

NEWS RELEASE



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1889 TUGBOAT ARTHUR FOSS CHOSEN TO COMPETE IN PARTNERS IN PRESERVATION PROGRAM FOR FUNDING FROM AMERICAN EXPRESS

Month Long Online Voting Starts Today

Seattle, WA. (April 15, 2010)—American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation announced today that the National Historic Landmark vessel *Arthur Foss* has been chosen to participate in the **2010 Partners in Preservation program**. The Seattle-Puget Sound area is the fifth and final region to receive funding from American Express under the program. As one of 25 historic places selected, the *Arthur Foss* will now compete in a month long online contest that invites the Seattle-Puget Sound community to cast votes for the historic places they would like to see receive funding. The public is encouraged to go to www.PartnersinPreservation.com to vote and to post personal stories and photos about the *Arthur Foss* and her 120 years of history.

About the Arthur Foss

The *Arthur Foss* helped power regional industry, including Puget Sound logging and Pacific coast shipping, from her construction in 1898 to retirement in 1968. The *Arthur Foss* has a storied past, participating in the Klondike Gold Rush and starring in the 1934 MGM movie "Tugboat Annie" as the old steam tugboat *Narcissus*, and being the last vessel to escape Wake Island before the 1942 Japanese invasion. The tug is nationally recognized as an excellent example of old-time tugboats, sharing a common story of repair and reuse, often repeated, over a long career.

Unlike most old-time tugboats, the *Arthur Foss* still welcomes visitors aboard her weathered decks. Today, she offers visitors a broad array of programs, from self-guided tours to vocational training in maritime professions. Hull repairs are critical to allow the tugboat to remain safely in the water, and would also be a major step toward returning her to cruising condition. Once she has been repaired and is ready to stay in the water, it will be possible to expand the diversity of her programming and allow the *Arthur Foss* to bring her programs to new locations and audiences.

Funding from the Partners in Preservation is for The Ironbark Project, a major step in preserving the *Arthur Foss's* 1889 Douglas fir hull. Like many older wooden tugs, *Arthur's* hull is covered with a thin ironbark (a tropical hardwood) sheathing to protect it during the tug's hard working career. The Ironbark Project will dry-dock the *Arthur Foss* to remove this sheathing and allow shipwrights to inspect and repair the hull planking beneath.

Vote to Preserve

To cast a vote and to post personal stories and photos in support of the tugboat *Arthur Foss*, visit www.PartnersinPreservation.com through May 12, 2010. Participants may vote once daily. The site that receives the highest number of popular votes is guaranteed to receive funding. At the end of the voting period, American Express, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and a special Advisory Committee comprised of Seattle-Puget Sound civic and preservation leaders will review the public's votes along with each site's preservation needs to determine how the \$1 million in preservation grants will be awarded.

Open House: May 1 – 2, 2010

Northwest Seaport is holding an Open House aboard the *Arthur Foss* on May 1 and 2 from 11:00 to 5:00 PM. Come on down to Lake Union Park to step aboard history. We'll have interpreters and self-guided tours all day long, and demonstrations, sound-offs, live music, and more!

Here's the schedule

- Saturday, May 1:
 - 12:00PM – Horn Sound-Off
 - 1:00 PM – Workboat Demonstrations
 - 2:00 PM – Chantey Sing
 - 3:00 PM – Hawser Toss Competition
 - 4:00 PM – Workboat Demonstrations
- Sunday, May 2:
 - 12:00PM – Horn Sound-Off
 - 1:00 PM – Workboat Demonstrations
 - 3:00 PM – Hawser Toss Competition
 - 4:00 PM – Workboat Demonstrations

Visit our website for directions and more. www.nwseaport.org

About Partners in Preservation

Launched in 2006, Partners in Preservation is a program in which American Express, in partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, pledged \$5.5 million over a five-year period toward preserving historic places throughout the United States. American Express has already allocated \$4.4 million in preservation grants and in support for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which has allowed recipients to make significant progress in achieving their preservation goals.

In this partnership, American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation seek to increase the public's awareness of the importance of historic preservation in the United States and to preserve America's historic and cultural landmarks. The program also seeks to inspire long-term support from local citizens for the historic places at the heart of their communities.

About Northwest Seaport

Northwest Seaport is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1964, 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 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.