



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 26, 2010

CONTACT: James Haydu, 774-5225 or james@pikeplacemarket.org

New Executive Director Named to Lead Pike Place Market

Seattle, WA – Today, Ben Franz-Knight was appointed as the Executive Director of the Pike Place Market Preservation & Development Authority (PDA).

Currently, Mr. Franz-Knight serves as Executive Director of the Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corporation in Santa Monica, California, a position he has held since 2003.

The Santa Monica Pier is an historic landmark owned by the City of Santa Monica and is a major attraction in the Los Angeles area. The Pier is home to many small businesses and is also a venue for local performers and public events. During his tenure there, Mr. Franz-Knight played an integral role in the planning and execution of a four-phase multi-million-dollar rehabilitation project to upgrade the Pier substructure, decking, and utilities.

“I am truly excited to assume the role of Executive Director of Pike Place Market Preservation and Development Authority. I am honored and humbled by the opportunity, and look forward to working with every stakeholder to preserve the wonder and magic that is Pike Place Market,” said Franz-Knight.

Mr. Franz-Knight grew up in Pullman and is a 1996 graduate of the University of Washington. It is expected that he will assume the Director’s position at Pike Place Market sometime in the early fall.

“Ben brings a unique combination of experience to a unique place: He brings real experience and a track record of success in addressing matters regarding historical and cultural preservation, property management, marketing and promotion, and capital

renovation projects. More than that, he succeeded in managing and enhancing a place of cultural importance that is both a marketplace and a community,” noted James Savitt, who serves as Chair of the Pike Place Market Preservation & Development Authority Council.

The search for a new Executive Director at Pike Place Market began earlier this year when Carol Binder announced that she would retire after five years in the role.

“Carol Binder leaves the house in great order,” commented Seattle City Councilmember Sally Clark. “The Market always moves forward, and this transition is an exciting new chapter at the Market, one that is full of new opportunities,” she concluded.

###