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July 2023

## Moving Forward Together



Dear Friends,

As many in our community and country have already expressed, I am disheartened and concerned with the impacts of the recent U.S. Supreme Court's decisions regarding affirmative action and LGBTQ+ rights. The Port of Seattle joins in solidarity with all organizations, institutions, communities, young people, and families reeling from these decisions. We will continue to do everything in our power to advance equity, diversity,

and inclusion inside our organization and within the communities we serve; in a recent internal all-staff meeting, the Port's Executive Director Steve Metruck reaffirmed this commitment.

Our systems and institutions produce the outcomes they were designed to produce, and in so much of American life, our systems were not designed to support the success of a multiracial, multicultural population. Over the past several years, we have been working hard to address the ways in which systemic racism prevents communities of color from fairly accessing our services and from gaining careers in family-wage, quality jobs in port-related industries.

That's why we've invested — and will continue to invest — millions of dollars in the communities we serve. Through efforts like our [workforce development programs](#) and the [South King County Community Impact Fund](#), we are funding community-based solutions and programs to train and develop the next generation of professionals in the port-related industries of aviation, maritime, green jobs, and construction, specifically focusing on increasing opportunity for women, low-income people, and people of color. Through these programs, we aim to level the playing field and to build generational wealth in families that have been structurally excluded.

In this moment, this work is needed more than ever, especially within a government agency like the Port, which has such a regional and national

impact. We will continue to implement the strategies and work that we believe will help us create meaningful, lasting change. I ask that you continue to be a partner and ally in this work. Our success depends on our ability to break down barriers and work together.

In Unity,



**Bookda Gheisar**  
Senior Director, Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

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## Centering Equity and Taking Action

### Multi-user, all-gender restroom opens at SEA



On July 20, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA) opened its [first multi-user, all-gender restroom](#) to give guests more flexibility and access to restrooms that fit their travel needs. While some U.S. airports offer a single-stall all-gender restroom, the addition of this new restroom near Gate D2 makes SEA one of only 10 airports across the country with multi-user, all-gender restrooms. Additionally, the restroom entrance features a [salon-style art wall](#) with artwork that represents, welcomes, and celebrates the LGBTQIA+ community. This is

one way that the Port is acting on its commitment to leading national and regional efforts to achieve equity and social justice in all aspects of our work, including new facility design. Check out the new restroom in this [short video](#)!

## Supporting Equitable Access to Aviation Careers



The Port of Seattle, in partnership with Port Jobs and South Seattle College, has implemented an introductory course for Aviation Maintenance Technicians (AMT) at SEA Airport for airport workers and community members. Hands-on training takes place at the South Seattle College facilities. In this introductory course, students learn AMT basics and are guided on the next steps to continue their education in the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)-certified college program. Learn about the program's impact on the lives of community members. [Watch the video](#) →

## Seeking Input on Developing International Public Market in South King County

The Port of Seattle and King County are exploring the potential for developing an [International Public Market](#) (IPM) facility in South King County. An IPM is a central retail location where independent vendors or retailers can sell foods and products, often with a cultural or geographic focus. This facility has the potential to advance King County as a leading tourism destination and expand economic opportunities in communities near SEA Airport and in King County. Are you a potential vendor or a resident who would be interested in shopping at the International Public Market? Then please share your feedback by July 31 about this public market concept. [Take the survey](#) →



## Minority, Women, and Small Business Owners Invited to Apply to Accelerator Program



The Port of Seattle invites small business owners to apply to its third annual Business Accelerator Program, held in partnership with Business Impact NW. The Port particularly encourages women- and minority-owned small businesses to apply. The 10-week accelerator program helps entrepreneurs in key port industries — such as construction and architecture, engineering, and design — scale their businesses and achieve long-term sustainability. [Apply by August 1 →](#)

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**Port of Seattle Commission**  
Ryan Calkins  
Sam Cho  
Fred Felleman  
Toshiko Hasegawa  
Hamdi Mohamed

**Port of Seattle Executive Director**  
Stephen P. Metruck



This email was sent by: Port of Seattle  
2711 Alaskan Way, Seattle, WA, 98121 US

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