



Baseball Beyond Borders

October 14, 2019

King County Councilmembers

I am writing to express our support of the King County Play Equity Coalition and its work to increase access and opportunity to play throughout our region.

As a longtime resident of King County sports and recreation played a vital role, serving as a deterrent to the culture and systems of violence and criminalization in my community. Providing the proper access and opportunity to engage in sports and recreation enhances a child's life through the power to teach. This education we receive cultivates lifelong learners that embraces history, encourages teamwork, builds confidence and promotes community. Expanding this access will develop our future leaders for tomorrow.

Your support of the King County Play Coalition will give sports-based community development organization a voice. It will open up paths for community ownership and accountability. Establish an equity-based decision making framework to address the disparities outlined in the report to tackle the ever present marginalization occurring around access to both youth and agencies alike. Research proves that with increased play comes greater cognitive functions, positive mental health, better educational outcomes and lower health care costs in adulthood.

Our communities deserve a voice and has the solutions to our challenges. We together can increase play for all to explore their potential.

In service to community,

Bookie Gates
President