

October 29, 2025

**The Gas Works Park Alliance Statement:**

The Gas Works Park Alliance supports the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board's October 15, 2025 motion to deny approval of a Certificate of Approval for the removal of character-defining elements including former maintenance, platforms, stairs, ladders and supporting structures. Additionally, The Gas Works Park Alliance supports the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board direction to Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) to prepare a Preservation Master Plan, given the national/international significance of the site along with a structural analysis and safety analysis. The Gas Works Park Alliance applauds this direction as it will establish a proactive long-term framework for the stewardship and management of the resource without having an adverse effect on the National Register of Historic Places designated site (and the potential eligibility of a future National Historic Landmark). We recognize there are legitimate safety concerns, but request that SPR propose a plan and solution that addresses those challenges and maintains the character-defining features of the landmark.

For purposes of clarity, The Gas Works Park Alliance defines a Preservation Master Plan to comprise the following and in the case of Gas Works, to include a 50-year plan for the towers and related structures:

*A Preservation Master Plan is a comprehensive document that guides the long-term management and stewardship of a historic property or collection. It outlines preservation goals, prioritizes projects, and details the necessary steps for repair, maintenance, and future use, ensuring consistency and continuity for a historic resource. These plans often serve as instructions for stewardship, integrating various preservation activities and helping secure funding and public support for initiatives.*

In addition to the above, The Gas Works Park Alliance strongly recommends the Preservation Master Plan include the following to be undertaken by subject matter experts in a rigorous manner with full documentation, with the objective of long-term stewardship of a unique national and international landmark:

- Structural evaluation: Undertake a thorough evaluation of existing structural condition of character-defining elements and their attachment to the towers and major structures, building on previous work by the Friends of Gas Works Park for the purpose of establishing an informed assessment of selective removal and/or repair.
- Security and use management: Undertake a thorough study of the diverse array of security and use management including both physical and administrative actions. Prepare an evaluation of optional strategies and scenarios using the array of tools, for consideration with pros and cons.
- Original design intent informs long term care and management: Complete the review of Gas Works Park original master plan documentation including drawings, reports, letters, interviews with original participants and City of Seattle approval for intent. Review for intent regarding maintenance and repair as well as future park improvements and programming. Review of materials to include nomination report, letters and documentation prepared by subject matter experts to confirm and define intent. Recommend that intent be defined as broadly and as inclusively as above documentation reflects so as to avoid future damage to the landmark due to narrow or inaccurate definition of intent. Document as part of the Preservation Master Plan.
- Maintenance and operations: Review existing and historic pattern(s) of maintenance, management and operations support and funding to develop recommendations for future improvements and enhancements in management, programming and operations. (This could include potential public-private partnerships, exploring National Historic Landmark designation which would expand funding options, engaging and deploying volunteers through an NGO partner.)

The Gas Works Park Alliance supports a comprehensive preservation master planning process that addresses the above planning, design and management goals that would result in informed stewardship decisions for the resource without having an adverse effect of its historic integrity and significance. We look forward to working with Seattle Parks and Recreation and others in the development of the scope, schedule, and deliverables for measuring success.

**Signed by The Gas Works Park Alliance Members:**

- Allied Arts Foundation
- Allied Arts of Seattle
- Paul Byron Crane, ASLA
- Friends of Gas Works Park
- Historic Seattle
- Jeffrey Karl Ochsner, FAIA
- Laurie D. Olin, FASLA, FAAR
- Barbara Swift, FASLA and Hon. AIA
- Holly Taylor, Principal, Past Forward NW Cultural Services
- TCLF – The Cultural Landscape Foundation
- Washington Trust for Historic Preservation
- Thaisa Way, Professor Emeritus, University of Washington