

## **Veterans Focus Group**

### **December 15, 2009**



#### **Attendees**

Focus Group Members: Harley Wedel, Jim Arling, Del Arthur, Sam Brooks, Gil Frey, Pat Groves, George Hager, Barry Hawkey, SFC Phillip “Vince” Jacques, Charlotte Schwartz, Rudy Soto, Tony Stacy, Grantly Vaughn

Staff and Consultants: Jane Ames and Amy Ruiz (Mayor Adams office); Kia Selley, Kevin Brake and Nikolai Ursin (Portland Development Commission); Elaine Cogan and Alisha Dishaw (Cogan Owens Cogan)

Guests: Jerry Ghigliers, George Hocker, Jr., Jay Isaacs, Trudy Reusser, Karen Whitman

#### **Summary of Recommendations**

After a full discussion, members agreed to the following:

*Building - The entire building and the activities that happen there are the memorial*

- *Change name of the building to Veterans Memorial Coliseum*
- *Sponsor events for veterans at the Coliseum*
- *Provide educational experience for school children*
- *Serve our veterans and their families*
- *Add a library for memorabilia, space for veterans and/or their families to gather*
- *Consider additional memorial opportunities at the Rose Quarter*

*Memorial Installation - Enhance and add to what is there now*

- *Place a more visible memorial statue or plaque in a more prominent location, such as the entrance to the building*
- *Consider a “living” memorial – a place to gather*
- *Put names of those who died in wars on the wall with an additional dedication to all veterans*
- *Make access to sunken area more welcoming and accessible*
- *Rededicate the plaque as it is written, “This Memorial Coliseum is dedicated to the advancement of Cultural Opportunities of the community and to the memory of our Veterans who made the Supreme sacrifice to preserve for us the Inalienable Rights of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. And to live in the Hearts we leave behind is not to die.”*

*Reconvene this Focus Group after the SAC makes its preliminary recommendations*