

**CITY OF SEATTLE**

**RESOLUTION 32092**

A RESOLUTION establishing the City's support for a new Memorial Stadium at Seattle Center to be developed through a public-private partnership between The City of Seattle, Seattle Public Schools, and a private partner.

WHEREAS, in 1946 The City of Seattle (City) donated the land for Memorial Stadium to Seattle Public Schools (SPS) for SPS to construct, operate, and maintain an athletic facility that has served SPS students and the community as an essential venue for athletics, educational, entertainment, and civic uses for 75 years; and

WHEREAS, SPS and the City have joined in partnership for a shared vision for a Memorial Stadium Redevelopment Project (Project) to create a new stadium that is a financially sustainable, state-of-the-art, multi-purpose sports, educational, and entertainment facility of prominent design, centered on students and youth, and fully integrated with the Seattle Center campus; and

WHEREAS, SPS and the City have entered into an SPS-City Partnership Agreement (November 2017), a Letter of Intent (October 2021), and a Memorandum of Agreement (November 2022), which convey details of both parties' intent to form a partnership to achieve their shared vision for the Project; and

WHEREAS, Seattle voters approved \$66.5 million in the SPS 2022 Building Technology Athletics and Academics (BTA V) levy for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the City Council approved a \$21 million investment for the Project in the 2023 City budget and also unanimously adopted Statement of Legislative Intent CEN-602-A-002 (SLI), which expressed the Council's intent to work with the Mayor and SPS to identify additional funding above the \$21 million in the 2023-2024 budget, with the goal of

1 reaching a combined total contribution of \$40 million consistent with the timing in the  
2 SLI; and

3 WHEREAS, in April 2023, the Washington State Legislature approved \$4 million for the Project  
4 in the State capital budget; and

5 WHEREAS, the City and SPS jointly issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on March 20, 2023,  
6 seeking a private partner to invest in, redevelop, operate, and maintain the Project, in  
7 partnership with the City and SPS to achieve the vision for the Project, collaborate on an  
8 equitable, inclusive community engagement process, provide student career development  
9 opportunities, attract high-quality entertainment and civic events, provide capital and  
10 operating investments to ensure the Project is well-managed and maintained, and reduce  
11 the necessity for SPS funding for operations over the long-term; and

12 WHEREAS, the Project will be a transformative benefit to the heart of the Seattle Center  
13 campus, fulfilling important City goals identified in the 2008 Century 21 Seattle Center  
14 Master Plan to increase open space, complete the August Wilson Way cross-campus  
15 pedestrian connection, and provide essential operations facilities; and

16 WHEREAS, the Project will be a significant investment in the lives of students, youth, and the  
17 community, and will preserve SPS's ownership and use of the facility for student  
18 athletics, graduations, and other educational purposes; and

19 WHEREAS, Memorial Stadium commemorates the SPS students who lost their lives during  
20 World War II, the Project will provide for the restoration and maintenance of the existing  
21 Memorial Wall; and

22 WHEREAS, the Project will have a strong commitment to equity and ensuring that the  
23 community will be engaged in its development; and

1 WHEREAS, the Project will contribute significantly to the economic, cultural, and social vitality  
2 of Seattle Center, the adjacent Belltown, South Lake Union, and Uptown neighborhoods,  
3 and the greater Downtown to the benefit of the City and SPS; NOW, THEREFORE,

4 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**  
5 **MAYOR CONCURRING THAT:**

6 Section 1. The City Council endorses and supports the vision and purpose of the  
7 redevelopment of Memorial Stadium (Project) to provide new public open space, be welcoming  
8 to all, and offer unparalleled athletic, educational, cultural, and entertainment events. The Project  
9 will also complete the August Wilson Way cross-campus pedestrian-bicycle connection, provide  
10 Seattle Center operations, maintenance, and storage facilities, and provide community  
11 opportunities in the heart of Seattle for generations to come, all as described in the Request For  
12 Proposals issued on March 20, 2023, and outlined in prior agreements between the City and SPS.

13 Section 2. The City Council finds that the Project will enhance the City’s mission at  
14 Seattle Center and expand the City’s capacity to support Seattle Public School students. To that  
15 end, the Council recognizes the work that has been done to build this strong foundation and  
16 requests that following the selection of a successful proposal by the School Superintendent and  
17 Mayor, the Mayor negotiate agreements necessary to implement the Project and transmit  
18 legislation to authorize the agreements for the Council’s review and action. These agreements  
19 will address the property and use rights between the City, Seattle Public Schools (SPS), and the  
20 selected partner, will address the design and construction of the Project, the financial terms, and  
21 all additional terms outlining the legal obligations and responsibilities for the long-term  
22 operation of the Project (the “Agreements”). The Agreements will be subject to review and  
23 approval by the Council and the Seattle Public Schools’ Board of Directors.

1           Section 3. The Council acknowledges that beginning in the fall of 2021, the City and SPS  
2 engaged in a series of brainstorming and discussion meetings about the vision and purpose of the  
3 new stadium, consulted with specialists in the fields of design, sports facility financing and  
4 management, and sought the perspective and opinions of key stakeholders, including Seattle  
5 Center resident organizations, representatives of the Seattle Center Foundation and the Seattle  
6 Center Advisory Commission, and SPS athletic and capital project staff.

7           Section 4. The Council requests that Seattle Center, in collaboration with SPS and the  
8 selected partner, implement an additional community engagement process that helps to refine the  
9 Project’s design and programming to help ensure that the Project supports Seattle Center,  
10 welcomes and serves students and youth, fosters equity and inclusivity, and recognizes the  
11 importance of the site’s history.

12           Section 5. Clerk File 322645 is filed with the City Clerk and includes SPS-City  
13 Partnership Agreement (November 2017), Letter of Intent (October 2021), Memorandum of  
14 Agreement (November 2022), and Request for Proposals and Exhibits 1-12 (March 2023).

1 Adopted by the City Council the 16th day of May, 2023,  
2 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 16th day of  
3 May, 2023.

4 

5 President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

6 The Mayor concurred the 19th day of May, 2023.

7 

8 Bruce A. Harrell, Mayor

9 Filed by me this 19th day of May, 2023.

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11 Anne Frantilla, Interim City Clerk

12 (Seal)