



Dear Friends,

I am delighted to introduce you to **On The Waterfront**, the first edition of a monthly newsletter from Friends of Waterfront Seattle. We are thrilled to share our work with you!

As you may know, the mission of **Friends of Waterfront Seattle** is to support the creation and ongoing stewardship of a community-driven vision, **Waterfront Park**, that will serve Seattle and the Puget Sound region as a beautiful, active, and welcoming space for all of us to enjoy together. A vibrant waterfront is not just good to have — it's a public good.

We recognize that we are working through one of the most challenging periods in recent history and we, in partnership with the City of Seattle, remain deeply committed to the community's vision for Waterfront Park. COVID-19 has made public space more important than ever for our mental and physical health and our sense of belonging.

Thank you for your interest in Waterfront Park and Friends of Waterfront Seattle. We look forward to keeping you up to date on the latest news in a format that is short, fun, and informative. Please let us know what you'd like to hear about and send us your ideas by clicking [here](#). To learn more about

Friends of Waterfront Seattle and Waterfront Park, **visit**
friendsofwaterfrontseattle.org.

With many thanks,



Heidi Hughes
Executive Director

Meet Takiyah Ward, Waterfront Artist In Residence

Friends of Waterfront Seattle (Friends) and the City of Seattle's Office of the Waterfront and Civic Projects (OWCP) have selected their *Future Forward: Artist In Residence*, Takiyah Ward. Born and raised in Seattle, Takiyah is artistically known as T-DUB Customs.

Launched as a rapid response plan to provide immediate virtual opportunities during the COVID-19 public health emergency for local artists, creatives, and makers, the artist residency supports the long-term health of the future waterfront park and will develop virtual art opportunities to activate the waterfront with temporary art installations.



Takiyah Ward photo by M.T. Perkins

Working with partners, Takiyah will lead a process that incorporates elements of the [Seattle Waterfront Art Plan](#) as inspiration to develop a program to award \$100,000 in funding to local artists. This funding was made available by Friends and OWCP projects in support of the Seattle Together initiative, a partnership among the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, Office of Arts & Culture, Office of Economic Development, Seattle Public Library, and the Mayor’s Innovation and Performance Team coming together to build a city-wide COVID-19 community response plan.

Takiyah said, ***“I’m excited about the opportunity to bring a variety of art to the waterfront that speaks to the essence of the city, and the most vibrant parts of Seattle’s culture to highlight the beauty of our shared story and the truth of our perseverance.”***

Most recently, Takiyah organized [Vivid Matter Collective’s Black Lives Matter](#)

[mural on Pine Street in Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood.](#)

This Artist-in-Residence pilot is created to be scalable over time and continue throughout the life of the park to allow artist-led projects to be a cornerstone of Friends' waterfront park programming and ensure participation of a range of artists, especially those representing communities of color.

With Arts Consultant Vivian Phillips serving as facilitator of the Future Forward: Artist-In-Residency, the selection panel was comprised of a diverse group of working artists, arts administrators, and entrepreneurs, including Friends Board Member and Phila Engaged Giving Founder/Principal Stephanie Ellis-Smith, Seattle Art Museum Associate Director for Community Programs and Equity Team Founding Chair and Seattle Arts Commission Co-Chair Priya Frank, artist, educator, and Eighth Generation Founder Louie Gong, Seattle Center Managing Artistic Director of Cultural Programs and Hidmo/Cypher Community Volunteer Heidi Jackson, and visual artist and Nepantla Cultural Arts Gallery owner Jake Prendez.

Friends of Waterfront Seattle Board Member, Stephanie Ellis-Smith said, ***"The selection of Takiyah Ward for the artist-in-residence program is significant in achieving our goal of creating a "Waterfront for All." Her voice and creativity illustrate our commitment to incorporating BIPOC artists and creatives at all levels and establishing their influence to make the waterfront an inclusive and welcoming place."***

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Friends and the City recognize the importance of participating in economic recovery for the arts community while leading strategies supporting the long-term health of Seattle's future Waterfront Park. The residency program will embrace a process for employing a creative waterfront arts program that is artist-driven and audience-minded, inclusive and welcoming of a diversity of thought and approaches, and responsive and adaptable to changing public gathering norms. The program brings to life the significance that the arts play in our daily lives as well as in our ability to be "in community."

For details, visit friendsofwaterfrontseattle.org/events/artist-program. Stay tuned for Friends and OWCP's announcement for \$100,000 artist call!

Meet Friends New Team Members



NICHOLE ALEXANDER

Contracted Outreach Care Coordinator

Before starting with REACH, Nichole worked at Ventures Nonprofit as its Ready For Release Coordinator and Instructor. With a passion for helping people find success, she is currently studying law and policy at Evergreen State and on track to begin her Master's Program for Public Administration. Nichole's volunteer work includes Girl Scouts, Beyond Bars, World Central Kitchen where she has served 38,000 meals, Civil Survival, and Justice Involved Student Group. She is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Nichole performs on-the-ground outreach working to vulnerable populations with behavioral health and substance abuse issues, and unsheltered people on the waterfront — often connecting them to services through LEAD, Pike Place Market, and other providers.



KATHERYN EDWARDS

Executive Assistant to the Director

Katheryn Edwards comes to Friends of Waterfront Seattle after 10 years with the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business, where she assisted with alumni and donor engagement, event planning, promotion of Chicago Booth Magazine, and public relations for the school and its esteemed faculty. Since moving to the Seattle area in 2018, she has worked with the leadership of Cornish College of the Arts and the Greater Seattle YMCA to promote their institutions. Katheryn has a Bachelors degree in Broadcasting and Media Advertising from Loyola University of Chicago, a Bachelors Degree from Le Cordon Bleu Institute of Culinary Arts in Hospitality Management, and a Masters of Arts in Cultural Studies from the University of Chicago.



YOON KANG-O'HIGGINS

Senior Program Manager

With more than 20 years of experience in visual art, education, and cultural spaces, Yoon designs and facilitates learning experiences and community programs rooted in learner-centered pedagogy. As Program Director at Visual Thinking Strategies, an arts/education nonprofit, Yoon led the development of new programs and curriculum and facilitated multi-year projects including the Kennedy Center's Turnaround Arts program; the EU's Erasmus+ project "Permission to Wonder; and "VTS in Science," an IMLS project with the Wild Center in New York and the Seattle Aquarium. From 2012 – 2019, Yoon was an Educator at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Discovery Center, where she co-founded its equity team. Her experience in DEI facilitation and multi-partner programs will be an asset to Friends of Waterfront Seattle.



MARIE KIDHE

Senior Community Engagement Manager

Marie is a first-generation Ugandan-American and native Seattleite with more than 20 years of administrative and management skills, accompanied by a network of nonprofit, small business, corporate and grassroots affiliations and relationships. Marie is an effective and savvy community engagement leader, project manager, and event curator. Her leadership has resulted in successful outcomes in her consultancy work with 4Culture, Metier Brewing Company, Rainier Valley Corps, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Discovery Center, Uncle Nearest Premium Whiskey, Seattle Chapter Black Panther 50th Anniversary Organizing Committee, and CD Forum for Arts and Ideas. Having cultivated numerous contacts and partnerships across the Seattle community, Marie brings collaborative and skilled organizing and strategic outreach approaches to Friends.



ANNE O'DOWD

Events and Festivals Manager

Anne has been planning and executing festivals and events in Seattle and beyond for more than 15 years in a variety of capacities. She is a master of the nuts and bolts of event operations necessary to bring a vision to life on the ground. Her Seattle experience includes key production roles with Northwest Folklife, Bumbershoot, Capitol Hill Block Party, and the Northwest Tea Festival. With a background working for both public and private public sectors, Anne is a great asset to Friends in leading event management and building the systems for community and commercial partner events on Pier 62, and working with outside production teams we bring in for larger events over time. She will also advise on building out our event management team for park and non-park events.



JEFF OZIMEK

Park Operations & Recreation Manager

Jeff Ozimek brings 15 years of park operations experience to the team. He comes to Friends from the Bainbridge Island Park District, where he built a recreation program from the ground up, resulting in a revenue-generating program with 50 staff at peak season, multiple facilities, and 500+ programs. In 2018, Jeff received the Robert W. Crawford Young Professional Award from the National Recreation and Park Association, joining the ranks of less than a dozen other professionals in the United States who have received the same award. He is the current Chair of Washington Recreation & Park Association's (WRPA) Risk Management School and already enjoys good working relationships with Seattle Parks & Recreation through his involvement in the WRPA.



HEATHER RYAN

Vending & Concessions Lead

Heather brings more than 15 years of vending and concessions experience in the special events and festivals arena. From beer gardens to food and beverage to crafts, Heather's experience has been in both the public and private sectors, locally and nationally. She has managed vending operations at Bonnaroo Arts and Music Festival for 15 years, which involves managing 170 craft vendors and over 50 staff and volunteers for this multi-day festival with 80,000 attendees. Her strong project management, creative problem solving, and understanding of balancing revenue generation with the amenity value of event vending will be an asset for vending and concessions in the future Waterfront Park, beginning with Pier 62. She also has an interest in developing Waterfront Park vending programs, which can double as youth job training and provide opportunities for underserved communities.



MARGIE SHURGOT

Chief Philanthropy Officer

Margie is a highly accomplished nonprofit executive, with more than 30 years of experience helping organizations enhance their relationships, resources, and reputations. A visionary leader, her expertise is in building high-performing philanthropic teams, strategies, and infrastructures to drive successful comprehensive and capital campaigns, major and legacy gifts, and annual fund/membership programs. Having served environmental, cultural, educational, and human service organizations, and numerous public-private partnerships, she has extensive experience working collaboratively with board members, volunteers, and staff as well as government, foundation, and corporate partners to grow philanthropic support.



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