



Laurie McDonald Jonsson
President and CEO
Stellar International



Laurie McDonald Jonsson is a prominent Seattle businesswoman who has combined a successful travel and business career with a personal commitment to women's leadership globally.

For the past 20 years, McDonald Jonsson has built several successful companies. One of the first women in the cruise ship business, she managed and directed complex operations from negotiating and supervising ship construction, to overseeing all aspects of the business. The multi-tiered cruise line grew to five, one-thousand passenger ships sailing to Alaska, Mexico and the Caribbean. She now owns Stellar Travel, which specializes in cruise ship travel. She also owns Stellar International, a successful investment company focusing on a wide range of entrepreneurial ventures, especially those which give back to the communities they serve. Her recent investment in Pacific Place helped redevelop Seattle's decaying downtown core. In addition, McDonald Jonsson owns M-W Farms, LLC, a 500 acre farm and vineyard.

McDonald Jonsson feels it is imperative that more women are at the table in global negotiation. She works to unite women around the world, focusing upon what she terms "commerce with a conscience." In 1997, Washington State Governor Gary Locke named McDonald Jonsson as his first chair of the Governor's Executive Women's Council. In this capacity, she organized and co-chaired with Senator Patty Murray, the first women's leadership delegation to

Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary in 1999.

A woman with business and investments in many countries, McDonald Jonsson first conceived the idea of a woman's trade mission after working with international women leaders and business executives and realized they bring an especially rich and different perspective to the business and civic partnerships now emerging throughout the world.

In 1999, McDonald Jonsson received the Leading Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award, in Monaco. She was a founding director of Expedia.Com, and also serves as a founding director of Commerce Bank, both of which successfully went public while she was a director. She is also a board member of the International Women's Forum, and is the Founding Chair of the Center of Women & Democracy at the University of Washington. In 2002 and returning in 2003 with Senator Maria Cantwell, McDonald Jonsson led a delegation from the Center for Women and Democracy to Cuba, furthering the unique platform of linking women of the world. McDonald Jonsson, Senator Cantwell and the delegation met extensively with President Fidel Castro and reached an historic trade agreement between Washington State and Cuba. Also in 2003, McDonald Jonsson led a delegation with key leaders in business and public service to Sweden and the Baltic States, concentrating on open dialogue and furthering endeavors for women in northern Europe.