

# IMPACT REPORT

2023



## Program Overview

Graffiti contributes to reduced retail sales, a decline in property values, and citizen trust. A business littered with graffiti is less likely to be patronized. Citizens feel less safe and secure entering a storefront where graffiti is present. The Downtown Bellingham Partnership worked with the City of Bellingham, Bellingham Police Department, and neighboring community leaders to create best practices and removal programs in 2022. The City of Bellingham funded a pilot program where the Downtown Bellingham Partnership can remove graffiti from private and public structures if a waiver from the property owner is on file. The original pilot was from June 2022 to December 2023 and due to its positive impact, funding is extended through 2024.

This report focuses on outcomes and metrics from the 2023 fiscal and calendar year.

## A Message From The Program Supervisor

"While serial taggers persisted in 2023, the volume of overall vandals remained reduced since we started this program in 2022. We were able to create repeatable processes with large paint overs in alleyways to make the 'canvas' all black; effectively deterring the same volume of graffiti after and making it significantly easier to remove any new tags," Kenny Austin, DBP's Landscaping and Maintenance Supervisor.



PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY GRAFFITI REMOVED BY DBP

## IMPACT SNAPSHOT

All metrics are based on data from Fiscal Year 2023



**1,159**  
Additional Slaps\* Removed

\*Definitions:

- Tags = spray paint and paint pen graffiti
- Slaps - stickers and decals
- Paint overs = graffiti covered, rather than removed, by new paint

\*\* Charge and property damage data only recorded from January - September 2023

# BEFORE & AFTER

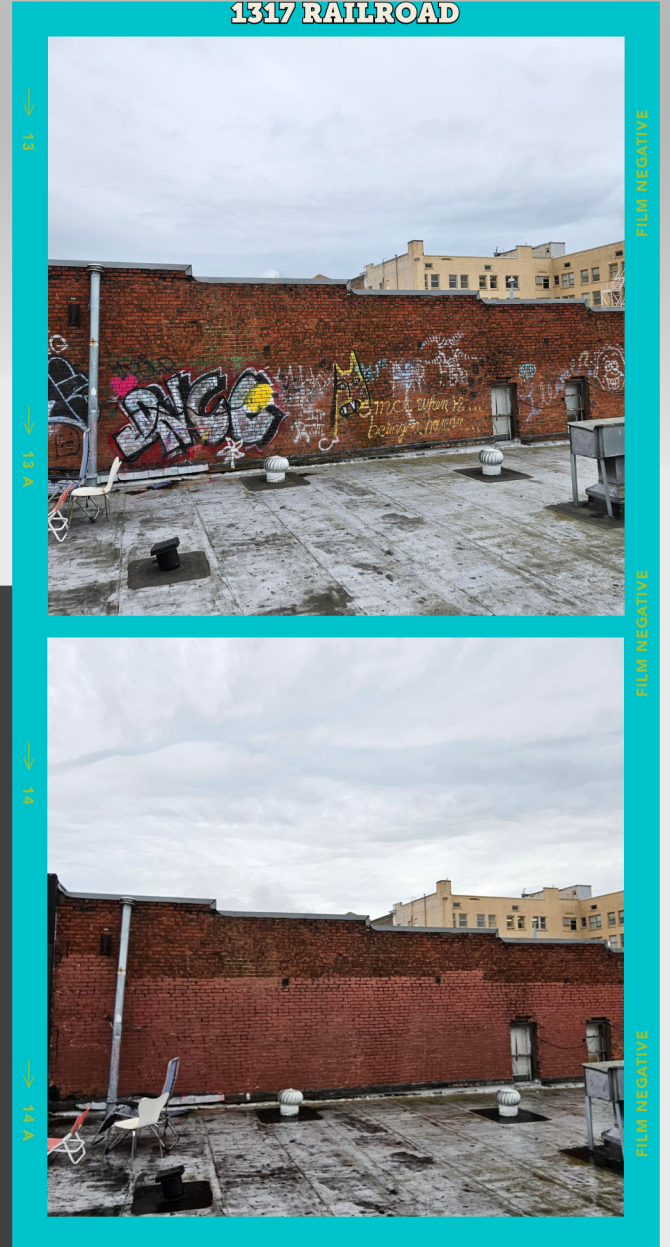
2023



1309 CORNWALL



1123 COMMERCIAL



1317 RAILROAD

## REPORTING DILIGENCE

37% of reported graffiti incidents originated from the Downtown Bellingham Partnership

## VARIETY OF MATERIALS & SURFACES

Pressure washing, chemical removal, physical buffing, and other techniques are all employed

# BEFORE & AFTER

2023



1309 STATE



OLD TOWN CAFE



LOCUS



FILM NEGATIVE



FILM NEGATIVE

FILM NEGATIVE



DOWNTOWN  
BELLINGHAM  
PARTNERSHIP

