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Beacon Business Alliance (BBA) & Partners Introduce EssentialSESeattle.com — Helping Locals Shop South Seattle Businesses

As the health and economic effects of COVID-19 sweep over our community in Seattle, we at Beacon Business Alliance (BBA), a 501(c)3 business alliance advocating for South Seattle's small business community, have joined forces with other neighborhood partners to create EssentialSESeattle.com, a site that helps our neighbors shop hyperlocal.

Over 150 South Seattle restaurants, markets, groceries, and nonprofits are currently open and as others get reactivated you'll find them all in the easily searchable website.

EssentialSESeattle.com is made possible with ongoing support from our collaborators: Rainier Avenue Business Coalition, Mt. Baker Hub Alliance, Martin Luther King Business Association, Columbia City Business Association, and Rainier Beach Merchants Association. We'd also like to thank HomeSight for the website build and ongoing management as well as the Office of Economic Development for partial funding.

“Collaboration is the only way forward, now and in the future,” says BBA Director Angela Castañeda. “Just as businesses cannot thrive without customers, communities cannot thrive without shared support. It's incredibly inspiring how we came together on this project to connect residents to their local essential businesses.”

Of course, our work does not begin or end with a website. BBA formed as a community-based development organization in 2010 (formerly named Beacon Hill Merchants Association) to promote equitable economic development in our neighborhood through community engagement, organizing, advocacy, networking, and collaboration. Through personalized outreach we are able to provide technical assistance, filling a critical gap by connecting businesses with specialists in areas like lease negotiation or banking and lending. Our robust social media, web, and online communications serve to increase visibility and cross-promote our small businesses citywide.

Today more than ever, our South Seattle small businesses need community—and nimble neighborhood advocates like BBA—to manage through this difficult time.

Help us continue this work by donating now. If you know of a local business that could use support, contact us today at 206-459-1430 or info@beaconbusinessalliance.org.

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