

# UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Meeting Minutes  
In-person Meeting

## Architectural Commission

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X	Anne Marie Borys, Interim Chair	Associate Professor, College of Built Environments	Voting
	Gundula Proksch, Vice Chair	Faculty Council on Campus Planning and Stewardship	Voting
X	Cathy Simon	Professional Member	Voting
X	John Syvertsen	Professional Member	Voting
X	Andrea Leers	Professional Member	Voting
X	Linda Jewell	Professional Member	Voting
X	Edwin Harris	Professional Member	Voting
X	Marlon Blackwell	Professional Member	Voting
X	Julie Snow	Professional Member	Voting
X	Valerie Lange	Student Member	Voting
X	Jonathan Bechtol	Student Member	Voting
X	Rod Worden	Interim Vice President, UW Facilities	Ex Officio
X	Steve Tatge	Associate Vice President of Asset Management, UW Facilities	Ex Officio
X	Kristine Kenney	Executive Director of Campus Architecture & Planning, UWF	Ex Officio

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Notes taken by Laura Salish, Executive Assistant to Executive Director, Kristine Kenney

### Call to Order

The Interim Chair of the Architectural Commission Anne Marie Boris, called the meeting to order. The Commission welcomed new members Marlon Blackwell, Julie Snow, Jonathan Bechtol, and Rod Worden.

### Approval of Past Minutes and Current Agenda

The August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting minutes and current agenda were approved, with abstention of the approval of minutes by Julie Snow and Marlon Blackwell. Andrea Leers moved to approve; Linda Jewell seconded.

### Chemical Sciences Building (CSB) Project Overview

The Slating Committee members were introduced with representation from the College of Arts & Sciences (Munira Khalil, Dan Pollack, and Steve Majeski), UWAC (John Syvertsen, Kristine Kenney), UW Facilities (Jeannie Natta, Sydney Thiel, and Lara Sirois), and Skanska (Rob Robinson, Margot Van Swearingen, Ryan Kline, and Ian Conley).

The Chemical Sciences Building project will design and construct a new 100,000-110,000 GSF chemistry research building with high-performance wet labs, research offices, collaboration space, and a high-flex classroom on the site of the Chemistry Library, adjacent to Bagley Hall to enable a new mode of science where fundamental chemical research transforms into real world applications in real time. The project budget is \$191 million, with a design build budget of \$145.5 million.

The goals of the project center around:

- Integration into the campus fabric
- Growth & retention of faculty, staff, and students
- Interdisciplinary collaboration
- Modern & flexible facilities
- Innovation & adaptability

The Design Partner selection process culminates in the interviews of the finalists after sending RFPs to 11 firms, completing the review of 9 SOQs, Skanska convening proprietary meetings with each firm, the Slating Committee scoring and shortlisting 5 firms and performing office visits to each, and the final ranking of firms, resulting in 3 recommended to advance to the UWAC interview phase. The evaluation Criteria used included a portfolio of design excellence, relevant project experience, approach to equity and inclusion, design-build approach, teaming and collaboration alignment, team member experience, and acceptance of business terms.

There was some discussion about the process and observations communicated by John to provide continuous improvement and support the exciting mix of possibilities by raising the issue of design excellence to match the excellence in the academic mission. A model to assess for applicability is the way in which architects are selected for UW Embassy project.

#### Chemical Sciences Interview #1: The Miller Hull Partnership

#### Chemical Sciences Interview #1: Payette & EHDD

#### Chemical Sciences Interview #1: Perkins + Will

After the interviews, the Slating Committee provided their feedback on what they observed. The UWAC then went into private deliberations before sharing back to the Slating Committee their recommendation for Payette and EHDD to be awarded the commission.

### **The Next 100 Years Presentation**

As an intern working in Campus Architecture & Planning, Jonathan Bechtol was tasked with developing the sequel to Norman Johnston's book *The Fountain & The Mountain*, which documented the history, planning, and architectural development of the campus up until 1995. Through months of research, interviews with Architects, and walking the campus at length, *The Next 100 Years* is complete, and documents 67 projects constructed on the UW Seattle campus from 1996 to the present. Jonathan provided an overview of his research.

The 1990s were defined by Contextualism, a short-lived trend that resulted in buildings that were sensitive to their surroundings, mirroring the form and materials of their collegiate gothic neighbors, but with little portrayal of the program housed within.

The 2000s brought about a return to subtlety, with buildings asserting unique identities, carried throughout the whole building. A handful of themes have evolved that have changed the architectural expression and character of campus buildings.

The emphasis on sustainable design, while not a new concept, grabbed hold in contemporary architecture spurred by the U.S. Green Building Council's introduction of a green building rating system. The result has been transformative in the way buildings sit within their site, the materials sourced, the detailing of the building envelop, the site development, and the impact on water and energy consumption. The integration of collaboration areas within each building to support community building and group projects is a direct reflection of the shift in academic philosophies. These range in scale from centrally located grand atria to small break out spaces that can be reserved. This is similarly changed the role of libraries across campus, replacing stacks of books with places for students to study individually or in teams.

The emphasis on new construction has been balanced with the desire to preserve some of the cherished historic buildings on campus. In 2002, the Restore the Core program was launched, aiming to renovate 15 historic buildings in critical condition. The 2008 financial crisis paused the program after 7 buildings were renovated, but recent efforts to curtail the continued growth of the University's substantial backlog of deferred maintenance have re-emphasized the need to return to this initiative.

In step with the numerous buildings added to campus, there's been significant attention paid to improving cherished open spaces, using transportation or development initiatives as opportunities to improve the civil realm. The introduction of light rail to campus resulted in a transformative renovation of the lower Rainier Vista and Burke Gilman Trail. The housing developments in west and north campus resulted in an improved urban landscape and the restoration of Denny Field, the original location of Husky football. The construction of the new Burke Museum resulted in a transformation of the NW corner of the historic campus core into an outdoor plaza and native camas garden that serve as a gateway to campus from the University District.

The transformation of the campus built environment has been sensitive to character and ethos of the University's core values and architectural legacy. The UW Architecture Commission has, and will continue to serve a significant role in stewarding this transformation in the past and into the future.

### **Project Updates**

ASUW Shellhouse has been challenged with budget and scope alignment due to 90% of the budget consumed for compulsory work required to bring the building up to current code standards based on the change in use from a storage facility to public event space. The project is pausing design to revisit some of the decisions made, engage with campus stakeholders, and reassess the project budget.

The UW Welcome Center is a new project moving through the approval process quickly. While this was originally part of a larger developer led project adjacent to campus, after careful analysis, the space allocated didn't align with the program requirement. The project has shifted in focus and is now an independent project proposed to be located on the site adjacent to the Burke Museum. The project budget is set at \$61 million, which will result in a small, but highly crafted building approximately 30,000-33,000 GSF. The project will begin the design build team selection process in January with architect interviews scheduled for spring 2025.

The Anderson Hall project has transitioned into construction. Careful work with the Landmarks Board has resulted in approval of removing the balcony in the Forest Room and integration of a new ADA compliant primary entrance on the south side accessed from the courtyard. Through the integrated design build process, a number of value add scope items have been incorporated into the final project, including the proposed opening between the ground and first floor, providing a visual connection between the original building entrance on the north side with the new entrance on the south side.

### **Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.**

The next meeting will be held online, date TBD. (subsequently scheduled for March 24, 2025)