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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **After 10 Years, Seafair President & CEO Beth Knox Announces Her Departure from the Organization**

*Current Seafair Board Chair to Serve as Interim Chief Operating Officer;  
Knox to Depart at the End of August*

*Seafair Board Executive Team Applauds Knox's Leadership;  
Has Begun National Search for Replacement*

**SEATTLE** – Seafair, Seattle's award-winning premier summer festival, today announced that President and CEO Beth Knox will end her 10-year tenure with the organization following this year's festival. Knox will step down effective Aug. 31.

The nonprofit organization's board Executive Committee has begun a national search for her replacement. In the meantime, Seafair Festival Board Chair David Willis has been appointed to the interim role of chief operating officer, to ensure continuity through the transition. To do so, he has resigned from the volunteer board.

"Beth has given so much to Seafair over the last decade and led the organization with grace, enthusiasm and integrity," said Steve Crandall, incoming Board Chair. "From helping save Seattle's Fourth of July Lake Union fireworks celebration to seamlessly planning and staging the historic Seahawks' Super Bowl parade, as well as navigating the organization through the challenging national recession – Beth truly has done it all. She is our boldest champion and we wish her all the best."

Under Knox's leadership, Seafair added Seattle's Fourth of July celebration to its event roster, as well as the Rock and Roll Seattle Marathon and ½ Marathon, a stand-up paddleboard series, wakeboard competition and an Olympic distance triathlon. She also added two additional classes of boat racing to the Seafair Weekend entertainment line-up.



Knox also successfully led the organization through the difficult 2008 recession and the 2013 federal sequestration, reactivated the Seafair Foundation in 2009 and engaged a broader array of corporate partners – including Alaska Airlines, Albert Lee Appliance, Amazon, Boeing, KIRO TV, Microsoft and Starbucks.

“Seafair is truly a unique celebration, and it’s been a privilege to lead this organization during the last ten years,” said Knox. “Seafair is an integral part of summer in the Puget Sound region, and it is well positioned to continue this great tradition. Speaking personally, I’m looking forward to what the next chapter holds for me and am grateful for the opportunity to spend time more with my family and twin boys, who are entering their senior year of high school.”

Incoming Board Chair Crandall added: “The timing of Beth’s departure gives us the right amount of time to select the next staff leader, to be on board before Seafair gets into full swing again next year.”

The nonprofit Seafair Festival and Seafair Foundation are managed by 12 full-time staff, 10 seasonal interns, 5,000 seasonal volunteers and 50 year-round volunteer leaders, and are strongly supported by the local business and civic community, with more than 160 annual sponsors/partners.

To learn more about Seafair, please visit: [seafair.com](http://seafair.com)

### **ABOUT SEAFAIR**

Seattle's annual tradition is woven into the hearts of long-time and new residents alike. For 10 weeks each summer, the premier festival includes more than 75 events and reaches nearly two million people. This year, Seafair is celebrating its 66th anniversary of serving and uniting the Seattle community. Seafair produces the region's largest free community event, the Alaska Airlines Torchlight Parade, on Saturday, July 25, and the three-day Seafair Weekend Festival, Friday, July 31 through Sunday, Aug. 2. Seafair 2015 | Seize Summer: June 10 - Aug. 16.

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