The 1990s

When public policy works

Strong Policies & Public Leadership Making an Impact
The decade began with the passage of the landmark Growth Management Act (GMA) by the WA State Legislature. The GMA required densely populated cities and counties to develop comprehensive plans for managing urban growth. In 1998, the Seattle Office of Housing was established to manage investments from the Seattle Housing Levy. These, and many other policies and changes, helped to shape the housing landscape in which we now reside.

1991 - Seattle Housing Development Consortium changes name to Seattle/King County Housing Development Consortium; membership now includes government agencies.

1992 - Recognizing the growing need for affordable housing in East King County, suburban cities form A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) with support from HDC.

By serving as a model and incubator, HDC also helps form other organizations such as the WA Low Income Housing Alliance.

1992 - US Dept of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) launches Hope VI, a massive effort to revitalize dated public housing as mixed-income communities.

The Seattle Housing Authority’s first Hope VI redevelopment replaces more than 800 low-income units, originally built as war housing, at Holy Park.

The King County Housing Authority also leads large-scale redevelopment projects such as Greenbridge and Soola Gardens.

1996 - Two nonprofit HDC members - interim CDA and Imagine Housing (formerly St. Andrew’s Housing Development) join forces to build and manage Highland Gardens within Kliathani.

Local policies established in the 1980s, requiring affordable housing within master-planned communities such as Kliathani, continue to help create new affordable housing clusters around transit, services, and other amenities.

Housing First: Social Change Policy in the Making
HDC member Downtown Emergency Services Center (DESC) pioneered a new approach to supporting people experiencing homelessness. In the first controlled US Study, researchers found that providing housing first saves taxpayer money and is an effective strategy to ending homelessness in our region.

By the end of the decade, HDC members created or preserved 28,636 affordable homes

...and HDC membership rose to 48 by 1999