

# Bellingham-Whatcom Public Facilities District

**Construction Cost:** \$12,113,700, including state sales tax

**General Contractor:** Ebenal General, Inc. of Bellingham, WA

**Architect:** Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects of Seattle, WA

**Construction completed:** March 2010



## **Background:**

On July 13, 2004, the BWPFD purchased real property at 216 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, as the future site of the proposed 36,000 square foot Art & Children's Museum. A national design competition was conducted in 2004, with the jury selecting Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects as the winners on January 29, 2005.

A groundbreaking ceremony took place on August 2, 2007.



Art & Children's Museum with Light Catcher

## History of Museum Design Competition

DATE	ACTION
July 15, 2004	Assembled competition committee that worked with competition advisor Bill Liskamm and his associate C. David Robinson. The competition committee consisted of Tom Livesay, Director of the Museum, Jeff McClure, a Bellingham architect, Andrea Evans, a representative of the Children's Museum, Frances LeCocq, community member, Charles Self, member of the PFD, Phil Sharpe, former member of the PFD, Dick McKinley, Public Works Director, Patricia Decker, PFD Manager, and Dunham Gooding, president of the PFD. The competition committee was also advised by Scott Wallin, director of exhibitions at the Museum.
August 4, 2004	RFQ issued for the Museum design competition.
September 8, 2004	Briefing for competitors.
September 21, 2004	SOQ's due for the competition; 49 received.
September 22, 2004	Public Workshop at the Museum. Comments from the public helped shape the Competition Kit.
October 2004	Jury assembled: Andrew Kramer, Norman Pfeiffer, Allison Williams, Richard Haag, Jeff McClure, Tom Livesay, Robin Halliday, Sylvia Hagen, Dunham Gooding.
October 1, 2004	Full Competition Kit issued.
October 7, 2004	Competition committee selects three finalists: Arthur Erickson and Associates and Nick Milkovich Architects, Inc., both from Vancouver, B.C., Canada; Cambridge Seven Associates, Inc. from Cambridge, MA, and Donnally Architects from Seattle, WA; and Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects & Charles Anderson Landscape Architecture, both from Seattle, WA.
October 14, 2004	Briefing for competitors, including site tour.
November 15, 2004	Mid-point reviews for the three teams. Teams presented their preliminary work and received feedback from the Competition Committee.
January 11, 2005	Finalists brought designs to Bellingham. Press conference held on finalists' designs.
January 12, 2005	Designs go on display at museum.
January 20, 2005	Event for viewing designs at museum for museum members and guests.
January 23, 2005	Public program for the purposes of further explaining how the competition works, presentation of and discussion on the designs, and gathering opinions on the three submissions.
January 28, 2005	Briefing for competition jury by competition committee, staff and advisors.
January 29, 2005	Presentations to jury all day. The jury recommended Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen's design.
February 23, 2005	Olson Sundberg presents its design to the PFD board.
March 21, 2005	Olson Sundberg presents its design to the Bellingham City Council.



An aerial photograph of a city block. A yellow rectangular building is highlighted in the top left. A yellow arrow points from a yellow circular building in the top right to a yellow rectangular building in the bottom center. The text 'Flora Street' is overlaid on the left side, and 'Children & Art' is overlaid on the bottom center.

**Flora Street**

**History  
Collections**

**Children & Art**

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To view online BTV10's "Inside Bellingham" piece on the museum construction, click [here](#) and go to the May edition.



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More Images of Art & Children's Museum:

[External Image of Art & Children's Museum](#)

[Art & Children's Museum with Children's Exhibit](#)

[Site of Art & Children's Museum](#)

[Light Gallery](#)

[Light Catcher with Harold Lloyd](#)

[Light Catcher with Hand Puppets](#)

[View from Lookout Gallery](#)

[Aerial Photo of the Museum Sites](#)

[Whatcom Museum of History & Art Website](#)

[Current Projects - Mount Baker Theatre](#)

[Current Projects - Streetscapes](#)















