

TRANSFORMING A CITY AND A COMMUNITY



The Olympic Sculpture Park opens in Fall 2006.



The downtown expansion opens in Spring 2007.



SAM celebrates its 75th Anniversary in 2008.

2006 OLYMPIC SCULPTURE PARK

BUILDING AUDIENCES, BUILDING GREENSPACE, BUILDING COLLECTIONS

- In August 2005, bulldozers and jackhammers went to work in part of Seattle's Belltown neighborhood as crews began construction on the 8,500-square-foot Pavilion and pedestrian bridges over Elliott Avenue and the Burlington Northern railroad tracks. This industrial site is transforming into an extraordinary urban greenspace right before our eyes.
- The park's critically acclaimed design by Weiss/Manfredi architects is coming to life, complete with garden pathways, native plantings and a restored beach. Soon 9 acres of undeveloped waterfront will become a vibrant and accessible community gathering space, where everyone can experience art outdoors, for free.
- Set against beautiful views of the Olympic Mountains, Elliott Bay and the downtown skyline, it will include work by internationally celebrated artists, such as Alexander Calder, Richard Serra and Louise Bourgeois.
- Following the park's June groundbreaking, SAM celebrated the start of construction with a Party in the Park. Nearly 3,500 people from all over the city descended on the site to see performances from local talents Yerbabuena, Fankick!, Reggie Watts and more. Seattle Aquarium, Art Works and other community partners enhanced the festivities with an array of interactive activities for families.

2007 NEW AND EXPANDED DOWNTOWN MUSEUM

BUILDING COLLECTIONS, BUILDING PLACE, BUILDING COMMUNITY

- In Fall 2005, the 16-story steel structure for SAM's downtown expansion was completed and the building's signature exterior façade was finished. Called a "brise soleil," it is a layer of moveable shutters made of stainless steel, which will control the way natural light enters the building creating a dynamic exterior and an interior that responds to art.
- Seamlessly connected to the existing Venturi building, this unique and transparent design by Brad Cloepfil of Allied Works Architecture will interact with the downtown streetscape both visually and physically, connecting the community with art on a daily basis.
- This building will transform the museum experience into an open urban forum for art, ideas and community life. Two free floors of public space—featuring art, educational opportunities, reading areas, a restaurant and a museum store—will help SAM make art accessible for everyone.
- The expanded museum will occupy the entire block of First Avenue between University and Union streets, adding 75 percent more gallery space when SAM re-opens in 2007. Over time, SAM downtown will occupy a total of 430,000 square feet. The expansion will not only allow SAM to bring treasured works out of storage, it will also allow the permanent collection to grow and make it possible to host major traveling shows that were too large for SAM until now.

2008 VOLUNTEER PARK RENOVATIONS BEGIN & 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

BUILDING HISTORY, BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS, BUILDING COLLECTIONS

- As SAM approaches its 75th anniversary in 2008, the adventurous spirit of its founder, Richard Fuller, continues to drive the museum. While it prepares to open the Olympic Sculpture Park and the new and expanded downtown museum, SAM is simultaneously undergoing major renovations at its birthplace, the Seattle Asian Art Museum.
- Opened in 1933 and located in Volunteer Park on Capitol Hill, SAAM's art deco building, designed by architect Carl F. Gould, houses one of the nation's premier Japanese, Korean and Chinese art collections.
- A series of renovations to the building began in late 2005 with a re-roofing project that was generously supported by the City of Seattle. In January 2006 the museum celebrated SAAM's re-opening and temporarily moved its public operations to Volunteer Park.
- Beginning in late 2008, infrastructure renovations to environmental controls will be made to protect this architectural landmark, preserve its collections and increase its ability to host major traveling exhibitions.