



Excavation continues at our new campus near Seattle Center and the Space Needle.

## This Issue

- [The Dance of Construction Continues](#)
- [What to Look for in January](#)
- [Sign Up to Receive Bill Gates' Annual Letter](#)
- [A Closer Look at What We Do](#)
- [Keeping Up With Construction](#)



### Find Out More

Visit the official web site  
of our future Seattle  
campus.

## The Dance of Construction Continues

Excavation and dirt removal is on schedule for our new headquarters. The steady stream of dirt trucks—120 trucks hauling away 4,500 tons of soil every day—will continue through the end of February.

### A look inside the construction fence

Some days during excavation, 30 different machines work smoothly with and around each other at the same time—huge excavators, dump trucks, bulldozers, forklifts, and mobile cranes.

Counting truck drivers, more than 90 people are working on-site now.

- Excavating, shoring, and piling contractors prepare the holes.
- Mechanical contractors, electricians, carpenters, and laborers set up the temporary light, power, and water

connections needed to run the project.

- General contractors and office staff keep work and communications flowing.

## Keeping everyone safe

Safety is of paramount importance during this ballet of big equipment and construction crews.

One safety issue is the historical contamination of the soil by chemicals and petroleum. To protect workers and the environment, everyone who comes into contact with the dirt on the site is required to complete 40 hours of HAZWOPER (hazardous waste operations and emergency response) training.

## Finding ways to minimize impact on the neighborhood

One piece of heavy equipment isn't visible from the street but is at work every day to keep dirt from being tracked onto neighboring streets.

Every truck leaving the construction site moves through an automatic wheel washer. Triggered by a motion detector, the machine uses—and recirculates—up to 10,000 gallons of water every day to clean truck tires.

[Back to Top](#)

## What to Look for in January

The movement of big equipment reveals a lot about progress on a construction site. In coming months, you may notice these major equipment movements when you peer through the construction fence:

- **Two more tower cranes to come**

The first tower crane—rising 161 feet above ground—went up in early October. A second (228 feet) and third (219 feet) will be erected within a few weeks of each other this month.

When all three are up, notice their careful placement. Each crane's boom needs to move in a circle that clears neighboring objects (such as overhead power transmission lines, power poles, neighbors' airspace), including the other two cranes.

- **Concrete trucks join the mix**

This month 100 trucks will begin delivering concrete to the site. In the four to six weeks that excavation and concrete trucks overlap, more than 200 trucks a day may enter and exit the site.

The early concrete pours will create large "mat footings." These reinforced concrete pads will support building cores and large structures such as the 1-million-gallon rainwater storage tank.

We encourage residents and drivers to check the [weekly Sellen Construction bulletins](#) (see story below) for traffic alerts and updates on construction impact.

[Back to Top](#)

# Sign Up to Receive Bill Gates' Annual Letter

Later this month, Bill Gates will send out his first annual letter—a candid look at the issues at the forefront of the foundation's work. To receive it by email, [please sign up online](#).

[Back to Top](#)

## Visit Our New Web Site for a Closer Look at What We Do



We invite you to visit and bookmark our [redesigned web site](#).

Our web site tells the story of how we work with grantees to help all people lead healthy and productive lives.

**Three pages of special interest to local readers**  
To learn more about our roots and commitment to neighbors in the Pacific Northwest, please check out these pages:

- [Explore our local giving through Pacific Northwest Community Grants](#)

We support the work of many community organizations in Washington state and the Portland, Ore., area to help struggling families and youth.

- [Meet our new CEO, Jeff Raikes](#)

Jeff joined the foundation in September. Learn about his role as CEO and his longtime ties to Seattle.

- [Learn even more about our future headquarters](#)

Bookmark this page for all the basics—the quarterly newsletter, frequently asked questions, project milestones, and more.

[Back to Top](#)

## Keeping Up With Construction

Interested in more details about upcoming construction work? To stay up-to-speed and get updates, [visit the web site of Sellen](#), the project's general contractor.

Sellen's weekly bulletins help our future neighbors know what to expect and when to plan for changes around the project site, including street closures.

[Back to Top](#)

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