

# Work: Neighborhood of Innovation

The first industries in South Lake Union were lumber mills and coal transportation. As workers moved to the area, businesses opened to serve them. The early 20th century saw the introduction of warehouses and light manufacturing companies — including the Boeing Company's first home, Ford Motor Company's first West Coast manufacturing plant, and World War I shipbuilding companies. Later, South Lake Union welcomed a large number of auto-oriented businesses, followed by construction-related and downtown-support businesses.

Today, the City is working with the community to establish the neighborhood as the Northwest's center for biotechnology research and development. Further, artists and arts organizations, media companies, design and architecture firms, a range of restaurants, and a growing retail presence led by REI's flagship store hold a strong presence in the neighborhood. Overall, the City anticipates 16,000 new jobs in the neighborhood over the next 20 years.

Western Mill, 1909



Textile worker



Truck assembly at Kenworth, 1940



Seattle City Light power plant, 1937



Seattle City Light power plant now Zymogenetics, 2006



**1880s** The Western Mill occupies a key spot at the south end of Lake Union

**1910s** Ford Manufacturing Plant and South Lake Union steam plant built

**1920s** Auto-related businesses move in

**1930s** Seattle Times moves to the neighborhood • PEMCO started as "School Employees Credit Union of Washington"

**1960s** Area rezoned for manufacturing uses

**1990s** Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center begins move to South Lake Union • Zymogenetics moves into Lake Union Steam Plant • REI flagship store opens

**2000s** UW Medicine Lake Union opens in the renovated Washington Natural Gas building



911 Media Arts Center



Jones Soda Co.



Rosetta on Terry Avenue