

PRESS RELEASE FROM CITY OF SEATTLE

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Images and materials available [using this link](#).

Union Street Pedestrian Bridge opens and improves mobility between downtown Seattle and the waterfront

SEATTLE (December 9, 2022) – A new bridge that includes a staircase and an elevator is opening to the public today. This connection on Union Street, located between Western Avenue and Alaskan Way, will improve mobility between downtown Seattle and the waterfront and includes new permanent artwork by artist Norie Sato. This project is part of the [City’s Waterfront Seattle Program](#).

Construction of the [Union Street Pedestrian Bridge](#) began in March 2021. The finished crossing makes the over 20-foot grade difference between Western Avenue and Alaskan Way more accessible. This new connection features a 95-foot-long walkway, a stairway, and an elevator with semi-transparent materials that provide visibility and light. There is lighting integrated in the railings of the bridge and stairs, underneath the bridge, and within the elevator for a more pleasant nighttime experience.

“Grade differences between downtown and Seattle’s waterfront represent a huge challenge for those who find it difficult or impossible to traverse stairs and steep hills. This is the first of three elevated pedestrian connections (with nearby elevators) opening on the waterfront, along with the Marion Street and Overlook Walk pedestrian bridges,” says Angela Brady, Waterfront Seattle Program Director. “We are grateful for the patience of visitors, and especially nearby neighbors, as we continue working on these improvements that are transforming the way we all access and enjoy the waterfront.”

The Union Street Pedestrian Bridge features two permanent public artworks by Seattle artist [Norie Sato](#), including a monumental sculpture that is inspired by forms found in nature and a screen wall that follows the length of the pedestrian bridge; both artworks will be illuminated at night. The screen wall layers are representations of the flora and fauna of the waterfront – the wingspan of a seagull over images of ferns - to bring attention to the ecology of the shoreline that persists even in the midst of built infrastructure. You can [learn more about these artworks here](#).

As with the other completed projects on the waterfront, Friends of the Waterfront and the City will lead operations and maintenance of this new infrastructure.