



**City of Seattle**  
Urban Forestry Commission

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**Weston Brinkley** (Position #3 – University), Chair  
**Sarah Rehder** (Position #4 – Hydrologist), Vice-chair  
**Julia Michalak** (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist) • **Elby Jones** (Position #2 – Urban Ecologist - ISA)  
**Stuart Niven** (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA) • **Michael Walton** (Position #6 – Landscape Architect – ISA)  
**Joshua Morris** (Position #7 – NGO) • **David Moehring** (Position # 8 – Development)  
**Blake Voorhees** (Position # 9 – Realtor) • **Elena Arakaki** (Position #10 – Get Engaged)  
**Whit Bouton** (Position #11 – Environmental Justice - ISA)  
**Jessica Jones** (Position # 12 – Public Health) • **Shari Selch** (Position # 13 – Community/Neighborhood)

February 3, 2021.

Mayor Jenny A. Durkan and Seattle City Council Members  
Seattle City Hall  
600 4<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Seattle, WA 98124  
RE: City's 2021 Budget

RE: Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) [2020 Annual Report](#) and [2021 Work Plan](#) (as required by [Ordinance 123052](#))

Dear Mayor Durkan and Councilmembers,

The UFC thanks the Mayor and City Council for their ongoing support of the UFC's work as the advisory body to advance the City of Seattle's urban forestry goals.

Enclosed is the UFC 2020 Annual Report which provides a summary of the UFC's activities and the 2021 Work Plan that will guide the UFC work this year.

The UFC had numerous successes this past year, advancing policy and partnerships for Seattle's urban forest, again setting a new standard for the volume of recommendations, presentations, and meetings held. However, Seattle still continues a streak of now 11 years without an adequate tree protection ordinance. And as Commissioners we represent a City still imbedded with institutional racism with the disproportionate impact unhealthy environments bear on our BIPOC communities coming to the fore front during the current pandemic. In 2021 the UFC will resume efforts on both these fronts.

For 2021, the UFC looks forward to continuing to support the City in passing a revised Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance, working on implementation of the 2020 Urban Forest Management Plan, as well as providing input to other important work such as the Director's Rule [13-2020](#) on Exceptional Trees and Council's SLI on urban forestry consolidation. The UFC will

continue to incorporate the City's [Race and Social Justice Initiative](#) principles to its work.

Lastly, the UFC would like to thank the [Office of Sustainability & Environment](#), once again, for their continued support by providing staff time to assist the UFC in carrying out its important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Weston Brinkley'.

Weston Brinkley, Chair

cc: Jessica Finn Coven, Michelle Caulfield, Urban Forestry Management Team, Urban Forestry Core Team, Yolanda Ho, Austin Miller

Sandra Pinto Urrutia, Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator  
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