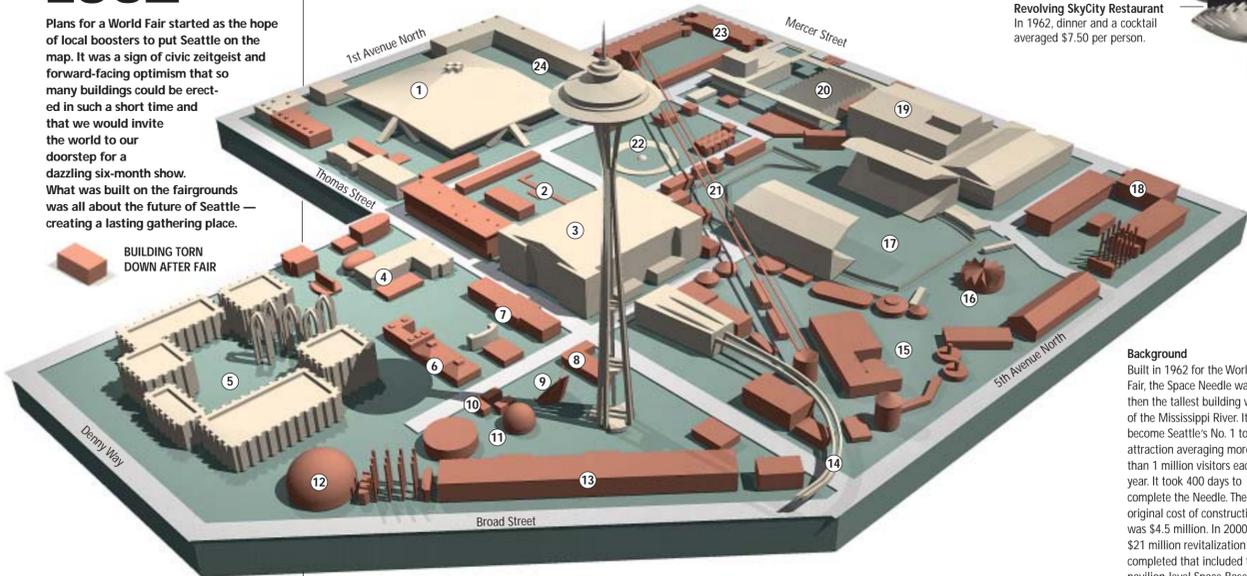


40 YEARS OF CHANGE

1962

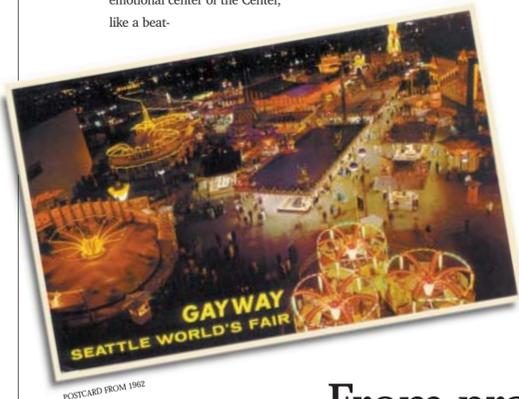
Plans for a World Fair started as the hope of local boosters to put Seattle on the map. It was a sign of civic zeitgeist and forward-facing optimism that so many buildings could be erected in such a short time and that we would invite the world to our doorstep for a dazzling six-month show. What was built on the fairgrounds was all about the future of Seattle — creating a lasting gathering place.



BUILDING TORN DOWN AFTER FAIR

WORLD'S FAIR

- 1 **Washington State Coliseum**
World of Tomorrow exhibit showing a high-tech future
- 2 **Flag Pavilion**
Flags from every state in the nation
- 3 **Food Circus**
More than 50 concessions and the world's largest cake
- 4 **Christian Pavilion and Children's Center**
Activities for 3- to 7-year-olds
- 5 **United States Science Pavilion**
Six-acre science-themed pavilion
- 6 **IBM Pavilion**
Computer displays
- 7 **The Bell System exhibit**
History and future of communication
- 8 **General Electric Living exhibit**
Model West Coast home displaying electronic products of the future
- 9 **Pavilion of Electric Power**
40-foot-high model of a hydroelectric dam
- 10 **Home of Living Light**
Model home featuring flexible wood paneling and movable skylights
- 11 **State of Alaska building**
Exhibit of Alaska's social and economic history
- 12 **Ford Motor Co. Pavilion**
Simulated rocketship ride and futuristic car called the Seattle-ite XXI
- 13 **Fashion Pavilion**
Fashion shows with models on "lily pads" on a perfumed pool
- 14 **Monorail**
1.2-mile track running between the fair and downtown
- 15 **Gayway**
Rides and amusements
- 16 **Hawaiian Pavilion**
Hawaiian food and entertainment
- 17 **Memorial Stadium**
Temporary water stage for water skiing and ski boat shows
- 18 **Show Street**
Adult entertainment
- 19 **Opera House**
Variety of theater performances
- 20 **Fine Arts Pavilion**
Works from Jackson Pollock, Georgia O'Keefe, Morris Graves, Monet and more
- 21 **Union 76 Skytrain**
Cable-supported cars that ran above the fair
- 22 **Boulevards of the World and International Fountain**
Ethnic food booths and a fountain synchronized to music
- 23 **International Mall**
Exhibits from countries around the world
- 24 **International Plaza**
More exhibits from other countries



POSTCARD FROM 1962

BY KRISTIN DIZON
P-1 reporter

Seattle Center started as a plain next to marshy swamp. Natives crossed it to get between shoreline villages on Elliott Bay and Lake Union and probably hunted birds there. Later known as "the

prairie," it became the home and grounds of David and Louisa Denny, one of Seattle's first pioneer couples. In 1881, one of the city's top saloonkeepers, James Osborne, died and left Seattle \$20,000 to build a civic hall, if the city could come up with matching

funds. It wasn't until 1928 that the city built the Civic Auditorium on Mercer Street. Since it was started with funds from a Skid Road watering hole, it was sometimes called "The House That Suds Built." The auditorium was transformed into the Opera House in 1962.

Built during the Depression were the Civic Ice Arena and Civic Field, a rocky site of professional baseball and football games and a memorable prizefight. In 1946, Civic Field was bulldozed. Taking its place was Seattle High School Memorial

Stadium, dedicated to local youth who'd lost their lives in World War II. The Seattle Center House got its start in 1939 when the Washington State National Guard built the bunkerlike Army. Seattle's third armory housed tanks and an indoor

firing range until its 1962 World's Fair makeover as the Food Circus. After organizers of the World's Fair chose the Civic Auditorium and surrounding area as the site of the Century 21 Exposition, houses, apartment buildings and small busi-

nesses were razed to make way for the fairgrounds. Cobbled together with federal, state, city and private money, the fair commission built amenities that still exist today, though many of their appearances are different. Other features, such as gon-

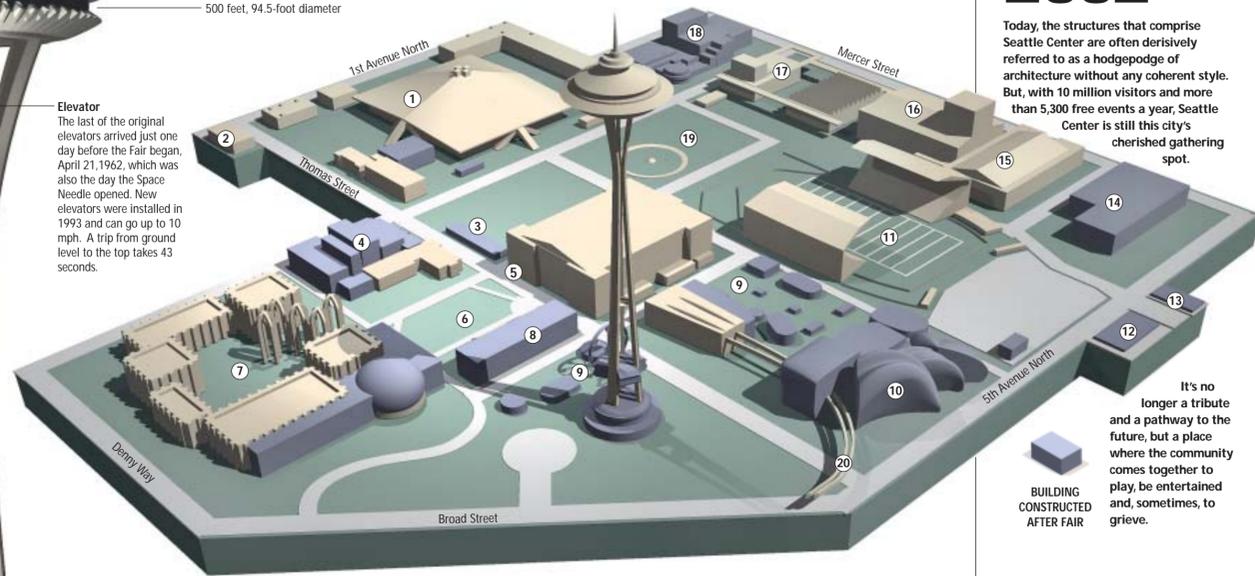
dolas running on cable above the fairgrounds, were only temporary. An advisory commission was set up to decide what would become of the site. Some attractions were razed, others sold and many were transformed. In 1983, Seattle Repertory

Theatre built the Bagley Wright Theatre, the first major new building constructed since the World's Fair. In 1993, the Seattle Children's Theatre rose north of the Pacific Science Center. In 2000, a skate park and the Experience Music Project went up, both

on Fifth Avenue. Currently, the Opera House is receiving a major overhaul as the Marion Oliver McCaw Hall, and the Flag Pavilion will be reborn next fall as Fisher Pavilion, with a rooftop plaza and an indoor space for cultural festivals.

2002

Today, the structures that comprise Seattle Center are often derisively referred to as a hodgepodge of architecture without any coherent style. But, with 10 million visitors and more than 5,300 free events a year, Seattle Center is still this city's cherished gathering spot.

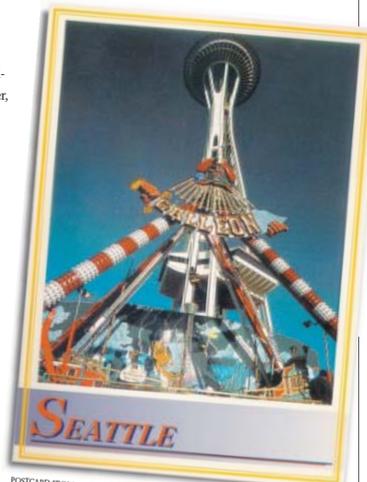


BUILDING CONSTRUCTED AFTER FAIR

It's no longer a tribute and a pathway to the future, but a place where the community comes together to play, be entertained and, sometimes, to grieve.

SEATTLE CENTER

- 1 **KeyArena**
Home of the Supersonics, Storm and Thunderbirds as well as a venue for concerts and other events
- 2 **Pottery Northwest**
Community pottery studio
- 3 **Fisher Pavilion (under construction)**
Festival pavilion for community gatherings and shows, scheduled to open in fall 2002
- 4 **Seattle Children's Theatre**
Performances, classes and workshops for children
- 5 **Seattle Center House/ The Children's Museum**
Food, retail shops and public events/galleries, studio spaces and educational activities for children
- 6 **Mural Amphitheater**
Outdoor performances, festivals and films
- 7 **Pacific Science Center/ Boeing Imax Theater**
Interactive science exhibits, a tropical butterfly house, two IMAX theaters, a planetarium, and laser light shows
- 8 **Fun Forest Entertainment Pavilion**
Rides, laser tag, mini golf and video arcade
- 9 **Fun Forest Amusement Park**
Rides and amusements
- 10 **Experience Music Project (EMP)**
Paul Allen's interactive music museum with restaurant, lounge, live performances and event venues in building designed by Frank O. Gehry
- 11 **Memorial Stadium**
Concert venue and home field of Seattle Sounders and high school sports
- 12 **Skate Park**
8,900-square-foot outdoor park
- 13 **Nate McMillan Basketball Court**
Outdoor basketball court
- 14 **KCTS Television**
Television for Pacific Northwest Ballet and Seattle Opera
- 15 **Mercer Arts Arena**
Temporary venue for Pacific Northwest Ballet and Seattle Opera
- 16 **Marion Oliver McCaw Hall (under construction)**
Future venue for Pacific Northwest Ballet and Seattle Opera scheduled to open in summer 2003
- 17 **Intiman Playhouse**
Performance hall for classical and contemporary plays
- 18 **Seattle Repertory Theatre**
Two stages, Bagley Wright and Leo K. theatres, for plays, educational programs and workshops
- 19 **The International Fountain**
Renovated in 1995
- 20 **Monorail**
Extends into EMP



POSTCARD FROM 2002

Seattle Center offers something for everyone. And it's never static. It's a place that will keep changing and evolving with the rest of the city, says Center director Anderson. "Who knows what it'll be 30 to 40 years from now?" she said.

P-1 reporter Kristin Dizon can be reached at 206-448-8118 or kristindizon@seattlepi.com.

From prairie to thriving complex: The evolution of the Center grounds

Sources: www.historylink.org, Seattle Center, Space Needle

DAVID BADDERS/SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER