

### Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks

#### *2017-2018 Preservation Sustained Support*

**Application Contact**

Andy Mitton  
President

**Mailing City** Seattle**Council District** 8**Organization Director**

Andy Mitton, President

**Website**

[www.seattleolmsted.org](http://www.seattleolmsted.org)

**Incorporated** 03/21/1984**Mission**

FSOP is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Seattle's unique Olmsted landscape heritage and raising awareness of the Olmsted philosophy of providing open space for all people.

**Community**

Operating at the junction of cultural landscape preservation and public park advocacy, Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks (FSOP) draws upon a diverse community of supporters that want to protect and promote Seattle's Olmsted legacy to ensure the historical resource that is the foundation of Seattle's amazing park system remains vital and continues to serve the community. Through a variety of activities, we work with a rich network of people.

The Olmsted parks and boulevard system in Seattle is important to the city as a whole and to the neighborhoods around the individual parks and boulevards. We work with city agencies such as the Department of Parks and Recreation, Seattle Public Utilities, Seattle City Light, Seattle Department of Transportation, and the Landmarks Preservation Board to ensure that projects proposed for Olmsted parks and boulevards do not degrade or undermine the system as a whole or the individual elements of Olmsted designs. We also work with them to identify how the system or the individual elements can support the city's preservation, conservation, economic development, and livability goals. We have a particularly close relationship with Parks, through our review of projects proposed for Olmsted landscapes and through projects and programs we have carried out in parks and with department staff.

Over the past decade we have also worked with the Washington State Department of Transportation to minimize and mitigate for the impacts of the SR520 bridge replacement project. During the design processes we have reviewed plans and advocated for alterations to minimize the project's impact on Lake Washington and Montlake boulevards and Washington Park. We helped identify appropriate mitigation projects and have assisted in those projects, provided hundreds of volunteer hours and research materials to WSDOT

planners and consultants. As part of the mitigation projects we also worked with the Washington State Archives to increase access to the Olmsted Brothers firm's correspondence related to Seattle's Olmsted landscapes.

Residents of the city, particularly neighbors of Olmsted parks and boulevards, connect with us to learn more about the history of the parks they visit and to get involved in protecting them. We assist individuals who approach us out of concern for a park or boulevard, we offer walking tours of Olmsted parks and boulevards, and we collaborate with a number of "Friends of" organizations to support their efforts to activate and maintain the character of their parks to increase the public's enjoyment of them. Additionally, we are working closely with the Volunteer Park Trust and the Magnolia Boulevard Restoration Project as they carry out large-scale activation and restoration projects.

Historic preservationists, landscape architects, owners of Olmsted-designed or influenced landscapes, horticulturists, garden clubs, public gardens, educators, and organizations like the Seattle Garden Club, the Northwest Horticultural Society, and various greenways groups utilize our educational resources and contact us for information about the Olmsted legacy in Seattle and throughout Washington State. We have worked with HistoryLink.org to develop essays and educational materials that inform its wide readership about Washington's Olmsted history.

At the national level, we work extensively with the National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP). One of our board members serves on the NAOP board, and we worked with them to develop the OlmstedOnline.org website that features an interactive map of Olmsted landscapes across the United States and digital scans of related plans and other documents from local collections, the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, the Library of Congress, and others. We communicate with other regional Olmsted organizations to share information and effective preservation and education strategies.

### **Programming**

During the past two years FSOP has continued to improve our organizational infrastructure and put programs in place that will allow us to be more proactive in protecting Seattle's Olmsted legacy.

- Olmsted Project Papers Online -

As part of the Section 106 mitigation for the SR 520 bridge replacement project, the Washington State Department of Transportation funded the scanning and indexing of the Olmsted Brothers correspondence related to their Seattle projects and the Olmsted Brothers papers in the University of Washington's Special Collections. We worked with the Washington State Archives to develop indexing system for the documents and worked alongside paid staff to index each document. The state archives staff then uploaded the index to the Washington State Digital Archives, allowing free public access via the internet.

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Letters, field notes, sketches, lists, and other documents related to each of the public projects in Seattle provide direct access to the Olmsted Brothers' vision for each of the landscapes and the system as a whole. Already the documents have helped with the preparation of a multiple property documentation for the entire system and a landmark nomination for Lake Washington Boulevard, in addition to making it easier for board members to do research relative to issues before the board and programs we are developing.

- Greenways, Parks, and Boulevards Workshop – June 27, 2016 -

FSOP collaborated with Seattle Neighborhood Greenways, Seattle Department of Transportation, Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods to develop and carry out a workshop to explore how these agencies and groups can work together to ensure safety and accessibility on Seattle's historic boulevards while protecting the cultural landscapes. FSOP's vice president Jennifer Ott gave an overview of the Olmsted Brothers' work in Seattle, how the park and boulevard system plan was implemented, and how it has evolved over the past century. The group then broke into small groups to explore two test cases and develop solutions to safety and accessibility issues that would be consistent with the character and design intent of the boulevards involved. Seattle Neighborhood Greenways is producing a report that will guide further efforts to communicate and collaborate more effectively around these issues.

- Inter-Organization Collaboration -

FSOP has supported the efforts of several neighborhood groups working to protect and restore Olmsted parks and boulevards. We provided research support and guidance to the Friends of Colman Park Vista as they work to restore the Olmsted-designed vista from 31st Avenue through Colman Park to Lake Washington. We also attended meetings, provide research support, and wrote letters in support of the Friends of Mount Baker Town Center/Mount Baker Hub Business Association efforts to reconnect Mount Baker and Cheasty boulevards for pedestrians and bicyclists and to identify potential green space acquisition in the Mount Baker Transit Center area. Several FSOP board members serve on the Volunteer Park Trust steering committee and are involved in efforts to restore planting beds, review Seattle Asian Art Museum expansion plans, track plans for decommissioning the water reservoir, and replace the existing amphitheater with a more useful structure. These collaborations extend our reach into the city and help us reach out deeper into the community to share the Olmsted legacy with more people from a broader range of backgrounds and interests.

- Section 106 Mitigation Project Review -

As mitigation for the damage done to Lake Washington and Montlake boulevards and Washington Park as a result of the SR520 bridge replacement, WSDOT has commissioned the development of a multiple property documentation (MPD) for Seattle's Olmsted park and boulevard system. Also, in conjunction with mitigation for the impact of Seattle Public

Utilities' installation a combined sewer overflow prevention water storage tank in Seward Park, WSDOT and SPU have commissioned the preparation of a National Register for Historic Places landmark nomination for the entire length of Lake Washington Boulevard. To support these efforts, FSOP organized a day-long tour of the park and boulevard system for the contractor and WSDOT staff to familiarize everyone with the system's attributes. We provided a number of reference resources and guidance in using them and are currently reviewing the MPD and nomination. Our goal is to ensure that the documents include information that will make them as useful as possible to FSOP, public agencies, and private groups as they make decisions about what to protect, restore, and rehabilitate in the parks and boulevards.

- Seattle Asian Art Museum Expansion in Volunteer Park -

FSOP board members have attended public meetings, participated in a charette with the project's architects and landscape architects to discuss possible design concepts for the east side of the museum, and the board has written several letters to the museum and the Landmarks Board expressing our concerns about how the expansion encroaches upon landmarked park land and how it will interact with the landscape surrounding it.

### **Management**

Our organization is made up of a 14-person board (with two ex-officio members from the Seattle Parks Department), a board of advisors, and members. The board is responsible for reviewing projects that have been proposed for Olmsted landscapes in the Seattle park system and deciding which activities the organization will carry out. The board of advisors primarily consists of former board members who we call upon for advice and assistance with developing programs and materials. They are our "institutional memory" and they have a wealth of knowledge and experience. Our membership supports the organization financially and helps spread the word about Seattle's Olmsted legacy.

At our 2016 annual meeting in September, we voted to alter our board structure. In place of a president and vice president, each serving up to two two-year terms, we have adopted a new leadership arrangement. We will be voting on new officers this fall to fill the new positions: president-elect, president, and immediate past president. Each will serve one-year terms. We anticipate that this will make our leadership more nimble and encourage more board members to take a leadership role because the commitment is shorter and the responsibilities will be more evenly shared. We have implemented a number of committees in the past two years. These committees hold separate work sessions and report to the full board at our monthly board meetings on membership development, framework (tasked with articulating a foundation for our design review decisions), website, and city relations.

Olivia Johnson, an independent contractor, assisted with organizing our mailing list, sending our annual meeting/bylaw revision announcement, and developing a spreadsheet for tracking projects and issues that the board is working on.

We continue to work on enlisting more members to volunteers to carry out specific tasks to forward the work of FSOP. We are planning a retreat this fall and this effort will be on the agenda.

### **Future**

In order to fulfill our mission of promoting awareness and enjoyment of the parks while protecting the integrity of the Olmsted parks and boulevard system, it is imperative that we activate our membership and broaden our audience. To that end, we will devote time at our retreat to developing ideas for public outreach. The past two years has been intensive for the board with document and design review. Now that the MPD and landmark nomination are nearing completion, we plan to devote more time to expanding our membership. We would like to increase our volunteer pool and increase our presence on social media such as Twitter and Facebook. Through this outreach, we plan to particularly focus on increasing the diversity of our membership.

As part of our continued efforts to make information about the Olmsted Brothers legacy in Seattle more accessible, we plan to improve our website with additional tools and resources for the public and our members so that it is easier for a volunteer-based organization to make changes and provide up-to-date information. We plan to increase and improve the archiving of existing news items from past FSOP events and activities, ongoing FSOP-related projects, and public meetings, add content, and improve links to existing regional and national resources to expand public knowledge for the Olmsted legacy in Seattle and PNW. We will work with a consultant to improve the functionality and content of the existing interactive map of Olmsted legacy sites in Seattle and the Pacific Northwest.

We will continue to work with other organizations. The Volunteer Park reservoir may be decommissioned in 2017 or 2018 and we want to ensure the reservoir remains a water feature in the park as it plays a key role in the Olmsted design. Whatever happens with the reservoir, whether it is decommissioned or placed underground, this is an opportunity to restore the perimeter of the reservoir as a promenade with Olmsted-designed plantings and we will collaborate with Parks and Seattle Public Utilities as more information becomes available.

The funding allocated in the Move Seattle levy to the Accessible Mount Baker project will involve projects on two boulevards and we will work with the Friends of Mount Baker Town Center and SDOT to find solutions to design challenges that arise.

It is likely we will need to help Parks and Friends of Colman Park Vista develop creative solutions to restore the view corridor in Colman Park. Additionally, the Metropolitan Parks District's historic landscape restoration funds will likely become available in 2017 and we

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will work with parks staff to prioritize which landscape restoration should be done with the initial funds.

Our primary challenge is one of time. With the uptick in the economy, more projects are being funded and require FSOP review. For each project we research the Olmsted Brothers' involvement in the development of the affected landscape, review documents related to any proposed alterations, and write letters stating our support and/or concerns about the proposals to the appropriate agencies or the Landmarks Preservation Board. This ensures that potential impacts to the cultural landscapes are brought to the attention of project planners, and that is an essential part of our work, but it does reduce the time we can spend on proactive efforts to increase awareness and appreciation of the parks and boulevards. We hired an independent contractor this summer to increase our efficiency and effectiveness and she was helpful in moving our efforts forward, but, unfortunately, had to move out of town unexpectedly. We hope to find a new contractor in the near future.

## Summary – IRS Form 990 OR 990-EZ

IRS Form	990-EZ	990-EZ	- Select -
Revenue	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Donations/Grants	\$7,000	\$4,500	
Membership*	\$173	\$4,231	
Fundraising Events*			
Related Organizations			
Government			
Other Contributions			
In-Kind	\$1,980	\$1,980	
Program (See Notes For Items)	\$318	\$ 30	
Investments			
Sales			
Other			
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$7,491</b>	<b>\$8,761</b>	
Capital Revenue			
<i>Contributed Income</i>	<i>\$7,173</i>	<i>\$8,731</i>	
<i>Contributed Income %</i>	<i>95.75%</i>	<i>99.66%</i>	
<i>Earned Income</i>	<i>\$318</i>	<i>\$30</i>	
<i>Earned Income %</i>	<i>4.25%</i>	<i>0.34%</i>	
<i>Earned Income Gap</i>	<i>(\$8,011)</i>	<i>(\$3,896)</i>	
<b>Expenses</b>			
Salaries/Benefits	\$2,133		
Member Benefits			
Other	\$4,741	\$1,801	
Fees For Services*	\$875	\$884	
Advertising/Promotion			
Office*	\$580	\$1,241	
Information Technology			
Occupancy/Rent*			
Travel			
Interest			
Insurance			
In-Kind			
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$8,329</b>	<b>\$3,926</b>	
Program			
Management			
Fundraising			
Capital Expenses			
Surplus			
<b>Balances</b>			
Beginning Balance	\$17,632	\$16,814	
End Balance	\$16,814	\$21,649	
Cash/Investments			
Buildings/Equipment			
Depreciation			
Other			
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$16,814</b>	<b>\$21,649</b>	
Total Liabilities			
<i>Ratio</i>			
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$16,814</b>	<b>\$21,649</b>	
Unrestricted			
Restricted			
Permanently Restricted			

\* For 990-EZ, items are separate lines, not subtotals. For 990, items are subtotals.

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<b>Budget Notes FY 2014</b>
The large expense for "Other" includes a large printing cost for an educational brochure printing.
<b>Budget Notes FY 2015</b>
The large "Other" expense includes printing materials for our booth at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show and repair of the informational panels in the Volunteer Park Water Tower.
<b>Budget Notes FY 2016</b>
We have not yet completed our FY 2016

### **Support Materials**

*Support materials may include lists of Board of Directors/Commissioners, Staff, and/or Events in addition to other attachments.*

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS/COMMISSIONERS

Andy Mitton, President

Landscape Architect, Berger Partnership

2016-2018

Jennifer Ott, Vice President

Historian, HistoryLink.org

2015-2017

Theresa Neylon, Treasurer

Landscape Architect, Swift Company

2016-2018

Ann Hunt, Secretary

Horticulturalist, Chateau Ste. Michelle

2015-2017

Doug Bayley

Landscape Architect, retired / Volunteer Park Trust

2016-2018

Eliza Davidson

Architect/Landscape Designer/Urban Forester, Arbutus Design

2015-2017

David Dougherty

Business Owner

2016-2018

Jim Gale UW

Public Health Profess Emeritus / UW Open Space for All People

2015-2017

Bryn Homsy

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Historian, Consultant  
2015-2017

Dakota Keene  
Landscape Architect, Mithun  
2015-2017

Penny Kriese  
Tree Ambassador/Master Gardener  
2015-2017

Douglas Luetjen  
Attorney, Karr Tuttle Campbell  
2016-2018

Jennifer Rees  
Landscape Architect, Consultant  
2016-2018

Ben Streissguth  
Co-Manager, Streissguth Gardens  
2015-2017

Bob Baines  
Ex Officio – Seattle Parks and Recreation  
2016-2018

Kathleen Conner  
Ex Officio – Seattle Parks and Recreation  
2015-2017

STAFF  
None currently employed

EVENTS  
February 17-21 – Northwest Flower and Garden Show Booth – 250 attendees  
June 27 – Greenways, Parks, and Boulevards Charette - 38  
July 9th – Colman Park Walking Tour – 7  
July 14 - ArbFest Booth – 35

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July 16 - Ravenna–Cowen Parks Walking Tour for King County InMotion event - 12

August 20 - Magnolia Blvd Walking Tour - 9 attendees

September 12 - Talk for Parks Lifelong Recreation Program at Hiawatha Park - 95

September 17 - Woodland Park Walking Tour - 6

September 20 - National Association of City Transportation Officials bus tour of Olmsted park and boulevard system - 20