



Preserving & Enhancing Seattle's Historic Green Oasis

Volunteer Park Trust Statement Regarding the SAAM Remodeling Project

The members of the Volunteer Park Trust (VPT) Steering Committee have appreciated the series of meetings that the Seattle Asian Art Museum has held to gather feedback from the general public, VPT and Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks (FSOP). Many issues on the design of the proposed museum addition and landscape have been raised and alternatives presented. The Seattle Art Museum (SAM) staff and design team have listened to these concerns and have made a number of changes: a much simpler landscape treatment, changes to the freight elevator area and dropping the flying stairway from the third floor. Landscape connections with the rest of the park to restore the original Olmsted plan have been advocated and are being considered.

Volunteer Park Trust was founded to restore, protect and preserve the park. We have worked for nearly five years to replant neglected beds and to address issues such as sustainability that are common to all of the institutions of the park. We have successful partnerships with the Conservatory, SAM, and Seattle Parks and Recreation. We have collaborated with the Seattle Parks Foundation, FSOP, neighbors and schools. We are proud of the events and stewardship days that we sponsor.

Volunteer Park has great value as green space, as an Olmsted designed park and as the home of the Seattle Asian Art Museum. Those of us on the VPT Steering Committee want to voice our support of SAM and the importance of the Museum's mission and values and presence in the park.



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We believe we are on the path to finding a solution that protects the park's historic landscape and meets the museum's needs. We look forward to continuing to participate in the dialogue about what is best for the park and to continuing to work with SAM in the future.