

Overview of Facilities and Programs

Seattle Center attracts millions of visitors each year to its 74-acre campus and hosts more than 5,000 arts, sporting, educational, and cultural events. Seattle Center is the home of the Seattle Opera, Pacific Northwest Ballet, five theater companies (Intiman, Seattle Repertory, Seattle Children's Theatre, Book-It, and Seattle Shakespeare Company), the Vera Project, KCTS Public Television, the Seattle Storm of the Women's National Basketball Association, and the Children's Museum. Seattle Center's Nesholm Family Lecture Hall in McCaw Hall is a year-round venue for the Seattle International Film Festival. The Center House, located in the center of the campus, includes The Center School (a small public high school), a food court, rehearsal rooms operated by Theatre Puget Sound, two theatres, and administrative offices.

The Seattle Center's grounds and buildings are sites for festivals, concerts, conferences, and exhibitions throughout the year. Seattle Center is also a major urban park with lawns, gardens, fountains, a skatepark, and a variety of plazas and open spaces throughout the campus. On the Seattle Center grounds there are 24 buildings and three parking garages. Also part of the campus, but privately owned and operated, are the Space Needle, the Pacific Science Center, the Experience Music Project (EMP), and the Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame. The Seattle School District operates Memorial Stadium for school athletic events and concerts. The nation's only publicly owned monorail runs between Seattle Center and downtown Seattle. The Monorail is owned by the City and operated by a private contractor.

Seattle Center's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is at the heart of the Center's vision to be the "premier urban park," a place "to delight and inspire the human spirit in each person and bring us together as a rich and varied community." From replacing an underground steam line to creating a new performing arts venue for the region, the Seattle Center CIP repairs, renews and redevelops the facilities and grounds of the Center's campus in the heart of our city, in order to provide a safe and welcoming place for millions of annual visitors. Seattle Center's CIP is funded from a variety of revenue sources including the City's Cumulative Reserve Subfund, voter-approved property tax levies, City-issued Limited Tax General Obligation Bonds (LTGO), State, County and federal funds, proceeds from property sales, and private funds. Since the adoption of the Seattle Center 2000 Master Plan in 1990, two voter-approved levies have raised \$62 million for Seattle Center's redevelopment. This amount has, in turn, leveraged \$500 million in non-City funds, including \$440 million from private sources. In August of 2008 the City Council adopted a new master plan for Seattle Center, the Seattle Center Century 21 Master Plan, which will guide development of the Seattle Center campus over the next 20 years.

Highlights

- ◆ In 2010, Seattle Center continues implementation of its Capital Reserve Plan funded by proceeds from the sale of the 5th Avenue Parking Lot to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Capital Reserve Plan work in 2010 includes implementation of a new campus wayfinding system that will make it easier for visitors to navigate the site, replacement of hand-operated exterior readerboards, and planning for initial implementation of the Seattle Center Century 21 Master Plan.
- ◆ In 2010, Seattle Center continues to carry out deferred major maintenance work on the Seattle Center Monorail funded by \$5.2 million in LTGO bond proceeds, Federal Transit Administration grant funds (including \$1 million in Federal Stimulus funds), and local matching funds from monorail system revenues, which are shared between the City and Seattle Monorail Services, the private operator of the Seattle Center Monorail on behalf of the City. Work planned for completion in 2010 includes renovation of the suspension system, the low-voltage electrical system, the pneumatic system on the red train, and replacement of the power conductor rails on both guideways.
- ◆ In 2010, Seattle Center completes construction of the Theater Commons project to renovate the open space area between the Intiman and the Seattle Repertory theaters as envisioned in the Seattle Center Century 21 Master Plan. Theatre Commons funding includes \$3 million of public funds and \$2 million in private funds.

- ◆ In 2010, Seattle Center carries out site restoration work at the former Fun Forest site after the current concessionaire vacated the area in the fall of 2009.
- ◆ In addition, in 2010, Seattle Center continues to implement changes and improvements in KeyArena in the post-Sonics era, including refurbishment of event operations equipment and improvements to club, suite, and concession areas, with the goal of enhancing revenue generating opportunities.

Project Selection Process

Project Identification: The redevelopment and renewal of Seattle Center is guided by the principles of the Seattle Center Century 21 Master Plan. The Master Plan was adopted in 2008 and replaces the Seattle Center 2000 Master Plan, adopted in 1990. Like its predecessor, the Century 21 Master Plan will be reviewed on a regular basis with surrounding neighborhoods, the general public, Seattle Center resident organizations, Seattle’s Design Commission and Design Review boards, and other key stakeholders. The Master Plan is the foundation for the annual development and evaluation of Seattle Center’s capital investment proposals and serves as the adopted policy basis for Seattle Center’s participation in land use, urban design, and public and private transportation planning in the vicinity of Seattle Center.

A broad cross-section of Center staff also work to update the department’s Asset Preservation Plan, which includes current and future capital demands of Seattle Center facilities and grounds. Such staff include: project management staff who manage CIP projects; event servicing staff who work directly with clients in booking and servicing events in facilities throughout the campus; event production staff who provide stage, sound, and other event support; and technical facilities maintenance staff who maintain Seattle Center facilities and grounds. Another important group in the CIP budget development process is the Center’s resident organizations that use the Center’s facilities on a regular and, in some cases, exclusive basis. Seattle Center tenants also help identify priority capital projects in the buildings and grounds they use.

Project Selection: Seattle Center management decides which projects are of the highest priority in the context of the Master Plan, major maintenance requirements, and client demands. Projects are reviewed according to whether the adopted project:

- ◆ Addresses a facility/system that is a life/safety issue of urgent or emerging concern, is aimed at increasing the security of public facilities, or addresses a facility/system that has failed, or is failing and unreliable;
- ◆ Addresses code or regulatory requirements for ADA, seismic/other safety, energy efficiency, etc.;
- ◆ Helps meet sustainable (“green”) building goals and objectives, and/or enhances resource conservation and recycling;
- ◆ Increases the efficiency of building operations, extends the life of existing building systems, increases revenue generating potential, and/or demonstrably enhances the maintainability of the building/facility;
- ◆ Leverages other resources to contribute to improvements; and/or,
- ◆ Represents an improvement requested by City officials or departments, community organizations, and/or tenants.

Project Budget and Scheduling: Rough estimates of project scope and cost are prepared for a project list based on the priorities described above. Projects are carefully scheduled around the 5,000 annual events on the campus in order to minimize disruption to the public and to protect event revenues.

Anticipated Operating Expenses Associated with Capital Facilities Projects

In most projects, the Center has identified anticipated operations and maintenance costs. In some projects, the Center has shown operations and maintenance costs as zero, or has not calculated a number (N/C). In these cases, the cost impacts of the project are either insignificant or are offset by cost savings realized by other projects.

