

May 20, 2025

Medina City Council

Dear Mayor Rossman, Deput Mayor Reeves, and Council Members,

On behalf of *SPLASHForward*, I invite the City of Medina to endorse our advocacy as we partner with our community to bring the next major public aquatic facility to the Eastside at Bellevue Airfield Park. The new Bellevue Aquatic Center will expand access to aquatics and make our community healthier, safer, and stronger. Everyone deserves access to a world-class facility and affordable essential life skills that can save lives.

With the site secured and the City of Bellevue entering the design phase, *SPLASHForward* is playing an important role in bringing **strategic leadership, partnership development, and key stakeholders to the table**. As we map our 130,000 sq ft concept plan to the site and bring programs like our *Every Second Grader Learns to Swim Program* to reality, we continue to lead capital partner discussions with the Bellevue School District, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bellevue, and potential healthcare partners, and inform the operational sustainability of this new regional aquatic facility. **The City of Medina is an important stakeholder** in building community support to expand access to aquatics for all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

We believe our endorsers help us attract funding to not only build the new Bellevue Aquatic Center but encourage community support in our role as **thought leaders in operational sustainability, in planning and executing a successful capital campaign, and building strong lasting community partnerships to create aquatic pathways and reduce barriers**. Ultimately, we are the community aquatics foundation that will ensure success beyond when the doors open.

We invite the City of Medina to **consider endorsing** our *SPLASHForward* advocacy which is a non-financial commitment. We are grateful for your consideration and would like you to consider the following benefits.

- The City of Medina is the voice and local leader for a community that lives on the shores of Lake Washington and knows firsthand the importance of water safety, the joy of water activities, and generational legacy.
- The City of Medina needs a front row seat as a stakeholder to any new public regional aquatic facility in Bellevue and be seen as a catalyst for others to support.
- The City of Medina will enjoy the many benefits of a new public year-round regional aquatics center with world class amenities, something for everyone including out of town visitors, and local events within an easy commute.

Many of us were exposed to aquatics at young ages with easy access to facilities. We need your voices at the table. The City of Bellevue is committed alongside *SPLASHForward* to make it happen and we want the City of Medina to be at the foundation of our community's support to build a facility that will serve generations of swimmers and save lives!

Respectfully yours,



Susan Pappalardo
SPLASHForward, President & Co-Founder