



March 7, 2018

David Graves
Major Projects Challenge Fund
Seattle Parks and Recreation
100 Dexter Ave N
Seattle, WA 98109

Dear Mr. Graves:

I'm writing to express the Othello Park Alliance's support for Volunteer Park Trust's **Volunteer Park Amphitheater Project**.

Othello Park is located in the Rainier Valley, on S. Othello Street near the intersection of Martin Luther King Way. The Othello Park Alliance is committed to promoting the attractive open space of Othello Park in an action oriented, collaborative way. We pride ourselves on positive accomplishments for the park and the diverse surrounding community, and thrive on the satisfaction and fun of achievements built through great teamwork. Every year, we produce a summer music and arts festival. Roughly 7 years ago we had a central stage built to help us solidify the park's ability to be a destination for outdoor performance and gathering. It has been used extensively ever since, not only for our festival but for other grassroots, community events. So we understand the value that an amphitheater brings to a park.

With its formal gardens, Asian Art Museum, conservatory, and water tower, Volunteer Park is a city-wide destination that draws and supports a diverse cross section of Seattle's population. Major annual events such as the Eritrean Independence Day Festival, Make Music Seattle, and the Modular On The Spot performances clearly show that the Amphitheater supports and draws a diverse population, even from southeast Seattle.

However, the current structure fails to meet community needs on many levels. Among many issues, it provides no ADA access, no load-in access, no storage, no protection from weather, provides poor access to power, poor acoustics, and the structure makes no attempt to blend in with the original design of the park.

Volunteer Park Trust has done extensive community outreach to assure that performers, community organizations, neighbors, and the general public have had a voice in the new Amphitheater design. The project will create an ADA-accessible, thoughtfully designed, effective performance space that meets the broad needs of Seattle's performing arts community and the concerns of local residents. It will be enjoyed by individuals from all of Seattle's neighborhoods.

We urge you to fund the Volunteer Park Amphitheater Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin Lau", written in a cursive style.

Erin Lau, Co-Chair, Othello Park Alliance