



Northwest Maritime

She Tells Sea Tales

She Tells Sea Tales is a beloved community event originally developed by Kelley Watson in 2014. With around 230 in-person tickets, this event has sold out 7 years in a row. Five to Six storytellers will be invited to the Northwest Maritime stage in March, in conjunction with International Women's Day.

The event provides a welcoming/safe space for all people who identify with the women's community from around the Puget Sound region and beyond to share their unique connections to water with a live audience. These stories are heartfelt, real, and raw, bringing both laughter and tears. Both audience and speakers leave She Tells Sea Tales with a deep sense of community and connection.

We are seeking storytellers:

- Who want to come to Port Townsend to share their stories with a live audience in March, 2026.
- With experiences to share from any corner of boating, fishing, sailing, work boats, tall ships, yachting, cruising, paddling, marine science, the maritime industry, and beyond.
- With a unique story that has not been previously shared in front of a large audience.

We are seeking stories that:

- Are engaging and can be creatively told within an 8-10 minute time frame
- Share true personal experiences of the storyteller
- Are not promotional for personal brand or business

We also consider:

- The diversity of backgrounds, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, age, and socio-economic status in each year's storyteller cohort to create a well-rounded program.
- Circumstances in the nominee's life that make this the right year to tell their story (e.g. impending move, presence of loved ones, etc.)

Application/ Nomination Process

Anyone may apply to be a potential storyteller before November 1st each year via an online form. The Selection Committee may also put forward nominees, and will review the pool of candidates each November. They will select each year's storytellers, who will be notified by mid-December. Nominees who are not selected may still be considered in future years. Communications will be distributed by NWMC early in the year, and the STST storytelling event will take place in Port Townsend in conjunction with International Women's Day.

Selection Committee

Applications are reviewed and storytellers decided by the selection committee made up of the STST founder, two NWMC staff representatives, and a community member or past storyteller who is committed to the success of the event.

Tentative Annual Timeline

Applications open year round

- Nov 1 Online application deadline for upcoming year
- Early Nov Selection Committee reviews nominations & selects 5-6 storytellers to speak for the 2026 STST Event
- Dec 1 Storyteller bios/photo deadline for website updates
- Mid Feb Ticket sales go live
- March STST alumni happy hour
- March STST mic check and live event