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Launch of Summer Season Sunday, May 17, 2015

Tacoma: This is your Waterfront!

TACOMA—The Foss Waterway Seaport, Puget Sound’s maritime heritage, education and event center, will officially open its doors for the summer season on Sunday, May 17 at 12:00 noon. Located on Tacoma’s Thea Foss Waterway, the Seaport will open to a special welcome by actors in period dress, free cups of Ivar’s World Famous Clam Chowder, cake-cutting, live music, exhibits and interactive activities, heritage boat shop, the Tacoma Fire Department fire boat and maritime vessels on-show.

The theme for the summer season, ***Tacoma: This is Your Waterfront***, will highlight the many historic maritime treasures in the Seaport’s collection. Throughout the summer themed programs and weekend activities will use those artifacts as touchstones to connect visitors to their shared past—the sailors, ships, rail yards, workers and The Port that shaped Puget Sound into the region it is today.

A series of fun family events are scheduled throughout the summer including: Family Fun Day with Pierce County Education Communication Outreach Net May 30, Maritime Fest July 18 and 19, and Summer Science SeaCamp the weeks of August 3-7 and August 10-13 (advance booking is required).

Foss Waterway Seaport Executive Director, Wesley A. Wenhardt said, “We are excited to welcome visitors for the 2015 season and give them the opportunity to re-connect with the Tacoma waterfront, Puget Sound and the maritime history of our region. We have more than doubled our exhibit space and feature a new signature exhibit,



Where Rails Meet Sails.” It is a model railroad switching yard representation of the historic half-moon railway yard (adjacent to the Seaport), that can be operated by children and adults alike. Also in the exhibit are an authentic operating Griswold crossing signal, railroad wheels forged by the Griffin Wheel Foundry in South Tacoma in 1909, and striking images of Tacoma’s railroads of the past. Soon to be added will be a hands-on steam locomotive simulator. Foss Waterway Seaport and Mt. Rainier Scenic Railroad and Museum have joined forces and are offering a special “Where Rails meet Sails” combo ticket voucher. To experience the Seaport and Mt. Rainier Scenic Railroad & Museum visit: www.mrsr.com

Classic boats made in Washington State will be displayed in the expanded space, along with a maritime themed Lego exhibit with Lego Play Zone for children, vintage diving equipment, and artifacts from the “Mosquito Fleet” era of steam ferries. The Heritage Boat Shop will be active with boat building activities.

A focus exhibition, ***An Ocean Transformed - Art with a Message*** features marine debris sculptures created by students from Sherman Elementary School through the Seaport’s 2015 education program. Students and their teachers partnered with local artists and engineers to construct marine debris sculptures. The five sculptures encourage best practices in visitors who view them, along with a 32’ plastic grey whale constructed from recycled plastic bags, designed by artist Carrie Ziegler. This exhibition will run from May to October 2015.

The museum will be open Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and Sunday from noon to 4:00 pm. Admission: Free for Seaport members, \$8.00 for adults, \$5.00 for Children (5 years+), Students, and Military or Seniors (62+), \$20.00 for a Family Pass. Parking is available adjacent to the Seaport. Side tie public moorage is available with power and water, and a four-hour stay at the Seaport dock is free. Moorage is within walking distance of restaurants, museums and downtown.

For more information visit: fosswaterwayseaport.org

