



**SEATTLE CENTRAL COLLEGE**  
One of the Seattle Colleges

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
1701 Broadway, Seattle, WA 98122  
Main 206.934.5417 • Fax 206.934.4390  
seattlecentral.edu

October 30, 2019

Honorable Councilmember González  
P.O. Box 34025  
Seattle, WA 98124

Dear Seattle City Councilmember González,

I write to urge you to support funding for a Capitol Hill Public Life Planning Process, to encourage and guide the development of Capitol Hill into a vibrant, welcoming and sustainable community that maintains its unique character and identity.

The need for a coordinated approach is becoming more evident each day, with increasing construction of new housing and business spaces, and new development of transportation and infrastructure. Each of these new developments is done in isolation from the greater question of how they, as a whole, affect access to open spaces, affordable housing, and the quality of life in our community.

This is becoming more important as Seattle Central College and other major institutions in Capitol Hill embark in updates to our Major Institution Master Plans, which by their nature, lock in an approach to development over many years. It would be beneficial if those plans could align with plans for public life on Capitol Hill.

A formal Public Life Planning Process will allow our community to apply lessons from other cities around the world that have figured out how to build in a human scale. I was privileged this summer to be part of Capitol Hill EcoDistrict delegation that travelled to Copenhagen to attend a masterclass on urban livability. I was witness to the kind of urban magic that can take place when a community works together to connect open public spaces and to center people in the development of housing, commerce and transportation.

The college has committed to contributing funding to this important work. We see this is an investment in sustainable and equitable development that can benefit our entire city. I and the community of learners and teachers I represent hope that you will join us and make the decision to support the Capitol Hill Public Life Planning Process.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sheila Edwards Lange  
President





October 25, 2019

RE: Support for funding of Capitol Hill Public Life Planning Process

Dear Seattle City Council,

We write to express support for the City to fund a Capitol Hill Public Life Planning Process and hope that you will lend yours, as well.

Capitol Hill is the most densely populated urban village in the Pacific Northwest, the heart of the LGBTQ community, and home to more artists than any other neighborhood in the city. We also face unprecedented growth spurred by a new light rail station and the neighborhood's proximity to South Lake Union, home to Amazon's headquarters and one of the fastest growing tech hubs in the country.

Over the next few years, institutions and capital projects will inject billions of dollars of investments into public space within and at the edge of the Capitol Hill neighborhood. It is essential that our residents, business owners, workers, students, service providers, and unsheltered neighbors have a say in the development of streets, sidewalks, parks, squares, and other public spaces that connect the neighborhood internally and to the rest of the city. Building on the momentum of a recent delegation to Copenhagen, we can place people at the center of planning for well connected, safe, and active public spaces in Capitol Hill.

City funds would provide for a participatory planning process that would help to achieve City and neighborhood goals related to safety without criminalization, climate change, and transit, leveraging our shared values as guiding principles (see attachment).

The Capitol Hill EcoDistrict exists to promote neighborhood sustainability for the people who live, work, play, travel through, and linger here. Our steering committee represents key stakeholders, including the Bullitt Foundation, Byrd Barr Place, Capitol Hill Housing, the City of Seattle Office of Sustainability and Environment and Office of Planning and Community Development, Kaiser Permanente, the Northwest School, Seattle 2030 District, Seattle Audubon, Seattle Central College, Seattle University, the University of Washington Integrated Design Lab, as well as key areas of planning and design expertise.



With inclusive, holistic planning guided by the EcoDistrict, Capitol Hill can remain a place where all belong and continue to evolve into a socially equitable, culturally rich, and environmentally resilient neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Chasten Fulbright, **EcoDistrict Co-chair**  
Principal  
**Blanton Turner**

Chris Persons  
CEO  
**Capitol Hill Housing**

Robert Schwartz  
Board Chair, Capitol Hill Housing  
Associate Vice President for Facilities  
**Seattle University**

Matthew Combe  
Executive Director  
**Seattle 2030 District**

Matt Landers  
Director of Public Policy and Government Relations  
**Greater Seattle Business Association**

Whitney Fraser, **EcoDistrict Co-chair**  
Owner and Principal  
**Lodestone Environmental Consulting**

Dr. Sheila Edwards Lange  
President  
**Seattle Central College**

Julia Yeager  
Senior Director, Delivery System Strategy  
**Kaiser Permanente**

Leon Garnett  
Chief Operations Officer  
**Byrd Barr Place**