



City of Seattle

Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Seattle Parks and Recreation

Jesús S. Aguirre, Superintendent

January 6, 2017

Kim Rorschach
Director and CEO, Seattle Art Museum
1300 1st Ave.
Seattle WA 98101

Dear Ms. Rorschach:


In response to continuing public scrutiny of the Seattle Asian Art Museum (SAAM) renovation and expansion project at Volunteer Park, we would like to take a “project pause” to enable us to respond to community members and the Board of Park Commissioners on an array of issues that have been raised during the public involvement process. That pause will help Seattle Parks and Recreation better understand some of the project’s drivers and more carefully consider park impacts.

Here are the key issues raised that we would appreciate your responses to:

1. How does the expansion support the mission of the museum?
2. Is SAAM’s business model financially dependent on the expansion? If so, are there alternatives to the expansion that would support the Seattle Art Museum in achieving its financial goals?
3. What steps will be taken to ensure that underserved communities benefit from the project?
4. How long has the expansion project been planned?
5. What steps have been taken to assess Initiative 42 to ensure other feasible alternatives that do not expand into parkland have been developed and thoroughly considered?
6. Is the SAAM expansion linked to museum visitation? If so, have you assessed the visitation to ensure that the current level of visitation justifies an expansion?

Thank you for your ongoing partnership as we work together to ensure whatever final project is built is in the best interests of the Seattle Art Museum and Seattle’s parks and recreation system.

Sincerely,



Jesús Aguirre
Superintendent, Seattle Parks and Recreation

Jesús Aguirre, Superintendent
Seattle Parks and Recreation
100 Dexter Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98109-5199

Tel (206) 684-8022
Fax (206) 615-1813
TTY(206) 233-1509
jesus.aguirre@seattle.gov