



2019

ANNUAL REPORT

WASHINGTON STATE
CONVENTION CENTER
PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT



January 1 – December 31, 2019

OUR MISSION

Through the professional actions of our staff, we will provide our guests with a distinctive level of service excellence while maintaining a fiscally responsible, self-sustaining operation that contributes economic and other civic benefits for the people of the city, county and Washington State.

ADDENDUM 3

INTRODUCTION

A MESSAGE FROM WASHINGTON STATE GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE 5

A MESSAGE FROM KING COUNTY EXECUTIVE DOW CONSTANTINE 6

A MESSAGE FROM SEATTLE MAYOR JENNY A. DURKAN..... 7

THE STATE OF THE CONVENTION CENTER 8

DELIVERING ON THE ECONOMIC MISSION

OPERATIONS AT A GLANCE..... 10

EXCELLENCE IN OPERATIONS..... 11

EVENTS AS ECONOMIC GENERATORS 12

ECONOMIC BENEFITS FROM WSCC EVENTS 13

SUMMIT

EXCITEMENT BUILDS FOR SUMMIT 14

DELIVERING ON THE CIVIC MISSION

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT 18

ART 21

CONVENTION CENTER MANAGEMENT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS..... 22

EXECUTIVE STAFF 23



ADDENDUM

August 2020

This 2019 Annual Report presents actual financial and operating data for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019.

In February 2020, a suburb of Seattle was the first U.S. epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak. Within weeks, the swiftly evolving and tragic reality of what was to become a deadly global pandemic set in.

The main line of defense against the spread of the coronavirus was to isolate oneself, and people worldwide heeded the call. As a result, gatherings of all kinds – from conventions and sporting events, to church services and high school graduations -- were postponed or canceled. Airlines, hotels, restaurants, tourism, convention centers and the hospitality industry all suffered devastating losses.

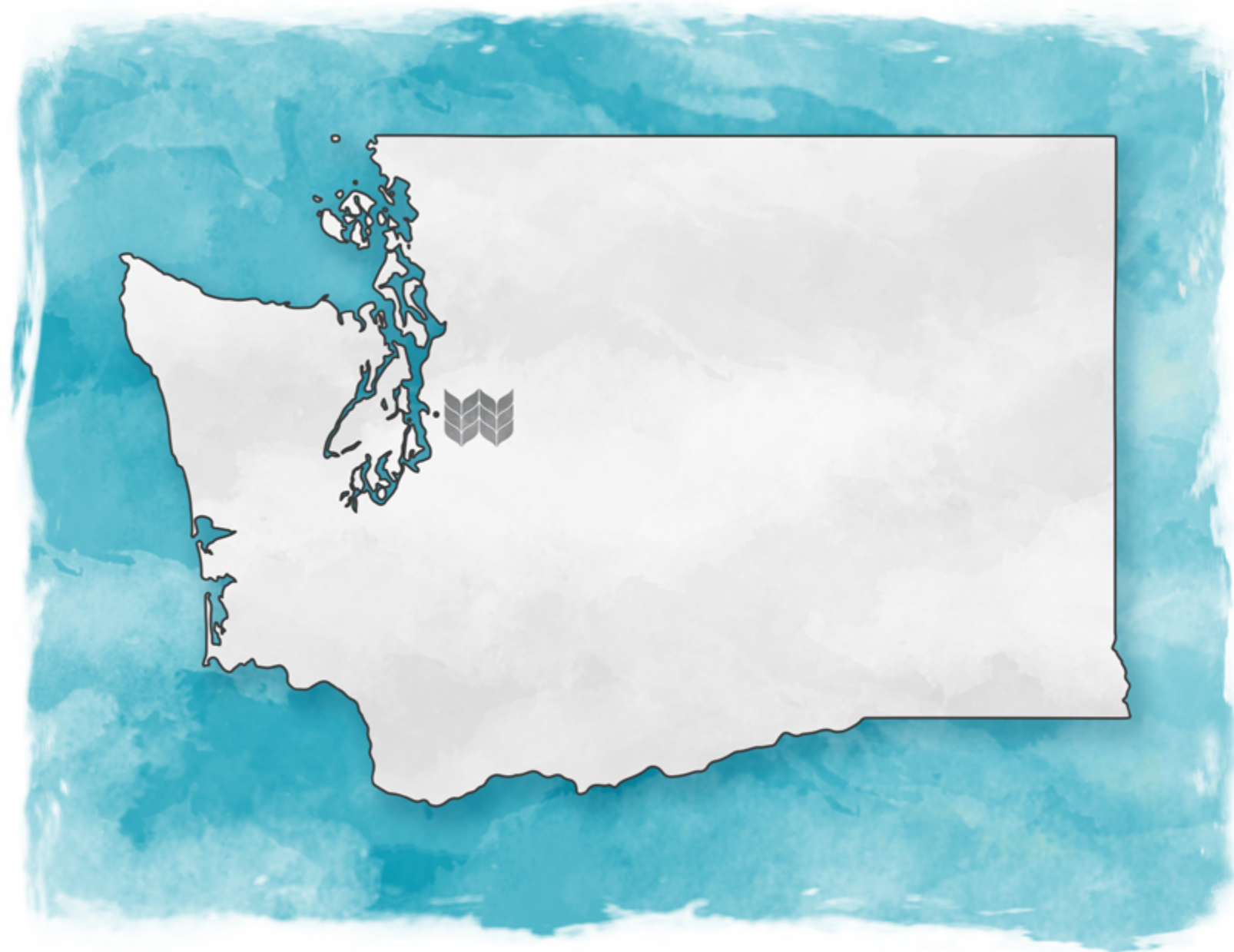
As of this writing, the loss of life has been significant. It remains to be seen how and when the pandemic will be stopped, and how detrimental the financial impact will be to the Convention Center. All indications for fiscal year 2020 point to severely reduced event activity and a drastic decline in all revenues.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank K. Finneran".

Frank K. Finneran
Chair, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Blosser".

Jeffrey A. Blosser
President and Chief Executive Officer



A MESSAGE FROM WASHINGTON STATE GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE



As governor, my vision for Washington involves seeking out and nurturing new ideas, new cultures, new communities, and new technologies. We know these new approaches make Washington stronger. Through these innovations, Washingtonians can now rely on paid family and medical leave, enjoy a new variety of apple, and celebrate passing the best 100 percent clean energy and energy efficiency measures in the United States.

The state is also focused on cultivating Washington's young people to bring their ideas and cultures to the workforce. The Career Connect Washington initiative, a public-private partnership, was launched with the five-year goal of connecting 100,000 young people with employer internships, registered apprenticeships, and other learning opportunities to prepare them for the thousands of high-demand job opportunities in the state.

The Washington State Convention Center embodies this spirit of innovation in its new addition, the Summit building, scheduled to open in 2022. Construction apprentices make up 12 percent of the workforce on site, with a projected goal of 15 percent as work ramps up alongside new measures to protect against COVID-19. The building is slated for at least LEED Gold certification; the building's interior

will incorporate sustainably sourced, recyclable, and recycled content; and it has achieved Salmon-Safe certification. Furthermore, artwork will abound in and around the new building, including pieces representing indigenous peoples from the Pacific Northwest.

On behalf of the people of the state of Washington, I wish to congratulate the Washington State Convention Center Public Facilities District Board for the job that you are doing. Best wishes for continued success with your construction on the new facility!

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jay Inslee". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jay Inslee
Washington State Governor

A MESSAGE FROM KING COUNTY EXECUTIVE DOW CONSTANTINE



King County is one of America's fastest-growing regions, and we are forging partnerships to enhance the vitality and prosperity of our region's economy. We are proud to be at the forefront of national movements to address climate change, support emerging technologies, build efficient and effective transit, and champion equity and social justice.

Like the rest of the world, we are taking on bigger challenges in 2020, but tourism and the convention business are a major part of our regional economy, and King County's role in helping people get around our region will play a major role in our economic recovery. This becomes even more important as we approach the opening of the convention center addition, Summit, in 2022.

Whether convention-goers are coming from across Lake Washington or across the country, transit is an important element. King County Metro will build on its ridership success while Sound Transit pursues light rail extensions throughout the county.

We continue to address the affordable housing crisis with the support of the Convention Center's community investment. Seattle's Office of Housing estimates this investment, pooled with other resources, will result in nearly 3,000 affordable housing units, helping to create a region that is more affordable for all.

On behalf of the residents of King County, I congratulate the board of directors and staff of the Washington State Convention Center on the completion of yet another successful year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dow Constantine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

A MESSAGE FROM SEATTLE MAYOR JENNY A. DURKAN



In the last two years, my administration has taken bold actions to make Seattle's shared values real in people's lives. We expanded access to child care and high-quality preschool. Working with the City Council, we secured new labor rights for our domestic workers, and we ensured that every single Seattle public high school senior can access free college at any of the Seattle Colleges.

Seattle is a strong and resilient place. Working together, the private and public sectors, including the Washington State Convention Center, have the talent and determination to meet the challenges of today and the future.

In a region with as much potential and prosperity as ours, no one should experience homelessness and everyone should have access to safe and affordable housing. Since taking office, the City of Seattle and our partners have invested approximately \$1.5 billion in affordable housing. The Convention Center's long-standing commitment to this vital issue includes over \$40 million in funding as part the Addition project. We lead the residents of Seattle in applauding this contribution to our civic health and wellbeing.

In recent years, Seattle has grown so quickly it sometimes feels like change has happened to us instead of with us. And as our downtown increasingly becomes a residential neighborhood in addition to being the region's biggest economic engine, traffic congestion and transportation is a challenge we all continue to face head-on.

Again, our thanks go to the Convention Center for over \$33 million in support for improvements in and around the public rights-of-way as part of the Addition project. These upgrades contribute to our vision of a Seattle that is easier, more convenient, and more pleasant to get around in for all our communities.

In an era of unprecedented change and uncertainty, we in Seattle can show people how to come together to make lasting and impactful change. The Washington State Convention Center has been bringing people together for more than three decades, and we wish the Center continuing success well into the future. From the City of Seattle, a hearty thank you to the Center's board of directors and staff for all you do!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Jenny A. Durkan in black ink.

Jenny A. Durkan
Mayor of Seattle

THE STATE OF THE CONVENTION CENTER



Frank K. Finneran
Chair, Board of Directors



Jeffrey A. Blosser
President and Chief Executive Officer

We are delighted to report that 2019 was a steady year of positive results, with both financial and operating goals achieved. The board and staff are to be commended for their excellent leadership and performance for a facility that is solely responsible for its operations, capital improvements and profitability. As evidence of that performance, 2019 was our 31st consecutive year of successful audits by the state auditor.

Our board continues to provide first-rate strategies to guide us in the near-term and the future so we can advance our mission and meet and exceed the public's high expectations. Our mission has earned the active support of Governor Jay Inslee, King County Executive Dow Constantine, and Mayor Jenny Durkan, who repeatedly appoint exemplary individuals to our nine-member Board of Directors. With the passing of James R. Ellis in October, we honor his legacy as WSCC Board Chair from 1986 to 2002. Jim's legendary leadership style and integrity set the tone for the long-term civic and economic promises delivered by the Center each year.

While 2019 closed as an especially healthy tourism and convention year for Seattle, we foreshadow a daunting 2020, with unprecedented challenges to successfully

emerge after substantial health and economic crises and a social justice movement. Amidst the storm of unprecedented times, we commit to forge ahead to be a stronger, more innovative, and inclusive organization and community partner.

The board is proud of the operational performance achieved by WSCC staff across all departments under the leadership of the executive team. Jeff Blosser received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Association of Assembly Managers (IAVM) for his extensive contributions to the industry. We have nothing but praise for the staff and our service partners who attended to the needs of our guests despite commuting through the Seattle squeeze, viaduct removal, waterfront construction, and the reroute of bus service out of the Light Rail tunnel, all in addition to weathering Seattle's historic winter snowstorms.

Preparation and planning are essential to fine-tune each event, and this year's busy schedule was no exception. Serving the New York Life event exemplified the smooth changeovers to complicated sets while guiding 8,000 guests between sessions over multiple days. The enhanced security protocols developed by

THE STATE OF THE CONVENTION CENTER, *CONTINUED*

Emerald City Comic Con and PAX West were very well planned and executed, and we appreciate the support of city agencies and community partners to successfully implement the plan by working together.

Excitement is growing for future staffing opportunities as we look ahead to opening the Summit building in 2022. The Board approved plans presented in 2019 to prepare for ramping-up staffing two facilities. Staff will be recruited, in many cases from within the organization, to grow into jobs, and to learn and train on systems and procedures in the Arch building. We will be ready to quickly move in and prepare for the Summit opening while simultaneously serving events in Arch.

The board of directors wisely established a funding mechanism of \$4 million per year to pay for annual maintenance projects and to fund Arch's future capital needs. Clients are often buying our services years in advance, so we need to ensure that the existing facility looks beautiful and consistently delivers state of the art operational excellence year after year.

Staff completed several multi-year projects that are already demonstrating their value. The

Freeway Park Garage elevator was completely rebuilt, and replacement of 382 LED light bulbs boosting brightness for guests with resulting energy savings of 445,060 kWh annually. A new parking garage access system with upgraded electrical wiring and switches was installed in both garages.

Although conventions and meetings are our primary focus, we pride ourselves in developing ways to appeal to our visitors and neighbors. To that end, we have developed an impressive public art gallery throughout the facility that is free and open to visitors every day. Among the highlights of our very popular rotating art program this year included the 30th anniversary of the Gage Academy of Art, Northwest Collage Society, "Passing the Torch" from the Seattle Metals Guild, the Port Townsend School of the Arts, and the Contemporary Quilt Art Association.

We also continued our support and outreach with a variety of community nonprofits. Eight local agencies each received 250 pairs of socks designed to meet the needs of those who don't have the luxury of putting on a clean pair of socks every day. Additionally, with client approval, we coordinated the distribution of spare event materials such as backpacks and

pens to worthy organizations. Lastly, Aramark donated nearly 4,500 pounds of food to FareStart for their community meals program.

This annual report is largely devoted to sharing the highlights of the Convention Center's impact on Seattle, King County and the State of Washington. We want you to realize what we have learned after years of running the shop – namely, that a popular convention center is a very good deal for the citizens. The promise of a second facility, with the potential to significantly increase our economic and civic contribution, portends very well for Washington's future.

Sincerely,



Frank K. Finneran
Chair, Board of Directors



Jeffrey A. Blosser
President and Chief Executive Officer

OPERATIONS AT A GLANCE

	2019	2018	2017
Financial Performance*			
Revenues	\$37,098,324	\$40,939,372	\$34,961,697
Expenses	\$37,024,204	\$36,973,254	\$34,314,248
Operating Income	\$74,120	\$3,420,118	\$647,449
Number of Events			
National / International	45	58	51
Local / Regional	167	187	234
Event Attendance			
National / International	170,740	209,943	165,635
Local / Regional	198,464	200,837	217,090
Economic Benefits			
Total Room Nights	317,743	350,172	329,039
Attendee Spending**	\$359,912,847	\$438,423,792	\$385,754,756
Sales Taxes Generated**	\$27,952,382	\$34,027,253	\$29,931,387

Unlike many convention centers across the country, the WSCC receives **no subsidy** from general taxpayers.

The combination of the WSCC as a premier meetings venue and the draw of Seattle as a travel destination helped spur the ongoing construction of some

2,001 hotel guest rooms in Seattle during 2019.

* Effective for 2016, lodging tax revenues allocated to marketing and the associated marketing expenses are not included in the operations financials. The WSCC board made this change so that the actual financial operations of the facility could be more easily budgeted and reviewed. Depreciation from assets purchased in prior years is also not included.

** These estimates relate to out-of-state attendance only.

Note: In general, **National/International** events attract visitors from across the country and around the world to conventions, conferences, and trade shows. **Local/Regional** events attract visitors from the greater Seattle area and from the Pacific Northwest region to consumer shows, conferences, banquets, and meetings.

The WSCC staff and service partners worked together to make 2019 an excellent year for WSCC operations. Thanks in part to our staff's superior level of service, the Convention Center welcomed back 81 percent of 2019's total events as repeat customers. The sales team has already secured future dates for 32 percent of those groups.

COMIC CON & PAX WEST



Emerald City Comic Con attendees gather before the exhibit hall doors open.

The Center again rose to the occasion in 2019 as event production company ReedPOP brought both Emerald City Comic Con (ECCC) and PAX West to Seattle. ECCC, held in March, welcomed 20,000 comic and pop culture super fans, while PAX West hosted 25,000 video and tabletop gaming enthusiasts in September.

Planning for these four-day events started a year in advance, as they required extensive collaboration and communication with the community and City of Seattle. Bordering streets and a portion of Jim Ellis Freeway Park were closed to manage crowds and allow queuing, and a new security plan was



PAX West move-out went smoothly as a result of careful coordination among show management, the loading dock and the new marshaling yard.

implemented. Although usually open to the public and a thoroughfare for pedestrian commuters, the building was closed to all but event attendees until mid-morning each day. Access was restricted to two entrances and all who entered were required to pass through magnetometers. Aramark kept the attendees well fed with several concession stands, including a barbeque in the plaza and a beer garden.

These events are celebratory, inclusive, and interactive by nature, which created a creative and lively environment throughout the venue and downtown core.

EVENTS AS ECONOMIC GENERATORS

Events at the Center boost the economy as attendees stay in hotels, shop and dine, ride light rail to SeaTac airport, or visit attractions around the state, providing opportunities for businesses and communities alike. In 2019, 45 of these events drew attendees from across the nation and around the world, and 167 from the Pacific Northwest region itself. Working with Visit Seattle, WSCC carefully manages this business mix to maximize economic benefits and provide an outstanding event experience for clients, whether from near or far.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS NAIS PEOPLE OF COLOR CONFERENCE

WSCC was honored to welcome back the NAIS People of Color Conference, an event dedicated to providing a safe space for leadership, professional development, and networking for people of color and allies of all backgrounds in independent schools. NAIS was joined by the Student Diversity Leadership Conference, a multiracial, multicultural gathering of grades 9-12 student leaders from across the U.S. and abroad. Combined, the 7,545 attendees accounted for 12,379 room nights across 18 downtown hotels and brought in an estimated \$9.4 million in economic impact.



Arlene Kidwell (in yellow scarf), Director, Conferences Logistics, National Association of Independent Schools is welcomed by WSCC staff: (L-R) Brock Bradley, National Sales Manager, Jeff Blosser, President/CEO, and Michael McQuade, Director of Sales.

SMARTSHEET ENGAGE USER CONFERENCE

This fast-growing local company moved their annual customer conference to WSCC after outgrowing previous venues. Smartsheet, which makes software that automates business processes and workflows without requiring technical programming skills, brought together 4,000 attendees who filled over 3,000 room nights in four downtown hotels with an economic impact of nearly \$11 million.










(L-R) Michael McQuade, WSCC Director of Sales, Chris Blessington, VP Corporate Marketing and Communications, Smartsheet, and Jeff Blosser, WSCC President/CEO

DELIVERING ON THE ECONOMIC MISSION

ECONOMIC BENEFITS FROM WSCC EVENTS

One of the primary purposes of the WSCC is to attract high-value national/international conventions and conferences, whose attendees, event producers and exhibitors spend money in Washington on lodging, restaurants, transportation, souvenirs, and goods and services related to their events.

SPENDING BY OUT-OF-STATE ATTENDEES, 2019 WSCC EVENTS – estimated, in millions	
 Lodging	\$154.8
 Food & Beverage	\$85.0
 Entertainment (including tours, recreation, sporting events)	\$7.2
 General Retail	\$23.8
 Transportation	\$25.9
 Meeting Services (including equipment, advertising, technology)	\$63.3
 Total Spending	\$359.9*

Since our opening in 1988, people from outside Washington have spent over **\$6.9 billion** locally as part of WSCC events. In 2019, this spending added an average of **\$986,062 per day** to Washington's economy, and directly generated some **3,616 jobs**.**

2019 SALES TAX RECEIPTS – estimated, in millions

Sales taxes generated from the spending by WSCC event-goers from outside Washington added up to an estimated **\$27.9 million**. This number does not include lodging tax receipts collected on hotel/motel room charges to defray the cost of building the Convention Center and marketing Seattle and King County as a convention destination.

Washington State	King County	City of Seattle	Metro Transit	Sound Transit	Total \$
\$19.6	\$.7	\$2.7	\$2.2	\$2.7	\$27.9*

* Individual statistics may not add up to total due to rounding.
 ** This estimate represents full-time equivalent employment.

EXCITEMENT BUILDS FOR SUMMIT

At the beginning of 2019, it was a deep, expansive void surrounded by bustling city streets, tall buildings, and Interstate 5. By the end of the year, Summit had started to take shape, with the east end's structural steel well underway. Located just one block northeast of Arch, the existing building, this addition will double the capacity of the Center's offerings and is scheduled to open Spring 2022.



With groundbreaking in August 2018, the construction work was focused on steel erection through 2019. Instead of a traditional, bottom-to-top approach, Summit is being constructed from east-to-west, which will result in a shorter construction duration. Evidence of this can be seen in the photo. The method, called “billboarding,” involves structural steel rising in one of five geographic zones at a time. Each zone will top out at full height as the next zone’s steel erection begins. This approach simplifies logistics and improves workflow.

Construction-related job creation continues to benefit the region, employing all-in-all as many as 6,000 union workers, including an estimated 900 apprentices. A key component of the Project Labor Agreement is the Priority Hire Program, which prioritizes the hiring of residents who live in economically distressed areas in both the City of Seattle and King County. WSCC has a goal of 19 percent Priority Hire participation and an aspirational goal of 26 percent. By the end of 2019, 513 workers had been dispatched from Priority Hire zip codes. Of those, 82 were apprentices and 431 were journey level, foremen or owner/operator. The Priority Hire percentage was at 23.88 percent in December, still exceeding the 19 percent goal.

Summit construction photo illustrates the “billboarding” method.

NEIGHBORHOOD ENRICHMENT

Summit's Market Lobby

The Addition project borders several distinct and rapidly evolving neighborhoods, including Capitol Hill, the Pike/Pine Corridor, the Denny Triangle, South Lake Union, First Hill and Seattle's commercial core.

The 9th Avenue retail spaces on the west edge of the project represent the most public and primary pedestrian link to the Arch building and nearby hotels. Convention flow harmonizes with landscaped spaces within this zone, encouraging interaction among the public, convention center activity and integrated retail. This street front will showcase Seattle's native plantings and pedestrian-oriented street design. Storm water treatment in planting areas will feature innovative sustainable strategies.

The retail areas adjacent to the Market Lobby will provide the opportunity to promote a unique variety of local shops and restaurants, encouraging engagement between event attendees and the city. Whether it is a visitor in search of authentic items from Seattle, an office worker out for a beverage, or a neighborhood resident in need of a market item, this hub serves the need. The intermingling of all these people will reflect the diversity that is Seattle, reinforcing the value of integrated public spaces.

EXCITEMENT BUILDS FOR SUMMIT, *CONTINUED*

EXPANSIVE AND INNOVATIVE SPACES

When the Summit building opens in 2022, its guests will appreciate the wide-open spaces. Summit occupies a pinnacle design position in the next evolution of convention centers rooted in the urban context and supported by a vertically organized flow. The stacked configuration maximizes the efficiency of the urban site, effectively bringing interior and exterior spaces together.

Skylights bringing daylight deep into the event spaces, the layering of soft and hard landscape elements, and expansive views of the city in all directions enhance the urban nature of the facility. Innovative strategies have been applied in the arrangement of lobbies and exterior spaces to capitalize on opportunities for small gatherings and quiet spaces among transition corridors, escalators and stairways for passage to the ballroom, exhibits and meeting rooms. Larger volume spaces featuring soaring ceilings, such as the ballroom and the grand stair with access on each level, allow for improved ventilation. Air handling units are equipped with economizer functionality, meaning they can run at 100 percent outside air, not recycled air, under moderate temperature conditions.



Summit Hillclimb

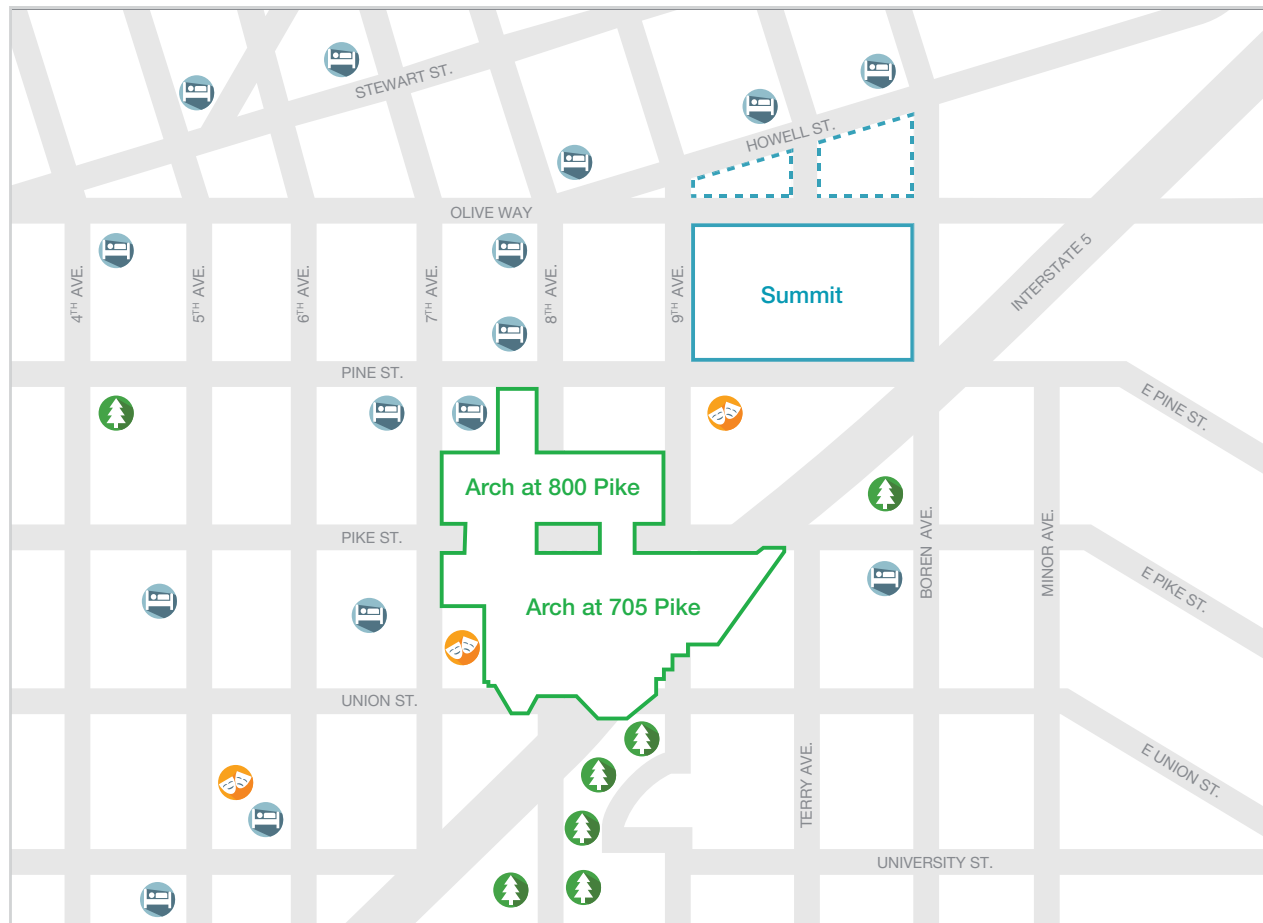
THE ICONIC HILLCLIMB

The Pine Street facade features a suspended stair and escalator system that provides event attendee access from street level to the ballroom level on top. The Hillclimb is an iconic design element authentic to the Pacific Northwest made of wood with seating elements for guests. It enlivens the convention experience while providing respite from activities.

The two blocks along Pine Street play an important role in connecting the vibrant First Hill and Capitol Hill neighborhoods to Seattle's downtown core. At Boren Avenue, the corner retail space welcomes pedestrians heading west down Pine Street, followed by three walk-up retail spaces and a mid-block sun garden before arriving at the Pine Street and 9th Avenue entry to the Market Lobby.

EXCITEMENT BUILDS FOR SUMMIT, *CONTINUED***BUSINESS FOR THE FUTURE**

Summit, a transformative project which is the result of years of study and demand from convention groups who aspire to meet in Seattle, provides a host of economic and civic benefits to the region during construction and beyond. The Center's sales team together with Visit Seattle has already booked Summit well into the future, including some events whose plans involve simultaneous use of both Summit and Arch.



--- indicates development below street level

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

A DEEP COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



Victoria Richardson and Mickael Heller | Construction Site Services

WSCC has had a long commitment to diversity in its business practices. This is a fully voluntary commitment, not mandated by any jurisdiction. For the Addition project, the WSCC Board of Directors has set a goal of \$80 million in participation by women- and minority-owned businesses. The project is on track to far exceed that goal as of this report's publication.

When people hear the word "construction," hard hats, concrete pours, hammering and welding are often what come to mind first. They're less likely

to consider toilets. On a site as large as the Addition project, having clean and accessible facilities for hundreds of workers is paramount. Luckily, Construction Site Services is on the job.

Victoria Richardson and her partner, Mickael Heller, own Construction Site Services, a contractor that provides outdoor sanitation services including portable toilets and hand washing stations for construction sites and events. In addition to equipment, the company provides servicing, sanitization and maintenance services. Richardson and Heller have been involved with the Addition project since excavation first began in 2018. With the coronavirus pandemic, their services have become more important than ever.

Due to the massive size of the Addition project, Victoria and Mickael have learned a few lessons on how to scale their sanitation services to fit the needs of workers. "Schedules can change very quickly based on activities such as concrete pours, deliveries from other vendors, crane availability and even wind speed, which can affect the ability to fly the units up for servicing," observed Victoria.

"I would hope that larger contract companies will consider working with a small minority-and-woman-owned company who worked on one of Seattle's largest projects, delivering top-quality services while paying attention to timeliness, safety and responsiveness," Victoria says. "We are a growing population and deserve the opportunities that are out there in the construction world."

CREATING OPPORTUNITY THROUGH APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeships provide career opportunities to people of various economic backgrounds and has the long-term benefit of expanding the diversity of the construction workforce. The Addition project is on track to meet its goal for hiring minority and female apprentices.

Just two years ago, Bo Coon's friend encouraged him to apply for the Operating Engineers Union apprenticeship. With a letter of recommendation from his friend, Bo was accepted into the program and began training.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, *CONTINUED*CREATING OPPORTUNITY THROUGH APPRENTICESHIPS, *CONTINUED*

Bo Coon | Apprentice, Garco Construction

Bo is now an apprentice with Garco Construction, a full-service building company contracted with the Addition. Bo and a Garco crane operator were brought in to assist crews with heavy lifting.

As a rigger, Bo is the eyes and ears on the ground for the crane operator. He ensures the machinery is properly maintained and that loads are secured. Bo says that having the chance to work on a project of this scale has helped develop his heavy-machinery operating skills.

He appreciates the team's recognition of apprentices, and colleagues' praise for his hard work. When challenges come up on the job site, the lift director helps him tackle and learn from them.

While his work at the Addition will eventually end, Bo is grateful for his union job and for the experience the Addition has given him. Bo says his union is "a great brotherhood and sisterhood to be a part of. I feel like finally I have a career path and I'm super proud to do what I'm doing. Everybody I know takes pride in their work, and it feels good to be a part of that. I'm really thankful."

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM OPENS THE DOOR TO GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Clark Construction Group and Lease Crutcher Lewis, joint venture partners on the Center's Addition project, celebrated the achievement of 10 local small-business leaders, the newest graduates of its Strategic Partnership Program (SPP), at a graduation and award ceremony and luncheon in May. This is the third class to graduate in Seattle.

The SPP is an intensive, eight-month MBA-style course targeted to local small-business enterprises including minority-, women-, and veteran-owned firms, which echoes the Center's emphasis on reaching out to businesses representing diverse communities. Since its inception, 850 entrepreneurs have completed the focused professional development and mentoring program nationally, which Clark offers to qualified participants at no cost. The primary goal of the SPP is to enhance the capacity of small, local contractors to contribute to large-scale, high-valued construction projects.

In addition to the technical and business skills acquired, participants become part of a supportive SPP network, and benefit from ongoing access to Clark's professional resources. The instructors are Clark and Lease Crutcher Lewis employees who volunteer their time to do lead these sessions.



Graduates and instructors from the 2019 Clark/Lewis Strategic Partnership Program.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, *CONTINUED*

JIM ELLIS FREEWAY PARK

There is a gem of an urban park tucked away among tall buildings, the Convention Center and Interstate 5. The Jim Ellis Freeway Park, Seattle’s largest downtown public space, is a point of respite for many. It is an audibly muted yet visually stimulating place to pass through from First Hill to downtown, enjoy the sunshine while reading or eating lunch, gather for community cultural events, or simply linger.

Jim Ellis, community visionary, Seattle civic leader, and former Chairman of the WSCC Board of Directors, led the campaign to establish the park. Opened in 1976 and expanded in 1982, the precedent-setting landscape design was created by the office of Lawrence Halprin and encompasses five acres featuring six distinct spaces, six special grove species and four unique fountains. The park is an example of brutalist architecture, an unusual mix of exposed concrete, geometric structures, a monochrome color palette, and abundant greenery. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in December 2019.



The community-based Freeway Park Association (FPA), of which the Convention Center is a long-standing member, manages the park in conjunction with Seattle Parks and Recreation. The FPA has embarked on a major capital improvement project, funded by Washington State Convention Center’s \$10 million public benefit commitment and managed in partnership with the Parks Department. The funds will be used to repair, restore, and enhance original park features in support of the park’s daily use, maintenance and programming.

WASTE DIVERSION

A substantial portion of the waste generated by WSCC was diverted from the King County trash stream by recycling or composting.

2019 TOTAL AMOUNT – in tons





GAGE ACADEMY OF ART

WSCC's public art program, one of the first of its kind in the nation, was established to provide an environment that enriches the experience of all who visit the building. Founded by Phyllis Lamphere, the art program has been a popular feature since the Center opened in 1988. Initially, art was incorporated into the building design as part of the State's Percent for the Arts program. Since then, WSCC has developed an ever-changing collection of over 100 works, readily accessible at no charge to the public, in addition to its popular rotating temporary exhibitions.

In late 2019, WSCC was pleased to host the exhibition in the Phyllis Lamphere Gallery that launched the 30th anniversary celebration of Gage Academy of Art, an innovative contemporary art school based in Seattle. Best known for its unique Atelier programs as well as its many youth programs, Gage enables students to work closely with a master instructor from the length of a workshop to the span of many years. Gage is one of the few institutions in the country offering this time-honored method of training.

The Academy's exhibition at WSCC honored the artists who, along with their dedication to teaching, took part in crafting the school's ethos.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ABOUT THE WSCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board is composed of nine members who serve four-year terms of office. Three members are nominated by the King County Executive, subject to confirmation by the King County legislative authority; three members are nominated by the Mayor of Seattle, subject to confirmation by the Seattle legislative authority; and three members are appointed by the Governor. One of the Governor's appointments and one of the County's appointments must be a representative of the lodging industry in Seattle, and one of the City's appointments must be a representative of organized labor.



Frank K. Finneran
Chair



Deryl Brown-Archie
Vice Chair



Robert J. Flowers



Nicole Grant



Jerome L. Hillis



J. Terry McLaughlin



Denise Moriguchi



Susana Gonzalez-Murillo



Craig Schafer



Jeffrey A. Blosser
President and CEO



Linda Willanger
VP Administration/AGM



Jon Houg
Vice President of Operations



Krista Daniel
Director of Event Services



Chip Firth
*Director of Finance/
Chief Financial Officer*



Shannon Leahy
*Director of Security &
Public Safety*



Michael McQuade
Director of Sales



Paul Smith
*Director of Information
Services*



Ron Yorita
Director of Operations

