



## Beacon Business Alliance Summer 2024 Newsletter



### Neighborhood News



Photo Courtesy of Jay Galligher

#### Business Spotlight: Jay Galligher on Growing Plantbaby

With the sunshine ramping up and people itching for some greenery, Jay Galligher says his home business, [Plantbaby](#), is keeping him busy. He spends most days picking up and delivering plants to and from passionate plant hobbyists across Seattle.

Like [The Power Plant Seattle](#) and [Urban Feed and Garden](#), Plantbaby is one of many plant-centered businesses around the Beacon Hill neighborhood, but with a twist!

Galligher, who grew up on a farm but then worked in digital health for more than a decade, pivoted from creating health and wellness solutions for the body online to creating them for the planet. To do this he went back to school to get his masters degree in business during the start of the pandemic. While completing his degree, Galligher did some research on the plant and horticulture industry. He was amazed to learn that the plant industry was heavily reliant on peat, a type of soil that like other natural resources is finite. In fact, it takes 10 years for one centimeter of peat soil to form. Peat is taken from delicate natural environments such as wetlands and rainforests, making the plant industry as harmful as logging or fracking.

This is how Galligher came to the jist of his peat-free business model.

"It's plants, right? Like why should the plant industry be harming the planet?" he asks.

So how does he do it? Galligher spoke with Beacon Business Alliance on his online market, vendors, and approach to plant business.

#### What is Plantbaby's elevator pitch?

We're Seattle's sustainable plant marketplace where you can find peat-free plants grown by local community members.

#### How does it work?

Our customers are the growers and the people that want to buy the plants. We provide the platform for the customers to shop online for plants in their local community. And then also get that plant delivered to them if they want, or they can opt for pickup. And we provide the platform for the growers to list their plants. Think of this like a mix between DoorDash and Etsy, but for plants.

#### Plantbaby is three years old now, how's it doing and what's next?

Overall sales on the platform, in person or online, have been growing year over year – that I'm happy with. Other than locally propagated and grown plants we're considering a cut flower subscription from local folks that grow micro nurseries in their yards.

#### What advice do you have for people who want to take the small-business plunge?

If it feels overwhelming, which it did for me, I would think to myself, what is this the best next step, however small, that I can take towards [my goal]? It doesn't matter what the result or outcome is. I'm just taking a step, especially in that early stage when you're freaked out of fear of failure. Nothing you do is failure. You're learning.

*Plantbaby is always seeking growers to join their online marketplace. To learn more about Plantbaby or start listing your propagated plants through their marketplace visit [plantbaby.io](#)*

### Events



Take advantage of the long days while you can. Beacon Hill and the South End are teeming with premier fairs, festivals, and events.

**Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands farm stand** — The farm stand will be open every Thursday until September. To stretch grocery budgets the farm stand offers \$20 worth of free produce to patrons.

**Beacon Hill Street Fair** — July 13; Live music, art vendors, and free plants, at Roberto Maestas Festival Street. Find us at an ESES Collective table where you can learn more about us and how we help small businesses.

**Cultural Exchange Tours** — July 13; Join Homesight and MLK Business Alliance to learn about South East Seattle's Othello community, history and culture during this free walking tour.

**Beatwalk** — July 14, Aug. 11; Don't miss Columbia City's Beatwalk, at Ferdinand and Rainier. Get down to some funk or world beat rhythms.

**Rainier Valley Fashion Show** — July 28; Love thrifting? Need to get rid of some clothes? Come to the Rainier Valley clothing exchange on July 28 at UW Commons Othello. Expect music, light snacks and racks of clothes.

**International Festival** — Aug. 11; Bring family, friends, and pets to Othello Park for a park festival with live music, dancing, food, art, and shops!

**Hillman City Block Party** — Aug. 10; The business community is gearing up and beginning their plans, so keep your eyes peeled for more information later this summer.

*Did we miss something? Want to see your event here? Let us know in an [email!](#)*

### Opportunities





## Join the ESES Market Place

The [ESES Marketplace](#) is a free online resource businesses can use to help Southeast Seattle find your products. This online marketplace allows customers to shop retail, food, art, artisans, and service-oriented organizations. Customers can search by neighborhood, business, or product and even buy gift cards from their favorite restaurants, bars, and cafes. Register your business for free [here](#). We'd like to hear from you via [email](#) if you have questions or need support.

## Community Police Discussions

The Seattle University Crime and Justice Research Center, in partnership with the Seattle Police Department, are hosting precinct-based, neighborhood-centered community discussions to review the results of the Seattle Public Safety Survey. To participate register at this [link](#).

# Resources

## Tenant Improvement Fund Extension

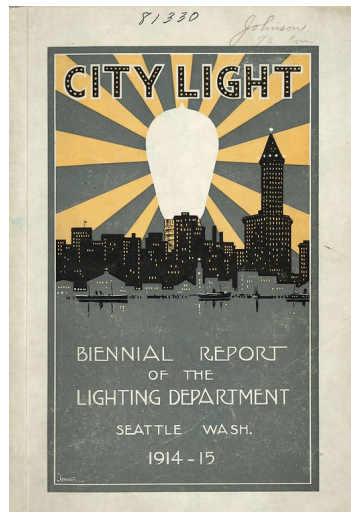


Business owners now have until July 1 to submit applications for the Seattle Office of Economic Development's [Tenant Improvement Program](#). Act fast! These cash awards range from \$15,000 to \$100,000 and can be used for construction and other projects. Wondering whether your business qualifies? Have questions? Let us know, we can help!

## Seattle City Light Business Liaisons

Seattle City Light now has a new team dedicated to helping small and medium-sized businesses with their utility account. The new business customer service advisors can answer your questions about payment plans and City Light's programs and incentives that can help with your cost-saving goals. Reach out today [online](#) or by phone at (206)-256-5200.

*(Photo Courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives.)*



# City of Seattle

## Expanded Eligibility for Storefront Repair Fund

If your business has experienced damage since March 1, 2020—including broken doors, locks, fences, gates, signs, and broken or etched windows—you may be eligible for \$2,000 from the [Storefront Repair Fund](#). The City of Seattle recently expanded the eligibility for these grants. We encourage you to apply, and to reach out if you need help completing your application.

[Storefront Repair Fund Website](#)

Follow Us On



[Facebook](#)



[Youtube](#)



[Instagram](#)

You are receiving this email as you signed up for our newsletters. Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [Unsubscribe](#) or [Update your preferences](#)

