

The Pike

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HOMELESS IN SEATTLE



Written By Devin English (Photos taken by Devin)

Pike Place Market and the Seattle Waterfront are home to Seattle's largest homeless population. Rows and rows on tents and sleeping bags makeup neighborhoods of the homeless under the overpass and park benches are occupied with the sleeping homeless. Seattle has recognized its problems and is taking a more proactive approach to help aid the homeless in its city. In the past year the Seattle City Council has created its first committee focused on homelessness. The committee's purpose is to track spending on homelessness services and work with the seattle budget to effectively combat homelessness. Seattle spent around \$78 million toward homelessness overall in 2018 with \$12 million on permanent supportive housing and \$3.6 million on transitional housing. There has also been

recent community efforts to help areas such as Pike Place that has a large homelessness problem. Lillian Sherman the executive director of Pike Place Market Foundation has been working to implement programs to aid the homeless in the area. She has worked with the group *Friends of the Market* which has raised \$9 million to put towards 40 new units of low-income senior housing in Pike Place recent MarketFront expansion.

While Seattle has had a long history of combatting homelessness in the recent years the city has become more adimate about change. Larger budgets for helping the homeless, the new City Council Committee on homelessness and the Pike Place expansion will help provide the homeless more aid than ever before.

The Community

By: Aolanis Perez

Pike Place is known for its diversity of culture, experience and products/services available. When looking for the most rare products, there is no other place to go to, but Pike Place. From the freshest fish to the rarest of glass figurines, Pike Place is a place that represents its diverse and original community. Walking into Pike Place, the first thing you realize is the permanent fixture of crowds that decorate the landscape. From tourists to locals, Pike Place appeals to everyone. It seems to be a fixture of unity, while at first glance you might notice the agitated air, you quickly realize that Pike Place functions like a clock, its community works together to make one whole. A fish vendor is able to buy lemonade from a nearby stand and the lemonade vendor is able to buy fresh flowers from the flower



vendors, the people that make

up this community depend on each other to succeed.

The evidence of this community being dependent on its members success is apparent.

From senior centers to urban gardens to preschools to food banks to health clinics, Pike Place caters to everyone of all ages and provides fundamental programs to its community. It also depends on donations to be able to maintain these programs available to the public, pig statues are located across the market to remind patrons to donate. Before questioning the effectiveness of these programs, the food bank has distributed 823, 720 lbs of food, according to the Pike Place Market

Foundation. The Pike Place Senior Center has had 51, 574 member visits and the senior center has provided assisted living care for 71 residents, according to the Pike Place Market Foundation. The reason why Pike Place is so successful and has been able to be known as one of America's oldest public farmer's markets is because of its community, who is able to keep it alive and preserve it for future generations to come.

Personally, I was pretty surprised about all of the services available to the public in Pike Place, that cater to low income residents as well as the homeless population. It also

helped me realize why Pike's Place has been able to remain a fixture of the Seattle scene for so many years, it's not because of its location or the availability of rare items, but its community who happens to accept others, to give them an experience unlike any other in the area and to care more about its members than anyone else could.



The Geography of Pike Place

By: Aolanis Perez

Somehow, Pike Place seems to benefit from its location more than the average farmers market. Nestled between the heart of downtown and the Puget Sound, Pike Place attracts tourists each day. Even if you had never heard of Pike Place before, it's location is so central, that you'll notice it almost immediately! The buildings around it are mostly skyscrapers full of 9-5 jobs, but after those jobs are done for the day, Pike Place still has places open to cater to the crowd.

Homeless Health

By Jackie Ramos

Homelessness is grouped into five categories: basic needs, chronic diseases management, chronic disease management, chronic pain, dental care, and vision care.

Disease Burden: general population had diabetes, asthma, hypertension, cardiovascular disease and cancer.

Physical Pain: from harsh sleeping conditions, arthritis, undiagnosed conditions, wounds and lack of medication access.

Emotional Well-being: stress, trauma and untreated health conditions. Alcohol, smoking and other harmful substance cause pain.

Vision Care: glasses replacement, vision loss from diabetes and traumatic brain injury

The Pike Place Market clinic started in the 1970's by a grassroots activist who wanted to serve low-income people in the downtown area. As years pass by the clinic serves a more diverse adult population, mostly serving people that are homeless and on the verge of being homeless. Then the clinic became part of the Neighborcare Health.

Neighborcare Health at Pike Place Market

The clinic served over 4,800 patients, out of the 4,800 more than half of it are homeless. They also provide drug and alcohol counseling which is one of the primary cause of homelessness. The clinic manages cooking classes in the Atrium Kitchen so people can learn about healthy food choices because most homeless people suffer from type two diabetes due to unhealthy food choices. The clinic nurse helps people to learn to inject insulin, a nutritionist helps them eat well despite the lack of food options and a therapist to help with traumatic experiences.

The Facts Don't Lie

By Devin English

King County has the 3rd largest homeless population in the nation. In 2017 11,643 people were recorded as experiencing homelessness, of course there are many unaccounted for in these numbers. Here is the breakdown of those numbers.

- The most common reasons for homelessness reported was **Losing a job and alcohol or drug use.**
- **55%** of individuals experiencing homelessness identified as people of color.
- Those who are chronically homeless, or continuously homeless, are **more likely** to have disabling conditions and substance abuse.
- Only **32%** use health services.

Pike Place 101

By Devin English

Things to do when visiting Pike Place to experience its culture:

- Take a picture with *Rachel the Piggy Bank*
- Stand in front of the *Public Market Sign*
- Visit the "first" *Starbucks*
- Watch fish fly at the *Fish Market*
- Go down to the *waterfront*
- Ride the *ferris wheel*
- Feed the seagulls at *Ivars*
- Contribute to the *Gum Wall*
- Try some of *Beecher's Handmade Cheese*
- Have a drink at *Rachel's Ginger Beer*
- Snack on *Daily Dozen Doughnuts*



The History

By Kellen James

Seattle was a rough and tumble place at the beginning of the 20th century. The city was growing at a massive rate as rushers, fisherman, loggers, merchants, and shipbuilders flooded the city. From 1890 to 1900 the population of Seattle nearly doubled from 42,000 and 80,000 people! Farmers would bring their goods to the city with horse drawn wagons and by ferry from the closer islands. The goods would then be sold to middlemen, who sold the goods by commission at warehouses on the Western Ave. This way, farmers would sometimes make a profit but often lost money. Farmers tried to raise their prices to compensate for the loss of cash, but ultimately led to an outrage by the citizens. A solution had to be found to save the farmers and Thomas Revelle, a Seattle City Councilman, was the man to fix the issue. He presented the idea of a public market where the citizens could meet one on one with the farmers and purchase their goods whilst not having to leave the city. Revelle's words still hold true today: *"The Market is yours. I dedicate it to you and may it prove of benefit to you and your children. It is for you to protect, defend, and uphold and it is for you to see that those who occupy it treat you fairly. ... This is one of the greatest days in the history of Seattle."*

Background

By Laku Nagami

Before the creation of the Pike Place Market, local farmers and traders alike would meet for produce exchange in an area known as the "Lot". The system was rather irrational however, since most farmers were forced to use middlemen and sell their products through wholesalers. These farmers would only receive a percentage income which limited their ability to continue their marketing. This was continued until 1907 when Pike Place was introduced. Through its popularity, the market was able to continue to expand in size,

attracting individuals of all backgrounds and ethnicities. The shops diversified, including all sorts of handmade products which were unique to the location.

As the market continued to increase in popularity, proposals for demolishing Pike Place and reinstalling a new attraction site called "Pike Plaza" was brought up. The new Pike would include numerous amounts of hotels, office buildings, apartments, parking garages and hockey arenas. The idea was later forfeited however, since an initiative was passed that stated Pike Place as a part of a historic prevention zone. However, during the 1980s, federal welfare reform tried getting ownership of the market. To combat this, the Pike Place Market Foundation set up a fundraiser in which people could pay \$35 in exchange for their name to be inscribed on a tile. The fundraiser was hugely successful, raising over 1.6 million dollars. These tiles can still be seen today on the floors connecting the different shops throughout Pike Place. As of 2008, the market had a renovation, which served to refine and sustain the security of the infrastructure.

Pike Place's Mascot

By Laku Nagami

Pike Place has a hidden mascot: Rachel the Pig. Rachel was designed by local artist Gerogia Gerber who was inspired by the 1977 Whidbey Island, Island County prize-winner: Rachel the pig. The pig has a slot at the upper back area, allowing visitors to donate and help sustain the social services in Pike Place. Rachel also played a large role during the ownership battle for Pike Place, by commercializing the importance of community funding and emphasizing that the market was not a government run attraction site, but rather a home that is built and run by the community.



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