



**Becca Neumann** (Position 4 – Hydrologist), Co-chair

**Joshua Morris** (Position 7 – NGO), Co-Chair

**Alicia Kellogg** (Position 2 – Urban Ecologist) • **Stuart Niven** (Position 5 – Arborist – ISA)

**Hao Liang** (Position 6 – Landscape Architect – ISA) • **David Baker** (Position 8 – Development)

**Nathan Collins** (Position 9 – Financial Analyst) • **Logan Woodyard** (Position 10 – Get Engaged)

**Jessica Hernandez** (Position 11 – Environmental Justice) • **Jessica Jones** (Position 12 – Public Health)

**Lia Hall** (Position 13 – Community/Neighborhood)

October 4, 2023

Seattle City Council  
600 4th Ave  
Seattle, WA  
*Via email to [council@seattle.gov](mailto:council@seattle.gov)*

**RE: Urban Forestry Commission support for bill protecting culturally modified trees (CB 120670)**

Dear Honorable Seattle City Councilmembers,

Duwamish Lands (Seattle, WA) – **The Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) supports Councilmember Pedersen’s legislation to protect culturally modified trees (CB 120670).**

Culturally modified trees are recognized as archeological sites by Tribal and State law. Their removal requires a permit from the State Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). Councilmember Pedersen’s legislation would add a simple safety check to ensure the City does not unintentionally allow removal of trees that are known archeological sites prior to authorization by the DAHP.

Such a safety check will help the City comply with State law, honor and respect Tribes, and protect irreplaceable archeological sites.

The UFC appreciates the City's consultation with interested federally recognized tribes through the Indigenous Advisory Council, including the Suquamish, Muckleshoot, and Snoqualmie Tribes. We appreciate CM Pedersen's ongoing efforts to prepare a bill for consideration by the City Council.

In May 2023, despite concerns expressed by the UFC and requests for additional review, Seattle City Council voted six to one to update Seattle’s Tree Protection Ordinance. At the time, Councilmembers Strauss, Herbold, Mosqueda, Morales, and Pedersen expressed intent to work on “clean up” legislation. Your attention to CB 120670 would be a positive signal that Council is honoring its commitment to continuing to improve tree protection in Seattle.

Sincerely,



Josh Morris, Co-Chair

---



Becca Neumann, Co-Chair

CC: Yolanda Ho, Toby Thaler

Patti Bakker, Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator  
City of Seattle, Office of Sustainability & Environment  
PO Box 94729 Seattle, WA 98124-4729 Tel: 206-684-3194  
[www.seattle.gov/UrbanForestryCommission](http://www.seattle.gov/UrbanForestryCommission)