

April 30, 2020

UW Resilience Lab and Campus Sustainability Fund
Mary Gates Hall
Rooms 274 G & A
Seattle, WA 98195

Re: 2021 Resilience and Compassion Seed Grant Application

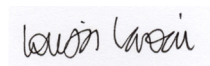
To the Committee Members,

I am writing in support of the application of Elizabeth Umbanhowar in her application for the 2021 UW Resilience and Compassion Seed Grant Application. I have known Elizabeth since 2007- I first worked with her on her Masters in Landscape Architecture thesis at the University of Washington in Seattle. Since that time, we kept in touch as her career progressed in the practice and teaching of landscape architecture. When she decided to return to school full time to pursue a Ph.D at the UW College of Built Environments this fall, I was delighted to have the chance to work with her again.

In the more than 12 years that I have known her Elizabeth is unique in the passion and synergy she has demonstrated in her research, practice and teaching. She has taught a wide range of classes from design studios and history/theory seminars for the Landscape Architecture and Architecture departments at the UW. She has also been directly engaged in practice, working professionally in the area of landscape architecture and urban planning with a focus on transportation. At the same time Elizabeth has continued to pursue her own research interests through her scholarly work and independent installation and community projects. Her Masters in Landscape Architecture thesis was an exploration of film as a tool to understand and represent movement in landscape design. Based on her experience in practice and teaching, she has now extended and deepened her interest in how shifts in the links between mobility and technology are impacting changes in public space in urban contexts. I currently serve as advisor of her dissertation that focuses specifically on the role of the street as a real and imagined public space in the postwar city, foregrounding issues of urban mobility, cinematic representation and social justice.

In her academic studies and professional practice, Elizabeth persistently and passionately seeks to advance connections between the community and the environment. Her proposal, "Healing Grounds: Moving Through Loss" reflects her ongoing interest in affective landscapes and the power of ritual movement to engage people and place. I know Elizabeth has the knowledge, drive and enthusiasm to make this a truly collaborative and impactful project that has the potential to cultivate a sense of belonging and compassion in our community during this very challenging time. I recommend her strongly for the UW Resilience Lab and the Campus Sustainability Grant. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Stay well;



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