Dear Friends-

The following information gives more specific information about how Seattle Center has determined capacity for the Fisher Pavilion during the times of COVID.

ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) is an organization devoted to the advancement of indoor-environment-control technology in the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) industry. The ASHRAE Epidemic Task Force developed guidance on mitigating potential health risks during reopening of buildings closed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ASHRAE Standard 62.1 sets the minimum ventilation requirements to ensure optimal indoor air quality and minimize negative health effects to occupants based on cubic feet per minute (cfm) per person and per square-foot of floor area - and both are related to the occupancy type.

Seattle Center’s safety taskforce initiated extensive HVAC testing in every building and utilized ASHRAE standards when establishing our own occupancy and reopening plans. Fisher Pavilion is one of our strongest spaces with floor space at 12,589 sq feet, and 133,500 cubic feet of air circulating (very high ceilings).

For occupancy mixed-use assembly and people are generally moving around/are not stationary for long period (Exhibit, Reception) the ASHRAE standard establishes safe occupancy at or below 1335. The venue’s capacity set by the Fire Marshall prior to COVID is 2,060. The numbers lower a bit when people are stationary (Classroom/Lecture/Theatre) bringing the ASHRAE standard capacity down to 868 / Fire Marshall Capacity to 1375.

We also strongly encourage social distancing, which certainly helps ensure safety as well.

Regards,

Heidi Jackson
Managing Artistic Director, Cultural Programs