



To: Councilmember Jean Godden
From: Robert Nellams, Director, Seattle Center, 4-7330
Date: Feb. 28, 2014
Subject: Artists at Play

Partnership:

“Artists at Play” is a unique public-private partnership project, made possible with private funding from Center Art, LLC of \$1 million for an artistically designed play space. This was one of the public benefit conditions of a lease signed with Center Art LLC in 2011 for Chihuly Garden and Glass.

Planning:

- Seattle Center, Seattle Center Foundation and Center Art LLC formed the Artist at Play Advisory Group in early 2013 to develop the Artists At Play Guidelines, which were finalized in July 2013.
- An Artist/Design Team Call was issued in early August 2013 and more than 45 teams responded.
- The Call was open to NW Artists (Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska) with experience doing art in the public realm.
- The Site is the former North Fun Forest area, a 3 acre site south of Memorial Stadium, between Armory and EMP. Teams could propose on any portion of the site or the entire site.
- Artist/design team’s budget is \$800,000. This is the total fee to include all design and planning fees as well as fabrication and installation. Total project budget is \$1 million.
- A selection panel met in the fall of 2013 in 2 rounds of review. In the first round, 5 teams were selected as finalists and received stipends of \$5,000 to refine their initial concepts and prepare for in-person interviews. In the second round, a final team was recommended to the donor for approval.
- The successful team was announced on January 30, 2014.
- The team is made up of 2 Artists, Trimpin and Judith Caldwell, a landscape architecture firm, Site Workshop, and a playground manufacturer, Highwire.

Going Forward:

- Community engagement will be a key part of the planning and design process. A kick off community meeting was held Saturday, March 1st, 1-4pm, at Seattle Center.
- This week-end, March 8th, the artists are included in the Waterfront Arts and Play Conference in the Bertha Landis room, 10am to 4pm.
- Additional meetings and interactive forums to provide broad community input and capture ideas from kids themselves are in the planning stages to include groups such as Downtown Seattle Families, Madrona Middle School, ArtsCorp, Boys and Girls Club, Seattle Play Garden and Soundbridge.
- Seattle Center launched a project web page in spring 2013 (www.seattlecenter.com) that we will use as the main digital forum for community engagement.

Budget and Schedule:

- Design and construction will run through 2014. A project opening celebration will be held at completion.
- Seattle Center will be responsible for ongoing operations and maintenance of AAP through a \$50,000 annual maintenance fund provided by the donors.