



City of Seattle
Mayor GREGORY J. NICKELS

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Media Information

Seattle Center Breaks Ground on State-of-the-Art Skate Park

Seattle Center has started construction on a 10,000 square foot, state-of-the-art Skate Park. The project includes improvements to one of the main intersections leading into the campus at 2nd Avenue and Thomas Street. It is expected to be completed by early summer.

Seattle Center worked closely with the skate board community on design of the Seattle Center Skate Park. It will feature practical and artistic elements, with skateable streetscape features and outstanding usability. A non-skateable divider will be built between the park and the campus, and it will be open daily (for daytime use only).

The Seattle City Council mandated construction of the Seattle Center Skate Park after property housing the former Skate Park was sold to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for development of its world headquarters. The project was funded by proceeds of the sale and other City capital funds.

The placement and design of the Seattle Center Skate Park were vetted through an extensive public process including public and Skate Park community meetings, determination and notice of non-significance, and published public notice, comment period and appeal period. The Park also was part of the environmental review associated with the Seattle Center Century 21 Master Plan.

Project members include:

Weinstein A|U--Architect
VDZ/New Line Skateparks---Skatepark Design
Perri Lynch---Artist
KPF Consulting Engineers--Structural Engineers
WSP Flack + Kurtz--Mechanical and Electrical Engineers
McClure and Sons, Inc.--General Contractors
Grindline Skateparks--Skatepark Construction

The Skate Park site contained a pavilion built for the 1962 Seattle World's Fair. It runs along Thomas Street southwest of KeyArena. Mechanical and catering facilities for KeyArena are housed below site, and so the skating area will be built up above the ground (as opposed to a bowl type design).

For more information on the Seattle Center Skate Park and other activities at Seattle Center, visit www.seattlecenter.com.

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About Seattle Center

Seattle Center draws you in. Its vibrant pulse brings together people of all ages and walks of life to create thousands of extraordinary experiences that enrich millions of lives each year. Entertainment options abound - starting with 63 free and low cost public programs and over 5,000 campus shows and events annually. The 74 - acre campus, with its 17 acres of open space, is home to more than 30 cultural, educational, sports and entertainment organizations. This treasured urban park exists to delight and inspire the human spirit in each person and bring together our rich and varied community. The 12 million visitors to Seattle Center each year generate \$1.15 billion in business activity and \$387 million in labor income for King County. For more information, visit <http://www.seattlecenter.com>.

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