



Seattle Green Spaces Coalition

January 19, 2017

Support for Grant Application of Urban
Homestead Foundation

Dear Norcliffe Foundation,

Seattle Green Spaces Coalition wholeheartedly recommends Urban Homestead Foundation for a grant to support the Dakota Homestead Project.

UHF has brought great energy to this project of creating a community space. We have personally met several times with the founders and members of the board of UHF. The organization has a deep bench, many of whom are young parents of elementary school age children. They have a strong skill set and wherewithal to make the project a reality. We have watched enthusiasm grow for this project, as well as developing interest from other sectors of the city. UHF has the potential to create a magnet for the community and a model for others on how to build a sustainable gathering space.

As Seattle grows, we struggle to balance our dense built environment with the open space and community spaces necessary for humans to thrive. It is vitally important to our individual and collective well-being to have outdoor space to gather, learn from each other, and to experience nature together. By creating a place to come together and learn, have DIY classes, make things together and share sustainable gardens, the Dakota Homestead Project will foster community pride and create a strong basis for ongoing community engagement.

Located across from an over-capacity public school, the site has great potential to benefit to students. The PTA and teachers have expressed interest in environmental education for students on site. The location is ideal for bringing children and elders together at a meeting place. This area of Seattle has very few places for neighbors to congregate besides grocery stores and retail establishments. Many new residents live in apartments, condominiums or townhomes and lack the place to garden and enjoy their neighbors outdoors. The Dakota Homestead Project offers a way to bring together a cross section of people as it will attract homeowners, children, parents, retired persons, and young adults who live in nearby condominium and apartment buildings.

There is interest across many age groups for DIY learning and community gardening.
There is a strong desire for outdoor space for learning and community engagement.

We appreciate Norcliffe Foundation's consideration of this effort.

Sincerely,



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