

People's Center Redevelopment
Feasibility Study

Community Advisory Meeting
#1

11/22/25 | 12:30 PM-2 PM

PEOPLE'S
COMMUNITY CENTER

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Parks Tacoma acknowledges that we operate on the traditional homelands of the Puyallup and Nisqually Tribes, and on lands with deep significance to other Coast Salish tribes. Coast Salish people have lived on and stewarded these lands since time immemorial and continue to do so today. We recognize that this land acknowledgement is one small step toward true allyship and we commit to uplifting the voices, experiences, and histories of the Indigenous people of this land and beyond.

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Today's Agenda

- People's Center Feasibility Study Overview (5 min) (Terry)
- Around the Room (25 min) (Erin)
- Brief History of People's Center (10 min) (Erin)
- Break (5 min)
- PCC Programming (20 min) (Antonio)
- Activity (20 min) (Erin)
- Wrap-Up (5 min)



People's Center Redevelopment Feasibility Study

- **Budget**

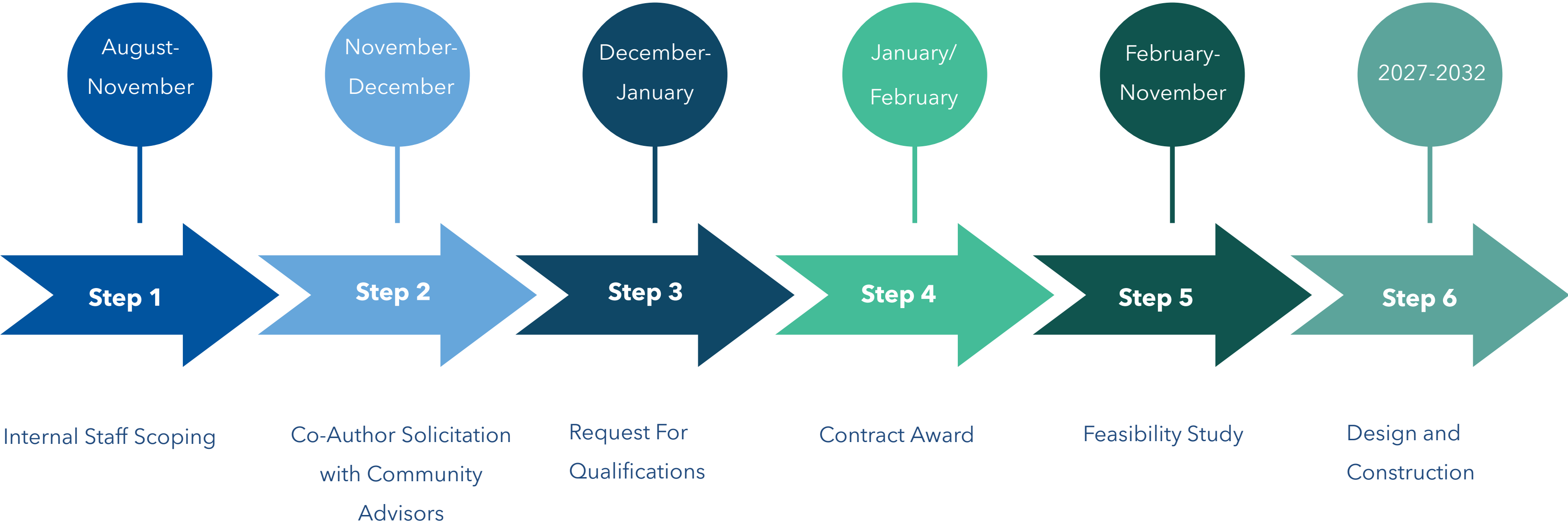
- Dept of Commerce (DOC) Grant- Direct Appropriation via Rep. Jake Fey and Yasmin Trudeau
- People's - \$388K from DOC, 50K from COT and Parks—totaling \$488K

- **Project Planning**

- Internal Stakeholders- Project Charter
- Community Stakeholders- Community Advisors Meetings
- Working with TPF; Potential Partners- THA, TPL, Boys & Girls Club, Doug Baldwin Jr, etc.
- A/E Firm will prepare the Feasibility Study with Parks Tacoma direction

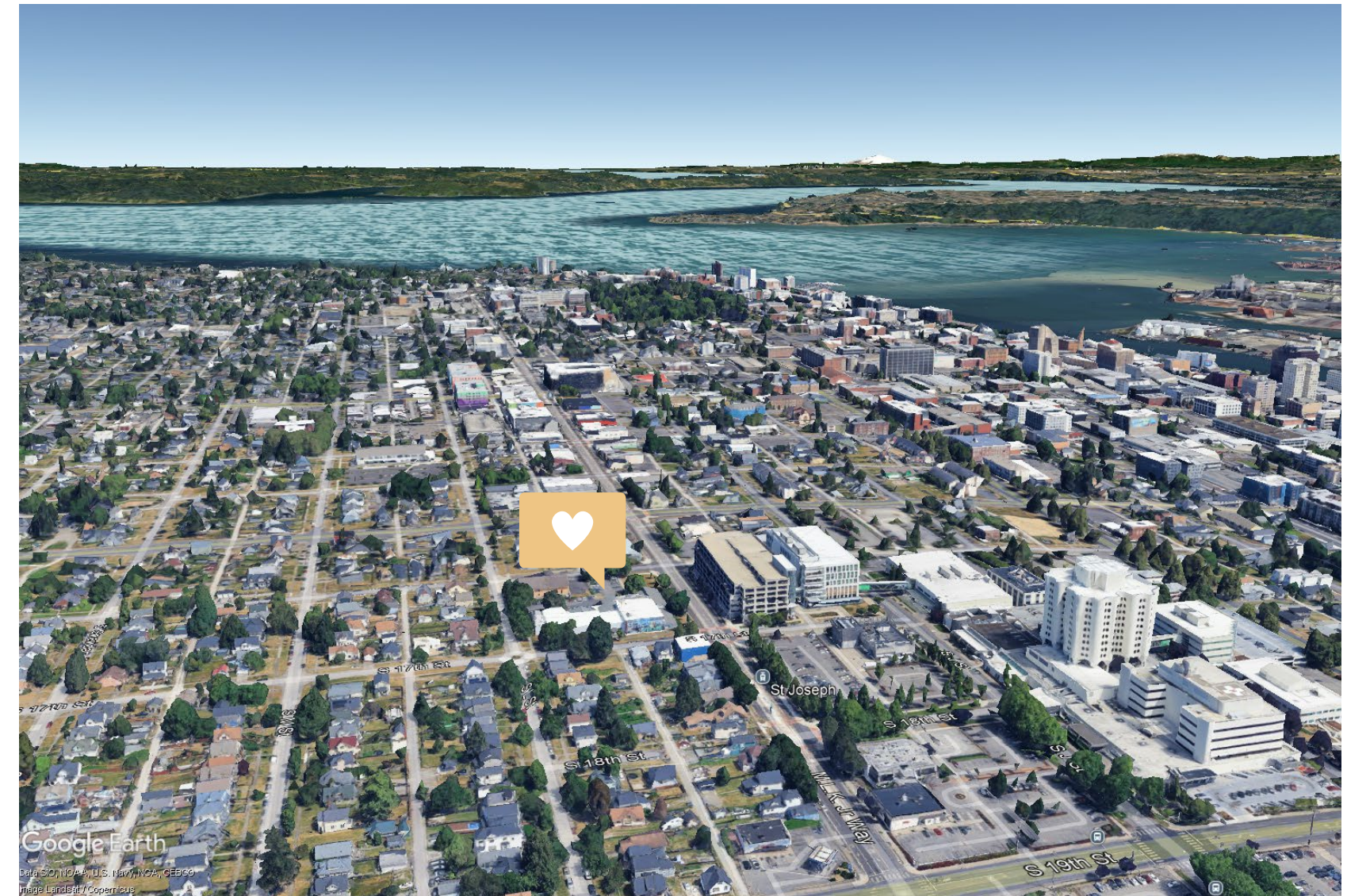


Project Timeline



What is a feasibility study?

- Analysis of current site and facility conditions as well as land-use, zoning, transportation and urban planning considerations
- Explore strategies to maximize benefit of this facility for indoor and outdoor recreation; evaluate the potential for addressing other community needs such as housing, library services, and other community partners
- Quantify the programmatic needs at People's Community Center with the assumption that the area will have greater housing density and demand for recreation services will grow proportionally
- Explore adjacent church property as a potential acquisition to expand the building footprint and creative use of public rights of way
- Explore project delivery strategies, including handing over property to Parks Tacoma
- Develop anticipated total project delivery costs



Ground Rules

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Community Advisory Meetings

Meeting #1 (Today)

- Redevelopment Feasibility Study Process & Timeline, People's Center Overview- History and Programming

Meeting #2 (Wednesday, 12/3)

- Project Narrative, Solicitation Discussion, Vision for People's Center Feasibility Study

Community Advisory Meetings

- Share information about the upcoming People's Center feasibility study timeline and process
- Vision and goals for the community center
- Input from People's Center community members (you!) on the Feasibility Study Solicitation (Hiring a Design Firm)
- Determine potential role in the solicitation and study process



...what
else?

Around the Room

- Share Name
- Your Connection to People's Center and Community Voice
- Story or something you enjoy about People's Center



Brief History of the People's Center Building

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Brief History of the People's Center Building

- Malcolm X Youth Center in Hilltop served as a community center with youth focus
- Community members came together for years to advocate for the People's Center, the center exists because of the advocacy from the community
- Always more than just a recreation facility



NEW COMMUNITY CENTER GETS NAME

Tacoma's new \$1.2 million community center at 16th and South K Streets will be called Peoples' Community Center, the Citizens' Task Force to Name the Center announced yesterday.

Peoples' Community Center was the overwhelming choice of persons who chose among nine names nominated for the center.

The Task Force had solicited ballots which citizens dropped into a ballot box at the community center construction site.

The name chosen garnered 127 votes. The runner-up was Hilltop Community Center with 24 votes, followed by Martin Luther King Center with 16 votes, Malcolm X Center with 14 votes, K Street Community Center with 13 votes, Joe Gordan Center with four votes and Mary Bethune Center with one vote. Two other nominations received no votes.

The center is being constructed on land formerly occupied by the Malcolm X Center.

The center, which was funded mostly by federal community development funds, is expected to be completed by next March.

It will be operated by the Metropolitan Park District. The center will have a gymnasium, meeting rooms, locker rooms and swimming pool.



People's Center Throughout the Decades

1950



1970



1990



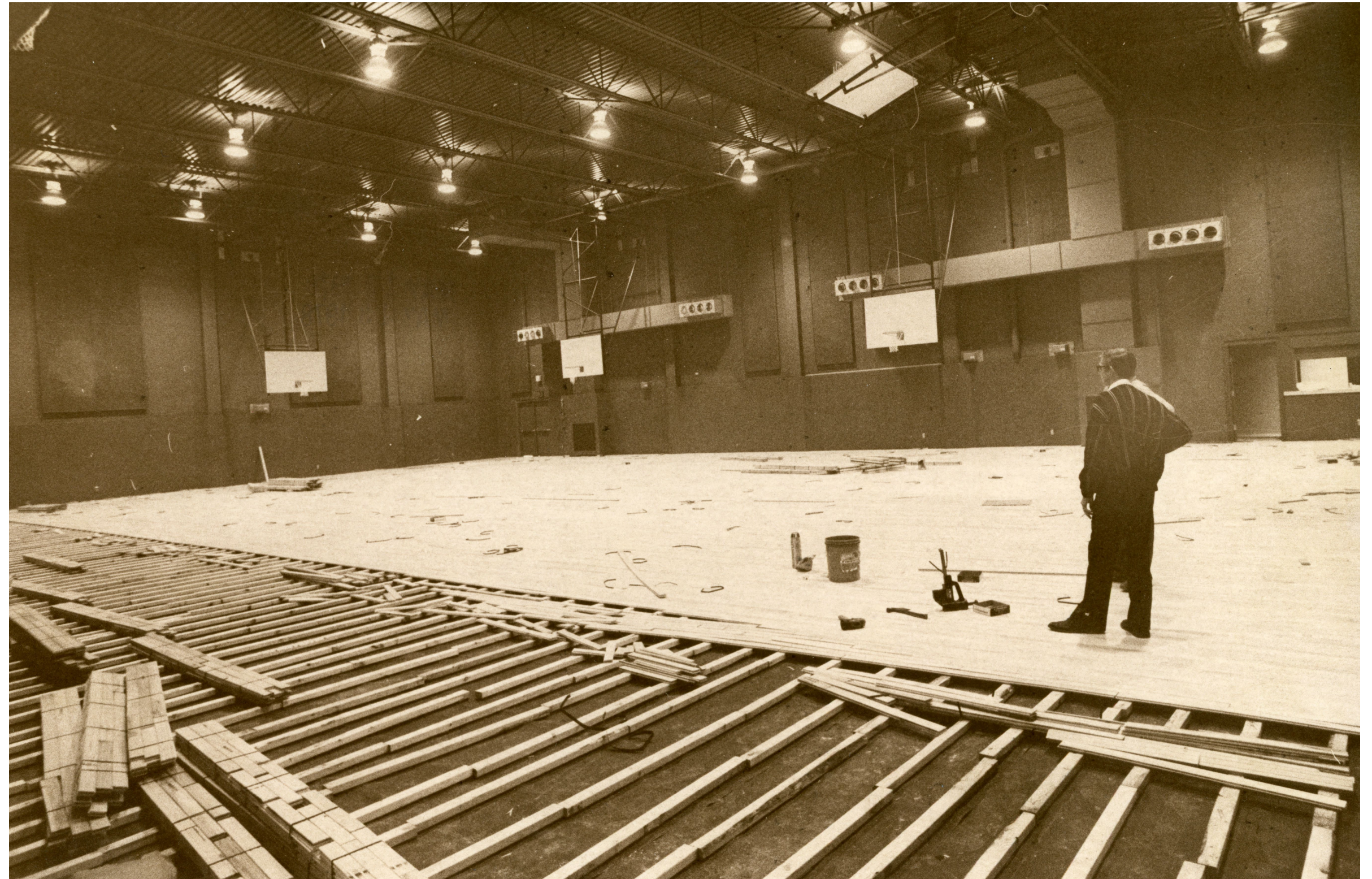
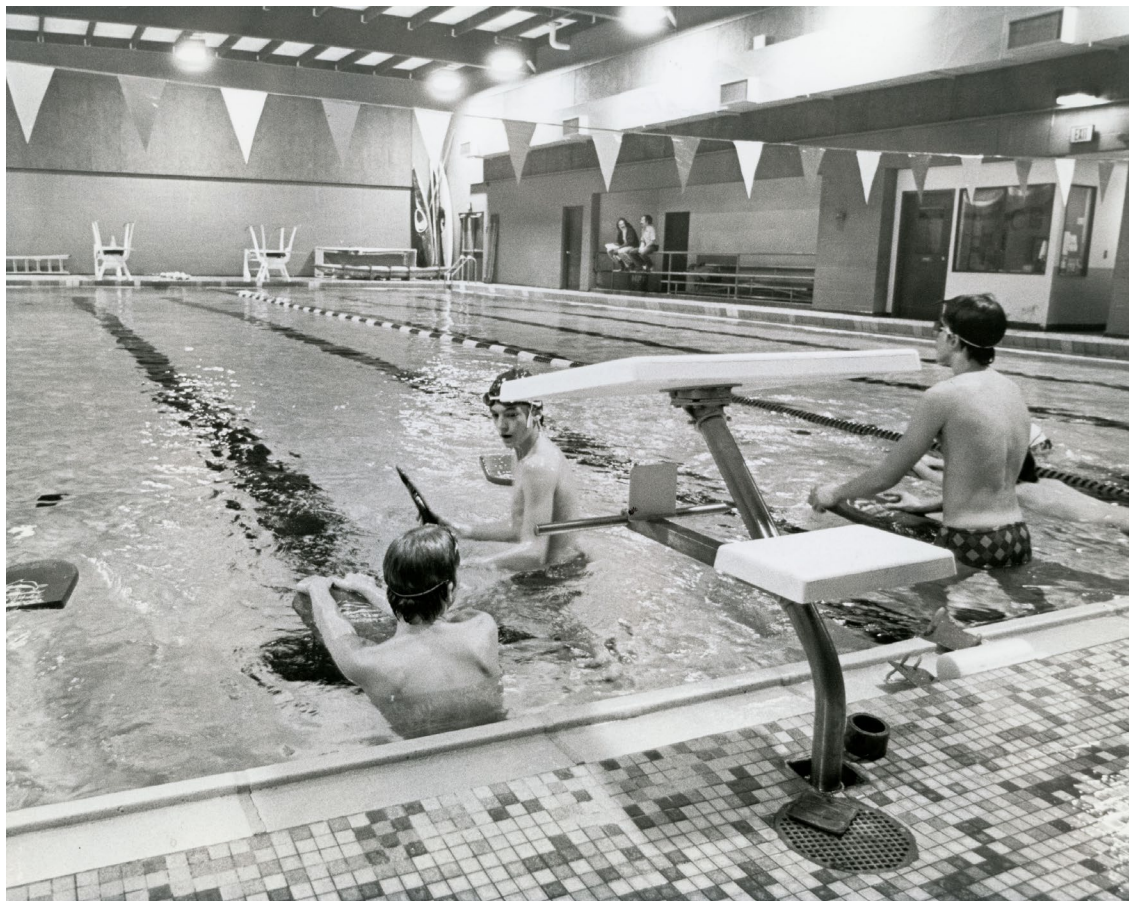
Brief History of the People's Center Building

- Groundbreaking parade down MLK (Formerly K St) and ceremony in May 1977



Brief History of the People's Center Building

- Gymnasium during Construction
- Pool after completion



Brief History of the People's Center Building

– Building completed in 1978; pool opened in 1979



Brief History of the People's Center Building

- Remodels in the early 1980s
- Pool closed in 2008; reopened after a new pool was built in 2016
- Mural - 2016-2017
- Kitchen remodel, vestibule alterations, flooring, fitness center improvements
- STILL has major maintenance requirements, operational challenges, and is undersized for the community it serves



5 Minute Break!

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People's Center Programming Over Time

- In the 1980s, People's became hub for athletics, aquatics, and special populations (what we now call Specialized & Adaptive recreation)
- 1990s- refocus on youth, Youth Outreach division created, focused on after school programs and youth programming
- 2000s - Center strategy to make it feel more "exclusive", fee-based classes- not successful
- Emphasis on free / low-cost programming and open centers

Facilities

Size: 14,775 square feet

Funding: \$802,989 from Community Development Department and \$400,000 from State of Washington Referendum 29

Facilities: gymnasium/auditorium, stage, child care center, kitchen, conference/classroom, offices, lobby/activity room, dressing rooms and showers, playground, outdoor amphitheater, 25 meter swimming pool, multi-purpose room

Social Services:

Youth Services Bureau
Hilltop Multi-Purpose Center
Panel for Family Living
Big Brothers
Barrier free construction for handicapped persons

People's Center in 2025

- Always been a hub to fill in the gap where other services fail
 - **Senior Hub**
 - **Teen Hub**
 - **Community Hub**



People's Center in 2025

- Strong community partnerships
 - Resourceful programming serving all ages
- Growing membership – 30% increase from 2024 to 2025
- Programs and events for the entire community



Programming at People's Center

- Facilitated
- Contracted
- Parks led
- Community events



What's going on at People's Center in 2025?

**Senior
Meals**

Visual Arts

**Swim
Lessons**

Room Rentals

**Seasonal
Events**

**Dance
Classes**

Senior Hub

**Adult
Dodgeball**

Basketball

**Personal
Fitness**

Pickleball

**Water
Aerobics**

Teen Nights

**Shower
Program**

Question #1: What makes People's Center special?

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Question #2:
**How has People's Center had an
impact on your life?**

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Question #3:
What community center
features are vital to People's
Center current programs and
events?

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Meeting #2 (Wednesday, 12/3)

- Project Narrative, Solicitation, Vision for People's Center Feasibility Study
- Dinner will be served, childcare (all ages) activities available in Teen Center – please confirm # of children by emailing Erin by 11/25



THANK YOU!

Next Meeting:
Community Advisory Meeting #2
12/3/25 | 6 PM-7:30 PM
Dinner will be served!

**Want to keep the
conversation going &
share more?**



Click here:

<https://www.engagepiercecounty.com/peoples-community-center-feasibility-study>

PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY CENTER

