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Located in Bellevue, Washington, the 48,000 square foot Meydenbauer Center opened in 1993 as the Greater Seattle area's second largest convention facility. Meydenbauer Center was built to grow and sustain Bellevue's economic vitality.

In 2007 the facility's largest space, the 36,000 Center Hall was totally renovated. The new space features ceiling and acoustical wall treatments, carpeting, and paint, enhanced lighting and decorative elements.

The Center hosts a wide variety of corporate meetings, banquets, consumer shows, conventions, and community events and employs 32 full- and up to 50 part-time staff.

Key Statistics

In 2006, Meydenbauer Center:

- Hosted 401 conventions and events
- Welcomed 205,316 attendees
- Generated \$22 million in economic impact

The Theatre at Meydenbauer Center hosted 170 performances by local and regional performing arts groups attended by approximately 40,700 patrons.

Main Features

- 36,000 sq.ft. Center Hall, divides in two
- With the recent renovation, Center Hall is one of the largest carpeted meeting/event spaces in the Pacific Northwest.
- 12,000 sq.ft. meeting rooms; divides into nine separate rooms. Largest room is 6,000 sq. ft.
- 410 seat performing arts theatre
- 434 parking spaces

Full-service kitchen and in-house catering.

Management

Meydenbauer Center is owned and operated by the Bellevue Convention Center Authority, a public development authority. The seven-member board is appointed by the Bellevue City Manager and confirmed by the city council.

Funding

In August of 1991, the BCCA issued \$29.4 million in bonds to finance construction of Meydenbauer Center. This consisted of \$7.4 million in Special Obligation Revenue Bonds, Series 1991A and \$22.0 million in Special Obligation Revenue Bonds, Series 1991B. The bonds are backed by the full faith and credit of the City of Bellevue.

The City of Bellevue issued bonds of \$5.1 million in 1995 and \$10.5 million in 2002 on behalf of Meydenbauer Center. The 1995 bond proceeds financed various capital projects, including design work for expansion. The 2002 bond proceeds purchased the land under Meydenbauer Center and parcels adjacent to Meydenbauer for future expansion.

Meydenbauer Center is a self-sustaining facility which uses no general funds or taxes from Bellevue residents. The Center's 2007 annual operating budget is approximately \$8.3 million, with budgets for capital, reserves and debt service bring the total budget to \$18 million. Operating expenses are funded by revenues generated from direct charges to facility users for rent, catering and other meeting services and Bellevue hotel/motel taxes.

The Future

The Bellevue City Council in 1997 approved preliminary plans to nearly double the convention center's functional space. In January 2000, Bellevue City Council closed a deal to buy the land beneath Meydenbauer Center and in 2006 the City purchased the option parcel for expansion. Currently that parcel is leased to Schnitzer West for construction staging for the Bravern project.

Meydenbauer Center Vision

"Our vision is to be an outstanding event and performing arts center that generates community and employee pride, creates economic stimulation and provides exceptional guest satisfaction."