

For Immediate Release

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NORWAY'S KING HARALD V TO VISIT BALLARD'S BERGEN PLACE MAY 22

FRIENDS OF BERGEN PLACE ANNOUNCES VISIT TO CELEBRATE NEW MURAL HONORING BALLARD'S NORDIC HERITAGE ; MAYOR ED MURRAY WILL SPEAK



FRIENDS OF BERGEN PLACE



His Majesty King Harald V of Norway will join the community at Ballard's Bergen Place on Friday, May 22, to celebrate the installation of a new and updated version of the 52 foot long mural originally placed at Bergen Place in 1995. King Harald will arrive at Bergen Place at 4:15 PM.

In 2013 the Friends of Bergen Place commissioned Canadian artists, Mike Svob and Allen Wiley, to create a scale model of an updated design of the mural suitable for scanning at high resolution. Pacific Studios of Ballard coordinated the printing of the mural on 13 graffiti-resistant panels each 12 feet high by 4 feet wide. Pacific Fishermen of Ballard was responsible for installation of the panels on site.

More than 130 businesses, individuals and foundations have supported this project with their donations and will be honored at the event.

Seattle Mayor Ed Murray will officially welcome the King.

The Ballard High School Women's Chamber Choir will perform.

The Friends of Bergen Place has been a diligent steward of Bergen Place park and the mural for over a decade. Organization volunteers perform monthly maintenance chores in the park and the group also led successful campaigns in 2005 and 2008 to enhance the park with the addition of granite plinths etched with the names of the five Nordic countries, five 25-foot flagpoles honoring Ballard's heritage and an engraved stone marker memorializing the 1975 dedication of the park by King Olav of Norway.

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