



September 20, 2021

To whom it may concern,

Both GSBA, Washington's LGBTQ+ and allied chamber, and the Capitol Hill Business Alliance strongly support the Volunteer Park Trust's production of their Summer Series at the Volunteer Park Amphitheater.

Volunteer Park is a central and historically important space for the Capitol Hill neighborhood and for the LGBTQ+ community at large. Supporting arts and entertainment in Volunteer Park are a keystone of our neighborhood's vitality, which is why GSBA wrote a letter of support for the construction of the new Amphitheater.

As the largest performance series ever to be produced in Volunteer Park, this project will showcase the new facility's capabilities, promote Volunteer Park as a city-wide destination for all, and bring diverse, free professional arts performances to the greater community.

With the goal of bringing thousands of patrons to the park, the series will have a beneficial economic impact on small businesses across on Capitol Hill. The creative economy is an essential piece of our City's workforce, and have been especially negatively impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has also been well-documented how patrons of arts and culture events also patronize nearby restaurants, bars, retail shops, and other small businesses.

The Summer Series will be especially impactful for individuals living in under-resourced communities by providing the chance to see live, professional music, theater and dance performances for free. We applaud its focus on booking multicultural acts that reflect the diversity of our community and artists. Given Volunteer Park's historic role as a community gathering place for Capitol Hill and Seattleites in general, including for Pride celebrations, this accessibility to the wider community is deeply appropriate.

Thank you,

Mark Rosén
GSBA Acting President & CEO