Bellevue Youth Theatre Expansion
at Crossroads Community Center

During its 18-year existence, the Bellevue Youth Theatre (BYT) has grown into one of Parks & Community Services' most popular programs. The theater conducts nine performances a year entertaining thousands of patrons, and provides summer and school-break day camps and theater classes.

In 2001, under an agreement with the Bellevue School District, BYT was relocated from Crossroads Community Center to a portion of the former Ivanhoe Elementary School. BYT soon outgrew the Ivanhoe facility, and in 2005 plans were developed to renovate the school for its needs.

However, renovation was estimated to cost approximately $2 million, with roughly half the costs needed to address building code upgrades. Escalating construction costs since 2005, together with changes to the Building Code, combined to increase the estimated cost of expansion at Ivanhoe to nearly $3.5 million. The high cost, coupled with limited expansion capabilities at Ivanhoe, and the fact that the Ivanhoe site is not owned by the City, prompted staff to explore other expansion alternatives, and completed a site and building feasibility study. Multiple options and locations were studied at the Ivanhoe site, Crossroads Community Park, and in the Bel-Red Corridor.

Project Summary

- The City is proposing to add a black box theatre and supporting facilities (+/-12,000 sq. ft.) near the existing Crossroads Community Center (+/-23,000 sq. ft.).
- Essential program elements include:
  - Performance space
  - Lobby space
  - Additional dressing rooms and restrooms
  - Rehearsal space
  - Classrooms
  - Secured staff and volunteer offices
  - Storage
- Estimated project cost is $8M. The project will be funded through a combination of existing City funds, grants, funds from the 2008 parks levy, and fund raising efforts by the Bellevue Youth Theatre Foundation.
- Architectural work is underway, and construction could begin as early as 4th quarter 2010.

The BYT Foundation supports this project in order to create capacity to continue growth of this successful program, to protect the theatre's mission of inclusiveness, to bring the theatre up to standards expected of Bellevue Parks' facilities, to fulfill the BYT business plan strategy for expansion, and to demonstrate effectiveness of City/Community partnership in the long range vision for Bellevue. The expansion will allow the BYT to continue to serve the community for many years to come. Additional information about the Bellevue Youth Theatre Foundation and ways to get involved can be found at http://174.132.169.62/~bytforg

For more information about Bellevue Youth Theatre visit http://www.bellevuewa.gov/bellevue_youth_theatre.htm

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Crossroads Community Park