

## APPENDIX 2

# Tour of Seattle Center Century 21 Exposition

These notes were adapted from a walking tour for participants of the Teacher Workshop held on August 29, 2011. This is a great starting point for a short tour for your students. A set of photographs are included as a separate folder. It is recommended that tour leaders make 11" x 17" copies of the photos and laminate them so they can be viewed during the walking tour. You will also want to have a copy of the 1962 Seattle Center Map which is included in the photo folder.

**Meet outside the Center House near Starbucks Coffee. This brief tour will take 15–20 minutes and will highlight several key buildings at the 1962 Seattle World's Fair from several central vistas.**

### STOP 1

**Center House/Food Circus/ Washington State National Guard Armory** (Walk out far enough to see the main door and name.) This building, originally the Washington National Guard Armory, was one of several on the fair site that pre-existed the fair and were repurposed for use during the fair. During the fair it was called the Food Circus. It contained 52 food concessions, a 39-foot 12.5 ton fruitcake, a first-aid center, a baby-care facility, changing rooms for fair employees, and offices. The glass elevator called the Bubbleator was moved from the Coliseum to the Food Circus after the fair and was removed in 1980.

### STOP 2

**“Everyone turn around and look up”** (Continue to stop periodically and view the **Space Needle** as people who visited Century 21 would have done.) The Space Needle's roof was originally painted orange. The actual color name was Galaxy Gold (roof). Other colors sported by the Space Needle during the fair were Re-entry Red (halo), Orbital Olive (core), and Astronaut White (legs). The Space Needle became the main symbol for Century 21. It is 605 feet high. Nearly 20,000 visitors a day went up to the restaurant during the Fair. The elevators travel 14 ft. a second. Take some time and go to the top.

The city, county, and state were all approached to fund Space Needle construction, but all declined. A group of five private individuals formed Pentagram Corporation and built the Needle, which is still privately owned.

### STOP 3

**“We going on a short walk to see another Seattle landmark—The Monorail.”**

We recommend you take a round trip ride sometime soon to experience what it must have been like to arrive at the fairgrounds and see the Space Needle for the first time. The monorail line runs 1.2 miles from Westlake Center to Seattle Center. The Westlake end was changed in 1986 when Westlake Center mall was built.

### STOP 4

(Walk to Fisher Pavilion which gives a view of the Coliseum, International Fountain, Plaza of the States (flag pavilion site, sky ride, international pavilions, opera house, etc.)

The **Plaza of the States** served as a formal venue for ceremonies honoring visiting U.S. governors

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and highlighting their states. Each state was represented by its flag. Many groups performed in this area. The green grass has replaced this area. In 1978, the landmark King Tut exhibit was located in the Pavilion, which was later demolished to make way for Fisher Pavilion. The King Tut exhibit drew more people to Seattle Center than had any event since the fair. Pacific Science Center will host a new King Tut exhibit in 2012.

The **International Fountain** was designed to shoot water 150 ft. and resemble a sunflower with seed-like nozzles. Light and music accompanied the water blasts. It was remodeled in 1995 to make it more visitor friendly, but its spray patterns still pays homage to the spray patterns used during the fair.

**Washington State Coliseum** (now Key Arena) was designed by the fair’s supervising architect, Paul Thiry. The Coliseum housed the “World of Tomorrow” exhibit, which fairgoers entered by riding a giant round glass elevator called the Bubbleator. Immediately after the fair, the Coliseum was remodeled into an all-purpose convention and sports facility using Thiry’s plans. In 1994–95, the building was completely remodeled. The floor was lowered 35 feet below street level, but the integrity of the roofline was maintained.

The **Sky Ride** started near the Monorail terminal and crossed the grounds to the International Mall. It now operates at the Puyallup Fair.

Other sites can be pointed out at this time—International Mall, Opera House (now McCaw Hall), Arena, Boulevard of the World, etc.

The four Gates, the Gayway, Fun Forest, Stadium, and Show Street can be located on the map.

#### STOP 5

**Paul Horiuchi’s *Seattle Mural*** Fair officials commissioned noted Northwest artist Paul Horiuchi to create this artwork as Century 21 Exposition’s gift to the city of Seattle. Horiuchi traveled to Italy to select the glass that he then used to create the mural on site, working under a canvas cover. *Seattle Mural* is Paul Horiuchi’s only work of public art. It was recently refurbished.

#### STOP 6

**United States Federal Science Pavilion (now Pacific Science Center)** Funded by the federal government, the United States Science Pavilion was designed by Seattle-born architect Minoru Yamasaki, who later designed Seattle’s IBM Building and Rainier Square and tower, as well as the World Trade Center in New York (destroyed 9/11/2001). Yamasaki’s clustered arches were dubbed “space-gothic” because they harkened back to cathedral architecture. Six buildings surrounding tranquil fountains housed exhibits that led fairgoers through the story of science, with plenty of hands-on demonstrations that made the lessons accessible to visitors of all ages. The federal government turned the pavilion and many of its exhibits over to the newly-formed non-profit organization Pacific Science Center the day after the Century 21 Exposition closed.