

Smith Tower reopens after prohibition-era-theme renovation (slideshow)

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INDUSTRIES & TAGS [Commercial Real Estate](#), [Retailing](#)

Picture a 1920s-era flapper greeting you at the door and then slipping you a flask of citrus-whiskey punch as a welcome present. Then stroll through a shop and museum-like space, which transports you back to the Prohibition Era. Finally, you board an antique Otis elevator, with a genuine elevator operator for a trip to the famous 35th floor Chinese Room, which is now the Smith Tower Observatory and includes a cafe and bar called Temperance.

Welcome to [the Legends of Smith Tower tour](#), which opened Thursday after a multi-million-dollar renovation by Smith Tower owner Unico Properties.



Flapper character Wednesday Dumonde greets visitors to Smith Tower during the tour.

On Tuesday, some Puget Sound Business Journal newsroom colleagues and I toured the newly renovated Smith Tower.

The 522-foot Smith Tower opened in 1914 as the tallest building west of the Mississippi River. The L.C. Smith Building was renamed Smith Tower in 1929.

Seattle-based Unico bought the 42-story building in 2015 and began the renovation, which Seattle-based Graham Baba designed. [Gallagher and Associates](#), a San Francisco-based museum and design firm, developed the experiential tours and historical exhibits. Columbia Hospitality of Seattle is overseeing the visitor experience.

Despite the addition of much taller high-rises throughout the last 100 years, Smith Tower still stands tall in Pioneer Square and offers amazing views from the observation deck. Among the views is a straight-on shot of the Space Needle. To the west are the Olympic Mountains and Elliott Bay. And on a clear day, Mount Rainier looms 50 miles to the southeast.

Take a virtual tour with us now and click through the slideshow.

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