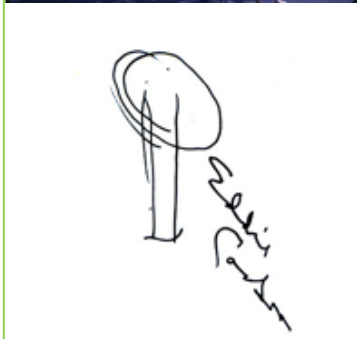


SEATTLE CENTER HISTORY / TIMELINE



- 1853 **David Denny** files a land claim for a tract that more than a century later will become the site of Century 21 Exposition.
- 1881 Saloonkeeper James Osborne bequeaths \$20,000 to build a civic hall for social and cultural gatherings. His gift is eventually augmented by public funding.
- 1886 David and Louse Boren Denny donate land for the civic hall.
- 1927 A public bond passes and construction begins on **Civic Auditorium**. **Civic Field** opens.
- 1928 Mayor Bertha K. Landis dedicates the **Civic Center Complex**.
- 1939 **Washington National Guard Armory** is dedicated.
- 1947 High School **Memorial Stadium** opens.
- 1948 **Un-American Activities** hearings on alleged communist acts take place in the Armory.
- 1951 **Memorial Wall** honoring Seattle high school students killed in WW II is dedicated.
- 1954 City Council member Al Rochester proposes the idea that Seattle host a world's fair to mark the 50th anniversary of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition of 1909.
- 1956 **World's Fair Commission** votes unanimously to coordinate the World' Fair program with the city effort to develop a civic center at and around the Civic Auditorium. Seattle voters approve a \$7.5 million bond issue for building and land acquisition in the vicinity of Civic Auditorium.
- 1957 World's Fair Commission receives authorization from Washington Governor Albert Rosellini to hold a fair in Seattle in 1960, and Washington State Legislature approves \$7.5 million in funding for the World's Fair. World's Fair theme changes from a celebration of the 1909 A-Y-P to Century 21 following the USSR's Sputnik launch.
- 1958 The **Civic Auditorium** (which would become the Opera House) is chosen over such other sites as Fort Lawton (today's Discovery Park) as the location for the world's fair. President Eisenhower presses a button on the Century 21 chronometer upon his arrival at Boeing Field to start the countdown to the fair's opening. On-site demolition begins.
- 1959 Seattle City Council passes a resolution in support of **Century 21 Exposition**, agrees to purchase the state's planned **Coliseum** (KeyArena) from the state and convert it to a sports and trade show facility after the fair closes. A plan presented to the public for the Century 21 monorail receives mixed opinions. Ground-breaking ceremonies at the fair site are celebrated with a re-creation of the A-Y-P transcontinental auto race of 1909, with a 1959 Ford and a new, experimental magnetic levitation "Levitar." The race is sponsored by Ford Motor Company.

Seattle voters approve a proposal to remodel the Civic Auditorium into the **Opera House**. The Washington World's Fair Commission and Century 21 Exposition, Inc. agree to postpone the fair to the spring of 1962 to attract more exhibitors from industry and foreign nations. The federal government appropriates \$10 million to construct the **U.S. Science Pavilion** at Century 21.
- 1960 Construction of the **Coliseum** begins. A 550-foot **observation tower** (Space Needle) is proposed to be constructed for the fair, inspired by World's Fair Commission chair Eddie Carlson's quick sketch of a tower on a cocktail napkin.
- 1961 The Civic Center campus is **renamed the Seattle Center**. A design by Tokyo architects Hideki Shimizu and Kazuyuki Matsushita is chosen for the **International Fountain**, and a contract between Century 21 and Alweg Rapid Transit Systems for construction of the monorail is signed.



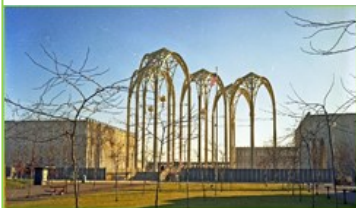
SEATTLE CENTER HISTORY / TIMELINE



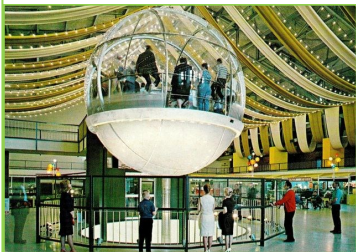
1962 Seattle Center **Opera House** opens for the World's Fair. In February, the Fair's public relations director Jay Rockey achieves a major coup, a picture of the Space Needle under construction is featured on the cover of **Life magazine**, complemented by a seven-page, praise-filled article titled: "How to Pull Off a Fair." April 9: The **Seattle Center** is dedicated, and two time capsules are sealed in a cornerstone of the Opera House, to be opened in 2012. Both are inadvertently unearthed in 2002 prior to construction of Marion Oliver McCaw Hall.

President John Kennedy open the Century 21 World's Fair on April 21. Life Magazine is published in May with the cover featuring the Monorail and headlined "Century 21 Opens -- Out of This World Fair in Seattle," that same month, **John Glenn** visits Century 21 and the first Naturalization Ceremony is held at Seattle Center. **Elvis Presley** arrives in September to shoot the film *It Happened at the World's Fair*.

In October, the fair's principal architect, **Paul Thiry**, submits plans to Seattle Mayor Gordon Clinton regarding the layout of the "post-fair" Seattle Center. The Fair closes on October 21, and on October 22, the United States Science Pavilion reopens as **Pacific Science Center**.



1963 The City of Seattle resumes possession of the Seattle Center after Century 21 Exposition's lease ends. The fairgrounds reopen on June 1 as the **Century 21 Center**, a name that lasts for two years before the site reverts back to simply "**Seattle Center**" after much brainstorming of possible names such as Needleland, Pleasure Island and Pacifica. The **Bubbleator** is moved from the Coliseum to Center House. **Seattle Repertory Theatre** premieres in November at the Playhouse.



1964 **Seattle Opera** presents its first season.

1965 City of Seattle purchases the **Monorail** system from Century 21 Center, Inc. for \$600,000, and Seattle Center becomes a department of the City of Seattle.



1967 The NBA **Seattle Supersonics** plays its first game in the Coliseum on October 13.

1971 Festival '71 (renamed **Bumbershoot** in 1973) debuts in August.

1972 **Northwest Folklife Festival** is held for the first time, over Memorial Day weekend.

1975 Seattle Opera stages its first production of **Wagner's Ring** cycle.



1976 **Cherry trees** are planted at Kobe Bell as part of Cherry Blossom Festival, a key component of Seattle Center Festal cultural festivals at Seattle Center.

1977 Seattle voters pass a **\$19 million** bond measure for capital improvements at Seattle Center. **Seattle Center Foundation** is incorporated to administer and encourage charitable gifts, grants, bequests and memorials.



1980 The **Bubbleator** is removed from its relocated position in the Center House, donated to Children's Hospital and placed in storage.

1982 Space Needle **Skyline Level** is added, housing kitchen and banquet facilities.

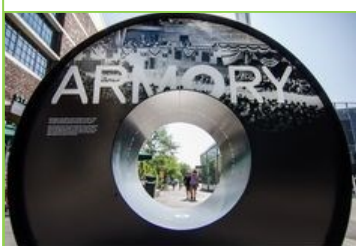
1983 **Pacific Northwest Ballet** debuts its original, acclaimed *Nutcracker*. Seattle Repertory Theatre moves to a new home, the **Bagley Wright Theatre**.



1986 **KCTS 9** moves its operations from the University of Washington campus to Seattle Center. **Bite of Seattle** outgrows its Green Lake location and moves to Seattle Center. **Seattle International Children's Festival** debuts and runs until 2011.

1990 Seattle City Council adopts the **Seattle Center 2000 Master Plan**.

SEATTLE CENTER HISTORY / TIMELINE



- 1991 Voters approve a **\$25,800,000 levy** for implementation of the **Seattle Center 2000 Master Plan**, matched by \$8.5 million in state funds.
- 1992 The annual tradition of **New Year's Eve fireworks** at the Space Needle begins.
- 1993 **Seattle Children's Theatre** moves from Woodland Park to Charlotte Martin Theatre.
- 1995 The renovated Coliseum reopens as KeyArena. The new **International Fountain** with accessible design and choreographed water feature debuts.
- 1999 Seattle voters approve Proposition 1 providing **\$36 million** for **Marion Oliver McCaw Hall** and **Fisher Pavilion**.
- 2000 The **Experience Music Project** (EMP Museum) opens. Space Needle's ground-level retail pavilion addition opens. **Seattle Shakespeare Company** and **Book-It Repertory Theatre** move to Center House Theatre.
- 2001 **Seattle Public Schools** opens the **Center School** in Center House.
- 2002 **Fisher Pavilion** opens, replacing the old Flag Pavilion and becoming the City's first LEED building.
- 2003 **Marion Oliver McCaw Hall** opens on the site of the former Opera House.
- 2004 WNBA **Seattle Storm** wins first of two WNBA titles (second is in 2011).
- 2007 **The VERA Project** moves into its permanent home in the former Snoqualmie Room.
- 2008 **Seattle Center Century 21 Master Plan** is adopted by Seattle City Council. Seattle SuperSonics depart Seattle and KeyArena for Oklahoma City.
- 2009 The **Fun Forest** closes.
- 2010 **Seattle Center SkatePark** opens. **Theater Commons** and **Donnelly Gardens** are completed.
- 2011 **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** opens new campus on former parking lot site. Visitor Center follows in 2012. Seattle International Film Festival Film Center opens in the former Alki Room.
- 2012 The initial phase of the Center House Food Court's redevelopment to be completed. **Chihuly Garden and Glass** opens in May. **The Next Fifty**, celebrating the 50th anniversary the Seattle World's Fair, presents six months of events and activities.
- Center House is renamed **Seattle Center Armory** as renovated atrium and food service debut.
- 2013 Seattle Center launches a new **Strategic Business Plan** focused on programs, place, performance and organizational capacity. **Seattle Opera** celebrates its 50th Anniversary and **Pacific Northwest Ballet** Celebrates its 40th. The theater program at Cornish College of the Arts moves into the **Cornish Playhouse**.
- 2014 Armory Conference Rooms are renovated and renamed **Armory Lofts**. **Seattle Repertory Theatre** celebrates its 50th year.
- 2015 **Artists at Play** opens in Next 50 Plaza. An innovative partnership with Microsoft provides super fast **Wi-Fi** on the grounds. **Bumbershoot** presents its 45th annual festival and **Seattle Children's Theatre** presents its 40th season of outstanding productions for children. **KEXP 90.3FM** moves into its new home in the Northwest Rooms.
- 2016/17 A new tenant enlivens International Fountain Pavilion. Seattle Opera breaks ground at the Mercer Arena site to create its Opera at the Center. Oak View Group, through a competitive RFP process, successfully submitted its bid to reimagine the future of KeyArena. What else does the immediate future hold for Seattle Center? There definitely is more to come, so stay tuned.