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BEFORE THE HEARING EXAMINER
OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE

In the Matter of the Appeal of
PROTECT VOLUNTEER PARK.,
of a Determination of Non-Significance
Certificate of Approval issued by the
Department of Construction and
Inspections for Construction in Volunteer
Park

Hearing Examiner File: MUP 17-015

Department Reference: 3024753

DECLARATION OF RANDOLPH W.
URMSTON

I, RANDOLPH W. URMSTON, declare as follows:

1. I am a resident of the City of Seattle, Washington and a member of Protect Volunteer Park. I live in the vicinity of Volunteer Park. I am over the age of 18 years and am competent to testify herein. I make this declaration based on my personal knowledge.

2. I have lived in the neighborhood near Volunteer Park for more than forty years. The landscape nature of the Park was one of the reasons that I chose the neighborhood. I run or walk around the Park two or three times a week. When going south I often walk through the eastern part of the park between 15th Avenue and the Asian Art Museum. The areas of Volunteer Park are clearly distinctive. To the north and west, there is more uninterrupted green space surrounded by

1 flowers. The east of the Park is narrower and more longitudinal with green space broken up by
2 groups of trees. The long views with groups of trees in them are soothing and calming.

3 3. In its current form, the proposed expansion of the Asian Art Museum would change
4 the character of this part of the park by breaking up the long views and, given its bulk, height and
5 glass, acting as a “guard tower” in an otherwise tranquil setting. The area would repel me rather
6 than attract me and lessen the serenity and beauty of this area of the park that maintains the Olmsted
7 characteristics that are evident in other special Olmsted Parks around the country.

8 4. I am a member of the Seattle Art Museum and normally support its efforts; however,
9 when there are alternatives to the expansion such as removing programs that are not necessarily site
10 specific, building underground or in other areas that don’t impact the park as much, the Art
11 Museum’s invasion of and impact on this treasured park, will irrevocably denigrate my experience
12 and that of many others who enjoy this part of the park.

13 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the
14 foregoing is true and correct.

15 Dated this 10th day of May, 2017, at Seattle, Washington.

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21 RANDOLPH W. URMSTON

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