Foss Waterway Seaport
Maritime Heritage, Education and Recreation Center

The Waterfront Gathering Place for Our Community

Contemporary Photos/ Jan Adams
The mission of the Foss Waterway Seaport is to celebrate Tacoma’s rich maritime heritage—past, present, and future.
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Foss Waterway Seaport

More than just another museum!

Three Project Components:

- **Restores** historic 45,000 square-foot publically-owned Balfour Dock building
- **Redevelops** waterfront esplanade and adjacent open space
- **Reestablishes** Tacoma’s access and use of the Thea Foss Waterway

The Seaport project fulfills the City’s Shoreline Master Plan to provide public access to on-water activities from the downtown core.
Building a Lasting Legacy

By Preserving and Revitalizing an historic building

Rehabilitate 113 year old Building for another century of service
Building a Lasting Legacy

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Provide education programs for all ages

Marine and Environmental Science Learning Center
Adult Boating Education Programs
Children’s Learning Center
Waterfront Meeting, Seminar and Events Venue
Building a Lasting Legacy

By Preserving and Revitalizing an historic building

On-water activities
On the water education
Events & festivals
Guest Moorage
Goal of the redevelopment effort: to preserve the essential story elements of the historic building and revitalize the structure for another century of service to the region.
Building a Lasting Legacy
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Other warehouse wharf images from the early years
Heritage Highlights of the Balfour Dock Building Today

Howe Bridge Truss Construction
Inside the Building--Museum

The Seaport’s expanded Working Waterfront Maritime Museum featuring hands-on, interactive living history exhibits

Mixing Core Exhibits with contemporary interpretation

- Lumber and early industries
- Labor History
- Trade, Trade Vessels & the Port of Tacoma
- Foss Family Story
- Wheat Trade
- Fishing
- Mosquito Fleet

- The Waterfront Experience
- Native Cultures
- Rails to Sails story
- Recreational boat building
- Fishing History
- Ship building
- The Fabulous Willits Canoes
- Ethnic histories of the Waterfront

Oral Histories of Work on the Water
Maintaining a maritime research library with archival materials
Native Canoe Carving and Maritime Arts
Inside the Building

Heritage boat shop celebrating traditional maritime crafts and craft construction skills

Expanding our traditional wooden boat building shop

Building our livery fleet
Education & Research

“Science on the Sea”
environmental and marine
ecology education center

with

Extensive education partnerships
Implementing the Project

Givens:

– 45,000 sf public owned building on the historic register

– Broad community desire to save the building (somehow)

– A Building with great physical challenges – 1/3 over water

– An initially minimally funded tenant

– Equally broad community belief that we were nuts
Implementing the Project

Required a Public-Private Partnership

Between the 501.c3
Foss Waterway Seaport Board of Directors &
The Foss Waterway Development Authority

Projected $25.5 million Tacoma waterfront redevelopment project will create US west coast’s largest, most comprehensive maritime heritage education, recreation, and tourist destination
Implementing the Project

- Publicly-Owned Venue
  FWDA/City-owned building

- Foss Waterway Development Authority Role
  “Horizontal” & Macro Redevelopment

- Seaport’s Role
  “Vertical & Programming – related TI’s

- MOU & Phased Lease agreements
Defining the Vision: Education & Community Service Mandate Compass

- Economy & International Linkages
- History/People Groups & Their Stories
- Marine Science and the Environment Understanding
- On-water Recreation Appreciation & Enjoyment

Celebrating the Region’s Rich Maritime Importance: Past, Present & Future
Foss Waterway Seaport
Today and Tomorrow
Public & Private Fundraising

Reverse Challenge Match
  Reflected extraordinary dedication of our board

Public Sector Partners
  State & Federal Support
    Pilings for later moorage
    Building
    Esplanade
The Beginning
How Far We’ve Come
How Far We’ve Come
How Far We’ve Come

Phase 1 – September 2007 – May 2008

Wharf Replacement
How Far We’ve Come

Windows Repair

Temporary placement after removal

Reinstallation of original windows
How Far We’ve Come

Completed Roof and Windows West Side
Presenting performing arts in an interactive theatre space

Hosting art shows
Open Space & On-Water Activities

Events

• Annual Classic Boat/Classic Car Show
• Tall Ships
• Character Vessel Visits
Major Festivals
Today and Tomorrow
Outside the Building
How Far We’ve Come

Completed Front Entry Curtain Wall
Foss Waterway Seaport

Future Function Space
Foss Waterway Seaport

Future Entry Space
Foss Waterway Seaport

Future Events and Function Space
Foss Waterway Seaport

Future Exhibit Space