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## Downtown Seattle Association to host 2024 international conference of urban leaders

*IDA annual conference heads to Seattle for first time in 30 years*

**SEATTLE (October 17, 2023)** - The Downtown Seattle Association (DSA) announced today that downtown Seattle will host the International Downtown Association's (IDA) 70th Annual Conference & Marketplace in September 2024. Last held in Seattle in 1994, the IDA conference will bring together more than 1,000 community leaders, urban planners and elected officials from around the world.

"This conference is an annual highlight for urban experts from all corners to convene, learn from one another and examine how we can keep moving our downtowns forward," said DSA President & CEO Jon Scholes. "We're thrilled to be hosting this event in 2024 and can't wait to show leaders in our industry how downtown Seattle is being revitalized with a new waterfront in-development, a record residential population, vibrant public spaces and a mix of uses that make downtown Seattle one of the most dynamic urban cores in the country."

"As we continue advancing our innovative [Downtown Activation Plan](#), we look forward to welcoming to Seattle leaders who represent vibrant and dynamic downtowns across the country," said Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell. "We're excited to share our vision and progress, as well as learn what's working for other downtowns, as we further our efforts to reimagine Seattle's city center, ensure it is a welcoming cultural and economic hub, and build a downtown for the future."

"We are bullish about the future of Seattle's downtown," said Markham McIntyre, director of the Office of Economic Development for the City of Seattle. "We know that our downtown runs on people, so we are excited to welcome the bright minds from the International Downtown Association to our city to experience our downtown in action and learn and dream about the future of downtowns across the globe."

This three-day conference is filled with Master Talks, breakout sessions and on-the-ground tours aimed at informing downtown professionals about emerging trends, best practices and strategies to strengthen and enhance downtowns and urban areas. "IDA is excited to bring our community of professionals to Seattle, a true learning laboratory for the future of city building," said David Downey, IDA President & CEO. "We will celebrate our 70th anniversary



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in one of North America's most future focused cities. We'll certainly honor our past but most importantly set the course for inspired and inclusive center cities for decades ahead."

The 70th Annual Conference & Marketplace will take place in Seattle Sept. 11-13, 2024 at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Seattle.

### **About the Downtown Seattle Association (DSA)**

Established in 1958, the Downtown Seattle Association (DSA) is a nonprofit membership organization whose mission is to create a healthy, vibrant downtown for all. By advocating on issues including transportation, economic development and the urban experience, DSA works to ensure that downtown remains a great place to live, work, shop and play. DSA also founded and manages the Metropolitan Improvement District, a business-improvement area spanning 300 square blocks downtown. For more information, visit [downtownseattle.org](http://downtownseattle.org).

### **About the International Downtown Association**

IDA is the premier organization for urban place professionals who are shaping and activating dynamic city center districts. Our members are city builders and downtown champions who bring urban centers to life, bridging the gap between the public and private sectors. We represent an industry of more than 2,500 place management organizations, employing 100,000 people throughout North America and growing rapidly around the world. Founded in 1954, IDA is a resource center for ideas and innovative best practices in urban place management. For more information, visit [downtown.org](http://downtown.org).