

**BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT (BWPFD) REPORT
COVERING ACTIVITIES FROM APRIL THROUGH JUNE 2008**

Progress on Regional Center Components since March 2008

Art & Children's Museum

- Concrete panels tilted on Flora Street and Grand Avenue.
- Metal decking installed for second floor
- Structural steel set for roof and second floor
- Stair # 4 installed
- Second floor deck poured
- Masonry walls in lobby area erected
- 2 lobby column pads poured
- Rebar tied for footing and stem wall
- Light Catcher Wall frame erected

Mount Baker Theatre

- Concrete demolished, new slab being prepared
- Ducting installed on roof and above Studio Theatre
- Basement demolished
- Air handling units going in
- Asbestos abatement completed
- Mechanical equipment going to boiler room

Streetscape – Flora Street & Arts District - Making Places for People Project

The Champion Street improvements are complete. The Bay and Holly portion will be advertised for bid in July, with construction expected in September 2008. The southeast corner of the intersection and sidewalk extending up the south side of Bay are both included in the base bid and the northeast corner adjacent to Jim Swift's property is the alternate bid. The artwork will be located on the south side. Around each landscaping area will be drought-tolerant plants. There will be seating walls with power behind available for use by vendors at events. The lighting will be on a separate circuit to allow the Pickford and others to use the street for film and other activities. There will be opportunities for donor recognition around the walls.

Arts District streetscape improvements will strengthen connections between and among arts facilities and may include lighting, street trees, landscaping, and outdoor seating or places for art. Plans for streetscape improvements adjacent to the new Art & Children's Museum are moving forward with construction expected in late 2008/early 2009 as part of the museum project.

Fundraising, Grants and Project Financing

BWPFD revenues for the Regional Center coming from state sales tax revenue rebates are estimated to be \$20 million over 25 years. Plans for projects currently in design require additional revenues to address project needs and ongoing operations.

The capital contributions agreement between the BWPFD, City of Bellingham (COB), Campaign for the Arts (CFA) and Whatcom Community Foundation (WCF), was approved by all parties. The agreement lays out the framework for capital contributions from the CFA and WCF to the BWPFD and COB.

At the May board meeting, a cumulative CFA Report was presented. It includes gross funds raised both by the CFA and the Whatcom Museum Society. Each quarter, the PFD will request all available capital funding and unrestricted funding. The Whatcom Museum and Mount Baker Theatre are seeking grant funds from the Murdock Foundation: \$250,000 for the Mount Baker Theatre and \$500,000 for the Art & Children's Museum. The Mount Baker Theatre has also submitted an application to the State for a \$1 million Building for the Arts grant.

Communications and Media Relations

BTV10 filmed a piece on the Mount Baker Theatre renovations. Robin Halliday and Steve Brinn gave a presentation on the Arts District to the Bellingham Rotary Club on April 28, 2008. On May 28, 2008 the Bellingham Herald published an article about the Mount Baker Theatre Phase II renovations. Jeff McClure wrote an editorial piece on fundraising for the Arts District which was published in the Bellingham Herald on Sunday, June 22, 2008.

Progress Summary

Significant progress and results during the first quarter of 2008 include:

- Concrete panels tilted on Flora Street and Grand Avenue for Art & Children's Museum
- Forming of Light Catcher wall for Art & Children's Museum
- Completion of asbestos abatement at Mount Baker Theatre
- Installation of ducting and air handling units at Mount Baker Theatre
- Creation of a comprehensive financial report combining funds from the Campaign for the Arts and the Whatcom Museum Society

Background

The Bellingham-Whatcom Public Facilities District (BWPFD) was created in 2002 as a joint effort of the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County. The BWPFD's mission is to fund a Regional Center and Cultural District located in downtown Bellingham that will increase economic prosperity and lay a foundation for further public and private investment in our community.

Visit the BWPFD website at www.bwpfd.org for more information.