



Seattle Metropolitan Credit Union Announces Beacon Hill Branch to Serve Seattle's Latino Community

SEATTLE – January 6, 2017 – Seattle Metropolitan Credit Union (SMCU) announced today that it will open a new branch this January 30 in Beacon Hill at the new Plaza Roberto Maestas, developed by El Centro de la Raza.

Plaza Roberto Maestas, located at 2524 16th Avenue S, is a mixed-use development designed to address needs in the Beacon Hill community, such as affordable housing, economic opportunities and job creation, early childhood development and education, and community gathering spaces.

“In 2005, SMCU opened our Rainier Avenue branch in the heart of one of the nation’s most diverse communities,” said Richard Romero, CEO of Seattle Metropolitan Credit Union. “Our January opening at Plaza Roberto Maestas represents another historical milestone for SMCU and our desire to help underserved populations in the Seattle area.”

The Beacon Hill branch will be located at 1604 S. Roberto Maestas Festival Street, Seattle, WA 98144. The branch is scheduled to open for business on Monday, January 30, 2017. A special grand opening celebration will be held at the location on Tuesday, February 14 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

“We are proud to be partners and now neighbors with Seattle Metropolitan Credit Union who is serving Seattle by providing trustworthy financial advice and products to the communities we serve,” said Estela Ortega, associate director at El Centro de la Raza.

SMCU has been active in the Hispanic community for many years and will continue to launch several new programs and services for Spanish-speaking members this year.

- SMCU has been designated a Juntos Avanzamos or “Together We Advance” financial institution by the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions (the Federation). SMCU is the first credit union in Seattle and the second credit union in the state of Washington to be accepted into the program for its efforts to serve the Latino community.
- SMCU now offers online and printed resources in Spanish. Employees at SMCU represent many cultures and languages that mirror the communities it serves. SMCU’s consumer and home loan departments are fully staffed with fluent Spanish speakers.
- SMCU has partnered with the City of Seattle Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs to create a new Citizenship Loan to help new immigrants finance their path to U.S. citizenship. SMCU was onsite for the October and December workshops and will continue to have a supporting presence in the city’s ongoing program.

- SMCU participated with the Mexican Consulate and the Latino Educational Training Institute to present an 8-week financial education series from March through May of 2016.
- SMCU CEO Richard Romero has served on the YearUp Leadership Council, the Federation of Community Development Credit Unions Board of Directors and Leadership Eastside Board of Directors.
- Romero also won the 2016 Crosscut Courage in Business Award for reaching out to immigrants and other underserved populations.
- SMCU is a sponsor of the Latina Style Business Series conference, the Latino Community Fund Gala and the El Centro de la Raza Building the Beloved Community Gala.

About Seattle Metropolitan Credit Union

Since its founding in 1933 by five City of Seattle employees, Seattle Metropolitan Credit Union has been Seattle's trusted partner in growth and prosperity, providing financial services to the employees and family members of the City of Seattle. Since then, SMCU expanded its charter to include anyone who lives or works in the state of Washington. SMCU offers trusted financial advice, a breadth of products and premium personalized service while reinvesting in members and the local community.

SMCU is federally insured by the NCUA and is an Equal Opportunity Lender. For more information, visit <http://www.smcu.com> and follow SMCU on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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