

# REFS

## Resurrect Ekserserhuset Friends Society

To our friends in Boston,

Greetings from Bergen Norway, home of Ekserserhuset, the venue of the benefit concert that helped erect the world's first Leif Erikson statue in Boston.

Ekserserhuset was built in 1821 and dismantled in 2001 due to a misleading promise it would "soon" be resurrected. After 16 years of waiting, we hope the resurrection is imminent and in time for the bicentennial of Ekserserhuset in 2021.

A Leif Erikson monument was proposed during a dinner at Longfellow House in March 1871 when Ole Bull was visiting H.W. Longfellow. After two years of attempts to raise funds, Bull arranged a benefit concert in Ekserserhuset in August 1873. Edvard Grieg and Nobel Prize winner Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson were also on the program.

Drafts for a resurrection have been completed and we plan on sending you one.

The former site of Ekserserhuset is now the site of the largest bank in Western Norway, Sparebanken Vest (SpV). SpV is obliged to fund the resurrection, in accordance with the permit for Ekserserhuset's dismantlement. Ekserserhuset was dismantled under the condition that it must be resurrected near the original site. The only site available is a vacant lot owned by the City of Bergen behind the oldest row of urban wooden houses in Norway from the early 1600s 100 yards from the original site. A resurrection here would create a harmonic historical block. SpV has done close to nothing to resurrect Ekserserhuset. SpV needs reminders to fulfill its obligations.

Information in Norwegian is available on a website: [www.nostebukten.org](http://www.nostebukten.org)

If you have any questions we will be happy to try to answer them.

Bergen, March 18th, 2017

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