



IT'S A NEW HOME & NEW ERA FOR SKEF AS PROGRAMS AND STAFF MOVE NEXT DOOR

At age 36, the Salem-Keizer Education Foundation (SKEF) has undergone an extreme makeover.

SKEF has relocated to 223 Commercial St. NE, a space immediately adjacent to its former home. Technologically updated and aesthetically uplifted, the new SKEF is dramatically bigger and better able to serve the community.

Though the physical distance of the move can be measured in mere yards, Executive Director Krina Lee believes the psychological benefit of moving into a custom-designed space may be immeasurable.

"I expect nothing short of a cultural shift," she said one day in early fall, as duct work and framing were being completed. "Everyone will have room to breathe in a

space that will become a source of community pride. I know that once we settle in, SKEF will be able to provide even more to children and schools. That's the best part."

SKEF's programs and administration will occupy the second floor of the renovation. Staff members will benefit from windows at the eastern and western ends of the building and a shaft of daylight streaming in from a cluster of skylights at the midpoint.

Visitors to the first floor will be able to look up and see that exposed section of the second floor brightened by natural light.

SKEF's storefront and smoothie bar, Where the Sidewalk Begins, occupies prime retail space. The shop has

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Mission Statement

The Salem Keizer Education Foundation is a catalyst for the enhancement of the education and development of all Salem-Keizer youth by providing resources for creative and innovative programs and materials, educating and mobilizing the community, and sustaining collaborative partnerships that support its goals.

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had quite a makeover itself, an expansion of retail space and a reinvention of its signature smoothie bar.

Just beyond the retail area is the new Mike McLaran Center for Student Success, a hub of resources and services for aspirational high school students needing assistance with the college application process and guidance for those continuing their education at a career and technical school.

Help will be available for parents, as well.

On Nov. 8, SKEF officially opened its doors in time for the annual Holiday Open House hosted by Where the Sidewalk Begins. Curious passersby were finally able to check out what's been unseen for many months, as main contractor LCG Pence and a long list of sub-contractors completed the project, step-by-dusty-step.

What visitors saw was an astonishing transformation of two floors of the historic Starkey-McCully Building. Slightly more than two years of fund-raising and planning were realized upon completion.

The airy, welcoming SKEF headquarters were designed by a team from Salem's CB2 Architects, led by Kirk Sund, Ty Koellmann and Gretchen Stone.

The nitty-gritty renovation work began when a volunteer demolition crew, organized by civic stalwart Rick Day, carted truckloads of debris into oversize dumpsters.

Over many months, some 14,000 square feet of the brick and wood frame building were gutted. "We ripped this thing back to its bones," said Kip Patterson of LCG Pence.

One section of that 19th Century brick remains exposed to add a touch of texture and history.

Stripping the building back to its bare supports made it possible to more easily install technologically updated systems for power, heating and air conditioning, telecommunications and Internet.

A grand steel staircase provides one of the focal points of the design. The treads for the stairs were fabricated from wood reclaimed from the old Fairview School site in Salem. Master craftsman and business owner Bruce Wadleigh, of Salem-based Barnwood Naturals, donated the treads and provided a second focal point: a moveable barn-style door that creates an aesthetically pleasing separation between the retail space and the new Mike McLaran Center for Student Success, located deeper within the interior of the first floor.

Among the other notable donations of labor and materials to the project were the high, vertical glass panes along the storefront. The Harbaugh family, of Salem's South Town Glass, provided all of the windows for the project.

"This is a give-back," said owner-operator Carl Harbaugh, who

founded the glass company out of his garage in 1980. He and his wife hand-made the company's first business cards using recipe cards and a typewriter. "Over the years our company has filled a niche, providing glass for school renovation and new construction. We probably do 5-6 schools a year. Schools have supported us, so we are supporting an organization that supports schools."

The project had the feel of an old-fashioned barn build, as hundreds of community volunteers and businesses provided lift.

The architects, builders and fund-raisers behind SKEF's new home celebrate the village it took to raise it.



MCLARAN CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS TO EMPHASIZE LIFE-LONG LEARNING SKILLS

This month, the Mike McLaran Center for Student Success will roll out its array of services to college- and career bound high school students, capping a years-long effort.

The McLaran Center, housed within what was once a 19th Century mercantile, will open new vistas of opportunity for students, said SKEF executive director Krina Lee. It will provide practical guidance to teens and their parents, including assistance with filling out complicated federal forms for financial aid.

The Center will be an official ASPIRE site, providing mentoring and resources to students and parents facing

the daunting task of applying to colleges, looking at trade schools and setting their path for post graduation.

Recent research indicates that students who have been assisted by ASPIRE mentors have an 18 percent greater chance of graduating from high school.

The Center will also be a home to the Oregon College Savings Plan and will provide space for visiting representatives from the area's colleges, universities, community colleges and trade schools.

The Center's namesake, Mike McLaran, was a beloved community leader who passed away unexpectedly in 2013.

DIANE MCLARAN: MIKE WANTED TO HELP KIDS "FIND THEIR BEST SELVES"



Salem's Diane McLaran, a go-to figure in the realms of business and community building, reflected recently on her late husband's legacy and the center that now bears his name.

If he were with us today, how would he feel about the center?

I can't think of a better way to honor him because he believed in this so much. He loved mentoring people of all ages. He

felt especially strong about mentoring young people, helping them find their way in the world and helping them pursue college or career right out of high school. He wanted to help them find their best selves.

I think he'd be a little embarrassed that his name was on it because he was a humble guy. He wasn't looking to get recognition for the things he did. I think he would be really humbled that his name was going on this center, but also very excited and proud of the goal and mission.

Were you always aware of how many individuals and institutions he helped?

Mike was involved with so many community things, sometimes I didn't know the details. He had a lot of behind-the-scenes conversations with people I didn't even know he talked with. People would come up to me and say, "Mike really encouraged me on this." And I would have no idea that he did.

What do you think will be the biggest surprise about the center, the aspect people would not have expected?

That this is as much for parents as it is for students. Parents will feel relieved that there is a resource, someplace they can take their kids and get a lot of questions answered. I'm raising a 16-year-old right now, and navigating the next steps for her – whether she will go to college or whatever she is going to do – seems a bit foreign. I know I need help. I can't wait to take her there and get some kind of guidance on how she should approach getting scholarships or financial aid or whatever she needs. Parents are going to be very excited about this center.

So much is known about Mike McLaran, but what are some things about him that we didn't know?

People saw him as really reserved and professional, but when he was home he could be totally goofy. When we would be getting ready in the morning he would stand in front of the mirror and flex his muscles for me, until I would say, "You're the man." And he would be like, "Finally. You said it."

He also had this goofy dance that he did. Music would come on and he would just dance. We'd laugh because it was just so awkward and goofy, and he knew it. He did it to make me laugh and [granddaughter] Kaia laugh.

What else don't we know about him?

That he loved to write. When he was 12, he was chosen to go on this foreign exchange program to Europe. He was the youngest one on that trip, and he kept a journal of the things that he observed. He always loved to write, and where he got his inspiration I don't know because he wasn't a huge book reader. He just seemed to have this innate wisdom about him, and he was one of the wisest people I've ever known."

THE CONTRIBUTORS



KIP PATTERSON THE CONSTRUCTION QUARTERBACK

Among the first assignments handed to Kip Patterson when he was hired by LCG Pence Construction two-plus years ago was the project to reimagine and renew the 150-year-old building that would be SKEF's new home.

The Keizer-bred project manager understood early in the game that the project would require flexibility, patience and some juggling. "There were times when I wanted to pull my hair out just from the budgeting standpoint alone," he said, smiling. "Coordinating the sub-contractors, some of whom

full donations, was a challenge to track. But we all wanted to produce the highest quality possible product at the lowest possible price."

"Multifunctional" is the word Patterson chose to describe the complexity of a plan to build retail and public space, private office space, high-tech classrooms, storage areas for books and sports equipment, and, yes, a smoothie bar.

Unforeseen delays were "a punch in the gut," said the McNary High School and Oregon State University grad. But harmonious working relationships in all facets of the project galvanized the sense of mission. "When the owner, architect and contractor are symbiotic, it makes all the difference," he said. "We all took ownership."



Thank you to Uriah Jackson, project superintendent and the crew from LCG Pence for always going the extra mile to get us into our new building.

CARL HARBAUGH: THE BEARER OF LIGHT

A bonding company recently suggested to the patriarch of South Town Glass that he was too old to run a business. Owner-operator Carl Harbaugh shrugged off the comment with a chuckle.

In business since 1980, South Town Glass is a thriving enterprise overseen by its founder, his wife and their two daughters. In its early months, Carl went door-to-door soliciting business. "The next thing I knew I had to get a truck, then a bigger truck. I had to rent a space. Then a bigger space."

Now he oversees a multi-million-dollar operation with his family from a loft-like second-floor office, where the company's first five dollars hangs framed on a wall.



In discussing the donation of all of the windows for the SKEF building, Harbaugh recalled his relationship with Mike McLaran, "a special person to me and others. We realize what a great person he was, and it's a great thing that his legacy carries on."

Harbaugh said he struggled in school and that his "real education" began when he left the employ of a now defunct glass business and started his own.

"Kids today need to be encouraged to enter the trades," he said. "College is not the right answer for everyone. There's a value in work. There's satisfaction in pounding a nail, tipping up a wall or glazing a window. Mike McLaran understood this."

The Contributors continued from page 4...

TY KOELLMANN, GRETCHEN STONE AND KIRK SUND: SPACE EXPLORERS

The CB2 architectural trio behind the new SKEF building began considering options for the space as long as five years ago with SKEF Executive Director Krina Lee.

“From the beginning, Krina had a pretty clear idea of what she wanted the building to be,” said principal architect Kirk Sund. “Her vision was so strong, that when it came time to take those ideas and turn them into architecture, it was much easier for us.”

“The great thing is that it all wasn’t set in stone. Krina was always refining the vision,” said CB2’s Ty Koellmann.

How to best utilize the various work spaces within the 14,000 square feet was a collaborative effort,” said CB2’s Gretchen Stone. “Krina was really good at involving her team at SKEF to land on a design that would function for them long term, asking how it will evolve as this new space gets up and going? Will we have the ability to shift and make improvements?”

The team is particularly pleased with an architectural nod to those who gave time, money and sweat to the project. To be unveiled soon, this vertical donor monument will combine three-dimensional objects with names, all within a metal framework.

Said Sund, “It will be an important element of SKEF’s new brick-and-mortar identity.”



BRUCE WADLEIGH THE WIZARD OF WOOD

It’s a short walk from Riverfront Park to the showroom Bruce Wadleigh has recently created for Barnwood Naturals, a nationally recognized design firm specializing in reclaimed and recycled materials. To view the wall installations and custom furnishings is like walking into the pages of Architectural Digest.

Since 2006, Wadleigh has been transforming interior and exterior spaces, creating crafted statements with old wood used new ways.

Among his contributions to the SKEF building were monumentally sized reclaimed barn wood sliding dividers on the ground floor and the wooden treads that provide footing for a custom steel staircase with cable supports.

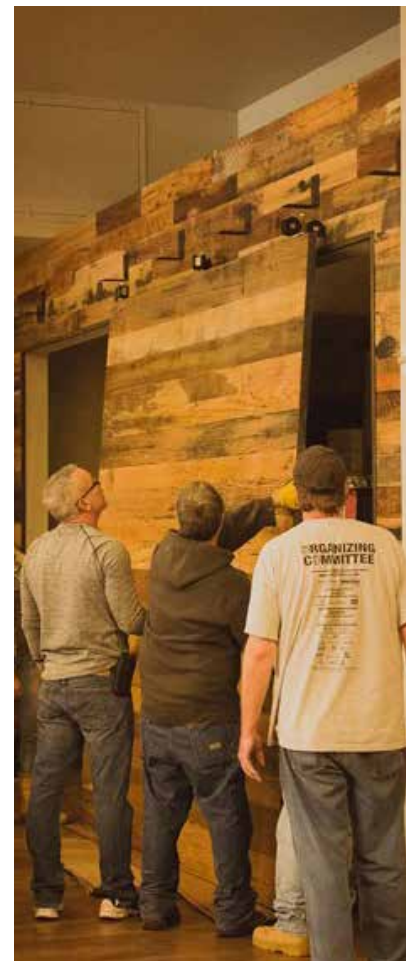
Wadleigh also donated the treads for the main staircase using wood salvaged during the demolition of the old Fairview School that has been stacked high at Wadleigh’s mammoth warehouse, containing 20,000 square feet of reclaimed materials. Among the treasures saved from the scrap heap are carved figures, vintage signage and a gated length of fencing said to have been part of a New Orleans brothel.



A trove of reclaimed wood includes pine and oak beams, and lengths of redwood and mahogany.

The treads were prepared for installation by Barnwood Naturals artisans, who work in a vast shop area contiguous to the showroom.

The sliding dividers are said to be the largest indoor installation of barn wood doors in Oregon.



NOTABLE, QUOTABLE LOU RADJA PROVIDED THE ELEVATOR'S UPLIFTING WORDS

Just about everything about the McLaren Center has been fortified by thoughtfulness and gratitude. This is true even of the elevator, whose interior will contain an honor roll of past, present and future leaders recognized by members of the community.

Riders to the second floor (and back) will also see a words-to-live-by quote in the elevator car, a message that came by way of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Portland-based Lou Radja, an inspirational speaker of international renown.

Here, in his own words, is Radja's explanation of the elevator quote.

I grew up in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

There, from an early age, we learned about the concept of ubuntu. That term speaks to our inter-dependence, the fact that for me to be truly human, I have to see myself in all, and I have to see all in myself.

It's the unbreakable umbilical cord that ties us all as human beings.

When I connected with the wonderful people at SKEF, I was able to quickly identify that feeling of ubuntu, that they

were taking the youth they serve as their own. They have a commitment that really moves me because it speaks to the concept of our common humanity.

This amazing project will democratize access to education for so many people.

When Krina Lee told me about the plans for the elevator, it reminded me of a quote from the Congo I once shared with the audience at a SKEF luncheon: When you take the elevator to the top, always remember to send it down for someone else.

We live by these words in the Congo. There, you return what you have been given.

The concept is simple: Those who are behind us need our help. We need to send the elevator back down.

So many of us have had opportunities to be successful in education, in civic engagement, in business, on wisdom, you name it. I've been helped through education in my own life.

So, this concept is, in a way, a means to say thank you.

Having it written in the elevator can be a daily reminder that those who are behind us need our help.

Send the elevator back down.

"WHEN YOU TAKE THE ELEVATOR TO THE TOP ALWAYS SEND IT BACK DOWN FOR SOMEONE ELSE."

Lou Radja

WHERE THE SIDEWALK BEGINS IS BIGGER, BETTER NEXT DOOR

Where the Sidewalk Begins, SKEF's distinctive gift and accessories boutique, welcomed shoppers to its new storefront showcase during the Holiday Open House on Nov. 8.

Though the popular boutique and smoothie bar moved only one street number away, customers immediately recognized the new store offered an enhanced shopping experience.

The plan was to make it a better version of its former self.

Now, Where the Sidewalk Begins is a browser's paradise, thanks to expanded shelf space, new display areas, and a smoothie bar like none you have ever seen.

Buyer-manager Tyke Hagedorn said the whimsical inventory at Where the Sidewalk Begins is the product of talented vendors who

choose to have their wares featured in a gift-shop environment where giving has multiple meanings.

"We like to find vendors who historically have given back to the community, in a spirit similar to what is found here at SKEF," Hagedorn said.

The store's success has been attributable to strong word of mouth from satisfied customers, many of whom make a point of dropping by for holiday items found nowhere else.

A store-wide clearance prior to the move next door allowed SKEF to stock the store with even more Thanksgiving and Christmas items.

**Where the Sidewalk Begins is open
Mon-Sat 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**



THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO UNLOCK THE FUTURE!

Laurelle Adelman
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THE STARKEY-MCCULLY BUILDING IS GAINING YET ANOTHER IDENTITY

Flush with \$5,000 each in California Gold Rush earnings, partners John Starkey and David McCully formed a partnership in 1852 and moved to Oregon.

The duo opened a mercantile at the corner of State and Commercial streets in the Ladd & Bush Building in downtown Salem, now home to U.S. Bank.

Fifteen years after their arrival in town, they built a second general store within a new building erected at 223 Commercial St.

Through the ages, the Starkey-McCully Building has taken on multiple identities and functions, as the needs of residents evolved.

Early in its life it was a destination to purchase groceries, clothing, millinery goods and hardware.

Later, in the northern portion of the two-story, stucco-faced building, a harness shop opened for business, as did a shoe and boot repair shop and restaurant.

A sporting goods store debuted in 1913, and in the Roaring 20's came an automobile supplies outlet and dealership.

A Coast-to-Coast hardware store appeared in 1947 followed by the opening of Valley Furniture in 1951, serving post-war families.

In a way, the imposing structure, with its cast iron decoration, is a monument to the long march of American commerce. Its cast-iron façade is said to be the oldest of its kind in Oregon.

SKEF's renovation project leadership took pains to recognize the historic character of the building's exterior and interior, including restoring the original-sized storefront windows and preserving an interior wall of exposed brick that dates back to the late 19th Century.

SKEF will occupy a space that has been lovingly reimagined, forging yet another new identity for a building that has stood sentry on Commercial Street since before the Civil War.

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WINTER

FEBRUARY

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MARCH

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CONTEST
TBD

MARCH

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SPRING

APRIL

SHOOT FOR THE STARS
SATURDAY, APRIL 21

MAY

AWESOME 3000
SATURDAY, MAY 5

LEMONADE DAY
SATURDAY, MAY 19