

FWCPA Update for April, 2011

Since the start of the year, progress has been swift in development toward a performance hall in Federal Way. The City Council has decided the facility will be a civic, conference and performance center, more inclusive for the citizens, and expanding possible usage.

The former Toys R Us property is their site choice and--utilizing the over \$5 million award the city received from the state for this project--they voted to purchase it. The site is located just north of the Transit Center in Federal Way, and has a spectacular view of Mount Rainier to the southeast...

The next move is for selection of an architectural firm to design the facility, or at least do some conceptual designs. Plans discussed previously include a 700-seat performance hall, and a lobby large enough to serve several functions. There would be at least one sliding wall that could separate part of the lobby. While these are merely on the "wish list" now, many of our ideas are based on McIntyre Hall in Mount Vernon, which has many of the attributes we desire.

A core fundraising committee was formed over a year ago, with representatives from several groups: performing arts, school district board, Historical Society and Federal Way Arts Commission. Once several issues are decided by the City, the committee will expand. While the FWCPA is a 501 (c) 3 organization, and was the designated fundraiser for enhancements at the Knutzen Family Theatre, we do not know if the city once again wants to utilize us, or have another non-profit formed. We are willing to help however we can.

It has been discussed that once the architect team is chosen in May, the city will hold a public meeting, review what has been proposed in the past, and welcome suggestions. We assume committees will be created for those volunteers who want to contribute time to the project, from grant writing to developing presentations, print material, etc. Those participating could begin developing a campaign before the design is completed, and be ready to launch! All this is once the City decides how they want to proceed, so nothing is cast in concrete yet. Again, we might not be the designated fundraising group, but that should be decided soon.

At last, we're seeing forward motion, and that's the most important factor.

Joann Piquette, President
Federal Way Coalition of the Performing Arts