

City OF Seattle

OFFICE of FILM + MUSIC

Seattle
Live the
Music

Welcome to Seattle, one of today's most dynamic music cities, where a rich history feeds a lifestyle that is all about innovation, inspiration, and rocking the house every day and night. Seattle's music community is fiercely independent and intensely dedicated, recognized as cutting edge while still keeping the roots of Northwest music alive. In Seattle, you don't just make or listen to music - you live it. Explore the scene and discover your own soundtrack!

Created in 2005, this guide is only a snapshot of our city's rich musical legacy.

Seattle Center

On a site where Native Americans and pioneers once gathered, the Seattle Center celebrates diverse music and cultural events year-round. This 74-acre park, built for the 1962 World's Fair, includes indoor theaters, outdoor stages, an outdoor stadium, and a variety of exhibition buildings.

1. Marion Oliver McCaw Hall - Seattle Opera, Pacific Northwest Ballet: 321

Mercer St. Built in 1927 as Seattle's Civic Auditorium and transformed into the Seattle Opera House for the 1962 World's Fair, this concert hall reopened in 2003 as a new state-of-the-art 2,890-seat marvel that serves as home to both the Seattle Opera and Pacific Northwest Ballet. Stravinsky once conducted here!

2. Seattle Center International Fountain:

305 Harrison St. This placid site brought distraught fans together to mark the passing of Nirvana singer Kurt Cobain (April 10, 1994) and later Alice in Chains' Layne Staley (April 20, 2002). At his memorial, Cobain's wife Courtney Love read - and cursed her way through - Cobain's suicide note.



McCaw Hall at night

"The opera? In Seattle? This city at the Northwest corner of the nation, best known for Boeing 747's, sourdough, and sockeye salmon, has casually mounted one of the most ambitious projects ever taken in the United States."

— New York Times, July 1975, upon the occasion of Seattle Opera's first Ring cycle

3. Experience Music Project:

325 5th Ave. N. Housed in a unique flowing pavilion designed by Frank O. Gehry, EMP features many exhibits, including Northwest Passage, Jimi Hendrix, and Soundlab, where you can learn to play the regional rock classic "Louie Louie"!



Seattle Center Music Festivals: The Seattle Center hosts festivals year-round, from Vietnamese New Year in winter to Hmong New Year in the fall, with the nationally renowned Folklife on Memorial Day weekend and Bumbershoot on Labor Day weekend. Bumbershoot is the oldest and biggest fest, showcasing more than 2,500 regional and international artists.

www.seattle.gov/filmmusic



Belltown

In the shadow of the Space Needle, Belltown evolved during the go-go 1990s from an edgy industrial area where underground arts flourished to a mecca for Gen X bohemians and dot-com entrepreneurs. It's now a highly walkable hub of boutiques, eateries and nightspots.



4. The Crocodile Café: 2200 2nd Ave. The Seattle rock scene's home away from home, this is where Pearl Jam, R.E.M. and other heavies play secret shows and many touring acts regularly land. Death Cab for Cutie got its start here. Featured in the 1996 film *Hype!*

5. KEXP 90.3 FM & 91.7 FM: 113 Dexter Ave. N. Begun as tiny 10-watt KCMU in 1972, the station has evolved into a nationally significant cultural force – an early leader in both the “modern rock” format and, more recently, in Internet radio. A 2001 Webby award winner for Best Radio Website, KEXP has loyal fans tuning in on their laptops from here to New Zealand, but you can listen over the airwaves while you're in town.

Greater Downtown Area



6. Black Dog Forge: 2316 Second Ave. Pearl Jam and Soundgarden rehearsed in the basement of this artisan blacksmithing studio, where many of Pearl Jam's stage sets were created. The forge's alleyway was a hangout for artists and punks.

7. Teatro Zinzanni: 222 Mercer St. Described once as “the Moulin Rouge meets Cirque du Soleil,” this modern day dinner theater pairs top talents like Ann Wilson of Heart and El Vez, the Mexican Elvis, with gourmet

meals prepared by celeb chef Tom Douglas.

8. The Vogue: 2018 1st Ave. Nirvana played its first Seattle show in this former crucible for the Seattle sound, opening for Blood Circus in April 1988. The original venue now houses the rock and roll hair salon Vain.



Kurt Cobain

9. Trianon Ballroom: 218 Wall St. Built in 1927, and now an office building, this dance hall featured top jazz era orchestras including those led by Seattle's Vic Meyer and Gay Jones – the latter cut the town's first ever jazz record.



Sub Pop started as a tiny cassette-oriented label founded by DJ Bruce Pavitt in the early 1980s. Pavitt teamed with Jonathan Poneman in 1987 to produce a maverick, globally influential post-punk phenomenon. Sub Pop's ironic take on “corporate offices” in Seattle's Terminal Sales Building, at 1932 First Avenue, became the launching pad for early releases by Nirvana, Soundgarden, Mudhoney, and many other eventual '90s grunge icons. The label continues to thrive with an increasingly eclectic roster of alternative pop stars.

1903 – First Seattle Symphony performance.

1914 – Cornish College of the Arts opens.



1921 – Musical Arts Society denounces jazz as something that “tears down the moral fiber.”

1864 – 1925 VAUDEVILLE ERA

1917 – 1933



1920 – “Jelly Roll” Morton the “inventor” of jazz and Oscar Holden play the Entertainer's Club.



Benaroya Hall

Downtown

The heart of the city is a showcase for grand music venues, past and present. Dress up or down and experience world-class performances every day of the week.

10. Benaroya Hall: 200 University St. The visually and acoustically stunning Benaroya Hall, occupying a full city block at Seattle's geographic core, became the new home of the Seattle Symphony in 1998. This multi-use venue houses two performance spaces, a 4,490-pipe Wajten Concert Organ, and Soundbridge, a music discovery center for children.



11. Myers Music: 1214 1st Ave.

On this site once stood the music store where Jimi Hendrix bought his first electric guitar around 1958.

12. Pike Place Market: 1st Ave. & Pike St.

Some of the world's most famous "buskers" have played in this street-music-friendly space,

including Woody Guthrie, Jim Page, and Artis - the "Spoonman" of Soundgarden's 1994 hit.

13. The Showbox: 1426 1st Ave. This quintessential nightspot has presented an astonishing breadth of music since its cabaret origins in 1939, from jazz icon Duke Ellington and homegrown burlesque queen Gypsy Rose Lee to punk legends the Ramones and local heroes Pearl Jam.



14. The Triple Door: 216 Union St. This elegant and eclectic club was once the Embassy, the longest-lived vaudeville and movie house in Seattle.

15. Eagles Auditorium: NE Corner 7th Ave. & Union St. Built in 1923, this hall's ballroom hosted decades of fabled shows by acts including Billie Holiday, Little Richard, The Doors, the Grateful Dead, and Janis Joplin.



Pop Culture Palaces

In the early 20th century, when movies were new and vaudeville all the rage, people expected an evening's entertainment to be a royal experience. Gorgeous architecture housed the new art forms that

gave Americans a new way to dream. Seattle was like

most cities, alive with ornate theaters whose marquees illuminated the streets. Elsewhere, most of those shrines to dreaming have been demolished, but three survive here. The Moore

is the oldest, an intimate venue with a lush interior built in 1907; it now showcases eclectic touring acts from avant-garde theater to jam bands. The 5th Avenue Theatre, built in 1926, features a breathtaking interior evoking China's Forbidden City and remains Seattle's premier musical theater venue. Perhaps most stunning is The Paramount, a resplendent structure built in 1928 and restored to its Tinseltown glory in 1995. Its fully convertible seating system



accommodates everything from silent films to ballet to Bob Dylan, and its marquee still glistens at 9th and Pine.

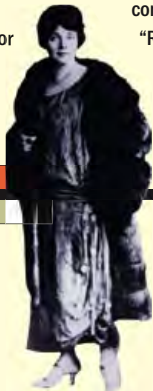
The Moore: 1932 2nd Ave.

The 5th Avenue Theatre: 1308 5th Ave.

The Paramount: 911 Pine St.



1921 - Madame Mary Davenport-Engberg, first woman symphony conductor in U.S. history, becomes Seattle Symphony Conductor.



1941 - Woody Guthrie commissioned to write "Roll on Columbia" - declared the Washington State folksong in 1987.



1942 - Founding of Seattle Youth Symphony, currently the largest youth symphony in the U.S.

1958 - Desegregation, black musicians' union joins white union, Local 76-493.



1962 - Elvis Presley films *It Happened at the World's Fair* in Seattle.

CLASSIC JAZZ ERA



1937 - 1951 JACKSON STREET JAZZ HEYDAY



1948 - Ray Charles (left) arrives in Seattle & befriends fellow teenage jazzier Quincy Jones (right).



1960 - The Ventures cut their #1 international hit, "Walk-Don't Run," in Seattle.

1961 - The Wailers record their classic *At The Castle* LP live at the Spanish Castle Ballroom.

The Beatles stayed at the Edgewater Hotel during their 1964 world tour. With the installation of a cyclone fence around the property, fanatic fans tried swimming to the hotel. One of the most famous Beatles photos was taken here, as the Fab 4 fished from the window of room 272.

The Waterfront

The gateway to Elliott Bay is a popular scenic area with hotels, dining, shopping, and stunning views of the Olympic Mountains. Ride the trolley or climb the stairs to Pike Place Market.

16. The Edgewater Hotel / Pier 67: 2411 Alaskan Way. This hotel of choice for many '60s and '70s rock stars extends over Elliott Bay. Famous rock 'n rollers who've stayed here include the Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, the Beastie Boys and Bill Clinton.

17. Ivar's Acres of Clams / Pier 54: In 1938, folk musician and pal to Woody Guthrie, Ivar Haglund, opened his shop and sang outside to attract customers. By 1940 he was also hosting a popular show on KJR radio and had won the hearts of all of Seattle.

Pioneer Square

This historic neighborhood stays hopping straight through last call. Sports bars serve the overflow from the nearby stadiums, while hard rock-oriented taverns, romantic eateries, and many antique and art galleries attract both tourists and locals.

18. New Orleans: 114 1st Ave. S. Located in the venerable Lombardy building, this venue was the first structure completed after Seattle's historic fire of 1889. John Coltrane recorded "Live in Seattle" across the street at the Penthouse, at 1st and Cherry, in 1965. On Wednesday nights, enjoy Seattle's longest-running jazz gig (two decades!) with multi-instrumentalist Floyd Standifer.

19. The Central Saloon: 207 1st Ave. S. Opened in 1892 as a frontier eatery, the Central was a gathering place for hippie radicals in the 1960s, Mayoral aides in the 1970s, and indie rock lovers after that. It would be the last place Mother Love Bone played before singer Andrew Wood's death in 1990.

With agitated guitars, reckless bass chords and "evil" drum beats, the Northwest garage rock era affirmed everything parents believed was dangerous about rock and roll. But according to legendary guitarist Larry Coryell, during that historic time "... the kids in Seattle and the Northwest were [just] into a much stronger form of R&B than in any other parts of the country."



1965 — The Northwest's Paul Revere and the Raiders becomes the house band on Dick Clark's TV show *Where the Action Is*.



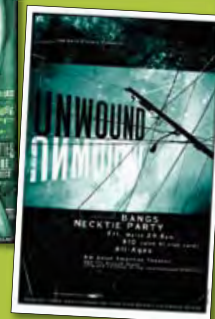
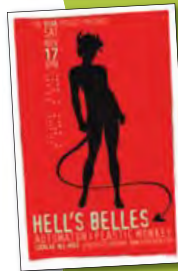
1963 — Seattle's Jerden label issues the Kingsmen's "Louie Louie" which becomes a controversial worldwide hit.

KIDS GET POLITICAL

As in most of America, the energy of Seattle's music scene springs from its youth. What's unusual about this city is the way its younger citizens have banded together to make their presence officially known. One of the only cities to have nightlife laws on the books largely shaped by youth advocates, Seattle is committed to the idea that popular music is good schooling as well as good fun.

The roots of today's All-Ages Seattle can be found in a loose network of art galleries and alternative spaces with names like Rosco Louie, the Metropolis, Graven Image, and Gorilla Gardens, where ambitious kids and their supporters hosted and performed exciting shows in the 1980s and 1990s. One crucial space was the Velvet Elvis Arts Lounge, where the Foo Fighters performed their first show, and bands like Modest Mouse got their start.

This fertile scene blossomed despite the pressures of the Teen Dance Ordinance, a 1985 law passed by the City to regulate potentially dangerous mingling of adults and minors at new wave discos. By the new millennium, the music community decided to organize. An unprecedented civic effort resulted in an active dialogue among City officials, music professionals, and youth, resulting in the passing of 2002's All Ages Dance Ordinance, a more effective means of regulating the safety of youth-oriented spaces. This new civic spirit also gave birth to the Vera Project, Seattle's first City-supported all-ages venue, where kids can see live music every week and learn music-related skills from breakdancing to sound engineering. Currently based at 1916 4th Ave., but making its presence known throughout the city, the Vera Project is the soul of Seattle's young music scene.



Seattle

An Insider's Guide to Seattle's Music History

Music Map

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Music Map Bibliography

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PERIODICALS AND MAGAZINES

The Rocket (Seattle). April 1988 – February 14–28, 1996.

Spin. January and September 1992.

Interviews: Ed Beeson · Norm Bobrow · William Bolcom · Frank Cox · Charles R. Cross · Paul de Barros · Dave Dederer · Paul Dorpat · Jack Endino · Steph Fairweather · Ricardo Frazier · Jeff Gilbert · John Gilbreath · Dee Goe · Janie Hendrix · Donna James · Eric Jaeger · Glenn Lorbiecki · Sir Mix-A-Lot · Jane Peck · Louie Raffloere · Larry Reid · Susan Silver · Ben Smith · Gene Stout · Kim Thayil · Jay Thomas · Jim Wilke

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Layout and design by Marie McCaffrey, Crowley and Associates

Special thank you to: Nancy Knox, Jeff Beckstrom,

Mayor's Music Advisory Committee Members

Published and produced by the Mayor's Office of Film and Music

No monies were solicited or accepted from businesses, individuals or locations for inclusion in this brochure.

Capitol Hill

This entertainment-infused neighborhood attracts students and hipsters to its clubs, shops, eateries, and the vivid street scene on Broadway and beyond.

With two colleges and one university nearby, businesses stay open later than usual.

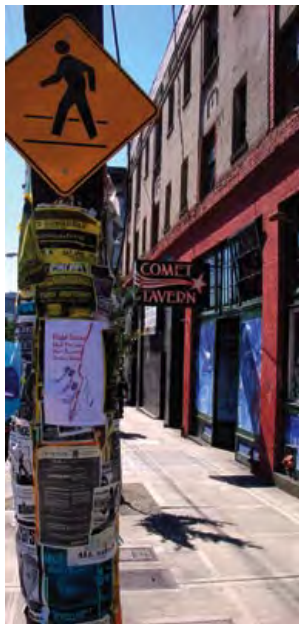


1. Dick's Drive-In: 115 Broadway E. The home of the Deluxe burger was immortalized in Sir-Mix-a-Lot's 1989 hit "Posse on Broadway," a song that defined the jovial spirit of Seattle's famous rap label, NastyMix Records.

2. 10th & E Pike St.: The close proximity of The Comet Tavern at 922 E Pike St., Moe's Mo' Rockin' Café (now Neumo's Crystal Ball Reading Room) at 925 E Pike St., the Century Ballroom at 915 E Pine St., and Broadway's bustling strip have made this area ground zero for a generation of nightcrawlers.

3. Cornish College of the Arts: 710 E Roy St. Piano teacher and student of the Montessori method Nellie Cornish founded this school in 1914 to create a space where students could experience the interconnectedness of all the arts. A hotbed of avant-gardism in the 1930s, its instructors included John Cage, Merce Cunningham, Martha Graham and Mark Tobey. The school survives as one of only a handful of accredited colleges of visual and performing arts in the United States. Most of Cornish relocated to the Denny Triangle area at the turn of this century, but historic Kerry Hall remains in use at this address.

4. Coryell Apartments: 1820 E Thomas St. Home to the main characters in Cameron Crowe's 1992 movie about young love and independent rock, *Singles*.



1971 - Bumbershoot Arts Festival debuts.

1975 - Tacoma's Diane Schuur debuts at the Monterey Jazz Festival.

1975-76 - Sax ace Kenny G cuts debut 45s with Seattle funk group Cold, Bold & Together.

1979 - Bruce Pavitt launches photocopied zine *Subterranean Pop* in Olympia, which lays the foundation for Sub Pop Records.



1985 - Seattle initiates controversial Teen Dance Ordinance restricting young people's access to music.

1971 - 1976 TAVERN ROCK ERA



1976 - 1983 PUNK ERA

1979 - *The Rocket* magazine debuts in October & covers the local music scene for two decades.

1984 - The Young Fresh Fellows's LP, *Fabulous Sounds of the Pacific Northwest*, lauded as "perfect" by *Rolling Stone*.

1967 - 1970 FLOWER POWER, LIGHT SHOW

1968 - Jimi Hendrix first Seattle headlining gig at Seattle Center Arena.

1970 - Jimi Hendrix plays his last Seattle show, at south-end baseball park Sick's Stadium.



1976 - Heart's *Dreamboat Annie* released, Ann and Nancy Wilson gain international fame.

Jazz - Jackson Street Era

- 5. **Jimi Hendrix Statue:** 900 E Pine St. This privately commissioned artwork shows Seattle's legendary axeman in a typically flamboyant performance pose.
- 6. **Volunteer Park:** 1247 15th Ave. E Seattle's site of counterculture "be-ins" sponsored by local newspaper *The Helix* during the 60s.



Central District / Southeast Seattle

Racial and ethnic diversity characterize this

historic area.

Jimi Hendrix and Quincy Jones both spent formative childhood years here, and Ray Charles walked its streets as a young musician.

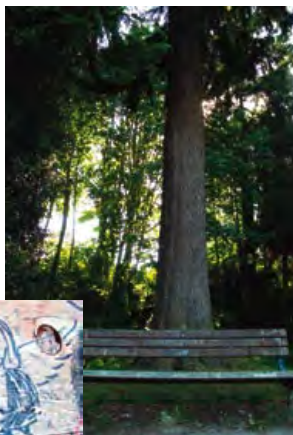
7. **The Blue Note / Local 493 Black Musicians' Union Hall:** 1319 E Jefferson.

Before desegregation, the Black Musicians'

Union Hall was a performance and social club and every member had a key to get in. In 1958 the union merged with AFM Local 76.



- 8. **Viretta Park:** 151 Lake Washington Blvd E. Fans often leave flowers on a graffiti-laden bench at this unofficial public memorial near Kurt Cobain's former home.



Viretta Park with bench detail

- 9. **Garfield High School:** 400 23rd Ave. Led by the venerable Clarence Acox, the Garfield Jazz Band has established itself as one of the nation's top high school ensembles. Famous alumni from the music-friendly school, built in 1923, include Quincy Jones, Jimi Hendrix, and Ernestine Anderson. Visit by appointment only.



In the not too distant past, nightclubs lined Seattle's Jackson Street and surrounding area where dancing, bootleg liquor and hot jazz were spilling into the streets around the clock. Ray Charles, Quincy Jones, and Ernestine Anderson are just a few artists whose careers were launched on these blocks. Take a jazz scene walking tour. Several of these historic buildings are still standing, most are not. After your historical ramble, check out some of today's local jazz sounds at clubs like **Dimitriou's Jazz Alley** or **Tula's** - or if you're lucky enough to be in town when it's happening, immerse yourself in the world-class, fringe-friendly, **Earshot Jazz Festival**.

The Black & Tan Club: 404½ 12th Ave. S. Seattle's most esteemed and longest-lived jazz nightclub operated from 1922-1966 under various names, and was the backdrop to greats like Duke Ellington, Ray Charles, and Charlie Parker.

The Black Elks Club: 662½ S Jackson, top floor. A 17 year-old Ray Charles had his first regular gig here in 1948 with Garcia McKee.

The Rocking Chair: 1301 E Yesler Way. A raucous place memorialized by Charles' "Rocking Chair Blues."

The 908 Club: 908 12th Ave. Considered Seattle's first modern jazz temple, this was where hipsters and bohemians came to listen instead of dance.

YMCA, East Madison Branch: 1723 23rd Ave. A venue for some of the best-known names in Northwest jazz and R&B: Dave Lewis, Floyd Standifer, Oscar Holden Sr., Quincy Jones, Ray Charles, Ernestine Anderson.

The Washington Performance Hall: 153 14th Ave. The NAACP's "Grand Benefit Ball" was held here in 1918 - Seattle's first documented jazz performance.

When I walked home from school, I passed the pool parlor and the Mardi Gras and they always had jazz playing. My mother was saying "No!" but the music was sensuous and it said "Yes."

- pianist Patti Brown, quoted in Jackson Street After Hours, by Paul de Barros

The Washington Social Club: 2302 E Madison. Artists booked by bandleader and promoter Bumps Blackwell included an underage Ernestine Anderson.

The Ubangi, the Colony Club, the Jungle Temple, the Mardi Gras, the Savoy Ballroom, and many, many more were also part of making Seattle a music mecca for this era.



1986 - Tacoma's Robert Cray finds worldwide fame with his Grammy-winning third album, *Strong Presuader*.

1990 - Future super group, Temple of the Dog record released. Pearl Jam forms from this group.



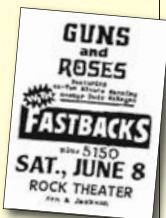
1991 - Nirvana's *Nevermind* hits #1 and breaks new grunge genre to world.



1994 - Death of Nirvana frontman, Kurt Cobain.

1989-1996 GRUNGE ERA

1985 - Local rocker, Duff McKagan joins Guns and Roses and becomes a star.



1986 - CZ Records *Deep Six* compilation showcases new hybrid "grunge" sound of punk and heavy metal.



1988 - DJ Nasty Nes hosts Seattle's first radio hip hop show, "Rap Attack," on KCMU.

The early 1990s saw top Northwest bands like Nirvana, Pearl Jam, Soundgarden, Alice in Chains, Mudhoney, & the Screaming Trees ruling all of rockdom.

1991 - Feminist wave, Riot Grrrl movement starts in Olympia, gains international attention.



1996 - Film *Hype*, exposes grunge movement, creates more hype.



NW Seattle / Ballard / Magnolia

Seattle's north and west neighborhoods, grounded in maritime and Scandinavian culture, now nurture a burgeoning music scene.

10. Ballard Avenue: Though some artists and musicians have hung out in this neighborhood for years, only recently has Ballard burst into prominence as Seattle's newest "new bohemia." This street, an historic row of boutiques and nightspots, includes popular stops like the Tractor Tavern, Bop Street Records, the Sunset Tavern, and Hattie's Hat.

11. Daybreak Star Cultural Center in Discovery Park: 3801 W Government Way. Every July, this headquarters for United Indians of All Tribes Foundation, located within an expansive natural park, is home to a Pow Wow that attracts hundreds of dancers in full regalia, dozens of drum groups, and up to 10,000 spectators in celebration of Native American culture.



University District / Northeast Seattle

Centered around the University of Washington, this neighborhood has maintained a daring and youthful ambience. You never know what to expect in this ever-changing, vibrant area.

12. KRAB Radio - Jack Straw Productions: 4261 Roosevelt Way NE. Established in 1963, KRAB was the second non-commercial, community-supported radio station in the US and the model for community radio nationwide. KRAB went off the air in 1984, but its spirit lives on in the Jack Straw Foundation, still based at KRAB's old address. Jack Straw is the Northwest's only nonprofit multidisciplinary audio arts center, housing a recording studio, a gallery, a performance space, and a permanent exhibit on KRAB.

13. The Blue Moon and Rainbow Taverns: 712 & 722 NE 45th St. The epicenter of beatnik and hippie Seattle, these two taverns are greasy with literary and musical history. The Northwest's most notable scribes, from Theodore Roethke to Tom Robbins, hugged the bar at the Blue Moon in its glory days, while next door at the Rainbow Northwest, blues, free jazz, and jam bands found a home. Robert Cray, Soundgarden, and Wayne Horvitz are among the Northwest artists who have contributed to the Rainbow's funky ambience.



Outside of Seattle

Jimi Hendrix Official Gravesite Memorial: Greenwood Memorial Park, 350 Monroe Ave. NE, Renton, WA. This majestic domed memorial was the brainchild of the great guitarist's father, Al Hendrix, to provide fans with a proper setting in which to pay tribute. The project took years to complete. Al died in 2002, and now rests beside his son, whose remains were moved here in 2003.



2000 - First Rockrgl Music Conference.



2003 Mayor Greg Nickels creates official Seattle Music Office and commissions a ground-breaking economic impact study, revealing \$1.3 billion in annual revenues and nearly 8,700 jobs generated by Seattle's growing music industry.

1997... FROM MUSIC SCENE TO MUSIC INDUSTRY

2000 - Experience Music Project music museum opens.



2001 - First Vera Project concert on January 27th at IBEW Union Hall, Local 46.



Spanish

Castle Ballroom: NW

corner of Pacific Highway S. & Des Moines Way. On this site stood the fabled 1931 hall that featured big bands, country combos, and pioneering locals like The Frantics, The Sonics, and The Wailers. One fan, Jimi Hendrix, was inspired to write his "Spanish Castle Magic" in tribute.