



Kemper Freeman Development, Inc.

WEB SITE bellevuesquare.com YEAR FOUNDED 1946 HEADQUARTERS Bellevue INDUSTRY Real estate development and management NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES 155 FIRST GENERATION Legh Miller Freeman SECOND GENERATION Frederick Kemper Freeman Sr. THIRD GENERATION (Frederick) Kemper Freeman Jr. FOURTH GENERATION Suzy (Freeman) McQuaid and Howard McQuaid and Amy (Freeman) Schreck, and Kevin Schreck ORIGINS Kemper Freeman Sr., who was ineligible to serve in World War II because he lost sight in one eye, contributed to the war effort by building ships at Port Angeles. In 1946, he used his money to develop the Eastside's first shopping center on a 10-acre strawberry farm that his grandfather, Legh Miller Freeman, bought in 1944. Bellevue Square, which opened with about 20 stores and a movie theater, has grown into the iconic Bellevue Collection, which features about 300 retail stores, 148 condominiums, two hotels and roughly 1 million square feet of office space. The family brought Bellevue to new heights when it built the 21-story Bank of America Tower (1988), the 25-story Hyatt Regency Bellevue and the 42-floor Lincoln Tower One (2005), which is one of the city's tallest buildings, accounting for roughly 8 percent of downtown Bellevue. SECRET OF SUCCESS Kemper Freeman Jr. said: "It was almost an accident that we (Freeman Sr. and Freeman Jr.) started working together. In business, it was the best relationship that we ever had. It was our strength and our ideas — once we have an idea hammered out, we will hold onto it. ... It doesn't mean we didn't have disagreements. The good news is we never got mad at the same time. ... The culture of the family becomes the culture of the business. ... That is an asset or a liability." COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT Overlake Hospital, Performing Arts Center Eastside, Evergreen Point Floating Bridge and the school district are among the community causes the Freeman family has championed. Also, two generations served in the state House of Representatives: Miller Freeman (1913-15) and Kemper Freeman Jr. (1973-76). FUN FACT Until he was 23, Kemper Freeman Jr. worked on farms because his family did custom farm work with special equipment for other farmers. "There is hardly a piece of farm ground in East Bellevue I haven't had something to do with. ... As a young kid, you got to run all that equipment, and it was as close to heaven as you could get. ... That kind of work is very gratifying and healthy, and you learn a lot. A lot of things I learned help me today ... tenacity, self-reliance, make do with what you have, how to make it work."