

SEATTLE OPERA.

OPERA CENTER FACT SHEET

Opening December 2018



- 105,000 total sq. ft., including 20,000 sq. ft. dedicated to community programming and education—a first in the company’s history.
- Viewing garden allows the public to see into Seattle Opera’s celebrated costume shop.
- Tagney Jones Hall, a performance space for educational and community events, seats more than 200. This space includes reclaimed fir decking which was saved from the original 1930s Mercer Arena building and refinished for use on the seating risers.
- Three multi-purpose studios, up from two in our South Lake Union facility. The largest of these is designed for mainstage rehearsals and is the same size as McCaw Hall’s stage, allowing casts to rehearse on the actual sets. Two more studios can be used for rehearsals, community programs, youth operas, events, and more.



“WITH THIS BUILDING, THE COMPANY IS NOW GOING TO BE NOTED FOR HOW OPERA TIES TO THE COMMUNITY—IT WILL BE AN OPEN INVITATION INTO THE ARTS.”

—Board Member Jean Stark



The Opera Center is a \$60 million dollar capital project funded by Seattle Opera donors, foundations, public grants, and members of Seattle Opera’s Board of Directors.



- Street level, ADA accessible box office.
- Space for storing and prepping 50,000 props.
- Dedicated space for wig preparation and creation—a first in the company’s history.
- Trees along the east side of the building were planted for the 1962 World’s Fair and were retained and nurtured throughout construction. They form an integral part of the rain garden, which is a major addition to the site to handle storm water in an environmentally friendly way.
- The office area has shared spaces (to keep the overall building area to a minimum), high ceilings (to allow natural light to penetrate deep into the building), and plenty of windows for natural daylighting and views out (to minimize the need for artificial lighting).
- A central, open stair is incorporated to encourage staff to walk between floors. It allows glimpses into major parts of the opera (lobby, costume shop, rehearsal hall, offices) and is lit through a series of skylights.

ENVIRONMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- Finishes are applied sparingly, and only applied to meet acoustic, durability, and privacy issues. For instance, ceiling clouds are incorporated in the office to absorb sound, but in limited zones so the structure and other mechanical and electrical systems are semi-exposed. Gypsum board in Tagney Jones Hall is used to acoustically tune the room for a number of performance types and to restrict sound from traveling into adjacent spaces.
- Most of the materials used in the building have high recycled content. Paints, adhesives, etc. have low to zero volatile organic compounds (VOCs), resulting in clean air and a healthy interior space.
- The landscaping incorporates a series of bio-retention planters that take water from the roof, filter it with plants, slow down the flow to the sewer, and create a beautiful landscape in the process.
- A landscaped terrace is provided as an amenity to staff and is partially planted to help reduce heat island effect.

