

PUGET SOUND BIZTALK

Daniels Real Estate's latest project: Restore St. Edward Seminary building

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Daniels Real Estate hopes to rehab the St. Edwards Seminary building in Kenmore.

Daniels Real Estate hopes to preserve the former St. Edward Seminary, a historic building in St. Edward State Park in Kenmore, and provide space for Bastyr University in the project.

On Friday, city of Kenmore officials said they support Daniels' efforts to rehab the building that is on the National Register of Historic Places.

“Saving the historic seminary building in a way that promotes sustainability and environmental values while enhancing the local economy is a huge opportunity for the city, and we are ready to be a helpful partner in this effort,” Mayor David Baker said in a statement.

The Washington State Parks Commission in 2013 directed state parks staff to look for ways to rehab the building that has been largely vacant since 1976. Daniels stepped forward and is now in early conversations with Bastyr University to discuss ways the natural medicine school might be involved.

The main campus of Bastyr, which is Kenmore's largest employer, is surrounded by the state park. The Bastyr University Board of Trustees recently authorized university administrators to request a business plan from Daniels Real Estate for review as Daniels develops a proposal for the restoration of the building.

Kevin Daniels is president of Seattle-based Daniels Real Estate and is a trustee for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He is known for high-profile projects that entail reuse of historic structures. In Seattle, he turned the former Sears building into the Starbucks headquarters; restored Union Station, which is Sound Transit's headquarters; and preserved the First United Methodist Church. He's starting construction of an office/hotel tower next to the church.

"We're greatly encouraged about the city of Kenmore's interest in the historic seminary building at Saint Edward State Park," State Parks Commission Chair Cindy Whaley said in a statement. "We look forward to continuing the discussion and working closely with the city to explore an appropriate solution for the building."