



April 11, 2016

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

Subject: Endorsement of U District Alley Activation Prototype Project

Dear Director Kubly:

The University District Partnership (UDP) strongly 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 has wide support from stakeholders in that alley 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 the local community-advocacy group of U District Square.

Nowhere else in the University District is there such a consistently lively and diverse mixing of citizens as in the alley where the proposed project is sited. For this reason, the proposed intervention will benefit from this high level of activity and further increase it. What is missing however, is a community space in which to socialize and the project would provide this in a manner that is light, quick and cheap.

Uniquely, the application benefits from the in-depth study, community input, and professional recommendations, as summarized in the U District Alley Activation Plan, written specifically for this alley and completed with the support of SDOT, DPD and the U District Partnership (UDP), with funding from the OED's Only in Seattle program, and authored by SvR Design & Makers Architecture. The 87-page document identifies key strategies to activate the alley, from which this project selects three to implement with the grant.

In summary, this project has the support of key stakeholders, is the best location to prototype the strategies from a city-endorsed plan, and leverages this grant with other funding sources for the overall success of the project. For these reasons, we encourage the serious consideration of the application by the city.

Sincerely,



Sally J. Clark
Co-Chair



Andrew McMasters
Co-Chair

cc: Art Brochet, Seattle Department of Transportation
Karen Ko, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods
Kate Robinson, Café Allegro
Cory Crocker, U District Square
Larry Erickson, University Temple United Methodist Church