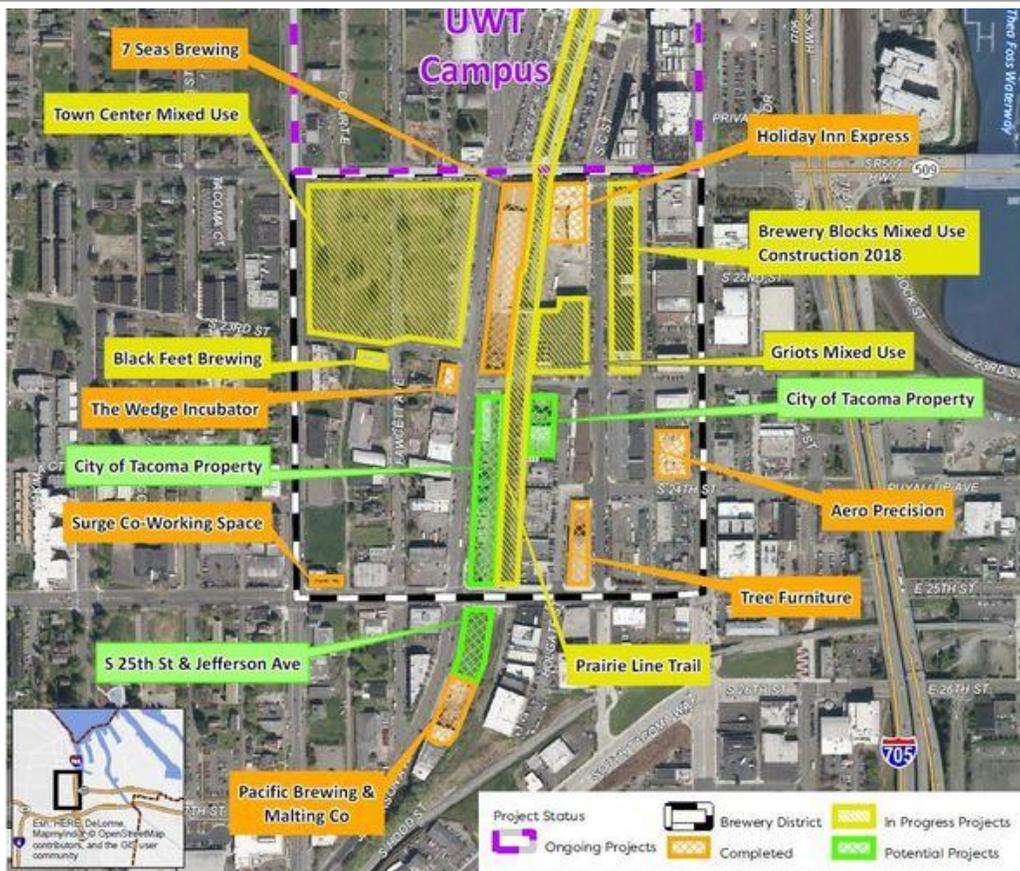
With a sizable footprint in Downtown Tacoma, the University of Washington Tacoma set an enrollment record in the fall of 2017 with 5,185 students attending classes. This marks a 4 percent increase from its enrollment numbers the previous year. In keeping with the University of

Washington Tacoma's focus on increasing access to education, 51 percent of enrolled students are first generation degree earners. The university is also a top jobs producer in Tacoma. In order to teach and provide for the students, the university employs 348 faculty members and 304 support staff.

Along with increased enrollment numbers, the University of Washington Tacoma campus unveiled the last of the historically-renovated warehouses within its current footprint with the opening of the Tacoma Paper & Stationary building in the fall of 2017. The unique restoration focused on reuse of old-growth timber from the original structure. The building is in use as classroom and gathering space for its continually increasing student body.

With a growing student population and increasing campus size, the University of Washington Tacoma campus is expanding its educational opportunities as well. Starting in the fall of 2018, the Institute of Technology will offer an electrical engineering major. A study was also recently completed on the feasibility of creating a law school. The goal now is to achieve full law school accreditation for a class of 70 by the year 2026 due to market conditions and demand for lawyers in the South Sound.

Directly across from Union Station, the University of Washington Tacoma campus is also located on historical ground. The section of railroad that ran through Tacoma was known as the Prairie Line and it has recently been converted into a walking trail/park along the retired railroad. The Prairie Line Trail now connects the Dock Street waterfront and marina to the Tacoma Art Museum, Downtown Tacoma, University of Washington Tacoma, and the historic Brewery District while displaying artwork and historical markers.



Current, Projected, and Potential Growth (Image Courtesy of City of Tacoma)

Historic Brewery District Resurgence

Immediately south of the University of Washington Tacoma campus, along the Prairie Line Trail, is the Historic Brewery District. This district was once full of Prohibition-era breweries and bustle. Fortunately, this district is experiencing a resurgence with the renovation of historic buildings and an influx of new owners and employees. Currently, 949 jobs are located in this district.

TREE, an eco-friendly furniture company with a huge desire to give back to the community, renovated the former Nisqually Power Station building and is now open in the Historic Brewery District. TREE is especially focused on Tacoma's environmental health. Its owners have already planted more than 70,000 trees through the Trees4Trees foundation. Pacific Brewing and Malting Company has purchased space in the district adjacent to its original buildings. These additional buildings will be used to increase production. 7 Seas Brewing has been a cornerstone of the district since its expansion to Tacoma in 2016 in a portion of the former Heidelberg Brewery complex. Inside of the 7 Seas Brewing building is the 3uilt restaurant and Valhalla Coffee. Green Air Supply, a company which takes nitrogen out of the air and converts it to be used to carbonate beer, will be working adjacent to Pacific Brewing and Malting Company. Also opening this year in the district will be Black Fleet Brewing. Last but not least, Infoblox has their Center of Excellence in the Horizon Pacific Center which is also located in the district, increasing Tacoma's tech industry footprint.

These businesses, combined with the planned Brewery Blocks (featuring cross-laminated timber buildings) and the Tacoma Town Center (now under construction) will lead to increased traffic through the historic Brewery District. The City of Tacoma has secured a \$2.9 million grant to implement Complete Streets through the district that will include bike and pedestrian enhancements to emphasize safety and maneuverability.

St. Joseph Medical Center



Tacoma Behavioral Health Hospital (Image Courtesy of MultiCare Health System)

Ten blocks west of the historic Brewery District is the historic St. Joseph Medical Center. The hospital has existed in various buildings on the Hilltop since 1899 and recently celebrated its 125th

birthday. It is tied to the community in many ways, to include its relationship with the University of Washington Tacoma as its healthcare services provider. St. Joseph Medical Center is also adjacent to one of Hilltop's proud assets, the People's Community Center.

By the year 2022, the Tacoma Link Light Rail extension is projected to run alongside St. Joseph Medical Center connecting it to Downtown Tacoma and the University of Washington Tacoma, increasing accessibility for all.

A little less than two miles west of St. Joseph Medical Center, a new hospital is being constructed to serve the South Sound. The Tacoma Behavioral Health Hospital is a \$45 million joint venture between CHI Franciscan Health (which own St. Joseph Medical Center) and MultiCare Health System. Scheduled for completion in January 2019, this 120-bed hospital will create an estimated 600 new living wage jobs in Tacoma, and is anticipated to serve 5,000 people a year. [Maureen Womack](#) has been hired as the president and chief executive officer of the Tacoma Behavioral Health Hospital.

Economic Development Resources

The Community and Economic Development Department launched a new website to help attract and grow business. Visit MakeItTacoma.com to learn more about doing business in Tacoma.

Searching for a property or vacant land? Use the City's site selection tool to find your next property [here](#).

Additional information on business analytics are available [here](#).

Special Events



See upcoming events that have been permitted by the City of Tacoma [here](#).

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