

## Bellevue Downtown Association to host 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration

For immediate release:

**BELLEVUE, Wash. (January 9, 2019)** – The Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA) will host its 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration on Thursday, February 7, 2019 at Meydenbauer Center. More than 500 business and community leaders from around the region will celebrate the growth and evolution of Downtown Bellevue. Registration is now open: [bellevuedowntown.com/45](http://bellevuedowntown.com/45).

The celebration will feature two keynote speakers; Margaret A. Meister, President and CEO of Symetra Financial Corporation; and David T. Downey, President and CEO of International Downtown Association.

**Margaret A. Meister**, President and CEO, Symetra Financial Corporation  
*Leadership in the heart of Bellevue*

Symetra CEO Margaret Meister leads a growing national life insurer with roots in the Pacific Northwest, \$43 billion in assets, 2 million customers and more than 1,000 employees based at its Bellevue headquarters. She joined the company as an actuarial student in 1988, rising through the organization to become chief actuary in 2004, chief financial officer in 2006, and president and CEO in 2018. Her leadership and professional achievements have been widely acknowledged. In 2015, she received the Puget Sound Business Journal's CFO of the Year Leadership Award. Most recently, the Journal recognized her as one of the 2018 Women of Influence. Ms. Meister currently serves on the board of directors of the United Way of King County.

**David T. Downey**, President and CEO, International Downtown Association  
*Key trends shaping the future of U.S. downtowns*

A 30-year city advocate, Mr. Downey is an accomplished nonprofit leader in the community building industry. At the International Downtown Association (IDA), he is responsible for the positioning of IDA as a leader and champion for vital and livable urban centers. IDA provides tools, intelligence and strategies for creating healthy and dynamic centers that anchor the well-being of towns, cities and regions of the world.

### Place Making and John Boespflug City Builder Awards

The BDA will honor an organization with a Place Making Award for enhancing Downtown Bellevue's urban environment and community. Additionally, an outstanding individual will receive the John Boespflug City Builder Award, recognizing a career and legacy of exemplary service to downtown.

#### Event Details:

*Date/Time:* Thursday, February 7, 2019  
5:30 p.m. Social Hour  
6:30 p.m. Dinner & Program

*Location:* Meydenbauer Center  
11100 NE 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bellevue, WA 98004

*Admission:* \$120 BDA Member Individual Admission  
\$140 Non-BDA Member Individual Admission  
\$1,150 Member Table of 10  
\$1,350 Non-BDA Member Table of 10

**Register today** at: [bellevuedowntown.com/45](http://bellevuedowntown.com/45); capacity is limited.

Event details, venue information, and directions are available at <https://www.bellevuedowntown.com/events/bda-annual-celebration> or by emailing [paige@bellevuedowntown.com](mailto:paige@bellevuedowntown.com).

**Celebrating its 45<sup>th</sup> year, the BDA's Annual Celebration is supported by the following sponsors and partners:**

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, Kaiser Permanente, Vulcan, Amazon, The Bellevue Collection, The Boeing Company, Microsoft, Puget Sound Energy, The Spring District, Sweeney Conrad, P.S., Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Baylis Architects, CenturyLink, Clark Nuber PS, GLY Construction, Heritage Bank, Parker, Smith & Feek, Seattle Children's, Skanska, Sterling Realty Organization, University of Washington, 425 Business Magazine and RyanWenzel Events.

About the Bellevue Downtown Association:

Established in 1974, the Bellevue Downtown Association is a nonprofit, membership organization leading the evolution of Downtown Bellevue from a suburban enclave to a thriving urban center.

*Mission:* To strengthen the economic and cultural vitality of Downtown Bellevue.

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