

# Friends of Columbia School

Next Meeting: Nov 15 at 10:00 AM at Tutta Bella

In the summer of 2009, the New School will leave the Columbia School and for the first time in more than 100 years, a public school may not be operating in the heart of Columbia City. Over the coming year, the Seattle School District will likely decide what to do with the soon to be vacant school.

Columbia City is changing rapidly. As Sound Transit finishes the new light rail system, several large housing projects are proposed at both ends of the neighborhood, home prices are climbing, and long time affordable apartments are being upgraded. Amongst all of this change, the Columbia School provides an opportunity for residents, business owners, and friends to shape our community.



If the Columbia School is shuttered and becomes available for redevelopment, we want to be ready to discuss the building's next great use with the Seattle School District. We want to explore how one of the only pieces of developable, publicly-owned land in the neighborhood can help us reach our shared values and goals.

## Mission

Friends of Columbia School (FoCS) was formed in order to inform, engage, and involve the community regarding the future use and development of Columbia School.

## How to Get Involved

There are several ways you could get involved with FoCS.

1. Mission Statement: Help FoCS develop a mission statement to help focus (no pun intended) its efforts. A draft can be found on the neighborhood Wiki: [www.columbiacity.wikidot.com](http://www.columbiacity.wikidot.com). If you have comments, please post them to the neighborhood Wiki, send them to Joanne Lauterjung at [joanne@muse-indigo.com](mailto:joanne@muse-indigo.com), or discuss them at the next community meeting (see below).
2. Community Meeting: ***FoCS will gather on Saturday, November 15 at 10:00 AM at Tutta Bella*** to discuss ways of exploring possible future re-uses of the school, of engaging the community, the City and the SPS in a discussion, and to promote FOCS' mission.
3. Outreach: In an effort to reach out to all parts of the community, a group of people will begin making special efforts to engage minority and low-income representatives. If you are interested in participating in these conversations, please contact Michael Woo at [boolieboy@comcast.net](mailto:boolieboy@comcast.net).
4. Community Discussion: FoCS will host a series of discussions this winter about the City's decision making process and redeveloping vacant schools. If you're interested in helping to coordinate these discussions, please contact Scott Barkan at [scott\\_barkan@msn.com](mailto:scott_barkan@msn.com).

To volunteer or for more information, please contact Rebecca Cate at [rkate@comcast.net](mailto:rkate@comcast.net) or 760-8078.