

# OUR NEW CAMPUS

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: Why does the Gates Foundation need a new headquarters?**

A: In 2004, Bill & Melinda recognized the need for a permanent home for the foundation where everyone could work together in one place. Our current staff is spread out in five leased buildings throughout the South Lake Union area.

The Gates family is deeply committed to the foundation's work and to the Pacific Northwest. The campus will promote creative and collaborative work among our staff and the thousands of grantees, partners, and leaders who share the goal of helping every person have the opportunity to live a healthy, productive life.

**Q: Where is the new campus located?**

A: The campus is located in the heart of the city, next to the Seattle Center. The address is 500 5th Avenue North.

**Q: When will you move into the new campus?**

A: We are moving in the Spring of 2011. The Visitor Center opens at the end of the year.

**Q: How big is the campus?**

A: The campus includes 900,000 square feet in two six-story office buildings. It sits on 12 acres. The campus was built as a long-term investment to ensure it remains a viable, efficient workplace for today and in decades to come. It is designed to last 100 years. In contrast, most office buildings are designed for 20-30 years.

**Q: How many people work at the new campus?**

A: About 1,000 people will work at the campus when we are completely moved in at the end of May. The first two buildings will accommodate up to 1,500 employees and on-site partners.

**Q: What public access will there be at the new campus?**

A: Our Visitor Center will open at the end of this year. It will showcase the innovative work of grantees and give people a chance to see the progress being made in addressing some of the world's most difficult challenges.

Like most office spaces, the buildings will not be open to the public. Our new campus is designed to be a workspace for more than 1,000 people on a daily basis.

**Q: Why are you building a Visitor Center—when does it open?**

A: The Visitor Center, which opens at the end of the year, will be an inspirational destination for tourists and an important community asset. Exhibits will showcase challenges and progress being made globally and domestically to help all people live healthy productive lives—in Seattle, and throughout the world. Visitors will explore innovative new technologies and programs that our grantees have developed to address some of the biggest challenges in global health, development, and U.S. education.

**Q: What is the total cost of the new campus?**

A: The total design and construction cost for the new campus is \$500 million. Bill and Melinda made a personal contribution of \$350 million in 2009 to off-set the construction cost of the new campus.

**Q: When will you build the third building?**

A: As is often the case with projects this complex, the timeline for construction of another building is not certain. It will depend on the need. The third building will be located to the east of the two existing buildings.

**Q: Is there conference space at the campus that can be used by foundation grantees or the public?**

A: We will host hundreds of meetings a year in the conference center, and will bring in participants ranging from global leaders to Seattle community grantees for foundation-hosted events. We are not able to provide space for the meetings and gatherings of outside organizations.

**Q: Are environmental features built into the new campus?**

A: Sustainability is a key driver in our grantmaking and this is true for the new campus as well.

The campus was built as a sustainable, energy efficient, and LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) accredited

project. The Seattle Center 5th Avenue North Garage has attained LEED Gold Certification, and the foundation buildings are tracking LEED Gold.

Our energy model indicates a 34 percent reduction in overall energy use over an unimproved baseline building.

**Sustainable features include:**

- An under-floor air distribution system for ventilation, which conserves energy and facilitates future space modifications
- A one million-gallon rainwater storage system used for irrigation, water features, and toilets
- Several living roofs, which reduce runoff, moderate wide temperature swings, filter air, and provide a habitat for birds and insects

**Q: What sort of art does the campus feature?**

A: Visitors will see art work from around the world, including the Pacific Northwest. For example, a local poet is included in a collection of poetry inscribed atop walls surrounding the campus, and a local artist, Marie Watt, is creating a sculpture using 'blankets' for the reception area.

The foundation is committed to the arts as a key part of a strong community. We are proud to help display public art on one of the building's exterior walls along 5th Avenue as well as in the reception area.

## THE VISITOR CENTER

**Q. Why is the foundation building the Visitor Center?**

A. Our location across the street from the Seattle Center will allow us to share our mission with a very broad public audience. The Visitor Center will give people an opportunity to explore the work of the foundation's grantees and partners. It will also help us engage more effectively with the local community to build awareness and prompt action around the foundation's mission.

**Q. Where is the Visitor Center?**

A. The Visitor Center spans 5th Avenue between Republican and Harrison Streets.

**Q. What will the Visitor Center experience be like?**

A. Our goal is to create an educational, inspiring, interactive experience for visitors. Exhibits will tell compelling stories grounded in data and knowledge about the problems we address and the progress being made locally, nationally, and globally.

**Q. Will there be a public space in the Visitor Center for events?**

A. There may be occasions when the foundation works with grantees and community partners to host small-scale events at the center. However, there will not be a space for the public to use or rent.

**Q. Who will design the Visitor Center?**

A. We are developing the visitor center experience internally with design support from Olson Kundig (formerly Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen), an internationally renowned architectural design firm located in Seattle. We chose Olsen Kundig for its exceptional team and its design philosophy and practice, which give careful consideration to culture, stewardship, art, and the creation of community.

**Q. Is the Visitor Center part of the foundation campus?**

A. Yes. Although the Visitor Center is integrated into the structure of the Seattle Center 5th Ave N Garage, it is part of the foundation's campus.

**Q. When will the Visitor Center open?**

A. The visitor center will open at the end of 2011.

**Q. How can I get additional information?**

A. Please e-mail [info@gatesfoundation.org](mailto:info@gatesfoundation.org).

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, it focuses on improving people's health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. In the United States, it seeks to ensure that all people—especially those with the fewest resources—have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life. Based in Seattle, Washington, the foundation is led by CEO Jeff Raikes and Co-chair William H. Gates Sr., under the direction of Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett.

For additional information on the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, please visit our website: [www.gatesfoundation.org](http://www.gatesfoundation.org).

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