February 12, 2016

The Honorable Joe McDermott

Chair, King County Council

Room 1200

C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember McDermott:

This letter transmits two ordinances that will authorize expenditure of the Preservation Action Fund to save and rehabilitate historic properties. The first is an ordinance relating to the cultural development authority proviso requirements and amending the 2015/2016 Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 17941, Section 74, as amended. The second is an ordnance accepting the agreement between King County and 4Culture on how the Preservaton Action Fund will be administered and governed in accordance with the 2015/2016 Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 17941, Section 74, as amended by Ordinance 18179, Section 2, Proviso P1.

Specifically, the legislation will accomplish the following:

* Set forth the terms and conditions under which the $2 million Preservaton Action Fund will be administered through a partnership between King County and 4Culture and in collaboration with Historic Seattle and Washington Trust for Historic Preservation.
* Allow the Preservation Action Fund to be used as an unprecedented tool to save threatened historic buildings in King County through acquisition, rehabilitation, protection, and sale of the restored property to replenish the fund.
* Provide direct investment into King County communities through economically and environmentally sustainable preservation projects.
* Utilize county landmark designation to protect historic properties and public investment in them.

The legislation also furthers the goals of key County plans and initiatives as follows:

* The legislation furthers the Economic Growth and Built Environment goal of the King County Strategic Plan by proactively and creatively preserving King County’s historic buildings to promote sustainable building practices and catalyze economic development in local communities.

In developing the legislation, the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) engaged 4Culture, Historic Seattle, and the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation by working collaboratively to develop the Preservation Action Fund program mission, goals, and guiding principles, project selection process, and roles and responsibilities of each organization in administering the Preservation Action Fund program. DNRP worked to incorporate the input into the legislation, and 4Culture, Historic Seattle, and the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation support the legislation.

Thank you for considering these ordinances. This important legislation will help King County residents by protecting and restoring historic properties that are a significant part of King County’s heritage and economic base.

If you have any questions about these ordinances, please contact Jennifer Meisner, King County Historic Preservation Officer in the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at

206**-**477-0384.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

 ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff

 Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

 Carrie S. Cihak, Chief of Policy Development, King County Executive Office

 Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

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

 Jennifer Meisner, King County Preservation Officer, DNRP