



## King County

### **Dow Constantine**

King County Executive

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February 28, 2024

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove  
Chair, King County Council  
Room 1200  
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that would, if enacted, provide authority for King County to enter into an interlocal agreement with the town of Beaux Arts Village for landmark designation and protection services.

The proposed legislation would allow the Historic Preservation Program in the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) to work with the town of Beaux Arts Village to identify and preserve properties with historic and cultural significance. This cooperative approach to preserving our region's history and character furthers King County Comprehensive Plan Policy P-215 (2008), which directs the County to advocate for and directly market its historic preservation services to cities to protect and enhance historic resources located within city boundaries and annexation areas. If this proposed legislation is approved, the total number of cities and towns to participate in King County's regional preservation program will be 24.

Specifically, the proposed Ordinance would enable King County to deliver professional services to the town of Beaux Arts Village, which does not have the staff capacity or expertise to manage its preservation program. It also enables the protection and enhancement of a key aspect of the town's community character.

The legislation also furthers the Strategic Climate Action Plan goal of reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions by promoting preservation and adaptive reuse of historic buildings, which is more energy efficient than demolishing and constructing new buildings.

In developing the proposed legislation, DNRP engaged town staff, planning commissioners, and elected officials. This included providing information about King County's regional preservation program, explaining the landmark nomination and designation process, and

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove

February 28, 2024

Page 2

providing information about financial incentive programs available to owners of landmark-designated properties. DNRP worked to incorporate their input into the proposed legislation.

Planning commissioners and town officials have indicated that they support the proposed legislation. Please see the Beaux Arts Village landmark Ordinance which is enclosed with this letter.

Thank you for considering this proposed Ordinance. This proposed legislation will help King County residents by providing expertise and tools to save places that tell our collective stories and promote economic vitality.

If your staff have questions, please contact Jennifer Meisner, Historic Preservation Officer in the Historic Preservation Program in the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-0384.

Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

Jennifer Meisner, Historic Preservation Officer, Historic Preservation Program, DNRP