

PRESS RELEASE

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SKYWAY PARK GETS LUCKY: FAMILY FOUNDATION GRANT SUPPORTS REVITALIZATION OF NEIGHBORHOOD GEM

SKYWAY, WA...Many residents of Skyway don't even know where Skyway Park is. From the map, it looks hard to miss - a 23-acre park smack-dab in the middle of the community. But there are few signs and no markers or gateways letting you know that this great community asset is just behind the trees or around the bend.

But, with any luck, that will change because of the dedication of local residents. They have formed the Friends of Skyway Park and are partnering with Pomegranate Center, a regional nonprofit, to design and build a series of community-made gateways marking the entrances to the park.

And luck they got! This week the project received a generous grant of \$5,000 from the Lucky Seven Foundation, a family foundation supporting worthwhile projects in the Puget Sound Basin.

"I have been a Skyway resident for over 40 years," says Friends of Skyway Park member Ginny Rabago. "My children played baseball and softball in the park and enjoyed picnics and play days there. Now I walk my dog there most days. But there are lots of residents in the neighborhood who aren't aware that it even exists because the entrances are relatively hidden, some in residential areas, and some so far off the street they aren't easily noticed. These gateways will open up access and invite the community to enjoy the park, making it a safer and more enjoyable for all. I am so grateful to the Lucky Seven Foundation for helping us move this project forward!"

The Gateway Project at Skyway Park came out of a year-long community engagement project to re-envision the park, jointly funded by five King County departments and led by Pomegranate Center, a local community design and development nonprofit that specializes in bringing people together to build better communities.

"At Pomegranate Center, we focus on what we call 'multiple victories' – creative solutions that address many needs at the same time," said Pomegranate Center executive director and founder Milenko Matanovic. "The gateways at Skyway Park, for example, will bring visibility to the park, and will also be unique, beautiful pieces of art for the community. And it will bring all sorts of community members together in a new way. It's like planting three flowers with one seed!"

Pomegranate Center—based in Issaquah, Washington—is an internationally recognized leader in developing neighborhood gathering places and is a leading nonprofit devoted to community-generated design and development.

Pomegranate Center was founded in 1986 by artist and community organizer Milenko Matanovic. Concerned with the direction of modern communities, he created Pomegranate Center to explore how artists can link art with social and environmental issues to help build better communities. Pomegranate Center works with communities of all sizes throughout the Pacific Northwest and across the country to provide constructive and inclusive community-based planning, design and creation of meaningful, community-crafted civic spaces, and training programs in community engagement.

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