

King County is building a new Children and Family Justice Center to replace the aging Youth Services Center at 12th Avenue and East Alder Street in Seattle. The new Children and Family Justice Center will provide an efficient and safe facility to support juvenile and family court, juvenile detention, and services for youth and families. King County voters approved \$210 million for the project in August 2012.

## Children and Family Justice Center



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## King County's Vision

Times have changed since the first Youth Services Center was constructed in 1952. King County is now a national leader in reducing youth incarceration rates and using best practices in child welfare, juvenile court, and juvenile detention. Replacing the current facility presents an opportunity for the County to improve safety, security and the use of programming that improves outcomes for youth and families, while bringing new benefits to the surrounding neighborhood. The new facility design will link youth and families with the services they need in a respectful and supportive environment. This will help realize King County's commitment to reduce the proportion of minority youth in the juvenile justice system and meet the needs of King County's growing population for the next 50 years.



## Success Story



*This former Youth Services Center client is making great strides and moving forward on a positive life path. With the support of his grandmother (pictured), mentors, and court and community programs, this high school senior has improved his grades, is applying for college scholarships, and plays on his high school football team.*

## Construction Facts

**Site: Approximately 9 acres**

**Courthouse: 137,700 sq. ft./  
10 courtrooms, adds 40,000 sq. ft.  
or 3 courtrooms**

**Detention Center: 98,000 sq. ft.,  
25,000 sq. ft. smaller than current  
building**

**Construction begins: Fall 2015**

**Facility opens: Fall 2018**

**Parking garage opens: Fall 2019**

# Project History and Timeline

Design concepts and facility programs are the result of years planning and input from national foundations, former users of the Youth Services Center, and others.

## 2002-2006

### Site Use Analysis

#### Purpose

- Evaluate development prospects for the existing Youth Services Center campus

#### Outreach

- Held a series of community meetings, interactive workshops, interviews and design workshops in the Squire Park neighborhood

#### Outcomes

- Confirmed plans to replace the existing facility at the same location



Chief Juvenile Judge Wesley Saint Clair at a project information table at a community festival in Kent.

## 2005-2006

### Targeted Operational Master Plan

#### Purpose

- Identify how King County could meet the needs of children and families involved in the legal system more efficiently and effectively

#### Outreach

- Held focus groups with youth, parents, and guardians who have been involved in the Superior Court system to gather input on needs and gaps in the existing system
- Engaged youth and family advocates, juvenile justice experts, and local community members in a project workgroup to develop a plan for addressing the needs of youth and families

#### Outcomes

- Identified strategies and recommendations for addressing the needs of youth and families with a new facility

## 2007-2009

### Targeted Juvenile and Family Law Facilities Master Plan

#### Purpose

- Identify designs and programs that would address the needs of youth and families
- Increase public awareness and generate support for the project

#### Outreach

- Met monthly with a Steering Committee comprised of representatives from the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Kent Youth and Family Services, King County Bar Association, Casey Family Programs, and the Washington State Attorney General's Office

#### Outcome

- Refined the options for redeveloping the existing Youth Services Center to better address the needs of youth and families



Neighborhood Advisory Committee members provide input on the project.

"The current building is an enemy to practices we know work better. The new center will better protect the safety of youth...provide room for modern approaches that move young people out of the criminal-justice system and provide help for families..."

Seattle Times editorial, July 28, 2012



n service providers, child advocates, neighbors,

## 2010

### Pre-Design Report

#### Purpose

- Define the scope, cost, and schedule for the project
- Determine how to meet future growth
- Gather community input for future design

#### Outreach

- Held three community meetings to gather input on the site plan
- Documented public comments on specific improvements that could be made to the design

#### Outcome

- Identified community priorities for aesthetic improvements, open space, traffic, parking, access, and the potential addition of retail space and housing
- Voters reject a sales tax increase proposed for fire and police services in cities and unincorporated King County, and construction of Children and Family Justice Center

## 2012

### Ballot Measure

#### Purpose

- Secure project funding through voter approval of Proposition 1, a ballot measure to increase the property tax levy by seven cents per \$1,000 of assessed value for nine years

#### Outreach

- King County Council held two public hearings
- Privately funded committee campaigned for passage of levy

#### Outcome

- King County voters approved a nine-year levy increase providing \$210 million in funding for the project



Voters approved \$210 million for construction of a new Children and Family Justice Center.

## 2013

### Project Development

#### Purpose

- Gather input from Youth Services Center judges, volunteers, staff, and facility users to inform the project program and future design
- Seek potential amendments to the current land use code that would allow for the new courthouse, juvenile detention facility, and supporting parking structure
- Issue Request for Qualifications for the Design-Build team and select three finalists
- Prepare performance standards for the facility, with input from the surrounding community and users
- Analyze potential effects of construction and operation of the new facility on the environment
- Three finalists selected to submit proposals for facility design

#### Outreach

- Held open house with approximately 100 attendees
- Appointed and held four meetings with 11-member Neighborhood Advisory Committee to provide input on site design guidelines
- Distributed three project newsletters to 8,000 people throughout King County
- Hosted information tables at eight community fairs and festivals throughout King County and made approximately 3,000 individual contacts

## How community input has shaped the project

King County has learned a lot about community values and the features the community would like to see incorporated into the design of the Children and Family Justice Center. As a result, King County is incorporating several amenities and design features to respond to user and community priorities.

- Conducted focus groups and interviews with community leaders and stakeholders in the Youth Services Center to identify interests and concerns about the project
- Released the results of the environmental analysis to the public (conducted in accordance with the State Environmental Policy Act or SEPA)

### Outcome

- Added flexibility to detention facility preliminary design so some space can easily be converted to provide youth community services if not needed for detention
- Initiated discussions with King County Metro Transit for new bus service on 12th Avenue; expanded traffic and parking study
- Confirmed need for short-term, drop-in child care for court and detention visitors, private space for families in crisis, WiFi access and secure lockers for volunteers
- Gathered input from Neighborhood Advisory Committee on pedestrian access, building heights, traffic, parking, public open space, windows, setbacks, landscaping, housing and retail opportunities
- Facilitated dialogue about equity and social justice countywide and in the child welfare and juvenile justice system

- Resource Center to help connect youth and families with community programs and service providers
- Drop-in child care facility for clients and detention visitors
- Lockers and computer portals for volunteers
- Private rooms for meetings between attorneys and clients and families in crisis
- A detention facility that provides a safe, supportive environment to help young people successfully return to their communities and a positive life path
- Flexible design to accommodate changing needs
- Interior design that creates an open and supportive atmosphere
- Detention living halls that feel less like an institution
- Multiple outdoor recreation areas protected from bad weather
- Community open spaces
- Access to meeting space available for community use
- Public art projects
- Art training program for court involved youth
- Pedestrian and bike connections with adjacent neighborhoods
- Potential surplus property sale for possible commercial/residential use
- Employment training for youth on probation
- Potential new bus service on 12th Avenue
- Potential replacement of interagency school for court involved youth who are not involved in detention



The new center will feature public art. This piece, *Spirit of Our Youth* (1996), by Martin Oliver, is on the existing Youth Services Center campus and will be relocated on-site.



# The new Center will address critical safety, security, and building efficiency issues



*No privacy for meetings between attorneys and clients*



*Crowded waiting area increases stress and does not allow for private, confidential conversations*



*Leaky windows in library*



*Leaky roof*



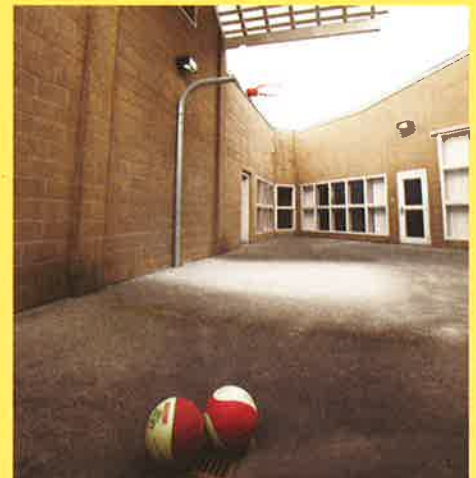
*Inefficient classroom and school*



*Inefficient building design makes security more expensive to provide*



*Small, crowded courtrooms often have standing room only for family and friends*



*Use of outdoor space is limited to a schedule so youth can be separated, and it does not have shelter from bad weather*

## Project Benefits

### To youth:

A Resource Center in the courthouse part of the building will help connect youth with programs and services, including education, treatment and healthcare. The detention section of the building will have a design that is less institutional and provide space for dentistry and health care services and improved access to school and outdoor areas. Two living areas will be built with flexibility to convert to community services such as a shelter for homeless youth if incarceration rates can be kept low and the space is not needed for detention.

### To families:

The new Children and Family Justice Center co-locates several programs for families, including a new Resource Center, room for drop-in child care for parents on Justice Center business (up to four hours), and space for volunteers and service providers who support youth and families. On-site services include: Family Treatment Court – a program that provides parents with substance abuse issues access to treatment, parenting support, and case management; and Parents for Parents, which pairs parents in crisis with parents who have successfully navigated the family court system.

### To the community:

In support of neighborhood plans and aesthetics, the new Center will enhance pedestrian mobility and reconnect Squire Park with First Hill, increase public outdoor areas, possibly provide new bus service, and serve as a community anchor and catalyst for economic revitalization sought by the neighborhood. It will save taxpayers \$1.5 million annually in operating costs.



Artist: Nhon T. Truong

## Next Steps

### 2014 Schematic Design and Permitting

#### Activities

- Seek land use code amendment to allow replacement of existing public facility on site
- Select the Design-Build team and complete schematic design
- Apply to the City of Seattle for a Master Use Permit
- City of Seattle reviews King County's application to make sure that land use code provisions are followed and that any environmental impacts are identified and mitigated

#### Outreach Opportunities

- Continue to produce and distribute quarterly project newsletters
- Hold Neighborhood Advisory Committee meetings
- Begin pre-construction outreach and host public event to share design plans and gather input on the best ways to minimize impacts during construction
- Distribute public notice of Master Use Permit application and hold a comment period and public hearing
- Public art committee process and youth art project

### 2015 Final Design

#### Activities

- Complete final design, including detailed decisions about interior design of the facility, landscaping, and open space
- Temporary relocation of some court and detention staff before the start of construction
- Apply for and obtain building permits

#### Outreach Opportunities

- Hold Neighborhood Advisory Committee meetings
- Continue to produce and distribute project newsletters
- Develop a summary report of Neighborhood Advisory Committee work and post it to the project website
- Begin 24/7 project hotline

### Success Story



*Alise and Kim have overcome drug addiction and are helping other parents in crisis through their work with the court's Parents for Parents program.*

### Contact us

**Website:**

[www.kingcounty.gov/childrenandfamilyjustice](http://www.kingcounty.gov/childrenandfamilyjustice)

**Phone number:**

206-296-1100

**Email:**

[childrenandfamilyjustice@kingcounty.gov](mailto:childrenandfamilyjustice@kingcounty.gov)



**King County**