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Farewell Waterfront Park? Not A Chance ...

When *Seattle Times* headlines referred to the closing of Waterfront Park in recent weeks, the reference was to the 50-year-old Pier 58, for years known as Waterfront Park. After discovering that Pier 58 had shifted, leaving a gap of several inches between the pier and the land, the City of Seattle closed it two weeks ago and plans to remove it within 90 days. Design of the replacement Pier 58 is already 60 percent complete, and construction will begin in 2022.

The Pier 58 replacement is just one component of the comprehensive, 20-acre Seattle Waterfront Park Project, all slated for completion in 2024.

Take a look at all the Waterfront Park Project components, including the Pier 58 rebuild, at <https://waterfrontseattle.org>.



Rendering of Pier 58's new design including playground, flexible seating area, and grassy knoll. Image by James Corner Field Operations, courtesy of the City of Seattle.

Pier 62 Call For Artists

**DEADLINE EXTENDED!
APPLICATIONS DUE SEPT 2**



Photo of Takiyah Ward, Future Forward Virtual Artist In Residence by Mike Hipple

The waterfront's Future Forward Virtual Artist-In-Residence, Takiyah Ward, has

designed a framework to engage Seattle artists in activating the waterfront by exploring stories and experiences focused on insights of the past, engagement with the present, and a vision for the future — **PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE**. The first call for artists seeks groups of two or more artists to explore the theme of **PRESENT** in two installations: a temporary light sculpture and up to 40 lanterns or luminaries. The installations will be available for viewing as part of Pier 62's opening in mid-October and will run through November 2020. The remaining themes of PAST and FUTURE will be explored in subsequent months. **For more information, visit:**
<https://www.friendsofwaterfrontseattle.org/event/call-for-artists>

FWS Lends A Helping Hand

To ensure that Waterfront Park will be a well-managed public space that is welcoming to all, Friends teamed up with the City of Seattle to develop an innovative three-pronged strategy that includes diverse programming, a safe atmosphere with a safety team, and a place where social needs are addressed proactively and with compassion. This last element has been particularly important as the coronavirus pandemic has affected vulnerable people on the waterfront who are unsheltered or are experiencing behavioral health and substance abuse issues.

Central to these efforts is Nichole Alexander, Waterfront Park's Outreach Care Coordinator, contracted by Friends through REACH, a program of Evergreen Treatment Services.

Working long hours to connect people to the help they need, Nichole facilitates everything from food and clothing to medical care, shelter, and mental health and/or substance use treatment. "I try to meet people where they are, with compassionate care and appropriate resources to help them move toward long-term health, housing, and employment," she said. "I work out of my car, so I can just pop the trunk and pull out food, warm clothes, or whatever people need. I remind people that I haven't forgotten about them and that I'll be back tomorrow to check in."



Nichole Alexander, Waterfront Park's Outreach Care Coordinator

Since the pandemic, many services her clients depended on — food banks and meal programs, shelters, even public restrooms — have closed or offer limited access. “So much has changed since the crisis. But food is the first step,” she says. “Without food, nothing else is possible.” Since March, Nichole has distributed 40,000 meals to her waterfront clients, all courtesy of Mercurys Coffee Co. Nichole begins her day at 6:30 a.m., picking up what the Bellevue-based roastery didn’t sell the day before — things like salads, fruit cups, and chicken salads — to deliver to her waterfront clients. “It’s great to see businesses stepping up to fill in the gaps of our emergency food system,” she says.

After food, basic hygiene is a top priority. “Without access to public restrooms, our clients don’t have enough hygiene supplies, so we’re filling little plastic cups with soap and delivering them to anyone who needs it. It’s something, but not enough,” she observes.

Because she sees her waterfront clients every day and has built trusting relationships with them, if someone looks feverish or is coughing more than

normal, she is quickly able get them care. She often goes out with nurses, who give vaccines for hepatitis A and B, particularly important given public restroom closings and the resulting hygiene crisis. “We also monitor clients for COVID-19 symptoms, check on people who are self-isolating, and provide other types of care — such as wound care and flu shots — to keep people out of over-burdened emergency rooms.”

Nichole approaches every client and situation as an opportunity to find a personalized, comprehensive solution to uncover their best selves. “We’ve solved many of our clients’ challenges by going to our personal and professional networks, asking people to make connections, and getting creative,” she says. Creating the possible when it seems impossible, Nichole taps into an impressive network of services including Pike Place Market Common’s Resource Center, Law Enforcement-Assisted Diversion (LEAD), Co-LEAD (a hotel-based intervention program), Seattle Public Health, Neighborcare clinics, and People’s Harm Reduction Alliance, to name a few.

Nichole tells the story of a familiar camper who made the waterfront his home for 10 years. An elderly veteran, her client battled with post-traumatic stress disorder, seizures, and alcohol addiction. Nichole spent weeks building a relationship with him and was able to get him a referral to Tiny House Village in Seattle, a project of the Low-Income Housing Institute. With a roof over his head, Nichole worked with him and Neighborcare Clinic at Pike Place Market to address his seizures and mental health issues. She accompanied him for nine hours at the start of a five-day medical detox program. Thanks to Nichole, he has remained sober as he works on his recovery, is now receiving his VA benefits, and is slated for permanent housing, having found himself again. “I live for these stories,” Nichole says.

Friends Executive Director Heidi Hughes sings Nichole’s praises. “Friends is immensely proud of Nichole’s work and the effectiveness of programs like REACH and LEAD on the waterfront to keep the most vulnerable among us safe and well cared for during this time of immense need.”

If you’re interested in supporting Friends’ life-saving outreach work during this crisis, please [donate here](#).

Pacesetters for a Healthy Waterfront



Matt Griffin and Evelyne Rozner

Matt Griffin and Evelyne Rozner know how to set an inspired pace. Avid cyclists, the couple logs 17,000 to 18,000 miles in a normal year, and over the last 35 years has bicycled on their own in some 60 countries.

Most of their volunteer work and financial support in recent years has been directed to education and human services. But they knew the waterfront project was about building a more vibrant downtown, and they were eager to help set a pace in the early stages of the Waterfront Campaign with a generous gift that could accelerate the project's progress.

In fact, the couple has spent decades paving the way for the revitalization of downtown Seattle. Matt, who grew up in South Seattle near Genesee Park, is a developer with the Pine Street Group. Its overarching objective is "creating a vibrant, urban core in downtown Seattle." A civil engineering major at Princeton, Matt has spent most of the last 40 years developing property in downtown Seattle. Evelyne is a self-described "Air Force brat" who attended 16 schools before graduating from high school, as her father's career moved her family around the United States. The couple met as MBA students at Stanford.

Returning from an international bicycle trip in the mid-90s, Matt found that downtown Seattle was “broken,” with many retailers boarded up. He led an effort, widely credited with sparking downtown’s revitalization, to redevelop three key downtown blocks, including building Pacific Place shopping center, renovating the former Frederick & Nelson department store for Nordstrom, and redeveloping the old Nordstrom store. Matt’s team is now managing construction of the \$1.9 billion addition that will double the size of the Washington State Convention Center.

Persuasive and passionate champions of urban living, Matt and Evelyne have lived for almost 20 years at 4th Ave. and Pike St. in the heart of downtown. Matt’s projects are within walking distance. Neither has owned an automobile for the past 17 years. “Everything we need is right here,” Evelyne said. “We love living downtown, and the bus system is terrific!” Matt believes that developing a dense downtown, packed with culture and commerce, including a thriving waterfront, will result in a vibrant and economically strong city.

Matt recalls, “When Friends of Waterfront Seattle asked us to consider a certain gift, we did — and then we doubled it. The waterfront is one of Seattle’s greatest assets, and this project is a game changer for our region. Game changers don’t come along very often.”

Not only do Matt and Evelyne take on the toughest challenges, set a swift pace, and see them through to successful completion, they also mentor and challenge the next generation of volunteers to get involved in making a difference in our community. Hats off to you both for setting a strong and spirited pace in creating a welcoming and active waterfront for all on Seattle’s front porch!

**At Friends of Waterfront Seattle, our work begins with
YOU! If you are able, please consider making a gift today.
All of Seattle will THANK YOU!**

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