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Marion West wins Vision 2040 award

By [JOURNAL STAFF](#)

The Marion West in the University District won a 2018 Vision 2040 Award from Puget Sound Regional Council.

The four-story, 49-unit building at 5019 Roosevelt Way N.E. was developed by Low Income Housing Institute, designed by Runberg Architecture Group and constructed by BNBuilders. Susan Black and Associates was the landscape architect and YouthCare handles case management.

The Marion West houses formerly homeless youth between 18 and 24, and people with low incomes. It also houses the University District Food Bank, a cafe, a rooftop garden that provides produce for the food bank, community space, resident lounges, decks, a community kitchen, and space for counseling and job training.



Photo by Michael Walmsley [\[enlarge\]](#)

LIHI's U District complex contains housing, a food bank and a rooftop garden.

Funding sources for the housing include Seattle, King County, Washington State Department of Commerce, Impact Capital and HUD. KeyBank provided construction financing for the food bank and housing. Washington State Housing Finance Commission provided the 9 percent tax credit allocation and the National Equity Fund provided tax credit equity. Seattle Housing Authority is providing rental assistance, and a donation from Wyncote NW Foundation helped LIHI purchase the land.

In a press release, Josh Brown, executive director of PSRC, called Marion West a community that “meets the needs of struggling groups of people... with the right mix of apartments, community space, food security, job training and more.”

The building is named for Marion West, who in the 1950s helped break the color barrier in the U District by housing African Americans and students of color.

PSRC will present six Vision 2040 awards to projects and programs that help the region grow sustainably.

Other 2018 awards have gone to Edmonds' Highway 99 subarea plan, and Kitsap Transit's passenger-only ferry and North Viking Transit Center and Base. Additional awards will be announced later this year.

The subarea plan focuses on how to increase housing and jobs along SR 99, and identifies needed transportation improvements, according to the PSRC. It's planned-action EIS helps reduce costs for developers with the goal of lowering housing costs and attracting growth.

The passenger-only ferry began with high-speed service connecting Bremerton and Seattle. Service will be expanded to Kingston and Southworth.

North Viking Transit Center and Base offers 265 park-and-ride stalls and charging stations, an ADA-accessible environment, and a seamless transfer spot for North Kitsap routes, PSRC said.

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