



## **For Immediate Release**

### **Press Release**

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## **BALLARD FOOD BANK BREAKS GROUND ON FUTURE, PERMANENT HOME**

*New community hub will serve thousands more across northwest Seattle*

**SEATTLE, SEPTEMBER 24, 2020** – The Ballard Food Bank broke ground on construction of their future location, 1400 N.W. Leary Way. Staff, volunteers, and supporters gathered in a virtual event to commemorate the occasion.

The 11,000-square-foot new facility is expected to be completed by fall 2021 and will serve new communities including Licton Springs through Bitter Lake and up to 145th Street. “We are thrilled to continue this journey and start the construction of our future home,” said Jen Muzia, executive director of Ballard Food Bank. “This project is possible thanks to the support of many people and organizations who believe in our mission to bring food and hope to our neighbors.”

The new Ballard Food Bank and Community Resource Hub will include an expanded grocery-store-style food bank, a café, a garden, and a service waiting area. These features will allow the Food Bank to serve more people, offer more resources to the community, and provide a welcoming space for everyone.

The new building will increase the capacity of critical programs for the community including home deliveries and food bank visits that will be set up to serve up to 1,700 households per week by 2022. In addition, the Weekend Food for Kids program, expected to provide food for 600 kids from 20 different schools in Northwest Seattle this school year, will be equipped to serve the increasing number of children who need food each year. “As a volunteer, I see the growing needs among our neighbors, especially during this pandemic,” said Kelly Martin, a client and volunteer of Ballard Food Bank. “This building will bring renewed hope to many people like me who may be struggling to make ends meet.”

The building will also house an expanded Community Resource Hub, where organizations like Byrd Barr Place, REACH, the VA, and Swedish Ballard Family Medicine will offer a range of

services. People facing hunger, eviction, medical issues, and financial challenges will be able to access different types of assistance—all in one place.

This will be the first building that Ballard Food Bank has owned—an effort that has brought together supporters from philanthropy, business, and government. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has contributed \$1 million. Funding support also includes \$500,000 from the City of Seattle and \$750,000 from the State of Washington.

The new building is made possible by a dynamic project team. Spectrum Development Solutions is overseeing the project as the development manager. Graham Baba was selected as the architect—they recently designed the new PCC In Ballard—and Wilcox Construction will lead construction of the building.

To learn more about our new home, please visit <https://www.ballardfoodbank.org/future-location>

***About Ballard Food Bank:***

*Ballard Food Bank's mission is to bring food and hope to our neighbors because there can be enough for everyone. We serve individuals living in throughout northwest Seattle. To achieve our mission, we provide access to nutritious foods and services that support self-sufficiency, and we advocate for food equity and justice. More than 1,200 households access the food bank each week. We also provide additional resources including our hygiene bar, mail services and emergency financial assistance. The vast majority of Ballard Food Bank's funding comes from local donors and community businesses. For more information, please visit [www.ballardfoodbank.org](http://www.ballardfoodbank.org).*

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