

BUILDINGWORK

architecture design preservation



Matt Aalfs AIA, LEED AP Principal-In-Charge, BuildingWork

BuildingWork's Founder and Principal Architect, Matt Aalfs, AIA, designs innovative and carefully detailed buildings that contribute to the communities and clients they serve. Matt has three decades of professional experience, specializing in the design of civic and community facilities, creative office workplaces, multi-family residential, renovation and adaptive reuse projects, and historic preservation. Matt founded BuildingWork in 2016 to focus directly on work that supports the health of cities, the environment, and culture.

Matt earned a Master of Architecture from the University of Washington, studied architecture in Rome, Italy, and at California College of the Arts. He received his B.A. in Art from the University of California, Santa Cruz and is an alum of the Urban Land Institute's Center for Leadership. Since 2000, Matt has served as a visiting lecturer and design studio critic with the University of Washington Department of Architecture. He has also served on the AIA Seattle Board of Directors, the King County Library System Foundation Board, the ACT Theater Board of Directors, and as Architect Commissioner for the City of Seattle Design Commission. Matt is an enrolled tribal member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Representative Projects

- **Lake Stevens Library**, Lake Stevens WA | New 16,000 sf public library, with a highly sustainable design utilizing mass timber technology
- **La Conner Swinomish Library**, La Conner WA | New 5,500 sf public library, utilizing mass timber technology, in partnership with the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
- **Seattle Public Library Green Lake Branch**, Seattle WA | Renovation and seismic retrofit of the 10,000 sf Seattle Landmark public library
- **Langley Middle School Gym**, Langley WA | Seismic retrofit and structural stabilization of a 1950's gym on Whidbey Island
- **Rural Library Assessment**, Washington State | Capital needs assessment of 111 public libraries in Washington State's 21 rural, distressed counties
- **Pierce County Library System**, Pierce County WA | On-call architectural design services
- **Boulevard Park Library**, Burien WA | Renovation of 6,500 sf public library
- **Library Connection @ Southcenter**, Tukwila WA | Renovation and expansion of 4,500 sf public library
- **Bainbridge Public Library**, Bainbridge Island WA | Renovation and expansion of 12,500 sf public library
- **Skyway Library**, Renton WA | New 8,500 sf public library
- **Kenmore Library**, Kenmore WA | New 10,000 sf Public Library
- **Seattle Public Library Montlake Branch**, Seattle WA | New 8,500 sf library
- **Whitman Sherwood Athletic Center**, Walla Walla WA | 80,000 sf renovation and 10,000 sf addition of a state-of-the-art college athletic facility
- **Town Hall Seattle**, Seattle WA | Historic preservation, renovation, seismic retrofit, and adaptive reuse, of a Landmark 1916 church into a state-of-the-art performing arts center



Licenses and Certifications

- Registered Architect, State of Washington and State of Hawaii
- American Indian Council of Architects and Engineers
- LEED Accredited Professional, U.S. Green Building Council

Professional Affiliations

- Member, American Institute of Architects, Local and National Chapters
- Commissioner (Architect), Seattle Design Commission, 2022 - 2024
- Board of Directors, King County Library System Foundation, 2018 – 2021
- Board of Directors, ACT Theater, Seattle, 2015 – 2021
- Member, Urban Land Institute Center For Leadership, 2012 – present
- Board of Directors, AIA, Seattle Chapter, 2013 – 2014
- Co-Chair, AIA Seattle Diversity Committee, 2010 – 2011
- Guest Lecturer, University of Washington Department of Architecture, 2001 – present

Education

- University of Washington, Master of Architecture, 1999
- University of California Santa Cruz, Bachelor of Arts, 1989; post-grad Certificate in Art, 1991

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Representative Projects continued

- **Capitol Campus Buildings Restoration**, Olympia WA | Façade restoration and historic preservation for six State government office buildings on the historic Washington State Capitol Campus
- **Metropole Building**, Seattle WA | Historic preservation, renovation, addition, seismic retrofit, and adaptive reuse of an historic 1890's building into non-for-profit offices, child care center, and community space
- **Seattle Center Armory Exterior**, Seattle, WA | Exterior renovation of Landmark Armory building on the Seattle Center campus
- **760 Aloha**, Seattle, WA | Renovation, addition, seismic retrofit, and adaptive reuse of a 1949 warehouse into a contemporary creative office building
- **Washington Park**, Seattle WA | Renovation, addition, seismic retrofit, and adaptive reuse of a 1896 historic building into creative office and retail space
- **Good Shepherd Center**, Seattle, WA | Phased seismic retrofit and structural stabilization of a 1906 Landmark building housing a school, non-profit organizations, and a community center
- **Queen Anne Exchange**, Seattle WA | Historic renovation, addition, adaptive reuse, and seismic retrofit of a Landmark 1920 telephone exchange building into multi-family housing
- **Korn Walker Block**, Seattle WA | Historic preservation, renovation, seismic retrofit, addition, and adaptive reuse of 8 historic buildings building into a mixed-use retail and office complex
- **Union Stables**, Seattle WA | Historic preservation, renovation, seismic retrofit, addition, and adaptive reuse of a Landmark 1909 horse stable into a Class A office building
- **The Standard**, Seattle WA | Renovation, seismic retrofit, addition, and adaptive reuse, of a Landmark 1890 building into creative office building*
- **Ainsworth & Dunn**, Seattle WA | Renovation, addition, and adaptive reuse of a Landmark 1910 warehouse into a Class A office building
- **The State Hotel**, Seattle WA | Historic preservation, renovation, addition, seismic retrofit, and adaptive reuse, of a Landmark 1915 building into a boutique hotel
- **1200 Third Avenue**, Seattle WA | Renovation and adaptive reuse of a Landmark 1920 telephone exchange building into a data center and office

Press

- "Cross-Laminated Timber Library Features Nod to a Local Indigenous Community", by Alene Bouranova, *Architect*, July 31, 2023
- "BuildingWork references local culture in small Washington Library", by Jenna McKnight, *Dezeen*, October 13, 2023
- "Saving a building's soul, along with the heart of Town Hall Seattle" by Clay Eals, *Seattle Times*, August 15, 2019
- "Architect says city can keep old buildings even as construction booms" by Lynn Porter, *Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce*, February 24, 2017
- "A matter of preservation: One man bucks Seattle's new-build development spree" by Stacy Kendall, *Gray Magazine* No. 31, January 2017

Awards

RENOVATION PROJECTS

- Historic Seattle Best Rehabilitation Award, Washington Park, 2024
- NAIOP Commercial Real Estate Development Association, Renovation of the Year, Washington Park, 2024
- NAIOP Commercial Real Estate Development Association, Renovation of the Year, 760 Aloha, 2023
- Historic Seattle Exemplary Stewardship Award, Town Hall Seattle, 2020
- Washington State Historic Preservation Office Awards, Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation, Union Stables, 2016
- Historic Seattle Best Rehabilitation Award, Union Stables, 2016
- NAIOP Commercial Real Estate Development Association, Redevelopment/Renovation of the Year, Union Stables, 2015

LIBRARY PROJECTS

- AIA Washington Civic Design Awards, Citation Award, La Conner Swinomish Library, 2023
- AIA Northwest and Pacific Region Design Awards, Merit Award, Skyway Library, 2018
- AIA Washington Civic Design Awards, Citation Award, Skyway Library, 2018
- AIA Washington Civic Design Awards, Honor Award, Kenmore Library, 2012
- AIA Northwest and Pacific Region Awards, Citation, Kenmore Library, 2012
- AIA Seattle Honor Awards for Washington Architecture, Commendation, Kenmore Library, 2011
- AIA Seattle Honor Awards for Washington Architecture, Honor Award, Seattle Public Library Montlake Branch, 2008
- AIA Washington Civic Design Awards, Merit Award, Seattle Public Library Montlake Branch, 2008