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## **Seafair Charitable Foundation Welcomes Emily Kang Cantrell as New CEO**

### ***Seasoned leader with deep community ties to drive Seafair's next chapter***

Seattle, WA - [Wed. August 7th, 2024] - The Seafair Charitable Foundation is thrilled to announce the appointment of Emily Kang Cantrell as its new President and Chief Executive Officer. With over 20 years of diverse experience in both the private and nonprofit sectors, Emily brings a wealth of experience and a well-established reputation as a leader in the business community.

Emily has been involved in building community from her early days as a TV news producer to her involvement in the tourism, hospitality, and economic development industries. Having previously worked at Seafair, Emily is no stranger to the festival's rich history and vibrant community-focused mission. Her past involvement has provided her with an in-depth understanding of the festival's impact and importance to the region.

"Seafair has been a part of my life since I was 12 years old, after moving from Germany to Washington state." said Emily. "It's an incredible honor for me to now lead this festival, which has brought so much joy to my life. For more than 20 years, I've been working to connect people and strengthen our community. Now, I'll be at the heart of Seattle's biggest community celebration, and I look forward to building on Seafair's legacy and driving its mission forward."

Emily's official transition into her new role will commence in early September, where she will work closely with the current President and CEO, Eric Corning, to ensure a smooth handover of responsibilities. Emily is joining Seafair from PROVAIL, where she has served as Interim CEO for one of the largest disability service providers in the region.

Seafair would like to express deep gratitude to Eric Corning for his 24 years of dedicated service, starting as an intern and serving as President and CEO for the last five years. His unwavering commitment, unique ability to partner across the community and hard work were instrumental in keeping Seafair alive through the pandemic, and it is thriving today thanks to his

leadership. His efforts have ensured that Seafair remains a beloved tradition and a key part of summer in Seattle.

"Eric Corning's legacy at Seafair is one of passion, dedication, and resilience. His leadership has been pivotal in navigating Seafair through challenging times, and we are immensely grateful for his contributions. As we look to the future, we are equally excited to welcome Emily Kang Cantrell, whose vision and expertise will undoubtedly guide Seafair into a new era of growth and innovation," said Delmas Whittaker, Board Chair of the Seafair Charitable Foundation.

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**About Seafair Charitable Foundation:**

Seafair Charitable Foundation is a summer celebration in Seattle, WA, featuring a series of community events, parades, and performances that culminate in the iconic Seafair Weekend. With a tradition spanning over 75 years, Seafair embodies the spirit of community and the vibrant culture of the Pacific Northwest.

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