



SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

“We ♥ the Junction” Campaign

The Beth Chave Historic Preservation Award for Preserving Neighborhood Character goes to the “We ♥ the Junction” Task Force of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society and its supporting partners for their advocacy efforts to secure City landmark status for two iconic buildings in the heart of the West Seattle Junction.

Supporting Partners:
Southwest Seattle Historical Society;
Sheridan Consulting Group (architectural historian/consultant);
Sarah Martin and Flo Lentz (historic preservation consultants);
4Culture (grant funding)

The Southwest Seattle Historical Society (SWSHS) spearheaded this grassroots community landmark campaign for West Seattle’s main business district, The Junction, in 2015 starting with a comprehensive survey that documented the historic and architectural significance of area buildings. SWSHS partnered with the Southwest District Council and West Seattle Junction Association and received support from the Junction Neighborhood Organization and ArtsWest. Sheridan Consulting Group prepared the core document, the West Seattle Junction Historical Survey, which surveyed 58 buildings to determine eligibility for designation as Seattle landmarks. The survey team also interviewed Junction building owners and conducted public surveys, asking three questions. “What is special about The Junction?” “What is your favorite building in The Junction and why?” “What in The Junction is worth preserving?”

The survey identified two key structures at the heart of The Junction – the Campbell Building and Crescent-Hamm Building – as potential landmarks. William T. Campbell, a savvy real-estate leader who was largely responsible for The Junction’s early development, built both buildings.

Funded by a 4Culture grant, SWSHS next formed a task force to lead a “We ♥ The Junction” public awareness campaign seeking City landmark status for the buildings. Historic preservation consultants Flo Lentz and Sarah Martin prepared both landmark nominations. In the end, the Landmarks Preservation Board voted unanimously to designate both buildings, the first official City landmarks in The Junction.

The proactive grassroots efforts of SWSHS and the “We ♥ The Junction” Task Force resulted in protecting this community’s history. A leader in these efforts has been former SWSHS Executive Director Clay Eals, who highlighted the campaign’s importance: “Landmarking the unique structures that, for the past century, have created an attractive and vibrant center for connection and collaboration, for friendly commerce, for appreciation of the visionaries who came before us, for the inexpressible sense of home, and for affirmation of our humanity - this is the stuff of identity, of legacy, and of hope.”