



Dear Hands On Museum Visitor:

You may receive information from an activist group called the Olympians for Public Accountability (OPA) regarding the location of the **New Hands On Children's Museum on East Bay**. We share OPA's concern for public health. In fact, like most of our community **we want to ensure that the contamination in our downtown is cleaned up and that the waterfront is accessible for a range of visitors**. We're excited about our contribution to these goals by building the new Museum on the East Bay site.

To better inform you, we have prepared the following information:

- 1) Extensive environmental testing has been performed on the East Bay site.** Test results and an analysis of historic uses indicate that contaminants found at the East Bay site are similar to those found throughout the downtown and to those on other sites we considered for the Museum. **The contaminants are also similar to those found on other sites that have been successfully cleaned up and restored for safe public use, including the Farmers Market and Percival Landing Park.**
- 2) The Museum is working directly with the Department of Ecology and the other East Bay partners including the City of Olympia, the LOTT Alliance, and the Port of Olympia under an Agreed Order to clean and restore the site so that it is safe for Museum use.** Under an Agreed Order, the Department of Ecology will APPROVE and sign off on our clean-up plan for the Museum as well as the entire 14 acre East Bay development.
- 3) Our current aggressive clean-up plan calls for removal of contaminated soils, capping to prevent re-contamination, and filling with clean soil prior to the construction of our facility.** Capping was used to clean-up the Farmer's Market site that we all now enjoy as well as the Port Plaza where we hold our annual *Sand in the City* event.
- 4) All of the outdoor exhibit areas in the new Museum will contain new, clean soil.** There will be no opportunity for contact with contaminated soil or substances.
- 5) The East Bay Partners have retained Brown and Caldwell to serve as our environmental consultants.** They have extensive experience working with the Department of Ecology and have successfully cleaned similar sites throughout Washington and the United States. Cleaning contaminated sites is an expected component of the construction process. Currently in our downtown waterfront area, there are eight clean-up sites underway further demonstrating the community's commitment to making Olympia a better place to live.
- 6) There is a distinction between the contaminants in the sediments *in the Budd Bay waterway* and the contaminants in the uplands where our building will be located.** Ecology has determined that the East Bay construction site is separate from Budd Inlet. However, by cleaning up the East Bay site, we will also help the Budd Inlet clean-up by reducing future contamination to the Bay from the uplands site.
- 7) We are proud to be part of a partnership that has initiated cleanup of contamination at the East Bay site and we are excited for the opportunity to reclaim the waterfront area as a safe and vibrant amenity for the entire community to use and enjoy.** Without completion of the East Bay infrastructure, construction of the new Hands On Children Museum and the new Public Plaza, the East Bay site would remain a contaminated eyesore indefinitely.
- 8) OPA has consistently stated their opposition to the Museum's location on East Bay, in part because of their misinformed view that the area will not be adequately cleaned, and in part because they do not want us to locate on Port property--regardless of the condition.** The group has vowed to discredit the location in a variety of ways. They have been distributing information that is misleading and may be confusing.

Please feel free to contact us at 956-0818 ext 104 if you have any questions.