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\$12.5M face lift for Meydenbauer Center

By [JOURNAL STAFF](#)

Downtown Bellevue's Meydenbauer Center will get a \$12.5 million interior and exterior upgrade. The 20-year-old convention center is at 11100 N.E. Sixth St.

Officials said construction could begin next June and take about three months. Exterior work includes replacing insulation systems and sealant joints. On the interior, crews will upgrade meeting areas, lobbies, restrooms and the theater. New audiovisual systems and a wide area network to meet the needs of high tech companies will also be installed.



"While still in generally great shape, the reality is that Meydenbauer is a facility that needs investment from time-to-time to ensure it operates competitively and efficiently," Meydenbauer Center Board Chair Rick Carlson said in a press release. "We hoped to begin some of these projects about 10 years ago, but the Great Recession prevented that from happening. Now, the timing is right to put this back on the table and ensure Meydenbauer continues to be an important economic development engine for the Eastside and the region now and in the years to come."

LMN Architects is designing the interior upgrades. J2 Building Consultants is doing architectural, engineering and construction management for the exterior. A general contractor will be selected in January.

The building has 54,000 square feet of event space, including a 36,000-square-foot main hall, nine meeting rooms with 12,000 square feet and a performing arts theater with 410 seats.

Bellevue City Council approved \$4.1 million in reserves from the sale of an old convention center site to pay for part of the work. The rest will come from bonds taken out by the city and repaid by Meydenbauer Center.

Meydenbauer Center is a self-sustaining public development authority that funds its operations with revenue from users, catering, meeting services and Bellevue hotel taxes.

Meydenbauer representatives said the center had 353 events last year attended by more than 177,000 people, generating \$34.5 million in economic impact.