



# City of Seattle

Mayor Edward B. Murray

December 30, 2016

Seattle Arts Commission  
Seattle Music Commission  
Historic Central Area & Cultural District  
Capitol Hill Arts District

Via email

Dear Commissioners,

I want to thank the Seattle Arts Commission, the Seattle Music Commission, the Historic Central Area Arts & Cultural District, and the Capitol Hill Arts District for their thoughtful recommendations in response to the tragic Oakland Ghost Ship fire. I share your sorrow and join you in grieving for those lost. I also share your concern about balancing public safety with the needs of Seattle's diverse arts community.

I have directed my staff to work with City Departments, including the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections, the Seattle Fire Marshall, and the Office of Arts & Culture, to review the recommendations offered by the commissioners and the community.

It is the duty of the City to ensure the public safety of all of our residents, and our public safety officials respond when they receive complaints directly from the community. When we receive these complaints, the City invests time to educate venue operators and owners to help them become code compliant. We do this cognizant of the fact that we have to achieve public safety while preserving affordable, accessible places for our arts and music communities to congregate. I strongly believe community engagement is one of the best ways we can keep the public safe.

I look forward to working together to ensure that a tragedy like the Oakland Ghost Ship fire never happens in Seattle, while also ensuring that the artistic exuberance and cultural inclusion exemplified at Ghost Ship is never lost.

Again, thank you for your thoughtful recommendations and your commitment to Seattle's vibrant arts and cultural community.

Sincerely,

Edward B. Murray  
Mayor of Seattle