

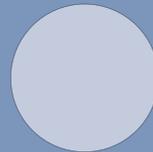
# kirkland **business** roundtable



contact the kirkland business roundtable:

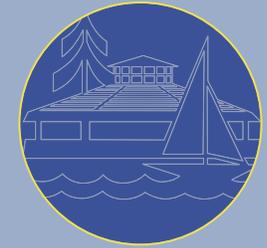
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**kirkland** is filled with successful and innovative businesses that sustain our local economy, provide services we need to maintain our exceptional quality of life and family-wage jobs for our residents. Cities thrive when people with commitment, energy and ideas get together to make great places even better.

To help move Kirkland forward as a community, business center, and tourist destination the City of Kirkland is creating a CEO-level Business Roundtable representing major Kirkland business clusters and the institutions that support them.



## assumptions

- There is regional opportunity for growth industries (examples: IT, Biotech, Clean Energy, Architecture/Engineering, Tourism), but there are challenges to retaining and recruiting these businesses for Kirkland.
- Government working with the private sector can connect research, job pools, financing, and infrastructure/transportation (of people and products), to increase business viability and enhance quality of life.

## current challenges

- Adequate space to accommodate and increase growth of small high tech and professional service firms
- Adequate infrastructure to support business district growth such as fiber optics, roadways, and utilities
- Downtown retail and office supply
- Transitioning NE 85th and Totem Lake from light industrial and storage to high-tech office
- Promoting Kirkland as both a tourist and business destination

## why participate?

- Help guide economic development policy for the City.
- Benefit from information provided by City elected officials and senior management regarding city vision, policies and regulations, and future opportunities.
- Benefit from a better understanding of the business climate that supports the overall success of the local economy, and how to take advantage of larger regional, national and international trends.
- Public-private partnerships and opportunities can develop thru connections made among Roundtable participants.
- Kirkland will be perceived as a good place to do business because of the working relationship of the public and private sectors.

## possible work items

- Regulatory Streamlining
- Infrastructure and service delivery improvements
- Promoting Kirkland as a good place to do business
- Identifying opportunities and business prospects and helping to bring them to Kirkland
- Investing in human capital such as networking events, training and education
- Improving arts, education, recreation and amenities that cement employee ties to this community
- Improving the regional business environment
- Working with regional political representatives and others on transportation, tax reform, sustainable education funding and other legislative efforts

## expected commitment

The Roundtable will review current economic development challenges and opportunities, brainstorm around different approaches to address these, and recommend new strategies. While we value group recommendations, we also will look to individual members to contribute and advocate in their areas of expertise.

Quarterly meetings will take place at various venues in Kirkland. Meetings will include breakfast, presentations by local and regional business leaders on economic development issues, and opportunities for discussion.