

Occidental Square Park Pavilion



In 2014, Seattle Parks Foundation commissioned Dan Biederman—the visionary consultant behind the revitalization of New York’s Bryant Park—to assess conditions at Occidental Square in downtown Seattle and develop a plan to turn it into a vibrant and welcoming gathering space for people of all ages and walks of life.

Biederman’s report has guided an effort to dramatically enhance public life in the park, with operations and programming led by Downtown Seattle Association in partnership with Seattle Parks and Recreation. That vision has attracted major financial and fundraising support from Seattle Parks Foundation donors, the Alliance for Pioneer Square, and Friends of Waterfront Seattle, demonstrating that private sector donors are deeply invested in creating public spaces that serve all people.

Occidental Square has transformed into the lively heart of the Pioneer Square neighborhood, with colorful café seating, new planters, artwork, ping-pong tables and musical performances. The park’s newfound popularity and high attendance at regular free events has inspired donors to invest in two major capital projects.

The first project, completed in the fall of 2019, was the new play area at the north end of the square, with climbing equipment, safety surfacing, and an attractive steel and timber bench where people can sit and enjoy the park and watch their children play.

The second project is a graceful new wood and glass pavilion at the south end of the square. The structure, which will replace an existing outdated kiosk, will serve as a visitor center, performance stage, and well-lit shelter in inclement weather.

What’s Next

The pavilion will be partially built offsite. Groundbreaking at the park is scheduled for late spring/summer and will be based upon the state of public health recommendations. Once started, construction is expected to take about four months. Park programming and operations will continue during construction, with temporary fencing around the site to keep it secure and keep park visitors safe.

Response to Covid-19

During construction we will follow guidance from Public Health – Seattle & King County (PHSKC), Washington State Department of Health (DOH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding COVID-19. The contractor overseeing this jobsite will be diligently managing a Safety Plan that includes precautions to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

The City of Seattle and King County are taking steps to protect the health of our community by making recommendations that are meant to slow the spread of novel coronavirus and reduce the number of people infected. Please learn more about COVID-19 at www.kingcounty.gov/covid. Thank you.

Funding

All funding for the pavilion has been provided by donors to Seattle Parks Foundation.

Questions?

Please contact Garrett Farrell, project coordinator at Seattle Parks and Recreation, at garrett.farrell@seattle.gov

For updates on the projects, please visit:

<https://www.seattle.gov/parks/about-us/current-projects/occidental-square-park-projects>

For other park related concerns, please contact Seattle Parks and Recreation 24-hour Job line at 206-684-7250.

