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CITY OFFERS PARK BUILDING FOR BLACK MUSEUM

By Ashley Dunn P-I Reporter

TUESDAY, January 14, 1986
 Section: News, Page: D2

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department has offered the use of an abandoned field house in Columbia Playfield as a black heritage museum, Mayor Charles Royer announced yesterday.

The building would be used by the Black Heritage Society of Washington State to display its historical artifacts, mayoral staff assistant Bill Wright said.

Wright said the park's field house is only large enough to house mementos and the city will continue its search for a comprehensive black cultural center that could include a museum, classrooms or performance space.

Black Heritage Society President Joseph Warner refused to comment on yesterday's offer, saying only that negotiations are continuing.

The park is at the intersection of South Massachusetts Street and 24th Avenue South.

The field house is about 1,000 square feet, according to the Parks and Recreation Department.

Wright said yesterday's offer has nothing to do with demonstrators who have occupied the abandoned Colman School since November. The school is just across the street from the playfield.

The demonstrators have asked the city to turn the school into the city's black cultural center.

Over the weekend, the demonstrators set up their own museum display in the school. The display includes paintings and books.

Demonstrator Charlie James invited the public to bring in items for the Colman School museum, particularly African artifacts and works by local black artists, even though the city has rejected the site as a cultural center.

Mayor Royer said the school has been rejected as a cultural center because it would cost too much to renovate the building.

This article contained at least one photo or illustration as described below:

Type: PHOTO

Description: KURT SMITH/P-I PHOTO --- This abandoned field house in Columbia Playfield has been offered by the city as a black heritage museum.

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