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COMPASS CONSTRUCTION FOUNDER KEN COLEMAN DIES

By JOURNAL STAFF



Ken Coleman, a longtime construction executive who founded Compass Construction, died Friday of colon cancer at age 63. He attended the University of Washington and went to work for Howard S. Wright Construction in 1979, spending two decades there before founding Compass in 1998.

Coleman grew the company to over 120 employees before handing the reins to Dan Selin and Pete Anderson in 2014.

Major Compass projects built under his leadership include Alley 24 for Vulcan, Belcarra and Taylor 28 apartments for BRE, Chloe Apartments for Barrientos and Press Apartments for Harbor Properties (now Mack Urban). Other prominent clients were Continental Properties, Greystar and Wolff.

Coleman exhibited his paintings in the Northwest Fine Arts Competition at Phinney Center Gallery.

He partnered with Jared Smith on Atrium apartments in Mount Baker at 1366 31st Ave. S., on the polluted site of a former gas station, and helped establish Mount Baker Ridge Viewpoint, a pocket park at 1403 31st Ave. S.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon, an executive with Vulcan Real Estate, and daughter Cathleen.