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Major Milestones Reached on Pike Place MarketFront Despite Heavy Rains in December and January
Pike Place Market Foundation raises $4.2 million of $9 million capital campaign goal

SEATTLE – Construction on the new MarketFront project at Pike Place Market continues on schedule, with major milestones reached and rapid progress made despite extremely wet weather in December and January. The first major expansion of Pike Place Market in more than 40 years, heavy excavation work began immediately after a groundbreaking celebration in June 2015.

The project reached a major milestone in December, with the final installation of 120 drill piers, which were sunk 45-90 feet deep into the site on the west side of Western Avenue. Currently Sellen Construction’s crew is building 22 grade beams to form the foundation of the future project. The beams will protect and take the load of the building off the BNSF train tunnel below the site. In mid-January,
the first concrete slabs were poured, marking the first floor of the new parking garage with 300 individual parking spaces.

“We couldn’t be more pleased with the hard work and progress of Sellen Construction and the entire project team including our partners at SOJ, Miller Hull and MKA and Shannon Wilson,” said Ben Franz-Knight, Executive Director of the Pike Place Market Preservation and Development Authority (PDA). “We are on schedule to pour the final slab on grade in February, after which the next levels of the garage will come up swiftly.”

The project is on-track to be completed by the end of 2016, with a public celebration of the opening of the MarketFront in late spring.

The Pike Place Market Foundation recently announced the Pike Up! campaign, which is raising funds to complete the MarketFront, raised $4.2 million of a $9 million needed. More than 2,200 supporters donated money and wrote their name into a Market Charm, Bronze Hoofprint or Mosaic Fish which will be displayed on the new MarketFront. The Foundation will be celebrating their fundraising success with a gathering on the Desimone Bridge to update the fundraising thermometer and to thank the craftspeople who have supported the campaign thus far on Friday, February 5.

“It’s the first time in 30 years the public has the opportunity to write their name into Market history, much like the tiles on the Market floor,” said Lillian Sherman, Executive Director of the Pike Place Market Foundation. “We’ve heard inspiring stories from Pike Up! donors who have decade-long connections to the Market and new-comers alike who’ve fallen in love with the Market.”

The public is invited to Pike Up! now to help complete the Market expansion. Naming opportunities are going quickly. The deadline gets your name on the MarketFront before Grand Opening is Thursday, June 30, 2016 for Bronze Hoofprints and Sunday, December 31, 2016 for Market Charms and Mosaic Fish. Learn more and Pike Up! at www.pikeup.org.

The $73 million MarketFront project will realize a long-held vision of Market advocates, who won historic designation for the 9 acre neighborhood in 1971. Spurred by the future removal of the Alaskan Way Viaduct, the MarketFront expansion provides the unique opportunity to complete an important chapter in the Market’s past and begin a new one. The new public space, with views of Puget Sound, will provide more room for farmers, artists, and artisan food purveyors; 40 low-income housing units for seniors, a Neighborhood Center and 300 public parking spaces; and a future pedestrian connection to the waterfront.

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