



Burien

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April 8, 2010

Dane Johnson & Kathy Justin
16705 Maplewild Ave. SW
Burien, WA 98166

Dear Dane and Kathy:

I wanted to thank you for your gift of framed posters to remind us of your other wonderful gift, the year-long B/IAS art project. We'll find an appropriate place for the posters in the near future. The added bonus that occasion offered me was time to talk with you about the project.

There is no question that B/IAS succeeded in its primary purpose of transforming an otherwise blighted and dormant construction site into a thought provoking space for art and community gathering – there were eleven I believe. It is fair to say you touched thousands of people on this level, including my own 88-year-old father who was transfixed by the Night of the Dead celebration, to my great surprise.

There were less obvious but, from where I sit, more benefits to the City. They significantly include precipitating a conversation in the community about art - leave aside the issue of "appropriate art" - and providing a rare insight into community values to name just two. More esoteric, but no less real to a city manager, was the lesson on community engagement and the urgency of tolerating legitimate risk in an age of litigation and perhaps over-regulation.

I want to repeat something I mentioned during our conversation: The B/IAS project taught the community something about itself it otherwise would not have learned. The permanency of that lesson transcends the event itself. It is rare that individuals can point to such a legacy. You can. I felt the need to call it to your attention in case it escaped you. It didn't escape us.

Sincerely,

Mike Martin
City Manager

