



Arboretum & Botanical Garden Committee

Tuesday, Sept 16, 2025 9:00 – 10:30AM, Online

Join on your computer or mobile app: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Arboretum Foundation

Elizabeth Lunney, Interim Executive Director

Maribeth O'Connor, Board President

University of Washington

Aaron Hoard, Director of Regional and Community Relations, ABGC Chair

Christina Owen, Director of UW Botanic Gardens, ABGC Vice Chair

Ken Yocom, Interim Dean, College of Built Environments

ABGC Attendees

Ray Larson, Curator, UW Botanic Gardens

David Graves, Strategic Advisor, Seattle Parks and Recreation

Peter Rees, Board Vice President

9:00AM Call to Order & Introductions

Aaron Hoard, ABGC Chair

- **Land Acknowledgement:** The ABGC acknowledges and affirms the indigenous Coast Salish as the original caretakers of our waters and landscape, who nurtured and shaped today's parkland. We honor their legacy with gratitude and appreciation and will safeguard their knowledge and stewardship as enduring treasures to promote community welfare, cultivate inclusive expressions of nature and recreation and commit to land acknowledgment for each ensuing generation.
- **Minute Approval:** June 17, 2025 meeting notes

9:06AM 520 Subgroup Update

- WDOST is wrapping up the Montlake phase, moving into portage bay
 - Plans to stay on the peninsula until 2030
- Agreements that they needed to surplus the old gas station, asking for clarification on plans since it is still closed off
- Updates on the signage around north entry
 - SDOT put a sandwich board sign
 - David Graves will follow up

9:15AM MPIG Subgroup Update

- Berger report received, compiled information was well done, need comments by end of the week
 - Helpful information on the land description, traffic, and Geotech
 - Goals to engage with tribal communities and how they can connect more
 - What fits culturally, historically, and figuring how to engage with stakeholders
 - Plans on how to proceed with designs for the peninsula
 - How to move forward to get ideas on paper, and how/who to hire for assistance with admin/scheduling
- Waterfront trail
 - Phase 1 is moving, getting ready to move on to bid
 - Anticipated timeline, possibly sometime in the spring
 - There is funding in place for phase 1
- Pacific Pathways
 - Meetings will be scheduled for the 30% design phase,

9:26AM UW/Arboretum Foundation Partnership Update

- Negotiations are still in progress
- Anticipated time on the Regent's agenda in November to discuss this topic
 - Possible final sign off in January to allow for UW admin process
- Plans for a name change, decision will be made tomorrow, no announcement will be made until everything is finalized
- Plans to have a meeting with Parks to redefine roles and update MPIG

9:38AM Partner Updates

UW

- UW is keeping a close eye on federal relations

Arboretum Foundation

- Submitted a climate adaptation plan for a grant and working on an executive summary
- Getting started on fall planting
 - Working on irrigation plans
- UW Farm Dinner this Thursday
- Vacancy in the horticulture staff, finding the best way to fill those

Seattle Park

- Entering budget season
- Keeping an eye out for Park District plans
 - Decision for parks priorities for 2029
 - Projects that should be included that involve Arboretum
- Christopher Williams has plans on retiring in October
 - Suggestions on inviting the successor to the next ABGC meeting or walking tour

- Anticipated meeting and tour for the Spring

9:50AM Old/New Business

- SDCI tree regulations
 - Jurisdiction over the trees in the arboretum with the Pacific Pathways project
- Due to the ordinance, needing to get an exemption for the Arboretum
 - Suggestion on inviting SDCI to the arboretum
- Aaron Hoard will work on getting this on their radar

9:57AM Adjourn