



NWSeaport
Maritime Heritage Center

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Retired Seattle Parks manager, MIT educated naval architect,
conservationist among new board at NW Seaport**

Board elects Shannon Fitzgerald president, Jim Flies vice president

SEATTLE – Northwest Seaport, a Seattle maritime heritage organization located at South Lake Union, has named retired Seattle Parks manager Colleen Browne, naval architect and waterfront planning engineer Andrew Bennett and conservationist Barbara Klee to its board of directors. The non-profit group has also elected Shannon Fitzgerald as board president and Jim Flies as board vice president.

Browne dedicated the second half of a two-decade career with the City of Seattle as a capital projects manager with Seattle Parks. Her work included the oversight of notable civic projects including a \$41 million expansion of the Seattle Aquarium, \$30 million design of Lake Union Park, \$2 million development of the Historic Ships Wharf at South Lake Union and the \$1.8 million Luna Park replacement in West Seattle. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Washington.

Bennett is a naval architect and waterfront planning engineer with over 20 years experience in the design and construction of boats, ships and shoreside facilities with values reaching \$65 million. He has been involved in numerous public and private sector ventures throughout the US and the state including project management for a 20-year plan for the Staten Island Ferry system in New York City; system planning, vessel acquisition and facility design for the Marine Division Startup of the King County Department of Transportation; development of Bellevue's Meydenbauer Park master plan; and work with the US Navy. Bennett has a Master's degree in Coastal Management from the University of Washington and a BS in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering from MIT. He is the immediate past-president of the Seattle Propeller Club.

An art historian by training and designer and craftsman by trade, Klee brings a longtime passion for historic preservation and forest and habitat conservation along with a decade of work in maritime transportation to the NW Seaport board. A life-long Seattleite, Klee's non-profit service has included serving on the board of the Seattle Audubon Society, where her work helped the organization secure a million-dollar bequest. Klee holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History from the University of Washington.

In addition to the new board appointments, the NW Seaport board has elected Shannon Fitzgerald as president and Jim Flies as vice president.

Fitzgerald has 23 years of service with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as a wildlife biologist. He has a Master of Science degree in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Wisconsin and Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Biology from the University of Minnesota.

Flies is vice president for Harley Marines Services, Inc. in Seattle and the former Academic Dean and Dean of Students at the Seattle Preparatory Academy. He has a Master of Education degree and a Principal Certificate from Seattle University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of Montana.

About Northwest Seaport

Northwest Seaport is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the maritime heritage of Puget Sound and the Pacific Northwest, and the development of maritime-based educational programs and opportunities. Its fleet includes two ships that have National Landmark status, the tug, ARTHUR FOSS, and the Lightship # 83, SWIFTSURE. These vessels are moored at Seattle's Lake Union Park and provide a hands-on venue for educational programs that range from on-board story time for toddlers to vocational training and opportunities for high school students and post-high school adults to rigorous academic programs in partnership with colleges and universities. To learn more visit www.NWSeaport.org

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