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UWAJIMAYA UNVEILS PLANS TO MODERNIZE FLAGSHIP SEATTLE STORE

Construction to launch in November with store remaining open during construction



Digital rendering of Uwajimaya's Seattle store new southern-facing entry. Photo courtesy of Hoshide Wanzer Architects.

SEATTLE (October 10, 2019) – Seattle’s iconic Asian grocery chain, [Uwajimaya](#), today unveiled its plans to remodel and update its flagship Seattle store, beginning in November. The store, located in Seattle’s historic Chinatown-International District, will remain open during the phased construction with completion slated for October 2020.

“For the past year, we’ve been thoughtfully developing our plans to reimagine our Seattle store with elements that modernize the shopping experience while keeping the connection to our 90-year history,” said **Denise Moriguchi, Uwajimaya CEO**. “We’re excited about the continued revitalization happening in this area and remain committed to our customers while contributing to this vibrant neighborhood.”

The current Seattle store is in its 19th year of operation in Seattle’s historic Chinatown International District, however this wasn’t the first Uwajimaya in the neighborhood. The first Seattle location of Uwajimaya opened in 1946 ([pictured here and below](#)) and was three blocks north on S. Main Street. Then from 1970 until 2000 the store was located one block north before moving to its current home on 5th Avenue S. The very first Uwajimaya

store was opened in Tacoma, Washington in the 1930s before WWII. The family had to leave Tacoma for Tule Lake Internment Camp during the war and settled in Seattle to start again after the war.

Working with a team of experts including Hoshide Wanzer Architects, Cushing Terrell Store Planning and Engineering and Abbot Construction, Uwajimaya meticulously developed a design and plan for the Seattle store that would not only highlight quality products and best selection items, but also balance the experience and ease of shopping with improved security. It's also been important to ensure a continuation of the same unique shopping experience customers expect when they come into Uwajimaya.

Highlights of the project include a new entry directly into the produce department with views to the meat and seafood departments, an active street-like storefront showcasing Uwajimaya specialties like sake, beer, snacks, candy, housewares, health and beauty, and a more visible deli that will offer Uwajimaya's popular traditional Chinese BBQ, sushi and fresh house-made poke.

Updates for the Seattle store remodeling project will be posted online on [Uwajimaya's blog](http://uwajimaya.blog) (<http://uwajimaya.construction/>) including what departments are being impacted, highlights of completed sections and additional progress updates.

Reporters interested in interviewing Denise Moriguchi or touring the project in person can contact Lee Keller at 206-799-3805, lee@thekellergroup.com. Or Morrena Villanueva, 425-457-1150, morrena@thekellergroup.com. For a hi-res version of these photos and additional images of Uwajimaya [click here](#).

ABOUT UWAJIMAYA

Uwajimaya Inc. (uwajimaya.com) is a family-owned and operated food retailer, wholesaler and real estate developer located in the Pacific Northwest. Founded in 1928 Uwajimaya operates four Premium Asian Markets (Seattle, Bellevue, Renton, WA and Beaverton, OR), a specialty market in South Lake Union (Kai Market), a wholesale division (Food Service International) as well as a real estate division which recently developed the Publix apartments and commercial space. The company employs close to 500 people today.



Uwajimaya store location from 1946-1969; Photo Credit Uwajimaya





1970-1999; Photo Credit Uwajimaya



2000 to Present; Photo Credit Uwajimaya

