

Summer Planning Academy (SPA)

2025



Puget Sound Regional Council



We are leaders in the region to realize equity for all. Diversity, racial equity and inclusion are integrated into how we carry out all our work.

psrc.org/equity

Agenda

- Goals of Summer Planning Academy
- 2025 Cohort
- 2025 Itinerary
- Ongoing Engagement with Young People



Summer Planning Academy **HANDBOOK**



Puget Sound Regional Council



Goals



Introduce individuals to the planning process and profession at an early age.

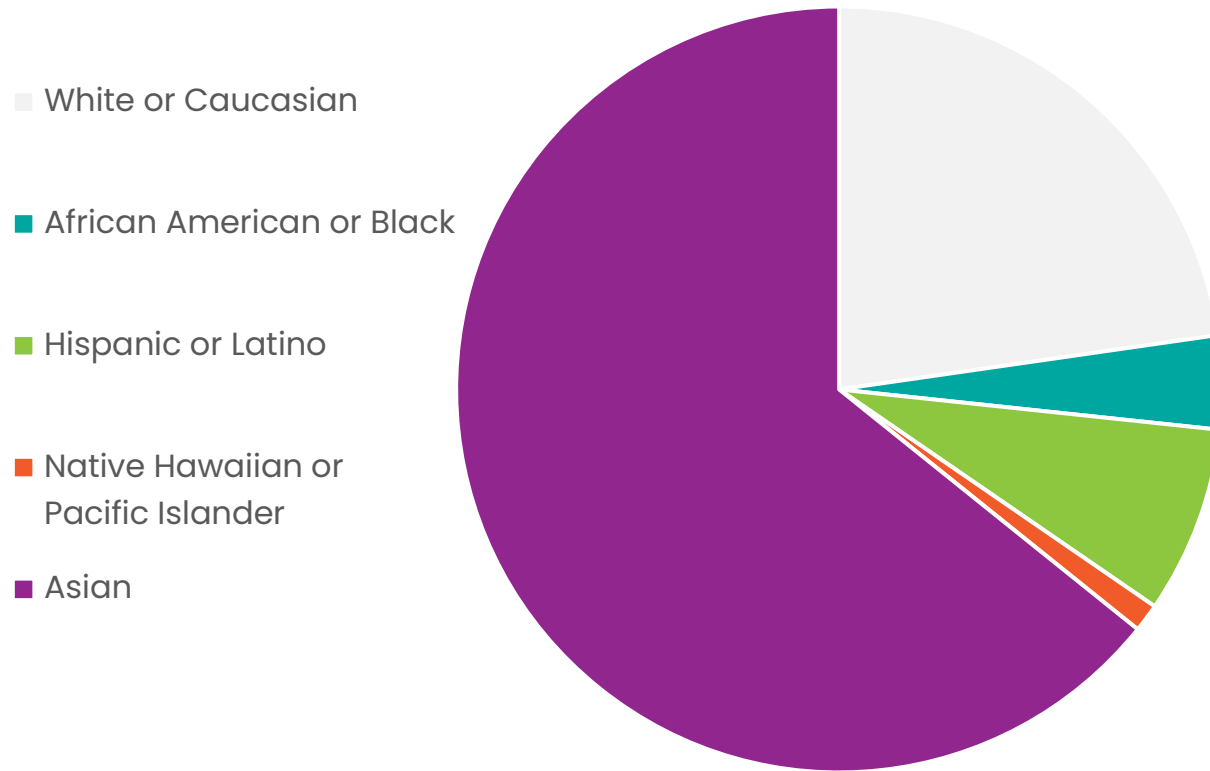
Engage young people on a regular basis to provide input on PSRC's policies and programs.

Promote equity in the region by actively recruiting and engaging youth from diverse backgrounds.



Racial Demographics

Students by Race/Ethnicity



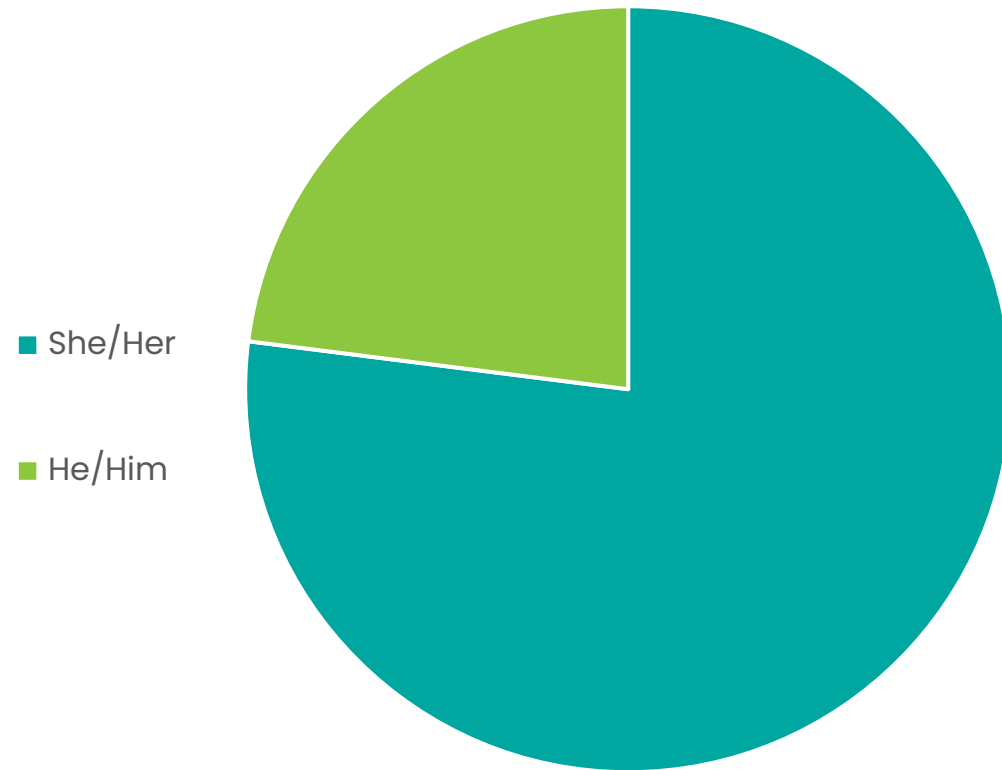
In our 2025 cohort, 77% identified as BIPOC.

- White or Caucasian – 23%
- African American or Black – 4%
- Hispanic or Latino – 8%
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander – 1.2%
- Asian – 65%



Gender Equity

Pronouns



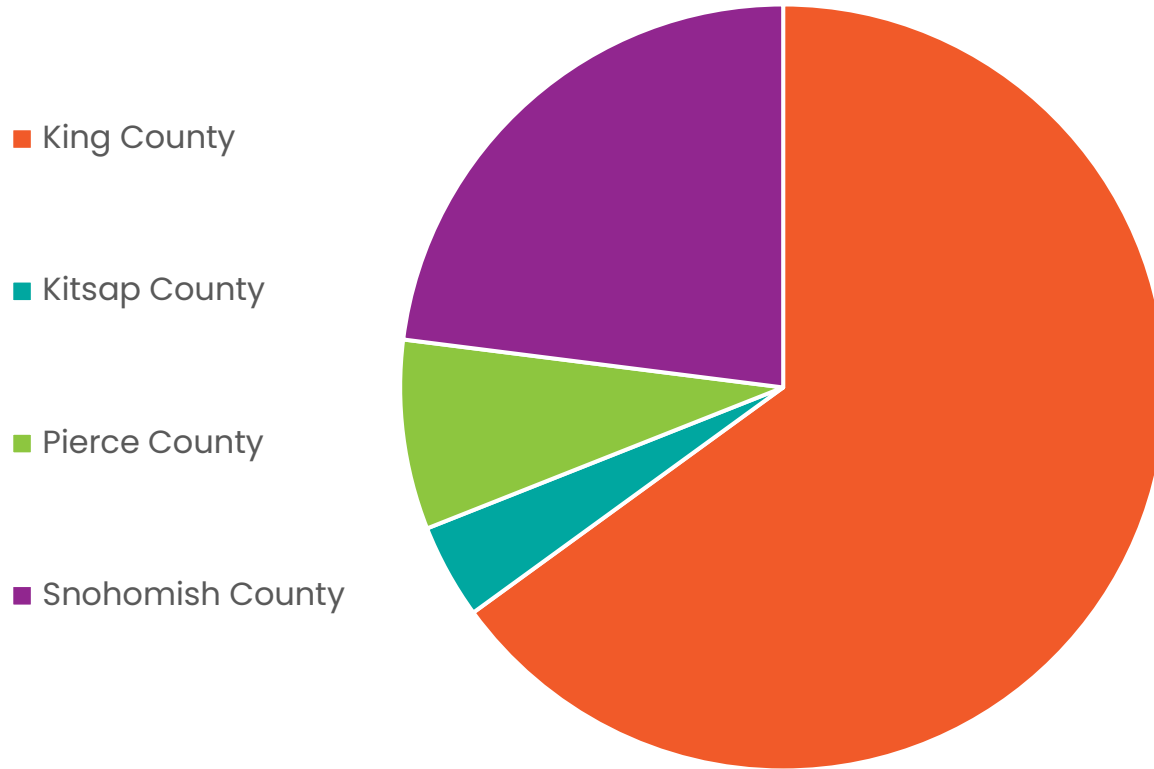
In our 2025 cohort, 77% of students used she/her pronouns.

- According to datausa.io, the urban & regional planners workforce in 2023 was 43.8% women and 56.2% men.



Regional Representation

Students by County



Proportional to population density, our SPA 2025 cohort represented all four counties in the Puget Sound region.

- King County – 65%
- Kitsap County – 4%
- Pierce County – 8%
- Snohomish County – 23%



Session Itinerary



Day 1 Introduction to Planning

July 30, 2025

SCHEDULE

- 10:00 AM**
SPA Overview and Staff Introductions
- 10:15 AM**
Welcome to SPA with
Executive Director Josh Brown
- 10:30 AM**
Blocks and Lots Game
- 11:00 AM**
Intro to Planning Presentation and Lunch
- 11:30 AM**
Community Assessment Field Trip
- 1:30 PM**
Field Trip Debrief
- 2:00 PM**
Capstone Introduction and Work Time
- 3:00 PM**
End of Day

7



Day 2 Transportation

August 1, 2025

SCHEDULE

- 10:00 AM**
Meet PSRC staff at Pier 50 Dock
(south end of Colman Dock) in Seattle
– 801 Alaskan Way, Seattle, WA 98104
- 10:20 AM**
Ride Fast Ferry to Bremerton
- 11:00 AM**
Transportation Data Workshop
- 12:15 PM**
Lunch
- 1:00 PM**
Bremerton Walking Tour
- 1:30 PM**
Line Up for Ferry
- 1:50 PM**
Ride Fast Ferry to Seattle
- 2:30 PM**
Waterfront Tour
- 3:00 PM**
End of Day

9



Session Itinerary



Day 3 Housing

August 6, 2025

SCHEDULE

- 10:00 AM**
Introduction to Housing
- 10:30 AM**
Travel to Cedar Crossing
- 11:00 AM**
Tour and information session with Mercy Housing, Bellwether Housing, and Sound Transit
- 12:00 PM**
Lunch
- 12:30 PM**
Travel back to PSRC
- 1:00 PM**
Housing Data Workshop
- 3:00 PM**
End of Day



Day 4 Environmental Planning

August 8, 2025

SCHEDULE

- 10:00 AM**
Introduction to Environmental Planning
- 10:20 AM**
Travel to Union Bay Natural Area
- 11:00 AM**
Carousel Speaker Activity
- 12:20 PM**
Lunch
- 12:50 PM**
Travel Back to PSRC
- 1:30 PM**
Reflections
- 1:40 PM**
Environmental Data Workshop
- 2:30 PM**
SPA Closing Ceremony
- 3:00 PM**
End of Day



Capstone Project–Community Profile

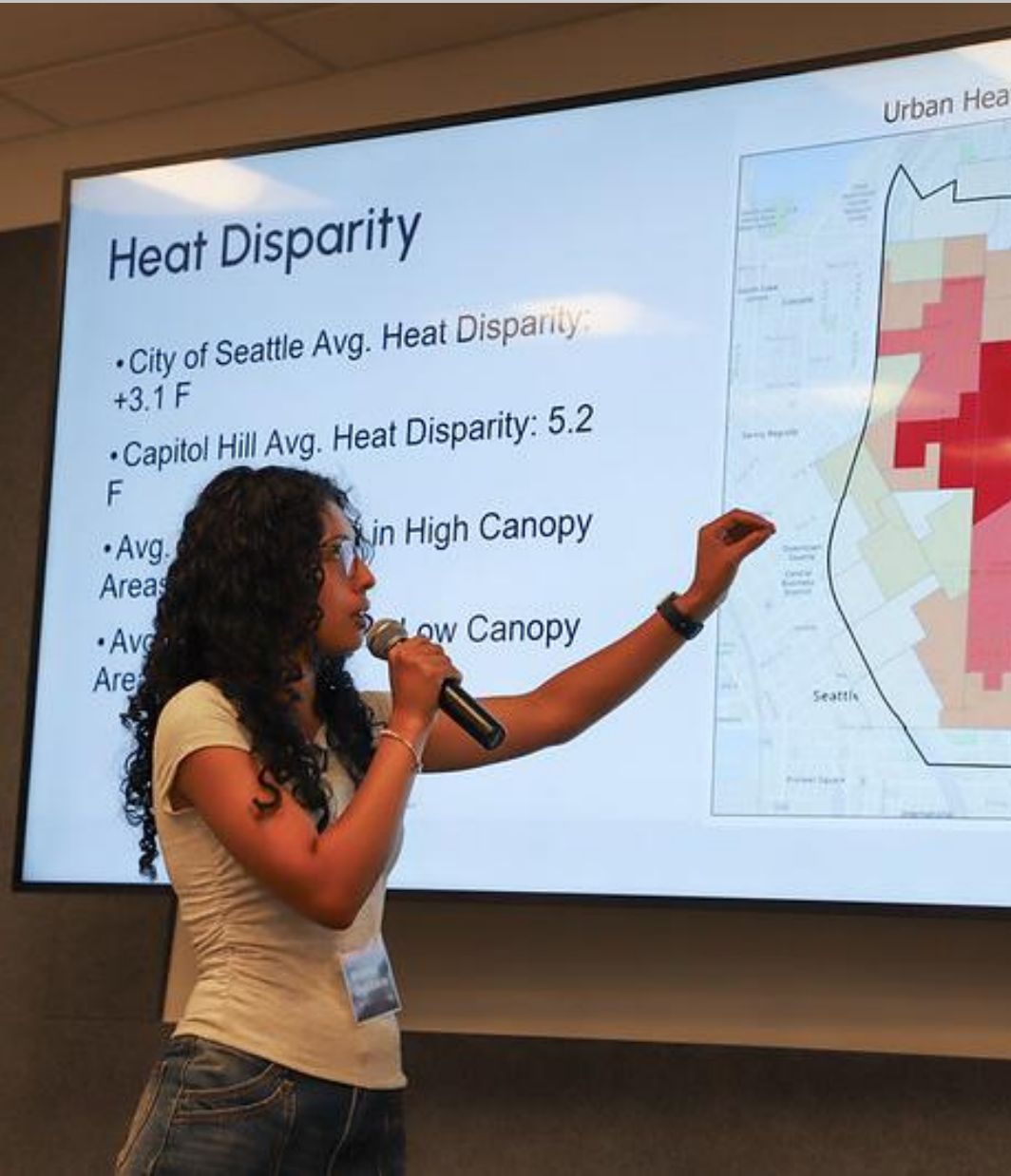
Walking assessment of
community

Research and data analysis
from all topic areas covered in
SPA

Policy recommendations for
based on research and
analysis



Open House-New for 2024



Students shared their final capstones at an open house

Occurred the week following the final program day

Family members and PSRC staff in attendance



Ongoing Engagement with Young People

Maria Suchoski joined PSRC as an intern in Fall 2024

Participated in inaugural SPA program in Summer 2023

Led recruitment and development of SPA 2025



Ongoing Engagement with Young People



Ongoing Engagement with Young People



Six SPA students applied for the 2025 cohort of the Equity Advisory Committee

Two accepted offers to sit on EAC

Rhea Biswas of Sammamish



Sophia Lana Castro of Lakewood



Thank You!

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