

# Seaside convention center moves into final design phase

Project set for completion in spring of 2019

By R.J. MARX  
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Early birds, book now.

The Seaside Civic and Convention Center provided a construction update to city councilors Monday night.

“We’re in the final design phase,” Convention Center General Manager Russ Vandenberg said. “We anticipate the construction to begin in April, and completion to be done in spring of 2019.”

Vandenberg walked councilors through plans, including revamped entrances, new stairway locations and exterior improvements.

The convention center, at nearly 46,000 square feet, will expand to more than 54,000 square feet, a net gain of about



Seaside Civic and Convention Center  
Architectural rendering of the remodeled lobby.

19 percent. A complete exterior update will tie the additions together.

The Necanicum Room will grow from 4,800 square feet to

more than 6,500 square feet, a 35 percent increase in usable space. Dining capacity in that room will increase from 250 to 350, a “major improvement

to recruit people for future events,” Vandenberg said.

Modern ceiling tiles and dimmable pendant lighting will be installed to give the room more of a “mood feel,” Vandenberg said.

Lobby restrooms will be relocated to a portion of the current administrative area. A stairway will be moved and a reception or registration area added to the east side of the lobby. Administrative offices will be reconfigured, as will the concession area. “It really opens up the whole main lobby, along with opening up this area for booths, displays and merchandising,” Vandenberg said.

While the smaller, upstairs Haystack rooms

will be removed, two additional rooms will be added to the second floor, along with two more restrooms.

An entryway on the west side of the parking lot will be added so visitors can enter without being affected by the weather.

The building’s postcard-style mural, added in 2012, will be retained.

Portland-based Holst Architecture and Convergence Design of Kansas City, Missouri, will team with local architects O’Brien and Co. Construction to finalize design elements throughout the winter months.

Final cost estimates will be submitted to the City

Council in January or early February, Vandenberg said, followed by a two-month review by city officials.

“We are just so excited to get started with this project,” Vandenberg said. “Our clients are excited. They’re nervously anticipating a little bit of impact that they’re going to endure while they’re here. We’re going to minimize that to the best of our ability and practice the words: ‘Please excuse our mess. This is a three-day inconvenience for you — and next year you’re going to come back and have a brand new, renovated facility you’re going to enjoy for years to come.’”

## Official says kratom buyers beware

By KRISTIAN FODEN-VENCIL  
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Oregon’s public health officer says buyers need to beware of an herbal supplement called kratom.

Kratom grows in Southeast Asia but has recently gained popularity in the U.S. for treating everything from pain to depression. It’s also used recreationally.

Last month, the Food and Drug Administration issued a warning about kratom, citing 36 deaths nationally. That, in turn, prompted Lane County to issue a warning, urging people not to use the product.

Oregon public health officer Dr. Katrina Hedberg said kratom is not well regulated. “People assume that because it’s natural and it’s being sold at a store it must be OK for you or healthy. And that is not the case,” Hedberg said.

On average, less than two people show up at Oregon emergency rooms each week for issues associated with kratom.

## Work to empty some Hanford nuclear waste tanks nearly done

Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — After almost two decades of work, the federal government has nearly finished removing radioactive wastes from a first group of underground storage tanks in eastern Washington.

Work began 19 years ago to remove radioactive sludge and salt cake from 16 underground tanks known collectively as the C Tank Farm. The wastes are left over from the production of plutonium for nuclear weapons on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

The U.S. Department of Energy said last week that a contractor is in the final stages of removing waste from tank C-105, a 530,000-gallon capacity tank. That tank has stored radioactive wastes since 1947, and is a suspected leaker.

Hanford was established by the Manhattan Project during World War II and made most of the nation’s plutonium for nuclear weapons.

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