BRIDGING WASHINGTON
The History, Structure, and Innovation of Washington Bridges

Structural Engineers Foundation of Washington

2020 FALL FORUM

Featuring:
Maureen Elenga
Author/Historian

John Stanton, PhD
Professor, Civil Engineering
University of Washington

THURS., NOVEMBER 12, 2020
Free Virtual Event
Livestreamed from
Town Hall Seattle
About this event:

The 7,300 bridges in Washington state are full of stories. Some are stories of history and culture, necessity and politics, or the challenges and marvels of engineering. Learning these stories connects communities more closely to the built environment and honors the design, engineering, and legacy of these significant spans. For the 10th Annual Fall Forum, the Structural Engineers Foundation of Washington is honored to host Maureen Elenga, local historian, and John Stanton, PhD., professor of civil engineering at the University of Washington, to present an educational evening showcasing bridges in Washington. Maureen will share the cultural, quirky, and even surprising histories of several local bridges, while John will reveal engineering mysteries to bring them to life for the technical observer. The event will be of interest to designers, engineers, students -- and anyone who travels over bridges.

About the presenters:

John is the Thomas & Marilyn Nielsen Professor in Engineering in the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering at the University of Washington. He began teaching at UW in 1978 and has been a professor since 1992, primarily teaching structural engineering. He has bachelor’s and master’s degrees in mechanical sciences from Cambridge University in the UK, as well as a MSCE from Cornell University and a PhD in civil engineering from University of California Berkeley. He worked in design practice for six years in Britain, France, and Canada before joining the University of Washington. John has taught and conducted research in several areas of structural engineering, focusing primarily on seismic engineering issues. Most recently, he has conducted work on developing new structural framing systems for buildings made from precast concrete. During the last decade, his research has focused primarily on bridges, and he has contributed to the design and evaluation of several large bridge projects in the US and abroad.

Maureen is an architectural historian whose published works include Seattle Architecture: a Walking Guide to Downtown (2008, Seattle Architecture Foundation) and Bridges of Seattle (2020, Arcadia Press). She holds a master’s degree in art history from the University of Washington and an undergraduate degree in art history and communications from the University of Oregon. Maureen has worked as the business manager for Arcade Journal, a quarterly magazine dedicated to architecture, urbanism, and design in the Pacific Northwest. She also served as the technical manager of the University of Washington Library’s Cities and Buildings Database, an online resource for images and information on thousands of buildings and sites around the world. Born and raised in Portland, Maureen developed an early interest in architecture from her father, a retired partner with BORA Architects. She now lives in Seattle with her husband and two children.

As a scholar of bridges, Maureen isn’t one to have a favorite, although the bridge she loves the most for its beauty is the St. John’s Bridge in north Portland. It is a steel suspension bridge over the Willamette River, designed and constructed in 1931.

John Stanton, PhD
Professor of Civil Engineering
University of Washington

Maureen Elenga
Author/Historian
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