



SOUTH SOUND MILITARY & COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP

6000 Main St SW, Lakewood, WA 98499



Executive Leadership Team:

- City of Lacey
- City of Lakewood
- Joint Base Lewis-McChord
- Pierce County

10 August 2021

Councilmember Andrew J Lewis
Seattle City Council | District 7
600 Fourth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Steering Committee:

- City of DuPont
- City of Tacoma
- City of University Place
- City of Yelm

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for the Buffalo Soldiers Museum at Fort Lawton

- Puget Sound Energy
- Thurston County
- Nisqually Tribe

The South Sound Military & Communities Partnership (SSMCP) fully endorses and support the efforts designed to honor and commemorate the Buffalo Soldiers by preserving and enhancing Band Barracks to create a museum located within the Fort Lawton Historical District of Seattle.

Working Group Chairs:

- Bates Technical College
- Clover Park School District
- Pierce Transit
- Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce
- Thurston Regional Planning Council
- Thurston Chamber of Commerce
- United Way-Pierce County
- Care Partners
- Cohen Veterans Network Clinic @ Valley Cities
- Washington State Department of Transportation

“In the end, the character of a civilization is encased in its structures.” – Frank Gehry

The SSMCP is an innovative partnership positioned to provide regional leadership to bridge military and civilian communities. Our regional Partnership consists of local jurisdictions that work directly with Joint Base Lewis McCord. Our Partnership fully supports the Buffalo Soldiers Museum's dedication that will not only honor the legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers in the US Military as well as pay tribute to black heritage in Washington State, but it will also educate the public on these often forgotten American heroes.

It is my understanding that the plans for the expansion will not only respect the Master Plan for Discovery Park, but the Museum also plans to engage the community for input on its design. The final product will provide much needed education and cultural opportunities to Fort Lawton Historical District while honoring these great heroes. The history of the Buffalo Soldier and their military contributions deserves to be told.

SSMCP looks forward to collaborating with you on this initiative.

Respectfully,

COL (R) WILLIAM G. ADAMSON, USA
Program Director
South Sound Military & Communities Partnership

