Projects for Design Build Team submitted for review

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2014 Project schedule

May
• Workshop: Neighborhood Advisory Committee, project managers, staff members from Seattle Dept. of Planning and Development and Seattle City Council

June - August
• Procurement: design-build team selection
• King County Council: review and approval of design-build team contract and scope of work
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Advancing community through culture

Creating art with mentoring from a professional artist will be a new alternate-to-detention option for youth involved in the justice system in 2015. The innovative pilot program will be supported in part by an $80,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to 4Culture, King County’s designated cultural service provider. 4Culture will partner with the County’s Juvenile Detention Division and Superior Court to develop and implement the program. Read more: www.4culture.org

Contact us
Project phone: 206-296-1100
E-mail: childrenandfamilyjustice@kingcounty.gov
www.kingcounty.gov/childrenandfamilyjustice

Alternate formats available
206-296-1110; TTY Relay: 711

Land use workshop attended by Neighborhood Advisory Committee members, from left, Joy Jacobson, Lara Branigan and Alex Brennan

A national television show features Pongo therapeutic poetry writing session for youth in detention.

Read more about this story on page 3 "National TV broadcast features volunteers..."
New Juvenile Justice Policy leader named

Planning for the new Children and Family Justice Center has spurred a discussion among some community groups and individuals about the larger issues of juvenile justice policy in King County. We are excited to announce that Claudia Balducci has joined the County Executive’s Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget and will lead targeted community outreach around these issues and coordinate her work with justice center project managers.

The Children and Family Justice Center project is being designed to better facilitate the county’s work that has resulted in dramatic drops in youth detention rates while meeting the safety needs of county residents, state and federal legal requirements and population growth for the next 50 years.

Claudia has already started reaching out to organizations and individuals who share the concern of county leaders that a disproportionate number of youth in detention are minorities. The County acknowledges tackling racial disproportionality requires a system-wide effort involving schools, law enforcement, the courts, detention, other criminal justice stakeholders and communities.

She is currently planning a series of meetings with individuals and groups advocating for social justice reforms, including No New Jim Crow, Youth Undoing Institutional Racism and European Dissent to listen to their ideas and concerns as well as share the interests and drivers for the County’s justice system. She joined other County and community group representatives recently at a workshop on restorative justice sponsored by King County Juvenile Court that was facilitated by Andrea Brenneke, director of the City of Seattle’s Restorative Justice Initiative.

Claudia earned a law degree from Columbia University, New York, and has worked in the private and public sector as a lawyer before joining King County in 1999. At the County, Claudia has served in a variety of capacities within and in support of the criminal justice system. She was director of the King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention from 2010-2014. In her spare time, Claudia also serves in municipal government as an elected council member in Bellevue. A little known fact: she spent her junior year at Oxford, UK and was the starting center for the Oxford women’s basketball team.

Claudia welcomes contacts from anyone interested in this work. She can be reached at 206-477-2355 or Claudia.balducci@kingcounty.gov.

Project Facts

- Voters approved $210 million levy August 2012
- Site is approximately 9 acres
- Project reconnects Alder Street between 12th and 14th Avenue and includes sidewalks, landscaping and pedestrian amenities
- Courthouse adds 40,000 sq. ft. and three courtrooms for a total of 137,700 sq. ft. and 10 courtrooms
- Detention Center is 25,000 sq. ft. smaller than current facility; new detention is 98,000 sq. ft.
- 1,200 sq. ft. conference center available to the community
- Public green space increased and redesigned to be more user friendly
- Facility designed as an anchor for neighborhood revitalization
- Site design allows future sale of three corners of the property to private developers
- Possible new King County Metro bus stop
- Construction starts in fall 2015
- Courthouse and Detention open in fall 2018
- Parking Garage completed in fall 2019

National TV broadcast features volunteers helping youth inside King County Detention

The prestigious Public Broadcasting System (PBS) NewsHour recently aired a feature story on a therapeutic poetry writing program designed to help youth in King County detention toward a positive life path. The U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey and PBS Arts Correspondent Jeffrey Brown observed Pongo Teen Writing founder and detention volunteer Richard Gold and his team help guide youth to write about their lives.

Gold is a retired managing editor from a large technical publishing company. He said he appreciated the story’s “focus on the unexpected happiness that can come from writing about difficult experiences.” http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/troubled-teens-poetry-offers-happiness-after-hardships/. The story also includes a writing session with local homeless youth.

Gold is offering a training session May 31 for teachers, counselors and volunteers who work with youth. http://www.pongoteenwriting.org/training-for-counselors-and-teachers.html

CASA helps children and families in crisis

Every child has the right to feel safe, loved, and cared for. Usually, families provide the supportive environment that children need to thrive. However, when a family is in crisis, sometimes a child’s needs go unmet. These youngsters occasionally end up in the child welfare system, where they can get “lost” in the legal maze.

Fortunately, there is help. Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA, are volunteers appointed by judges and trained to represent the best interests of vulnerable children in dependency proceedings.

Former Superior Court Presiding Judge David Soukup developed the idea of CASA: using trained community volunteers to give a voice to children in the child welfare system. CASA was the first of its kind, and served as a national model for child advocacy. Today, there are more than 950 CASA program offices around the country, with 75,000 volunteers helping nearly a quarter-million children.

CASA founder Richard Gold, center, and US Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey, left, with volunteers, youth and PBS crew videotaping a writing session.

CASA Street Resource Fair

Becoming a CASA volunteer doesn’t take any special legal education or training, just a desire to help children in need. Every CASA volunteer is screened, trained, and supervised. The training is free and each volunteer is equipped with a detailed manual.

To become a CASA, visit www.casaforchildren.org, email BEACASA@kingcounty.gov or call 206-296-1120.
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Above, a volunteer mentors a youth on how to write a poem about his life experiences.

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