Eliot Center...The Living Legacy

Eliot Center is committed to hosting events that support sustainability, social justice, arts, and education. The facilities of First Unitarian Church of Portland, Eliot Center welcomes members, friends, nonprofit organizations and green businesses to work with us towards these shared efforts.

Rev. Dr. Thomas Lamb Eliot, arguably the most eminent citizen in Portland in the mid 1800’s, was a key player in shaping the progressive nature of Portland. As the first minister of The First Unitarian Church of Portland in 1867, Dr. Eliot established the First Unitarian Church as an institution dedicated to social justice issues. He was also the impetus for creating Reed College and The Humane Society and was a vital civic leader with the Boys and Girls Aid Society, the Ladies’ Relief Society, the Public Library, the City Board of Charities and the Art Museum.

Today, Dr. Eliot’s legacy lives on with Eliot Center.

Dedication to Sustainability
Eliot Center strives to make Portland and our world a healthier place to live, work, and do business by choosing earth friendly practices and partners. The newly built Buchan Building is LEED Gold Certified and features occupancy sensors, planters that filter storm water run off, and use of sustainable building products throughout including FSC Certified wood, carpet tiles recycled from plastic bottles & Marmoleum flooring made from naturally sourced materials.

Our sustainable event practices include using dinnerware, glasses and flatware for catered events, earth friendly cleaning products, reducing and recycling waste, and selecting vendors, caterers and suppliers who are willing to meet waste minimization goals. Choosing to host your event and reception at the Eliot Center also minimizes your need to travel to a separate location for your reception.