



April 10, 2016

Scott Kubly, Director
Seattle Department of Transportation
PO Box 34996
Seattle, WA 98124-4996

Re: Endorsement of U District Alley Activation Prototype Project

Dear Director Scott Kubly,

Our volunteer, nonprofit, community advocacy group has been very active in our neighborhood promoting public open space for the past five years. The U District Advocates enthusiastically endorses the Neighborhood Street Fund grant application proposed by the Alley Community Council group to activate a heavily-trafficked portion of one alley in the U District.

This project is focused on implementing key objectives from both the U District Parks Plan Update of 2015, and the U District Alley Activation Plan of 2015 (SDOT Director's Rule 05-2015). With wide participation and deep support from our community, the extensive research and strategy is complete. Now is the time for implementation!

All key stakeholders are united behind this project including the directly-affected property owners of Alfred Shiga and Unico, adjacent business owners of the Café Allegro and Bulldog News, nonprofit and faith organizations of the University Temple United Methodist Church, the Roots Homeless Youth Shelter, and the People's Harm Reduction Alliance, as well as our group.

The U District is a challenging urban environment, ready for change, and this alley can be the epicenter of improvements to the public realm to make this transition to a more dense, livable, and pedestrian-friendly future. The proposed project is viable, relevant, supported, and will be implemented in a manner that is light, quick and cheap. It will be a prototype for the future activation of other alleys in our neighborhood.

For these reasons, we encourage the serious consideration of the application by the city and your department. This is a great community project!

Sincerely,

Cory Crocker,
President