



May 24, 2019

Jesús Aguirre, Superintendent
Seattle City Parks and Recreation
100 Dexter Ave North
Seattle, WA 98109

Dear Superintendent Aguirre:

As an original member of the Citizens for Fort Lawton Park—now known as the Friends of Discovery Park—the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County has long considered Discovery Park to be a crown jewel of our magnificent parks system. We ask that the City of Seattle preserve this 554-acre treasure by declining to develop Fort Lawton Center for the Arts at Discovery Park.

The League recognizes that arts and culture play a fundamental role in our society, and we are generally supportive of efforts that bring arts and culture to King County. However, this should not be done at the expense of some of our most precious resources. Not only would an arts and culture center at Fort Lawton go against Discovery Park's Master Plan, but it would quite literally destroy the nature of the park by increasing vehicular and pedestrian traffic, displacing wildlife, and polluting this pristine environment rather than preserving it for future generations.

According to its Master Plan, Discovery Park "should not be asked to serve too many functions" other than "an open space of quiet and tranquility for the citizens of this city." The Plan also presciently warns against the temptation to develop areas of the park for other civic uses or activities, predicting that these pressures will pose "the greatest single threat to the park." Indeed, at a time when our region is buckling under the strain of unprecedented growth and development—and our green space and canopy cover are rapidly shrinking—we must remain steadfastly committed to preserving those spaces by prohibiting privatization or specialty development to take place within them.

While the League generally supports the idea of a Center for the Arts, such a venue is best suited at another location that can accommodate the proposed programming and accompanying challenges. Once Discovery Park's delicate ecosystem has been disturbed, we will never be able to get it back.

Thank you very much for your time and attention, and for everything your department does to maintain Seattle's reputation as the Emerald City.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie Cirkovich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephanie Cirkovich, President
League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County

CC Seattle Board of Park Commissioners