



City of Seattle
Office of the Mayor

News

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Mayor McGinn Announces Signing of New Partnership Between KEXP 90.3. FM and Seattle Center

SEATTLE – Mayor McGinn today announced the signing of a ground-breaking lease agreement between KEXP 90.3 FM Seattle and Seattle Center that provides a home on the Seattle Center campus for the public radio station for many years to come. The agreement, which makes available the Northwest Rooms and adjacent courtyard to KEXP in exchange for rent and in-kind services, brings key elements to Seattle's civic living room: radio broadcasts and performances from the KEXP studios of music that matters to the greater community and beyond.

"It was Seattle's love for great music that brought us here today," said Mayor McGinn. Since the idea of hosting KEXP at Seattle Center was first introduced, I have heard from thousands of supportive fans by letter, phone, and email. As a result of this lease, beginning in 2013 KEXP listeners all around the world will hear 'Live from KEXP at Seattle Center' and share a little bit of what makes our city so exceptional."

The arrangement will serve to enliven the northwest corner of the campus, renovating the Northwest Rooms into KEXP's broadcast and production studios, offices and performance spaces. The organization will build a new stage in the Northwest courtyard to accommodate outdoor performances. As stated in the agreement, KEXP also will partner with Seattle Center, Seattle Public Schools, non-profit and public entities on educational, program and promotional activities.

"I am so pleased to be at the table today, signing an agreement that will bring new energy, exciting collaborations, and engaging experiences to Seattle Center," stated Seattle Center Director Robert Nellams. "KEXP's move to the Center will provide opportunities for the whole community to engage in ways that inspire the human spirit. "

The public radio station, which also offers music lovers many services online, has a history of partnering with Seattle Center. Each August, for instance, it curates the popular KEXP and Seattle

Center Presents *Concerts at the Mural* series. KEXP collaborates with other campus residents as well, notably its future neighbors, Vera Project and SIFF (Seattle International Film Festival) Film Center.

"We say that KEXP is 'the station where the music matters,' and this partnership shows that Seattle is 'the city where the music matters,' too," said KEXP Executive Director Tom Mara. "The new studios will allow us to better serve music lovers with unprecedented access to performances, events, and educational opportunities for people of all ages. In addition, we will have an even better ability to champion artists, especially those from our beloved corner of the country who might not otherwise be heard by a worldwide audience."

In the spring of 2010, KEXP responded to a request for proposals to redevelop the former south Fun Forest area. While a citizens review panel selected another proposer to operate that space, the panel supported the idea of identifying an alternative location on the grounds for KEXP. In December 2010, Mayor McGinn, Seattle Center Director Robert Nellams and Councilmember Sally Bagshaw, chair of the Parks and Seattle Center Committee, joined in announcing their vision for a place for KEXP at Seattle Center. Mayor McGinn presented the lease legislation to the Seattle City Council earlier this fall, and the full Council approved the ordinance on Sept. 26.

"KEXP is amazing. It's a home-grown institution that's also the public face of Seattle's internationally recognized local music scene. And we get all of that right here! I am so pleased that KEXP will join us at Seattle Center. In studio performances, outdoor sets – I can hardly wait!" said Seattle City Councilmember Sally Bagshaw.

Under the terms of the lease, KEXP will gain occupancy of the spaces as early as Nov. 1, 2013, allowing the organization time for fundraising to support the move and renovations. The lease term is 10 years, with the option of four five-year extensions.

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