



**AIA**  
Seattle

March 4, 2019

Steve Walker  
Director, Office of Housing  
City of Seattle

RE: Fort Lawton redevelopment plan

Dear Director Walker:

AIA Seattle supports the city's plan to redevelop Fort Lawton to provide affordable housing to formerly homeless seniors and low-income families. To equitably meet the needs of our rapidly changing city, we believe Seattle must rethink its housing policies at all levels of affordability, and this is exactly the type of creative use of land that we need to be undertaking to address the city's housing crisis.

Architects are intimately involved with efforts to design our city in ways that maximize opportunities and quality of life for all people. We believe that increased housing supply must go hand in hand with a vision of a vibrant, well-designed and livable city, and we support increased density and related investments in community amenities, services and transit as a means of achieving both of these goals. Public efforts such as that at Fort Lawton, which will come with supportive services and additional natural areas for residents, will make the site both livable and successful in the long term.

Although we would prefer to see even more housing provided at the site—urban density, done well, provides vibrancy and prosperity to our neighborhoods, and Seattle desperately needs more housing more quickly—the Fort Lawton plan will go far to demonstrate that all neighborhoods can play a part in housing those who need homes. It also will also set a strong precedent for using public land to boost affordable and low-income housing availability.

The Fort Lawton redevelopment project has been under review for a decade, years in which the city's housing crisis has exploded. We urge the city to approve the project now and get to work building housing for individuals and families in need.

Regards,

Lisa Richmond  
Executive Director

Alissa Rupp, FAIA  
President

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