

For Immediate Release

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PIKE PLACE MARKET ANNOUNCES DATE FOR MARKETFRONT GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION



SEATTLE (January 31, 2017) – [Pike Place Market](#) will celebrate the opening of the much anticipated [MarketFront](#) expansion on Thursday, June 29, 2017 from 1 to 7 p.m. The Seattle community at large is invited to join the festivities, with an afternoon ceremony which includes Mayor Ed Murray, performances by local musicians, bites from MarketFront vendors and activities to help visitors explore the new space.

Additionally, members of the public who have donated to the Pike Up! campaign by the March 1, 2017 deadline will have the opportunity to view their Market Charms or Hoofprints fully installed in the completed project. Volunteers will be available to assist donors in locating their honorariums, and guests who may be interested in donating in the future.

“The MarketFront represents the culmination of the vision for the Market, established more than 40 years ago, when it was saved from demolition by the people of Seattle,” said Ben Franz-Knight, Executive Director of the Pike Place Market Preservation and Development Authority. “This project also represents the future, as it will provide a vibrant connection between downtown Seattle and the future waterfront.”

The \$74 million MarketFront project realizes a long-held vision of Market advocates, who won historic designation for the nine-acre neighborhood in 1971. The expansion will also return farmers and producers to a site that was developed in the early 1920s for Market farmers and was long part of the public market before it caught fire and was made into a surface parking lot in 1974.

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 will provide:

- 30,000 square feet of open public space, including a public plaza and viewing deck with expansive views of the Olympic Mountains, Mount Rainier and Puget Sound
- 47 new table spaces for farmers and craftspeople on the MarketFront Plaza beneath an all-weather canopy with rollup doors to welcome the sea breeze
- Four new artisan vendors with production on site: Old Stove Brewing Co., Jarr & Co., Honest Biscuits and indi chocolate in 12,000 square feet of commercial and production space
- 40 low-income senior housing units with seven live/work artist units
- A neighborhood center, offering social service resources and a place for neighbors to gather and connect in the Market community
- Three public art installations: *NW Microcosm*, *Western Tapestry* and *Billie the Piggybank*
- 300 underground parking spaces; 33 bicycle spaces
- Future connection to the central waterfront

For more information on the MarketFront celebration, visit www.MarketFront.org/GrandOpening

For a press kit on the MarketFront, visit [here](#).

Pike Place Market is Seattle's original farmers market, founded in 1907, and is one of the oldest continuously operating public markets in the U.S. The market operates within a 9 acre historic district and is a bustling neighborhood of hundreds of vendors, residents and businesses, including farmers, craftspeople, independent shops, buskers, and residents, many of whom are low-income seniors, and five social service agencies. www.pikeplacemarket.org

The Pike Place Market Preservation & Development Authority (PDA) is a not-for-profit, public corporation chartered by the City of Seattle in 1973 to manage the properties in the nine-acre Market Historic District. The PDA's charter is to preserve, rehabilitate and protect the Market's buildings, increase opportunities for farm and food retailing in the Market, incubate and support small and marginal businesses, and provide services and affordable housing for low-income people.

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