



SE Uplift
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November 24, 2015

Amanda Fritz
Commissioner, City of Portland
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 220
Portland OR 97204

Mike Abbaté
Director, Portland Parks and Recreation
1120 SW Fifth Ave, Suite 1302
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Amanda and Mike:

Re: Washington High School Community Center

I am writing about a long promised public asset: a new Community Center on the former site of the Washington-Monroe High School located at SE 12th and Stark in Portland.

In January 2004, the Southeast Uplift Board called on Parks and Recreation Commissioner Jim Francesconi to fulfill what was already a twenty year old promise to build a community center on this property.

This promise has now been unmet for over three decades.

There are two main components of this promise which in the opinion of the Southeast Uplift board require timely attention:

- 1) We urge the City of Portland to proceed with its option to purchase from Portland Public Schools the 1.31 acres that abuts SE Morrison St & SE 14th before its first right of refusal expires. This property is a critical addition to the 4.5 acres the City previously purchased at the site – not only as open space itself but in adding flexibility in planning a new community center.
- 2) Let's move forward and fulfill the promise of a community center by prioritizing its realization through a committed public/private partnership.

The measure of great cities is not simply how fast they can accumulate new residents. A holistic and positive growth must include expanded public and cultural amenities: museums, performance arts facilities, public plazas, parks and community centers.

The Southeast Uplift Coalition would appreciate an update on plans to realize our long promised community center.

On behalf of the Southeast Uplift Board of Directors, please have an excellent Thanksgiving holiday,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. McCullough".

Robert McCullough
President