

James Sido, DSA/MID jamess@downtownseattle.org (o) 206-613-3208

Deborah Daoust, Seattle Center

<u>Deborah.Doust@seattle.gov</u>

(o) 206-386-1974

Kauilani Robinson, Visit Seattle krobinson@visitseattle.org (o) 206-461-5839

## Holiday Shopping Shaping Up for Strong Season in Downtown Seattle

SEATTLE — An infusion of new retailers and robust sales figures are pointing toward a healthy holiday shopping season in Downtown Seattle this year. Add in the fact that the peak shopping period has been reduced by a week with Thanksgiving falling so late on the calendar, and it's a recipe for a bustling shopping environment.

A mix of international flagship stores, strong national brands and unique local purveyors provides a shopping experience that fits every price-point and a wide range of tastes. Many retailers, spanning a wide spectrum of products, have opened up shop in or relocated to Downtown in the last year, including Arc'teryx, Bang & Olufsen, Boutique Tourbillon, Clementine, Cone & Steiner, Fleurt, Flor, Fjallraven, Home Remedy, The London Plane, Microsoft Specialty Store, Roche Bobois, Suit Supply, Velo Bike Shop, Velouria and Zara.

In addition, the continuation of two trends helps fuel an optimistic outlook for holiday shopping Downtown:

- Taxable retail sales have increased in Downtown for five consecutive years
- Downtown pedestrian counts during the holiday season have maintained pre-recession levels for the past five years

Additionally, more cheap parking near the festive favorites like **A Christmas Story's Holiday Carousel Presented by KING 5** can be found on <a href="DowntownSeattleParking.com">DowntownSeattleParking.com</a>, with seven new garages in the Retail Core. They offer a flat evening and weekend rate of \$7 or less (tax included)—giving you more time and money to spend on loved ones this holiday season.

## **About the Holidays in Seattle Campaign:**

Holidays in Seattle is a marketing collaboration of the Downtown Seattle Association, Metropolitan Improvement District, Visit Seattle and Seattle Center to highlight the unique and enriching holiday experience of Seattle's city center, from Seattle Center to Pioneer Square. The goal of the campaign is to promote the diversity and wealth of holiday attractions, events and promotions that make Seattle the premier holiday destination in the Northwest.

The campaign Facebook page is <u>facebook.com/seattleholidays</u> and the Twitter handle is <u>@seattleholidays</u>. Look for the hashtag #SEAHolidays throughout the season to follow the conversation on Holidays in Seattle. More information, including event calendars, hot deals and more, can be found on HolidaysInSeattle.com.