

McCAW HALL FACT SHEET

THE BUILDING	Marion Oliver McCaw Hall at Seattle Center is a 295,000 square-foot hall that includes a state-of-the-art 2,900-seat auditorium, a 400-seat Lecture Hall, a café, and a 17,800-square-foot public plaza that serves as an entry into McCaw Hall and the Seattle Center Campus. McCaw Hall is the home to Seattle Opera, Pacific Northwest Ballet, community festivals, and guest performers, plus weddings, conventions, receptions, meetings, and more.
PROJECT COST	\$127 million
FUND SOURCE	A public-private partnership that began with the 1999 passage of Seattle Proposition I. The breakdown in funds is: Public Sources: \$55 million Private Gifts: \$72 million <i>Seattle Center Foundation</i> led the campaign to raise private gifts in partnership with Seattle Opera and Pacific Northwest Ballet.
TIMELINE	January 17, 2002 Groundbreaking for Marion Oliver McCaw Hall June 28-29, 2003 Marion Oliver McCaw Hall Grand Opening
PRIMARY TENANTS AND USES	<i>Resident Groups</i> - Seattle Opera, Pacific Northwest Ballet <i>Festivals</i> - Bumbershoot, NW Folklife, Seattle International Children's Festival <i>Other Uses</i> – Touring performances, concerts, conferences, and motivational speakers in the Lecture Hall, holiday parties and private presentations in Reception Rooms, weddings and receptions in the Grand Lobby, anniversaries in the Principal Performer's Lounge and more.
HISTORICAL	In 1889, Seattle pioneers David and Louisa Denny donated the land where the Hall stands for "public use forever." The Civic Auditorium was built in 1928, and dubbed "The House that Suds Built" because of a \$20,000 gift from a Seattle saloonkeeper. For the 1962 World's Fair, the Auditorium became the Seattle Center Opera House with a \$3 million renovation to modernize the outer façade and public areas. McCaw Hall is a complete transformation (only 30% of the old Opera House remains), an entirely new facility for patrons of artistic and community events.
HIGHLIGHTED FEATURES	The design objective was to create a hall that engages the entire community. An art installation features colored lights that are choreographed and projected onto a series of sheer metal curtains, or scrims, to literally draw the art out of the building. The new 2,900-seat auditorium narrowed the walls to create excellent sightlines and a more intimate relationship between performer and patron. Mechanically, the hall features all new stage, theatrical, backstage and fly loft systems. Luxury amenities include ample concessions, a café and double the number of women's restrooms.

NAME – MARION OLIVER MCCAW HALL Through a \$20 million dollar naming gift from the four McCaw brothers – Bruce, Craig, John and Keith – the hall is named in honor of their mother, Marion Oliver McCaw Garrison. For more than 30 years, performing arts in the Northwest have thrived thanks to the leadership, generosity and contributions of Mrs. Garrison. In addition to being a champion of the arts, Mrs. Garrison is an opera enthusiast and founding member of the Seattle Opera Board. She is the recipient of the Corporate Council of the Arts Lifetime Achievement in the Arts award.

DESIGN TEAM Architect: LMN Architects, Seattle
Mark Reddington, design partner/Owen Richards, **project manager**
Landscape/Site Designer: Gustafson Guthrie Nichol, Seattle
Interior Designer: Sussman/Prejza & Co. Inc., Los Angeles
Lighting Artist: Leni Schwendinger Light Projects, Ltd., New York

Structural Engineer: Magunsson Klemencic Associates, Seattle
Mechanical Engineer: CDi Engineers, Lynnwood, WA
Electrical Engineer: Sparling, Seattle
Civil Engineer: AKB Engineers, Seattle
Acoustical Consultant: Jaffe Holden Acoustics, Norwalk, Conn.
Theater Consultant: Schuler & Shook, Chicago

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR/
CONSTRUCTION
MANAGEMENT** Skanska (formerly Baugh Construction), Seattle

**PLANNING & PROJECT
MANAGEMENT** Shelly Yapp, Director of Redevelopment, Seattle Center
Maria Barrientos, Project Development Manager, barrientos LLC

OWNER AND OPERATOR City of Seattle

SQUARE FOOTAGE Marion Oliver McCaw Hall 295,000-square-feet
(total building, does not include skybridge, Promenade, or plaza)

Susan Brotman Auditorium	41,030 sq. ft.
Kreielsheimer Promenade	17,726 sq. ft.
Grand Lobby	12,000 sq. ft.
The Boeing Company South Campus Plaza	10,143 sq. ft.
Neukom Family Second Tier Lobby	7,500 sq. ft.
Microsoft First Tier Lobby	5,500 sq. ft.
Rehearsal Hall	4,000 sq. ft.
The Allen Foundation for the Arts Room (North Reception Room)	3,700 sq. ft.
The Norcliffe Room (South Reception Room)	3,395 sq. ft.
Nesholm Family Lecture Hall	3,700 sq. ft.

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall Details

Curtain Wall –

- In the five-story glass wall (called a ‘curtain wall’) at the entrance of the Hall, there are 372 window panes, each 4 feet wide by 11 feet tall, plus smaller 65 spandrel pieces across the top, 4 feet wide by 2 feet – 8 inches tall. Each of the large panes weighs about 300 lbs.
- *How is it cleaned?* From above with what’s called a Bosun’s chair. They wipe each individual window.

Scrim – (*designed by New York artist Leni Schwendinger*)

- The art installation is titled *Dreaming in Color*.
- There are 9 metal mesh scrims outside the Hall, above the Kreielsheimer Promenade. Two of the scrims also extend inside the Hall, surrounding the south stairway.
- The 9 outside scrims are 30 feet tall, and range from 50 to 62 feet wide.
- The 2 inside scrims are 30 feet tall, 25 to 29 feet wide surrounding the south stairwell at the First Tier Level.
- Each scrim is made up of 900 - 1,200 square feet of metal mesh.
- The colored lights are mounted above the scrims and change colors by way of three dichroic glass tubes. Each one is turned by the computer controlling the system. The three combined can produce thousands of different color shades by the way each dichroic lines up with each other.
- There are 4 separate sequences (or compositions) of multi-colored light projections. An astronomical clock automatically turns on the light program and adjusts the time based on the seasons, the tilt of the earth and time of sunset. The titles are:

Within the Northern Lights: A composition based on the color scheme of the Hall’s interior colors, which are based on the Northern Lights and the inspiration of the Aurora Borealis. The jewel tones of purples, turquoise, gold and greens play in this sequence.

Aquamarine, A Beguiling Song: This sequence is predominantly composed of brilliant blues, greens and purple with accents of gold and orange.

Sleepwalk Into Primary Red-Blue-Green: This entire sequence uses only red, blue and green that build to a dramatic mix of those primary colors.

Of Rothko, Section and Plane: This composition is based on the paintings of Mark Rothko. The lighting creates a three-dimensional Rothko painting that materializes onto the ground and the colors extend upwards.

Water Feature – (*designed by Gustafson Guthrie Nichol Ltd and engineered by Brown & Caldwell*)

- Three large, thin sheets of water shimmer over sloped paving in the center of the Kreielsheimer Promenade.
- The water feature was designed to reflect the sky, metal scrims, and lighting at night.

Colors–

- There are 132 different paint colors in the building. Many of these are due to the shading that occurs as you walk deeper into the Hall. For example, there are 6 different shades of purple from the back of the auditorium to the front of the stage. This shading of the colors creates a ‘black box’ effect at the stage when the lights go out, making the stage and the performance the focus of the audience.
- *With 132 different colors, how difficult will it be repair any scuffs of chips that occur during the operation of the building?* Seattle Center’s paint crew has a computer program that will perfectly match all of those colors when the need arises.

Tech Specs Stuff, Lobbies and Seats–

- The **Kreielsheimer Promenade** is a 17,800 square foot plaza marked by the nine 30-foot tall sheer metal scrims, the five-story serpentine glass wall looking into the lobbies, and water and landscape features. The Promenade also creates a brand new entrance into Seattle Center from Mercer Street. The space (inside and outside) is open and empties out into the lawn north of the International Fountain.
- The 400-seat **Nesholm Family Lecture Hall** contains a raked floor, a built-in Video/DVD system, and modern sound and lighting equipment that can host multi-media events, lectures and meetings. With its own lobby, restrooms and entrance, the Nesholm Family Lecture Hall is a prime location for speaking engagements, presentations and films.
- Four multi-functional lobbies outside the Susan Brotman Auditorium each have concessions, restrooms on each side, and provide views of the other levels, staircases, and the serpentine glass wall and scrims.
- Two upper level reception rooms afford a greater level of privacy for the hosting of banquets of 100-150 or receptions of 250-300 guests. The Allen Foundation for the Arts Room is located on the north end of the building, while the Norcliffe Room is located on the south end of the building. These rooms are the donor rooms for Seattle Opera.
- The 2,900-seat Susan Brotman Auditorium (41,030 sq. ft) includes Elevated Gallery sections, sixteen Boxes facing the stage, and extended Tiers to bring the audience closer to the stage in all areas. For the first time ever, Seattle Opera also has “standing room only” spaces on the upper sides of the Hall. [Total seat numbers include: Orchestra 1,018; Gallery 242; Dress Circle 220; First Tier 508; First Tier Boxes 74; Second Tier 786; Second Tier Boxes 52 – Total Boxes 126]

Tech Specs Stuff and The Stage–

- The Proscenium (or opening to the stage) is 60 feet wide by 35 feet tall (increased in height from 27 feet previously).
- A new motorized curtain can raise or lower up to 480 feet per minute. Previously, the curtain in the house had to be operated by hand, pulling ropes, and was very difficult to time. This curtain can be timed for dramatic effect.
- The stage has 24-foot deep trap doors [42 feet x 25 feet in various panel sizes, most 6 feet x 8 feet]. The old Opera House didn't have any traps.
- A Scenery Lift backstage can lift 3,300 lbs, transferring scenery from the lower loading dock to the upper level next to the stage. The old house did not have this capacity.
- The 4,900 square foot Scenery Handling Area is on stage left, and is the same size as the stage. Again, this is something that the old house did not have.
- The new fly loft has been raised to 100 feet (20 feet higher than the old house). This allows more versatility in scenery and lighting changes, which affect the production on stage. [See rigging notes on what the fly loft can achieve].
- The new Orchestra Pit seats 90 performers. The Pit can also rise to stage level through a spiral lift. This new space has its own ventilation system (which blows air up from the floor for quieter cooling), two regularly sized entrances, and a connection to musician green rooms, dressing rooms and instrument locker rooms.

Rigging System–

- McCaw Hall has what is described as ‘the Mercedes of rigging systems.’ The new fly loft boasts 112 linesets on 6 inch centers. *What does that mean?* Each of these linesets has a capacity of 2,000 lbs. to lift scenery, backdrops or lighting throughout the stage.
- In addition, there are 30 computer-controlled spot winches to lift items and the computer can control how fast or slow each is lowered or raised from the stage.

- McCaw Hall's stage has 960 dimmers lights (the lights used for lighting throughout a production). The old house had only 542. The lighting control for McCaw Hall has the capacity to handle 8,000 data channels or twice the old house's capacity.
- Electrical Power – the stage has 4 times more capacity than the previous hall

Dressing rooms–

- Stage Level: 15 principle dressing rooms [capacity 1-4]
- Lower Level: 5 chorus rooms [capacity 15-20]
- 6 Production offices at Stage Level
- 4,000 sq. ft. Rehearsal Hall with 6 private coaching rooms with acoustical isolation

And Last (But Never Least) More on the Restrooms–

- There are 20 Public Bathrooms in the Hall with more than twice as many 'facilities' for women as men.
- Over 4 levels there are 8 Women's, 8 Men's, and 4 Family bathrooms.
- Generally, there is 1 Family RR on each level on the south side of the building.
- The total number of 'fixtures' for men and women is 136 (the majority are in the women's rooms). The old Opera House had a total of 60 fixtures for men and women.