



Department of Neighborhoods
Connecting people, communities, and government

May 19, 2008

Rebecca Cate
Friends of Columbia School
4206 48th Ave S
Seattle, WA 98118

RE: Application for Small and Simple Project Fund #S08051
Columbia City and Columbia School Community Planning Process

Dear Ms. Cate:

Thank you for applying to the Neighborhood Matching Fund. We regret to inform you that your project will not be receiving an award based on the following:

- The School District has not made a final determination about disposition of the school after 2009. Until future ownership of the school is clarified by the School District, the use of Neighborhood Matching Fund is considered premature.

If you are interested in getting feedback for developing a more competitive proposal, please contact me at 684-0713 or patricia.lopez@seattle.gov. Please note, there are two remaining opportunities in 2008 to apply to the Small and Simple Projects Fund. We will be hosting a Neighborhood Matching Fund Technical Assistance workshop on June 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the NW African American Museum at 2300 S Massachusetts Street. Please call for more details.

Sincerely,

Patricia Lopez
Acting Neighborhood Matching Fund Supervisor

Columbia School Building

This is a well-conceived planning process. However, it is premature for a couple reasons.

- The Columbia School building is designated as "inventory" in the School District's recently adopted Facilities Master Plan, which means the building is not currently available for re-use.
- The Land Use Code directs that a School Use Advisory Committee be convened to establish criteria for the re-use of school buildings, and the proposed planning process does not mesh with that process or timeline.

If the District designates the property as Surplus, we would initiate the SUAC process, which is facilitated by the Department of Neighborhoods, and which begins with a step that is similar to the project sponsor's "Committee Meeting 1" intents. Should we get to the SUAC stage, the outreach plan outlined in the applicant's description include several great ideas, and these would be encouraged to get broad participation in the SUAC process.

Until the SUAC process is complete, it is too early to develop potential redevelopment concepts for the site.

For future reference, the District's Property Manager, Ron English, should be contacted regarding the Columbia Building.