

# The Roosie

Roosevelt Neighborhood  
Association Newsletter

November 2011  
<http://rooseveltseattle.org>



## *Neighborhood Voices: What Do We Want?*

Does Roosevelt need a community center? What about another park? How can the neighborhood be made more walkable? What new amenities would we like to see in the neighborhood, and what values are most important to us as we continue to plan for Roosevelt's future? Neighbors began answering these questions in an open conversation and brainstorming session at the October monthly RNA meeting. Neighbors also learned about opportunities for more Open Spaces; see "Open Spaces Part II" in this edition.

The conversation comes in the context of the ongoing legislative rezone process. As the City Council moves toward its final decision for new zoning in the Roosevelt neighborhood, it continues to search for a resolution to the long-running zoning dispute around the NE 65<sup>th</sup> street blocks between 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE and Brooklyn. Part of this process includes understanding the neighborhood's priorities, which, in addition to height restrictions and design guidelines, could include things like new open space in front of Roosevelt High School, traffic calming to protect Roosevelt students, the preservation of important view corridors, and the addition of other neighborhood amenities that will ensure that Roosevelt remains a vibrant, livable community.

Councilmember Tim Burgess recently shared his own list of neighborhood values and priorities, which his office developed based on comments he heard at the September neighborhood

meeting attended by an estimated 500 neighbors. Burgess's values included many key neighborhood requests, including maintaining views of and from Roosevelt High School, creating new open space, providing a "fair share" of affordable housing, increasing residential density to accommodate a "fair share" of new residents, and honoring the planning process and involvement of neighbors.

Neighbors at the October general meeting refined and added to this list with their own priorities. These included additional ideas about open space to the south and west of the school, design and set back ideas to ensure that Roosevelt High School students can travel safely to and from the school, community gathering and meeting spaces, ensuring a proper step-down transition from six-story buildings to single family homes, more green streets, and a plan that would make the Roosevelt neighborhood an exemplar of sustainable design and growth. A complete list of neighborhood priorities can be found on the RNA website.

Next steps: The RNA will continue to facilitate a discussion about neighborhood priorities and advocate for them with City councilmembers. Neighbors are encouraged to attend future RNA meetings, where these issues will be discussed, or send comments to the RNA at [RNA@rooseveltseattle.org](mailto:RNA@rooseveltseattle.org).

**Next RNA Meeting  
Tuesday, November 22**

**7:30-9:30 p.m.**

**Roosevelt High School, Room #242**

**This month's meeting theme will be  
"Introduction to Holiday Shopping 2011  
with Local Merchants."**

**There will be no General Meeting or issue  
of *The Roosie* in December. Enjoy the  
holidays, and we will see you in 2012!**




## Umpqua Bank Comes to Roosevelt

I don't get warm fuzzy feelings about banks, but last year Umpqua went out of its way to solve, personally, my disabled son's banking problems when I was overseas. Now I'm Umpqua's fan for life and thrilled that a branch just opened on Roosevelt Way at NE 64<sup>th</sup> Street.

Branch Manager Gabe Castillo (Roosevelt High class of '78!) says, "We want strong relationships with our customers. We aren't big, and we don't want to be big like Bank of America or Chase. We're a community bank striving to serve neighborhoods."

Thus Royal Palm, Thrive, and Sunflour Bakery Cafe catered Roosevelt Umpqua's opening gala, and local merchants display their goods in the lobby each quarter (Heather's Flowers is spotlighted this fall). Castillo also likes to support small local businesses with Random Acts of Kindness. "At Bus Stop Espresso I bought ten \$5 gift cards and handed them out at the Park and Ride." On NE 65<sup>th</sup> Street he gave out gift cards from Rain City Burgers and Peaks.

In the Umpqua entryway there's a 24/7 ATM, and in the lobby a row of guest computers—"An I-cafe," said Castillo. "Come use the technology, browse, listen to music on the earphones." Electronic displays rotate neighborhood notices like Moonpaper Tent's "Parents Night Out" and the Whole Foods "Costume Swap." Near a silver "Ray Phone" (dial "8" and president Ray Davis, at Umpqua's home office in Oregon, will answer) are beverages, plus Sunflour cookies Fridays. Bank info is on a wall touch-screen—paper brochures waste resources.



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"We're not top-down," said Castillo. "There's just me, plus three Universal Associates." This title means they're not just tellers. "They can take you from A to Z if you want to talk about a loan."

And there's some good news when big banks are starting to charge for debit card use: Umpqua has no plans to do this. Each month they even cover a number of the fees charged to their clients by non-Umpqua ATMs. Perfect for my out-of-town disabled son—and for me.

-Judy Lightfoot

### Participate in Umpqua Bank's "We Heart" Contest!

Send Umpqua Bank a note stating what you love best about the Roosevelt neighborhood. The ten local businesses that get the most comments will win \$1,000. If our neighborhood submits the most comments, we will score \$10,000 for a community project!

To participate, go to [www.umpquabank.com/weheart](http://www.umpquabank.com/weheart).

### Keith Gilbert Back in Seattle

At the RNA General Meeting on October 25, we had a visit from a chaplain of a Jewish Prisoners Welfare group. He informed us that Keith Gilbert has been released from prison and is currently living in a halfway house in First Hill and will be released in March, 2012.

For those who may not know or remember, Gilbert was a resident and manager of Hugh Sisley's properties until his arrest by an armed FBI SWAT team at his home on NE 65<sup>th</sup> Street in February, 2005. According to the Anti-Defamation League, Gilbert was convicted on September 11, 2006, on 11 counts including conspiracy, machine gun possession, possession of unregistered firearms, and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

-Peter James  
RNA President



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## Sound Transit Reaches Out to Neighborhood Art Fans for Artist Selection Process

Sound Transit employees met with Roosevelt residents/art lovers on September 16 and 30 to discuss the applicants for the Roosevelt Station art project and look through the sample slides of each artist. The group, assembled by Sound Transit Program Manager Barbara Luecke, included Pablo Schuguren-sky, whose fine art advisory business is located in the neighborhood, Ruben Van Kempen, who teaches costume design at Roosevelt High School, as well as yours truly. Also attending the meeting were Vaughn Bell, Sound Transit's Artist-in-Residence, and David Hewitt, the architect for the Roosevelt station.

Over the course of the two meetings, the art committee looked at the works of 23 artists (selected by Barbara and her ST co-workers after going through over 150 submissions) and discussed what they liked about certain artists, as well as why certain artists would work in a neighborhood atmosphere. At the end of the September 16 meeting, the committee selected five artists in a friendly and democratic manner, without any arguments or bruised egos.

The five finalists were present at the September 30 meeting, where the committee conducted interviews. Many of the questions dealt with keeping the Roosevelt neighborhood unique while creating a timeless piece of work that all residents of all demographic/age groups could enjoy. Many of the interviewees (one even flying in from Italy) were able to visit our neighborhood beforehand and had lots of praise for the people, buildings, and parks they encountered.

After listening to the applicants, and sharing notes and comments, the committee selected the artists who will oversee the primary exterior/interior pieces. Below are brief summaries and official websites of the finalists, courtesy of Barbara Luecke:

**RR-Studios**, the team of Roberto Behar and Rosario Marquardt, are known for making places "where public encounters can happen." The Living Room, their 42-foot-tall streetscape home turned inside-out, has become an icon in Miami, where they also live. RR-Studios will be focusing on the street level experience at Roosevelt Station. <http://rr-studios.com/>

**Luca Buvoli** combines his training in science with his explorations in sculpture. His multi-media installation was featured at the Venice Biennale, and he has extensive museum and gallery exhibits. Buvoli recently installed a large suspended sculpture at Houston's Hobby Airport. Buvoli will be creating an artwork for the station interior. <http://lucabuvoli.com/>

Sound Transit will be able to answer questions regarding the artists, the ideas/concepts for the exterior/interior designs, and the production schedule at the various open houses that will be scheduled in the near future. Additionally, updates will be posted on Sound Transit's official website, the RNA website, *The Roosie*, and the Roosevelt Seattle Facebook group.

-Greg Carlson

## What Is Your Carbon Footprint?

Fellow neighbor Linda Cox blogs about her experiences learning how to measure and reduce her carbon footprint. See what you can do about yours:

<http://rooseveltseattle.wordpress.com/> or  
<http://wp.me/p1pyxT-11>



## 26th Annual Green Lake Elementary Christmas Tree Sale

Green Lake Elementary School PTA's Annual Christmas Tree Sale starts again this year on the first Friday after Thanksgiving (11/25) and continues until December 18.

The lot (located at 2400 N 65th Street) is generally open Mon. - Fri. from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m., Saturdays and opening day from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., and Sundays from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

All proceeds support education programs at Green Lake Elementary School.

Green Lake Elementary School PTA is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization,  
Tax ID #91-1442923.



## Open Spaces, Part II

At the October monthly meeting, neighbors learned more about OPEN SPACE and Roosevelt's lack of it. We discussed opportunities we have to correct that. We concluded that we need neighbors involved to help us take advantage of those opportunities.

There is approximately \$8 million in the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy Opportunity Fund for acquisition of park land, and the process for the next round of funding occurs in the latter part of 2012. We believe that Roosevelt qualifies for funding as a growing urban village and because, per Seattle Parks and Recreation reports, there is currently inequity in the distribution of Usable Open Space in the core/commercial area. Increasing density, without additional open, green, and park space, will undoubtedly lead to inadequate open space--inadequate breathing room--especially in the village core where density is proposed to be the greatest.

At the October meeting we saw several open/green space ideas: a half-block park on the west end of the fruit stand block; large set backs on both sides of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE allowing green space and traffic calming strategies, green street provisions on NE 66<sup>th</sup> Street. Others have suggested closing 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE or making it a "festival street."

In order to make these or other ideas come to fruition, we must have neighbors who will get involved and take on some work. We need input from a variety of perspectives and people who will get that input from their neighbors. We need people who can research these grants so we can get the funding. We need people who can meet with Parks and other government entities to understand what our options are. If you can be one of those people, please contact the RNA at [RNA@rooseveltseattle.org](mailto:RNA@rooseveltseattle.org).

*-Members of the Roosevelt Sustainability Group and the RNA contributed to this article*

## New Apartment Development Begins on 63<sup>rd</sup>

A new mixed-use apartment building in the Roosevelt Urban Village is being planned. The project is located at 1012 NE 63<sup>rd</sup> St. on more than 15,000 square feet of land across from the Roosevelt US Bank branch. The building appears to conform to current and proposed zoning (NC3-65) for the site. Four single-family dwellings would be removed to make way for the new building.

IS Property Investments, LLC is developing the property, which is being designed by Runberg Architecture Group, PLLC. The architect's plans call for plantings at live/work area patios, along the east alley, and in common areas on the roof. The plans were presented for Early Design Guidance to the Northeast Design Review Board meeting on Sept. 12. As of this writing, the City had not posted the board's report on the City website.

The building site is bordered by businesses to the west on Roosevelt Way, fairly new townhouses to the east, and a surface parking lot to the north. An unusual feature of the site is that it is separated from adjacent properties by three alleys. The proposed building would be a 65-footer and would include four live/work units facing NE 63<sup>rd</sup> Street on the ground floor, 108 apartments above, and parking for 70 motor vehicles. Access to on-site parking is planned for the west alley. The east alley would be for pedestrians.

The property is currently home to three possibly exceptional trees. The architect says that the floor area of the proposed building would be significantly reduced if the trees are maintained on site. The proposal recommends that the trees be removed, with the tree canopy replaced at another location.

This is the third mixed-use building to be proposed in the Roosevelt Urban Village station area in recent years. The other two, "Indigo@66" at NE 66<sup>th</sup> Street and Roosevelt Way, and Brooklyn Court on NE 66<sup>th</sup> between 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and Brooklyn, have been stalled by Great Recession financing difficulties. Brooklyn Court is also the location of "Big Red," a controversial exceptional tree.

Links to more information can be found at the RNA website (<http://rooseveltseattle.org>).

*-Bill Dunning*



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## What is Integrative Medicine?

Integrative medicine is an emerging branch of medicine that combines alternative and conventional medical care. Preventive therapies like diet, exercise, and healthy lifestyle habits form the foundation of integrative medicine. Practitioners emphasize building a partnership with patients to care for the mind, body, and spirit.

Integrative medicine embraces alternative approaches to treating illness. Popular examples include herbal remedies, dietary supplements, meditation, breathing exercises, hypnosis, guided imagery, acupuncture, homeopathy, chiropractic or osteopathic manipulation, and massage therapy. And integrative medicine recognizes that conventional therapies--such as surgery, medications, counseling and physical therapy--are preferred, or even required, for treating certain medical conditions.

The growing field of integrative medicine has several distinct traits. It is characterized by healthcare that:

- Incorporates both conventional and alternative therapies
- Views health as a state of complete physical, social, and mental well-being, and not merely the absence of disease
- Incorporates a comprehensive understanding of what makes a person healthy that includes physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual factors
- Relies on rigorous science-based evidence
- Emphasizes wellness and prevention
- Provides individualized and personalized care

-Engages patients as partners in their own care

-Visualizes healthcare as a team process with the patient as the key team member

-Seeks to help achieve optimal health throughout life

-Welcomes family and loved ones who accompany the patient

Our current healthcare system does not adequately support people through the lifestyle changes required to turn around some illnesses. This is especially true with chronic conditions like high blood pressure, heart disease, weight gain, diabetes, and depression. Sadly, the result is that the healthcare in our country is often expensive, ineffective, and impersonal. The good news is that integrative medicine clearly offers an alternative approach that is more prevention-oriented, more patient-centered, and more personal.

-Dr. Elizabeth Smoots, MD

*Dr. Elizabeth Smoots, MD, is an integrative family physician located south of Northgate Mall. She enjoys partnering with patients to design personalized health plans that utilize both traditional and alternative therapies. New patients are welcome. You can reach Dr. Smoots at 206-525-5576 or [www.theemeraldcenter.com](http://www.theemeraldcenter.com). Dr. Smoots' columns are not intended as a substitute for medical advice or treatment. Before adhering to any recommendations in this column consult your healthcare provider. ©2011 Elizabeth S.Smoots*



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Roosevelt Vision

Scott A. Jamieson, O.D.  
Laura K. Kompkoff, O.D.  
Ginny Mercer, L.D.O.

Joseph A Sifferman, O.D.  
Michael Samek, O.D., F.A.A.O.  
Kathy C. Yang-Williams, O.D., F.A.A.O.

7001 Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, Washington 98115  
P 206.527.2987 F 206.526.8076  
[www.rooseveltvision.com](http://www.rooseveltvision.com)