



# MEMORANDUM

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Date: February 10, 2009

To: Parks & Community Services Board

From: Shelley Brittingham, Assistant Director  
Parks & Community Services

Subject: Eastside Heritage Center Presentation  
*(No Board action is requested.)*

At the February 10th Park Board meeting, Heather Trescases, Executive Director of the Eastside Heritage Center (EHC), will present information on the Eastside Heritage Center's mission, programs and services. This memo provides some background information on the existing partnership between EHC and the City of Bellevue Parks & Community Services Department (City).

The partnership began in the early 1990's when funding earmarked for historical preservation in the 1988 King County Open Space Bond was used to restore the F.W. Winters House located at 2102 Bellevue Way SE. The house and surrounding land represented an important legacy in Bellevue's agricultural history. After restoration the house was placed on the National Historic Register, and EHC and the City entered into a partnership agreement for the operation of the facility as a park visitor center interpreting the natural and cultural history of the area. In exchange for office and archival space at the F.W. Winters House, EHC assists with numerous cultural and historical activities associated with the house and Bellevue's heritage including staffing, display development, programming, collections management, furnishing procurement, etc. The ongoing partnership provides for cost-effective staffing, outreach and marketing efforts related to the historic F.W. Winters House.

In 2002, King County terminated EHC's lease for space at the Clise Mansion in Marymoor Park. This was the site of EHC's Marymoor Museum which, in addition to showcasing historical artifacts through exhibits and educational programming, provided space for collections storage and housed EHC's administrative offices. To help preserve these valuable collections, the City entered into an additional agreement with the EHC for lease of the McDowell House located at 11660 Main St. to help provide space for their expanding collections and staff. The McDowell House was renovated to meet the office and archival needs of the EHC and to allow for public access to the surrounding grounds. In exchange for space in the McDowell House, this agreement provides 720 annual hours of research and programming assistance towards City programs, displays, and events designed to increase citizen awareness of Bellevue's diverse cultural history. Some examples of these include the EHC Heritage Speaker Series, historic Fraser Cabin programs, Magic Season heritage programs, Arbor Day and Natural Resource Week.

In addition, the City is a sponsoring partner of EHC's annual Strawberry Festival. The festival that originally began in 1925 was revived by EHC in 1987 and has now grown to attract over 35,000 participants each year.

The Eastside Heritage Center's mission is to steward Eastside history by actively collecting and preserving documents and artifacts, and by promoting public involvement in, and appreciation of, this history through educational programming and community outreach. The partnership with EHC provides efficient and effective delivery of mutually beneficial programs and services that help promote and preserve Bellevue's history.