# Aging! So cool, everyone is doing it!



### Juneau Commission on Aging



May 13, 2024 Presentation

# Juneau Commission On Aging 2020 Senior Survey Findings

30% of Juneau's population is 55 and older\*\* Today's seniors are healthier & better off:

- 84% own their own homes and pay taxes
- 80-90% (depending on age) drive their own cars
- 63% volunteer in the community
- 95% over 65 have Medicare Insurance
- 66% over 65 have State of Alaska Retirement
- 40% have Long Term Care Insurance
- 42-46% (depending on age) take continuing education classes (UAS/CS)
- 72 84% (depending on age) recreate weekly (walking, hiking, swimming, biking, gyms, skiing)

# **Juneau Commission On Aging** Communities are 'Aging' Worldwide

- Texas: Booming In-Migration
  - Benefit: High paying jobs, good schools and childcare
  - **Downside:** Extreme heat, hurricanes & water shortages
- Juneau
  - **Downside:** High cost of living, housing and childcare shortage



 Benefit: Strong community, exceptional recreation, expanding regional medical care, easy access to lower 48, low density/no traffic, world class culture, high level community engagement, environmentally aware (hydro powered electric cars), *clean air and clean water*.
\*\* Marginal weather not leading to elders out-migration

How to attract a workforce and retain seniors: **Promote a great lifestyle for all** 

### **Juneau Commission On Aging** Silver Dividends of Keeping Seniors in Community

- Retirement income stays in Juneau
- Home ownership = CBJ property taxes
- Community volunteering
- Financial contributions to community (arts and culture, sports and events, etc)
- Keeping multigenerational families in community



### **Juneau Commission On Aging** Promoting Age-Friendly Community Planning

### JCOA & AARP partnering to promote Juneau Age-Friendly Community Plan



- Developed by WHO for global assessments of community well-being
- Tried and tested tool to create action plan building on community strengths and preferences for people of all ages
- Comprehensive and inclusive all ages
- Serves everyone in community ensuring a life long home for all

2023 CBJ joined the AARP Age-Friendly Network

# **Juneau Commission On Aging** Age-Friendly Community Planning

### 8 Domains of Livability

- Outdoor Spaces & Buildings
- Transportation
- Civic Participation & Employment
- Communication & Information
- Respect & Social Inclusion
- Social Participation
- Health Services & Community Supports
- Housing

#### Note: AARP is available to present a full overview of Age-Friendly Community Planning to CBJ



### **Juneau Commission On Aging's CBJ PROPOSAL**



- Create and house the new CBJ Office of Aging
  - Representing significance of seniors in Juneau's economy
- Hire Office of Aging Coordinator
  - Facilitate AARP Age Friendly Community Plan for Juneau
  - Promote Age Friendly Housing for all in the community to ensure all can age in place
- Support Senior Recreation and Wellness Center
  - Promoting indoor senior recreation (walking path, pickle ball, classes, etc), health & wellness & intellectual learning
  - Collaborating with SAIL, BRH, SEARHC to keep seniors healthy, in their homes and in their community.
- Hire Recreation & Wellness Center Coordinator
  - Collaborating with the entire community to add healthy indoor recreational space

## **Juneau Commission On Aging's** Community Centers Across the US

- **INFO HUBS:** providing older adults, families, friends, care partners, and neighbors with current/continuously updated information about benefits/services and supporting healthy aging and access to benefits and services.
- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**: offering programs designed to increase senior civic participation for the good of all (intergenerational mentorship programs, volunteerism, voter registration drives, etc.
- **CULTURAL DIVERSITY:** highlighting unique cultures of Juneau seniors including special events, social or religious groups, celebrations, field trips, concerts, theatrical performances and other cultural events.
- **CLASSES/COMPUTER LABS:** lifelong learning in art, music, writing, cooking, language, as well as tutoring and classes to stay current on technology, software and social media platforms.
- **JOB TRAINING AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES:** supporting seniors in the workforce, retirees needing supplemental income, or those who want to continue to work.
- **FITNESS:** Promoting health and fitness with indoor walking paths, aerobics, Zumba, yoga, Tai Chi and evidencebased health programs scientifically proven to make people healthier. Also, regularly scheduled blood pressure and glucose screenings that can replace trips to a medical clinic for those simple procedures.
- **COMPANIONSHIP AND QUIET SPACE:** where people of all ages can gather to enjoy a cup of coffee, share stories, find solitude, read a book, enjoy some quiet time.

# **CBJ COMMUNITY CENTER CONCEPT**

### DESPITE SHORT COLLABORATION TIMELINE

JUNEAU COMES TOGETHER!

- JCOA Senior Recreation and Wellness Center
- AEYC Child Care Center & multigenerational space
- PLANETARIUM with expanded use for the community
- MAKERSPACE Community shared space for an array of activities
- FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
- SAIL Opportunity for ADA compliant gym space for ORCA
- BRH and SEARHC Wellness Programs for the whole community



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### **Juneau Commission On Aging** CBJ COMMUNITY CENTER – Supporting Age-Friendly Community



- Improved indoor activities for people of all ages and abilities
- An ADA compliant hub for ease of transportation
- Activities that encourage
  - Civic Participation & Employment
  - Communication & Information
  - Respect & Social Inclusion
  - Social Participation
  - Health & Community Supports

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Juneau Commission On Aging Keeping seniors healthy and in the community we love\*

\*All persons in these photos are Juneau-ites over 65!