

Letter to the Queen Anne & Magnolia News – April 13th 2019

The Discovery Park Advisory Council is resolutely opposed to any plans to repurpose the historic buildings of Discovery Park, including any plans to develop a music campus or arts center in the Historic District. These buildings stand as silent reminders to the sacrifices our country's men and women have given while in the service of our armed forces. The music campus idea is just the latest in a long line of shortsighted proposals and vanity projects which violate Discovery Park's Master Plan and threaten the Park's integrity as an *"open space of quiet and tranquility."*

Over the 46 years since the Park's creation, the citizens of Seattle have repeatedly resisted these threats to our scarce and precious open space. Just as the Park's Master Plan predicted in 1972, *"In the years to come there will be almost irresistible pressure to carve out areas of the park in order to provide sites for various civic structures or space for special activities. There will in the future be structures and activities without number for which, it will be contended, this park can provide an 'ideal site' at no cost. The pressures for those sites may constitute the greatest single threat to the park. They must be resisted with resolution. If they are not, the park will be so fragmented that it can no longer serve its central purpose."*

In wisely resisting these threats, Seattle's citizens have consistently reaffirmed the critical importance of the Master Plan in preserving Discovery Park's unique and irreplaceable role as an oasis of tranquility and biodiversity for all to enjoy. The Discovery Park Advisory Council joins the Friends of Discovery Park, the Seattle Audubon Society, Seattle's Nature Alliance, The Cultural Landscape Foundation, and citizens and organizations across the Puget Sound region in firm support of the Park's Master Plan and uncompromising opposition to this latest flawed attempt to develop Seattle's largest remaining public open space.

The reasoning for our opposition is clarified further in the attached Friends of Discovery Park community letter, written in 2017 when the music and arts center campus development idea was first presented. We want to emphasize that not only was this letter signed by private citizens and civic leaders, but also Wes Uhlman the retired Mayor of Seattle who helped create Discovery Park, Peter Ker Walker the co-author who wrote the Discovery Park Master Plan, and John Barber the Chair of the Seattle Board of Parks Commissioners.

We call upon the citizens of Seattle to remain vigilant and resolute in defense of Discovery Park: once it is lost, we will never get it back.

The Discovery Park Advisory Council