



Lloyd Center and Memorial Coliseum Open

In 1960, two of some of the most recognizable Portland landmarks finished construction, the Lloyd Center and the Memorial Coliseum.

Memorial Coliseum

Paid for by an \$8 million bond approved by voters in 1954, construction on the Memorial Coliseum was completed in 1960 and dedicated on January 8, 1961, to the “advancement of cultural opportunities for the community and to the memory of our veterans of all wars who made the supreme sacrifice.”

Two years later more than 200,000 people attended the AFL-CIO Union Labor and Service Trade Department’s “Industries Show.” IBEW Local 48 along with Local 125 and 49, hosted the events, which was the first time to take place in Portland.

Lloyd Center

The mall opened August 1, 1960 in a 100-store, open-air configuration. At the time, it was the largest shopping center in the Pacific Northwest and claimed to be the largest in the country. When it opened, it was aimed almost exclusively at commuters utilizing Portland’s then-growing freeway system, especially the adjacent Banfield Expressway.

The original anchor stores were Meier & Frank at the center, Best’s and Nordstrom’s Shoes anchoring the west end, J. C. Penney and Woolworth anchoring the east, and J. J. Newberry the north.

In March 2015, the Lloyd Center announced it would undergo 18-months and \$50 million worth of renovations. As they did during the Lloyd Center’s initial construction, NECA/IBEW Local 48 members have worked on this upgrade.

In tune with Portland’s changing neighborhoods, the mall will cater to pedestrians and bicyclists. NECA/IBEW Local 48 member, Dynaelectric helped make the entrances more pedestrian-friendly.

The Lloyd Center’s central spaces will be reconfigured and include a spiral staircase. Another NECA/IBEW Local 48 member, EC Company is gearing up to work on this renovation. Slated to be done by 2016’s Black Friday, EC Company will be working on moving the ice skating rink, replacing the public space lighting to LEDs and upgrading the fire alarm system.

“These improvements and changes reflect the sustainability and green energy lifestyle that Portland is known for,” said Todd Coffman, EC Company’s Vice President of Construction. “We’re proud to contribute to the NECA/IBEW Local 48 tradition, providing the latest electrical practices, and being pivotal players in Portland’s history.”

NECA/IBEW Local 48 member GB Manchester has also contributed to the new renovations that are schedule to be fully completed by February 2017.

The Memorial Coliseum and the Lloyd Center are some of Portland’s most attended venues and NECA/IBEW Local 48 is proud to have been a part of not only first building them but all their changes throughout the years and looks forward to more improvements in the future.



Outside of Veterans Memorial Coliseum, 1960.



Sky view of Lloyd Center, 1960.



Ice Pavilion inside Lloyd Center, 1960.



Celebrating the Holidays - The NECA/IBEW Way

The members of IBEW Local 48 and NECA Oregon-Columbia Chapter have a long tradition of giving back to communities within their jurisdiction, especially during the holiday's season.

Since its inception in 1988, members of Local 48 have donated thousands of hours each year installing millions of lights for The Grotto's Christmas Festival of Lights. Located in Northeast Portland on a 62-acre refuge at Northeast Sandy Boulevard and 85th Avenue, the Festival of Lights has become a must-see holiday tradition. It is known as the World's Largest Christmas Choral Festival, featuring five choirs each night from various locations throughout the Pacific Northwest. The event brings in more than 160 choirs, choral groups and special guests. In recent years, the annual attendance has easily exceeded 50,000. Below are some of the many volunteers.



1993



2015

A new tradition began this year, in part due to Christenson Electric's recent move from downtown Portland to Gresham. For years, Wilkes Elementary School, a stone's throw away from the Christenson Electric new headquarters partnered with the building's former owner the Church Copyright License service to provide students with food during the holiday break when they wouldn't have access to school breakfasts and lunches. Wilkes Principal Candice Henkin decided to take a chance, by asking if Christenson would be interested in carrying on the tradition. In no time Christenson employees had raised thousands of dollars and collected much more in food donations, toys and household items to provide for the school's families over the holiday break.

Giving to Wilkes turned into more than simply writing a check or bringing in a few cans of food. Employees took hours of their work and personal time to collect gifts for the students' wish lists and then more time organizing and packing the boxes in the company's training room.

