



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – August 17, 2020**

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### **RECREATION STUDY UNDERWAY IN COVINGTON AND MAPLE VALLEY AREA**

The cities of Covington and Maple Valley have joined forces to conduct a study to understand the community's indoor recreational needs as a region. The study will address the feasibility of a new recreational facility and aquatic center, taking into account the aging Covington Aquatic Center. Washington State grant funds were dedicated in 2019 for this study and for the design of the recommended recreation facility.

The feasibility study will identify needs and preferences among recreation facility and programming components, produce conceptual building design, estimate construction and operating costs, and recommend potential locations across the Covington and Maple Valley area. The study's conclusions will be presented to elected officials in spring 2021, along with a cost-benefit analysis regarding public funding. The study will then move into Phase 2, the pre-construction design of the recommended facility.

Opportunities for participation, including virtual town halls this fall, will follow a public process that will be led by a citizen steering committee. Selection of committee members is underway now, by means of an application and community-wide survey to identify public interests, community partnerships, and balanced representation across recreation service areas. The project website, [www.re-createandcreate.com](http://www.re-createandcreate.com), is in place to provide ongoing information and interactive opportunities for residents to be involved in this exciting process.

Chosen from a national search, ALSC Architects of Spokane, is leading a team of subject matter experts in the planning and development of an indoor recreation facility. The ALSC team is comprised of the following partners: Ballard\*King: Economic Feasibility, Demographics; DH: Marketing, Branding, Public Outreach; Campbell & Company: Fundraising, Capital Campaign Counsel; Coffman Engineers: Civil, Structural, Mechanical, Electrical Engineering; and CBRE / Don Moody: Real Estate Services.

Rustin Hall, President/CEO of ALSC Architects, states, "The emphasis that each of the City Councils have placed on high expectations for community input and involvement in this feasibility study will lead to an inclusive process of outreach and interaction, resulting in a solution that truly reflects the heart and soul of this region."

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