

# THIS PLACE

**The Maritime Underground  
Railroad of Puget Sound**

**Most Endangered Places  
Program: Seattle's  
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**A Dividing Line: A History  
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# GOLDFINCH STANDARD

**Best Moments in  
Preservation from 2022**



**WASHINGTON TRUST  
FOR HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION**



# THIS PLACE

Winter 2023

Volume 5, Issue 1

A publication of the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation

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**Cover:** A passenger rides a ferry in the San Juan Islands. Photo by Jason Hummel, courtesy of the State of Washington Tourism.

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# GET INVOLVED



- FEBRUARY 15

Youth Heritage Project 2023 Application Open

All high-school age students are invited to get hands-on with history this summer at the Hanford Site near the Tri-Cities in central Washington! The Hanford Site is a decommissioned nuclear production complex with a rich history connected to the Manhattan Project, now a national historical park. From **July 18-21**, students will have the chance to learn about the contributions and perspectives of the Tribal Nations who have called this area home since time immemorial and the workers who helped build the world's first plutonium production facilities. They will explore the complex legacies of the project that ushered in the nuclear age to gain a deeper understanding of the complexities and ethical issues surrounding nuclear science and technology. The program is **FREE OF COST** for those accepted. We are also seeking adult educators and professionals to serve as teacher-mentors for the program. Please use the same link to apply when the application opens!

preservewa.org/yhp
- MARCH 6-8

National Historic Preservation Advocacy Week Washington, D.C.

We're excited to head back to D.C. for Advocacy Week! Preservation Action and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers organize in-depth preservation policy trainings and briefings, exclusive tours, networking opportunities, and congressional office visits to advocate for historic preservation support at the federal level.

preservewa.org/advocacy-week
- MAY 20

Vintage Washington Seattle

Save the Date for Vintage Washington—our annual fundraising event where we bring together the local preservation community to learn about places that matter in our state, including its Most Endangered Places. Since 1992, the Washington Trust has maintained this list, which brings attention to threatened buildings, sites, and historic places across our state. However, the program serves as much more than a simple list: it's also our foremost advocacy program and our commitment to support community-led efforts to save places big and small.

preservewa.org/vintagewa

**Photo:** Hing Hay Park in Seattle's Chinatown-International District. Photo courtesy of Huy Pham.

For more information about Washington Trust events or programs, please visit [preservewa.org](https://preservewa.org), or call our office at 206-624-9449.



# UPDATES ON OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the close of 2022, we said goodbye to two board members whose terms of service had ended: Alanna Peterson of Seattle and Clare Petrich of Tacoma. Our deepest appreciation goes to both of them for their longtime service. A huge thanks also to Jeff Murdock, our board president for the past two years. Jeff will remain on the board for an additional year as immediate past president, while Betsy Godlewski takes the reins as board president.

We're also thrilled to announce that at our Annual Members Meeting in Wenatchee last fall, six new board members were elected to begin a three-year term of service in 2023: Jan Bader of Vancouver, Fred Goldberg of Olympia, Stephen Waite of Edmonds, Connie Walker Gray of Seattle, Michael Walker of Vancouver, and Andrew Zellers of Seattle. Learn more about them by reading their bios below!



**Jan Bader, Vancouver**

Jeanette (Jan) Bader worked for the City of Vancouver for 22 years, first as Program and Policy Development Manager and then as Cultural Services Manager, before retiring in 2020. With master's degrees

in both public administration and social work from Eastern Washington University, Jan is passionate about preservation and economic vitality. She currently serves as past president of the Clark County Historic Museum board of trustees and as vice chair of the Clark County Historic Preservation Commission.



**Fred Goldberg, Olympia**

Fred Goldberg is the managing partner of Goldberg Investments and vice chairman of the board of trustees for The Evergreen State College. Fred is the co-founder, principal, and retired

director of Saltchuk Resources, one of the largest marine services companies in the Pacific. He currently serves as a board member for the Gates Foundation's Supply Chain Advisory Board and the Washington State Historical Society and is a member of the Olympia Rotary Club.



**Stephen Waite, Edmonds**

Stephen Waite is an architect and principal with Waite Conservation Architects. He holds architecture degrees from Washington State University and degrees in

building conservation from West Dean College and Bournemouth University in England. Stephen has lectured and taught about preservation materials and techniques around the world. At home in Edmonds, he previously served as the chair of the Edmonds Historic Preservation Commission.



**Connie Walker Gray, Seattle**

Connie Walker Gray is an architectural historian with more than 20 years of experience in cultural resource management. With a master's degree in urban

planning and a graduate certificate in historic preservation from the University of Washington, Connie works as Cultural Resources Group Lead and Senior Architectural Historian for Jacobs Engineering. She previously served as council member and treasurer for Historic Seattle and as a member of the Columbia City Landmarks review committee.



**Michael Walker, Vancouver**

Michael Walker is the executive director of Vancouver's Downtown Association, a member of the Washington State Main Street Program. With bachelor's degrees in

business administration and urban planning from the University of Oregon, Michael is passionate about building bridges between the private and public sectors to improve the quality of life in our region. He previously served as lead economic development coordinator for the city of Banks, Oregon.



**Andrew Zellers, Seattle**

Andrew Zellers is an attorney with Pacifica Law Group in Seattle, where he focuses primarily on commercial real estate transactions concerning office, retail, and warehouse/industrial

assets. With a law degree from the University of Washington School of Law, Andrew is passionate about conservation and preservation. He previously served as a commissioner for the City of Seattle's Urban Forestry Commission and now regularly works with local land trust organizations on real estate matters. 🏡

## Tell Your Story with Heirloom Creatives



**- Eloise Barshes (client)**  
Executive Director, CDCVAS

### Stop Advertising, Start Storytelling.

"Heirloom Creatives produced two incredible videos for our non-profit that we shared with our constituents during our 20th-anniversary Gala. The quality, heart, and honesty of these stories generated and continues to generate support and donations far beyond what we could have hoped for. The videos were the highlight of our event and continue to inspire every viewer. The work of our organization and the transformational stories of our clients deserve to be shared, and Heirloom Creatives was able to do this in a way that was respectful, impactful, and inspiring. I would encourage any business or non-profit seeking to tell their story or celebrate their legacy, to sit down with the Heirloom Creatives team and be inspired by the possibilities. It's totally worth it!"

- Eloise Barshes | Executive Director  
Chelan-Douglas County Volunteer Attorney Services

Watch  
Eloise's Video



[www.HeirloomCreatives.com](http://www.HeirloomCreatives.com)

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# FUNDING ON TAP AT FEDERAL, STATE LEVEL

By Chris Moore, Executive Director

Only a few short months ago, in our fall issue of *This Place*, we wrote about the important work we engage with at the federal level in support of preservation policy. The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) supports preservation work across the country at the state and local levels, facilitating identification, documentation, and interpretation of sites representing our unique American journey. HPF funds power our State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, enabling the implementation of federal programs and policies that work to protect historic and cultural resources. The HPF constitutes the single largest source of direct public investment in our nation's heritage. We mention this again because at the end of 2022, Congress provided record-level support for the Historic Preservation Fund as part of the omnibus spending package passed at the 11th hour, thus avoiding a government shutdown.

In fact, the level of funding for the HPF—at \$204.5 million for the federal fiscal year 2023—is the seventh consecutive record-setting year and an 18% increase from last year's total. A summary of how these funds will support preservation activity nationwide is as follows:

- **\$62.15 million** for State Historic Preservation Offices to implement the National Register program, support rehabilitation of historic buildings, and provide critical review of projects impacting cultural resources
- **\$23 million** for Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, distributed among 200 Tribes across the country working to protect Tribal heritage
- **\$26.5 million** for Save America's Treasures, a competitive grant program providing funding for bricks-and-mortar projects to rehabilitate our country's most significant places and sites
- **\$24 million** for the African American Civil Rights Grant Program, protecting, documenting, and preserving sites and

stories related to the African American struggle for equal rights

- **\$12.5 million** for the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant Program, supporting the rehabilitation work of locally significant resources in rural areas
- **\$11 million** for Historically Black Colleges and Universities to preserve and repair historic buildings on HBCU campuses
- **\$10 million** for semiquincentennial celebration grants in 2026, to help commemorate the founding of the United States
- **\$5 million** for the History of Equal Rights Grant Program, to preserve sites associated with efforts to achieve equal rights for all in America
- **\$1.25 million** for Underrepresented Communities Grants to nominate more sites to the National Register of Historic Places representing diverse histories
- **\$29.115 million** in Congressionally Directed Spending for a variety of preservation projects



Above: The Dunford Barn in Kittitas County received funding from the Heritage Barn Initiative in the 2021-2023 grant cycle. Photo courtesy of Ellie Deneen.

Top right: The Okanogan County Courthouse received funding from the Historic County Courthouse Grant Program in the 2021-2023 grant cycle. Photo courtesy of Huy Pham.

Bottom right: The Newcastle Cemetery in King County received funding from the Historic Cemeteries Grant Program in the 2021-2023 grant cycle. Photo courtesy of the Newcastle Historical Society.

Below: The Garland Theater in Spokane received funding from the Historic Theater Grant Program in the 2021-2023 grant cycle. Photo courtesy of the Garland Theater.



We are thankful to Washington's Congressional delegation for its support of the Historic Preservation Fund and preservation policies in general. Now, with funding for federal fiscal year 2023 inked and signed, we will begin to turn our attention to fiscal year 2024 (the hamster wheel continues to turn!). For those interested in being a part of the action, we invite you to join us for Preservation Advocacy Week 2023, taking place in Washington, D.C., from March 6 to 8.

Closer to home, our own Washington State Legislature is in the midst of its 2023 legislative session, working to hammer out a two-year budget for the 2023-2025 biennium. As a framework, the legislature is using the governor's proposed budget, released in December. This budget too holds promising signs for key programs defining the preservation landscape in our state. As a summary, the governor's proposed budget includes:

- **\$2.287 million** to continue the Historic County Courthouse Grant Program. Fund would support the rehabilitation of five county courthouses
- **\$1 million** to continue the Heritage Barn Grant Program, providing matching grants to preserve historic barns statewide
- **\$515,000** to continue the Historic Cemetery Grant Program, prioritizing funding for cemeteries with military burials
- **\$515,000** to continue the Historic Theater Grant Program, supporting these iconic community gathering spaces

Each of the above is a program of the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). In addition, the proposed budget includes:

- **\$10 million** for the Heritage Capital Grant Program. Administered through the Washington State Historical Society, funding would support bricks-and-mortar



preservation work at 28 buildings. Together with the DAHP grant programs, these buildings and sites collectively represent and interpret important stories that have shaped our state.

Perhaps most importantly, the governor's proposed budget fully funds the Washington State Main Street Program. This program highlights historic resources as a means to catalyze economic investment in the downtown core of Washington's smaller communities. Housed within DAHP, Main Street is managed under contract by the Washington Trust. The current 2021-2023 budget cycle witnessed an increase in program funding, primarily to help address the critical challenges small businesses faced during the pandemic. For many, those challenges remain, and with 72 communities in the Main Street network, the need to sustain services the state program provides is critical.

Fortunately, the governor's proposed budget seeks to maintain current funding levels for the Washington State Main Street Program, supporting the positive economic trajectory and resiliency of Main Street communities across the state. Throughout this session, we at the Washington Trust will be working with legislators to see these proposals enacted in the final 2023-2025 budget. And throughout the session, we will be asking you—our members and supporters—to make your voice heard as well. Stay tuned for opportunities to reach out to legislators and advocate for funding state programs that truly save the places that matter for all Washingtonians! 🐹



# THE GOLDFINCH STANDARD

## Best Moments in Preservation from 2022

By Huy Pham, Preservation Programs Director

Here at the Washington Trust, we've long been champions of preserving our state's rich history and cultural heritage. As we kick off a new year, it's important to take a moment to reflect on the successes of the past year and celebrate the progress that has been made in the field of preservation. In honor of our state bird, the American Goldfinch, we are proud to present the Goldfinch Standard for 2022. This accolade recognizes the standout achievements in historic preservation from the past year and serves as a beacon for future efforts to preserve and protect our state's unique history.

But it's not just the tangible structures and sites that deserve recognition. The efforts of individuals and organizations working to promote and advocate for preservation also deserve praise. The Goldfinch Standard recognizes the tireless work of these dedicated individuals, who work to raise awareness about the importance of preserving our state's rich history and cultural heritage.

### Byrd Barr Place, Seattle

Byrd Barr Place—a social services organization that provides housing and energy assistance, a food bank, and financial education to many of Seattle's neediest residents—recently completed renovations on its historic Fire Station #23 in the Central District. After the transfer of the building from the City to the Black-led organization in 2020, funds were raised for the extensive renovations through a combination of loans, tax credits, grants, and donations. The renovation of the 11,000-square-foot interior, designed by SHKS Architects, enhances Byrd Barr Place's operations while preserving the building's historic character. Today, the 1909 Fire Station #23, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, houses a revamped food bank, a new community gathering space, and flexible office space for staff and expanding programs.



Left: The Ridpath Club Apartments in Spokane. Photo courtesy of the Spokesman-Review.

Below: Above: The Tug Chippewa at sea. Photo courtesy of the Tug Chippewa.

### Ridpath Club Apartments, Spokane

In 2022, the Affordable Housing Tax Credit Coalition awarded the Charles L. Edson Tax Credit Excellence Award, which recognizes affordable housing developments that have made effective use of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, to the Ridpath Club Apartments in Spokane. Located in the historic Ridpath Hotel building, the Ridpath Club Apartments provide 184 affordable homes, 5,000 square feet of commercial space, and onsite resident coordinators who provide access to a range of services, including food banks and education centers. The development was financed in part with Washington State's 4% Low Income Housing Tax Credit, as well as loans from the City of Spokane and Washington State Housing Finance Commission. "I'm very pleased that what was just a huge source of blight in the downtown core is no longer that," said Paul Mann, a developer involved in the project and longtime Washington Trust board

member. "We've been able to bring this side of the block back to life."

### Tug Chippewa, Olympia

The Tug Chippewa returned to the Olympia Harbor Days Festival in September 2022 after years of restoration work, and it's cause for celebration. Built in 1943, the four-time-renamed, 85-foot-long Tug Chippewa is a historic vessel that has played a significant role in the Pacific Northwest's maritime history. Originally built for the U.S. Navy, it served as a tugboat for military, commercial, and industrial use, helping to guide ships in and out of the busy ports of the region. As the Chippewa takes to the water once again, it's a reminder of the important role that tugboats have played in our region's history and the skilled craftsmen and women who built and maintained them.



Above left: A historic 1916 photograph of the exterior of Fire Station #23. Photo courtesy of Galen Thomaier, Last Resort Fire Department.



Above right: Fire Station #23, home to Byrd Barr Place, in the Central District in Seattle. Photo courtesy of Byrd Barr Place.







Above: Converge Media's Omari Salisbury and the Black Heritage Society's Stephanie Johnson-Toliver in front of the Black Media Matters studio interview wall. Photo courtesy of Converge Media.

**Approval of The Maritime Washington National Heritage Area Management Plan**

The approval of the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area Management Plan by the Secretary of the Interior in November 2022 was the result of a team effort involving hundreds of individuals, organizations, governments, and Tribes along Washington State's saltwater shoreline. Maritime Washington is a federally designated heritage area that aims to preserve and interpret the rich maritime history of the region. The Management Plan outlines the strategies for how this program will support our coastal communities and includes a detailed overview of how the heritage area will

help celebrate, maintain, and share our water-based heritage. In the coming year, Maritime Washington will officially launch its programs, establish a formal partner network, and create new platforms for storytelling. Anchors aweigh!

**Converge Media's Black Media Matters Studios, Seattle**

Converge Media, a Black-owned and operated media company based in Seattle, is committed to amplifying the voices and stories of the Black community. In 2022, Converge launched the Black Media Matters Studios, dedicated to telling the stories of Seattle's Black legacy, culture, and traditions. The studio features an interview wall (developed in partnership with the Black Heritage Society of Washington State and MOHAI) adorned with photographs by Al Smith, who captured the essence of Black life in Seattle in the 1940s through the '60s, as well as images from the BHS archives dating back more than a century. As part of the studio's regular programming, every Thursday, the Black Heritage Society's Stephanie Johnson-Toliver takes viewers on a journey through the past with stories and photos from the interview wall—serving not only as a celebration of Black history but also an educational resource for the community.

Left: Orcas passing by Cattle Point Lighthouse on San Juan Island. Photo courtesy of the San Juan Islands Visitors Bureau.



**Japanese American Remembrance Trail, RevisitWA.org**

Our heritage tourism website Revisiting Washington, which promotes preservation and heritage tourism throughout the state through historic and contemporary trails and tours, received a new addition in 2022: the Japanese American Remembrance Trail (JART) in Seattle. Developed in partnership with the Wing Luke Museum, JART is an urban hike through Seattle's original Japantown, taking visitors on a journey through the neighborhood's past and present. Along the way, visitors can discover landmarks and cultural sites including the Wing Luke Museum, Tsutakawa Sculpture, and Maynard Avenue Green Street. The trail also offers a glimpse into the historic and contemporary lives of the Japanese American and immigrant community, highlighting the many businesses and cultural institutions that left their mark in the neighborhood to this day. Visitors can explore the 42 waypoints on the tour virtually from

anywhere in the world or use the site's mobile version to follow the walking tour in person.

**Bush House Inn, Index**

After undergoing extensive renovation, the historic Bush House Inn in Index held its grand opening in 2022. Established in 1898, the inn closed in 2002 due to safety concerns. In 2010, the property was purchased by Blair and Kathy Corson, who embarked on a project to restore the inn to its former glory. The renovation included a new foundation, roof, and windows, as well as the restoration of 14 guest rooms, event spaces, and a full commercial kitchen. The inn's exterior siding, plumbing, and electrical systems were also updated, and a fire suppression system and in-floor heating were installed throughout the building. After all this progress, however, the Bush House Inn faced a new challenge in summer 2022 when a wildfire broke out near Stevens Pass and forced the evacuation of Index. Fortunately, the Bush House Inn was spared any damage and is now once again open for visitors.

As we look towards the future, the Washington Trust remains committed to our mission of promoting and supporting the preservation of our state's historic resources. We are excited to see what the next year brings and are proud to recognize the outstanding achievements of those working to preserve our state's unique history through the Goldfinch Standard. 🏡



Above: The Wing Luke Museum in Seattle. Photo courtesy of Otto Greule.

Left: The exterior of the renovated Bush House Inn in Index. Photo courtesy of Huy Pham.



# COMMUNITY INVESTMENT: CONSERVING THE SOUL POLE

By Stephanie Johnson-Toliver, The Black Heritage Society of Washington State

At the heart of a community is its soul. Soul can be measured by the energy, vitality, and resilience that is stewarded by the people who are grounded in the well-being of their neighborhoods. Guided by the basic principles of stewardship, a community partnership formed and rallied to protect, conserve, and document the significance of historic cultural identity and community character to save the Soul Pole. When we understand the history of the district, the importance for why we preserve and celebrate this iconic symbol is clear.

The Soul Pole stands as a tribute to tenacity and pride at the corner of 23rd Avenue and East Yesler Way

in Seattle's Central District. As one of the city's earliest and historic districts, it was home to a growing population of immigrants at the turn of the 20th century and for nearly seven decades was home to a fluctuating Black community who became solidly rooted in the Central District.



Above: Stephanie Johnson-Toliver, Elijah Mu'ied, and TraeAnna Holiday celebrate at the reinstallation of the Soul Pole in April 2022. Photo courtesy of the Black Heritage Society of Washington State.

Left: The Soul Pole arrives at the Douglass-Truth Branch of the Seattle Public Library in 1973. Photo courtesy of MOHAI.

In 1969, funded by the Model Cities art initiative, the Soul Pole was carved by a group of teens led by Seattle Rotary Boys Club art director Gregory X (Raqib Mu'ied). Five of the teens' names were etched on the accompanying plaque, but we now know that there were other young people engaged in preparing and carving the pole. The pole depicts 400 years of African American history, from the enslavement of Black people in America to the struggle for freedom. The Soul Pole was gifted to the Seattle Public Library (SPL) and installed on the grounds of Yesler Library in 1973. Two years later, community advocates succeeded in their campaign to rename the branch to the Douglass-Truth Library, in honor of abolitionists Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth.

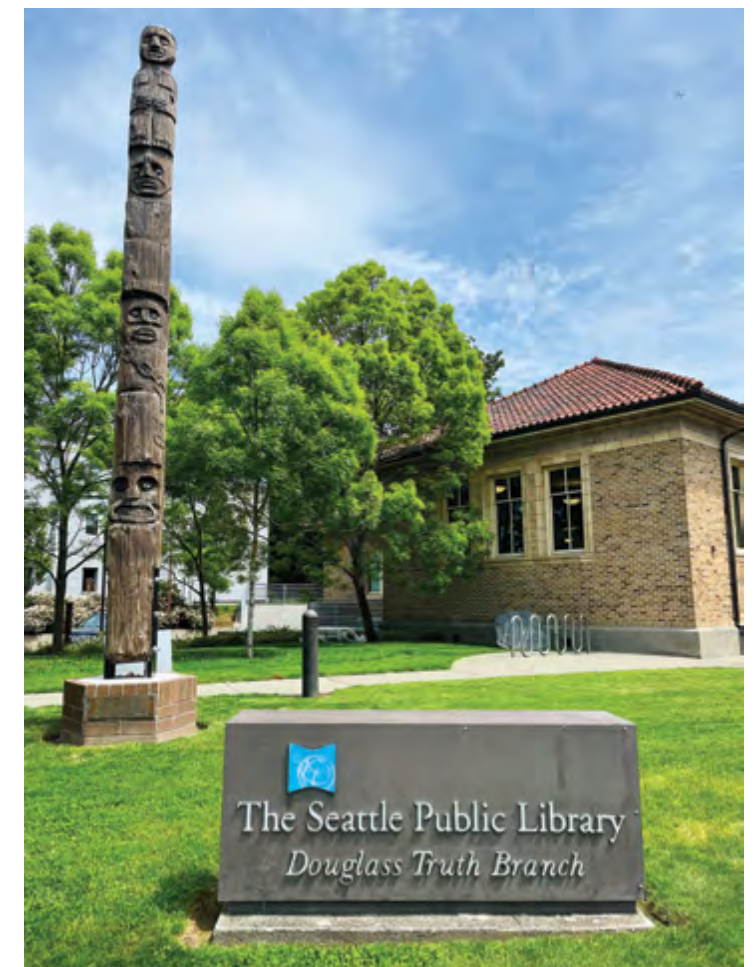
Close to 50 years old in 2021, the weathered pole was a concern at the Seattle Public Library, and its future became a priority. A unified community effort brought together historians, conservators, and documentarians who supported research on the significance, deinstallation, and conservation of the pole, as well as recording the process for archival purposes. The partners with the SPL were the Black Heritage Society of Washington State, Artech Fine Arts Services, Corine Landrieu/Landrieu Conservation, and Converge Media. After months of restoration and repairs, the Soul Pole was reinstalled on April 5, 2022. In September, project partners were honored by Historic Seattle with the Preserving Neighborhood Character award. A 50-year celebration is coming in 2023.

Moving forward with a vision to build an inclusive community that strives and struggles with the challenge to maintain its character, the Soul Pole project is testament to how and why neighborhood character matters. An additional outcome of the project is the community storytelling component that is an ongoing collaboration between the SPL and BHS to engage families and friends of Soul Pole artists, library users, and Central District residents. In this instance, the reward comes with the satisfaction that a piece of history, art, and culture remains intact as a beacon and tribute to community resilience. All was organized around the legacy of the Soul Pole. In the end, community soul was rekindled to discover "more than a pole."

Interested in learning more? Check out the 10-minute film "The Legacy of The Soul Pole" by Converge Media at [preservewa.org/soul-pole](https://preservewa.org/soul-pole). 📺

Top right: A technician from Artech Fine Arts Services works on the restoration and conservation of the Soul Pole. Photo courtesy of the Black Heritage Society of Washington State.

Bottom right: The restored Soul Pole stands proud after reinstallation. Photo courtesy of the Black Heritage Society of Washington State.





# MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL AND NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR

By Alex Gradwohl, Maritime Washington National Heritage Area Program Director

In November, the Management Plan for the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area was approved by the Department of the Interior. This approval represents the culmination of more than a decade of hard work and significant collaboration between hundreds of individuals, organizations, governments, and Tribes along our state's saltwater shoreline. Maritime Washington's designation as a National Heritage Area in 2019 underscored what Washingtonians have long known and taken pride in: our saltwater shores are some of the most unique, culturally important places in the country. The approval of the Management Plan paves the path forward for us all to celebrate, protect, and share this special place.

The Management Plan outlines the goals, strategies, policies, and plans for the future of the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area. Its creation has been a true team effort, bringing together hundreds of individuals who contributed their time, energy, and expertise to the creation of this plan through meetings, written comments, focus groups, virtual reviews, and surveys. Since 2020, I've been honored to facilitate this collaborative process, working with an extraordinary group of partners and passionate residents throughout the region. Many of the folks who contributed to this planning process had been involved with the effort to create a National Heritage Area along Washington's shoreline for years. Others were new to the table—offering

fresh perspectives on what “maritime heritage” means to their communities and why our shorelines matter. Planning for Maritime Washington involved asking a lot of questions, doing a lot of listening, and engaging in thoughtful debates about everything from the merits of sans serif fonts to the meaning of sociopolitical boundaries.

In an early meeting, planning team member Patti Gobin made a comment that stayed with me for the next few years: “The water is what connects us.” This region is large and diverse, as are the people who call it home. From the vast wilderness of the Olympic Coast to the skyscrapers towering over the Seattle waterfront to the idyllic shores of the San Juan islands, the quilt of Washington's maritime heritage is made up of many distinct pieces. What ties this region together, what connects it, is the water.

The Maritime Washington National Heritage Area aims to deepen those water-based connections, building a regionwide partnership program that strengthens, maintains, and celebrates our state's maritime identity. For the many communities, organizations, and Tribes working in the maritime heritage sector, this means more ways to connect: with your peers doing similar work, with funding opportunities and technical assistance, with new regional and national audiences, and with allies to help advocate for your mission. For all those who

Opposite: Shi Shi beach on the rugged Olympic Coast. Photo courtesy of William Teed.

Left: Swinomish paddler Alexis Bob pulls canoe at Stommish Festival on the Lummi Reservation in 2009. Photo by Kristy Williams, courtesy of the Swinomish Tribal Archives.

Below: Lime Kiln Point State Park on San Juan Island. Photo by Jason Hummel Photography, courtesy of State of Washington Tourism.

Below left: “Captain” Gradwohl alongside a fellow mariner at Fay Bainbridge Park on Bainbridge Island. Photo courtesy of Kristy Conrad.



live, work, and play along our saltwater shores, we'll be here to help you get to know this region even better by sharing the best places to experience our rich maritime heritage and introducing you to new stories and voices from our saltwater shores.

Starting in January, I'm proud to formally step into the role of Program Director for the new Maritime Washington National Heritage Area. Over the past three years, I've been inspired, challenged, and moved by Washington's maritime community. I've been honored to get to know this place better—its exceptional resources, fascinating histories, and deeply rooted water-based ways of life. Now, I look forward to continuing to work with the many people who steward our rich maritime culture and to strengthening the connections between Washingtonians and the heritage that makes this place so special.

Over the next year, you'll see the official launch of Maritime Washington programs, a formal partner network, and new platforms for storytelling. Until then, we encourage you to follow along on Instagram and Twitter @mw\_nha or Facebook @mwnha.





# SEATTLE'S CHINATOWN-INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT ADDED

By Huy Pham, Preservation Programs Director

Seattle's Chinatown-International District is officially the latest addition to our Most Endangered Places list, due to concerns about the future of the historic neighborhood.

Located in the heart of Seattle, the Chinatown-International District (C-ID) has a long and rich history dating back to the late 1800s. Chinese immigrants first came to the region in the late 19th century to work in the booming lumber mills, fishing operations, and railroads. These immigrants established the first Chinatown in Seattle south of Pioneer Square. In 1889, this Chinatown was destroyed in the Great Seattle Fire, and the Chinese community relocated to a new Chinatown on South Washington Street. In the early 1900s, the City of Seattle underwent a major regrading project called the Jackson Regrade, which caused the Chinese

community to relocate once again, this time to the current location of Chinatown-International District on King Street. Despite being completely bisected when Interstate 5 was constructed in 1969, the neighborhood has become a hub for the Asian community in Seattle, with a diverse mix of businesses, cultural institutions, and residential buildings. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is one of eight local historic districts established by the City of Seattle.

Today, however, the neighborhood is facing still new challenges. Sound Transit, the public transit agency serving the Seattle metropolitan area, is currently undertaking the third phase of its multi-billion-dollar regional Link light rail expansion, which will require the construction of a new tunnel under the Chinatown-International District. Sound



Above: The iconic gate of the Chinatown-International District. Photo courtesy of South Seattle Emerald.

Right: Pedestrians walk through the Chinatown-International District. Photo courtesy of KUOW.

Below left: A Sound Transit Link light rail train. Photo courtesy of Curbed Seattle.

Below Right: Transit Equity for All leaders Betty Lau and Brien Chow. Photo courtesy of South Seattle Emerald.



original Chinatown was forced from the waterfront onto Second and Washington. Then Chinatown was forced to move to the current location. If we're forced out again, where are we going to go?"

Our decision to add the Chinatown-International District to our Most Endangered Places list highlights the importance of preserving this unique and vital neighborhood. It is crucial that any plans for development or infrastructure consider the C-ID's cultural and historical significance and do everything possible to minimize the impact on the community. The C-ID has already endured too many disruptions and must be protected so that it can continue to thrive and serve as a vital part of Seattle's diverse community. 🇺🇸

Transit is considering two alignments for the tunnel: Fifth Avenue or Fourth Avenue. If built under Fifth Avenue, the tunnel construction will take place in the heart of the neighborhood and have a devastating impact on the Chinatown-International District's Asian businesses and residents. The Fourth Avenue alignment, while not without impacts, would largely take place on the edge of the district, on the west side of Union Station.

A coalition of neighborhood businesses, community organizations, residents, and supporters called Transit Equity for All—alongside such partners as Historic South Downtown (HSD), Seattle Chinatown-International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDpda), the Wing Luke Museum, and the Uwajimaya supermarket corporation—is urging Sound Transit to give the Fourth Avenue options a more thorough consideration and to remove the Fifth Avenue options from the table. Transit Equity for All is led by Betty Lau and Brien Chow, two longtime community leaders who are concerned about the future of the neighborhood. "This is our third and final Chinatown," said Betty Lau. "The





# A DIVIDING LINE: A HISTORY OF PASCO'S LEWIS STREET UNDERPASS

By National Park Service Staff

For decades, the Lewis Street Underpass and the railroad tracks on top of it created a formidable marker between Pasco and East Pasco. East Pasco residents had to travel through this dark tunnel to access Pasco and its many services, including schools and shops. The underpass represented more than a transportation route. It was a racial and economic divider. In all of the Tri-Cities—outside of a few Black families employed at the Hanford Site (then a nuclear production facility) and allowed to live in Richland in the 1940s and 1950s—East Pasco was the only place where Black workers could find housing.

The history of exclusion in Pasco began even before the underpass was built. Around 1890, a small group of Chinese laborers settled east of the tracks in the former railroad town of Ainsworth, now part of Sacagawea State Park. Later, Black railroad workers were restricted to the same general area, as were the thousands of African American migrants who came to Pasco to work at Hanford during and after World War II.

Designed by the Northern Pacific Railway, the Lewis Street Underpass was constructed along a main east-west arterial through downtown Pasco in 1937. Previously, citizens were forced to walk over the railroad tracks to travel between downtown and East Pasco. The underpass allowed cars and pedestrians to travel between the two areas even when long trains rolled on the tracks above. The railroad tracks divided Pasco, with East Pasco as the proverbial “other side” of the tracks.

In keeping with widespread practices of the time, the nearby Hanford Site was a rigorously segregated space until the 1960s, where laws and customs created separate and very unequal job opportunities and living conditions for African Americans and Whites. Kennewick excluded Blacks from living within city limits. Pasco relegated Blacks and other racial minorities east of 4th Street. Richland, the government-run secret city, did not explicitly exclude Blacks, but only those hired for permanent positions at Hanford were allowed to live there and Blacks were almost exclusively hired as temporary workers until the late 1940s. As such, the only place in the Tri-Cities that Blacks could call home was East Pasco,

an overcrowded community that lacked such basic services as sewers, trash collection, paved roads, sidewalks, fire hydrants, or streetlights.

As White residents fled the area, “East Pasco” became code for “Black.” African Americans developed their own community that included churches, hotels, shops, restaurants, and other businesses, most of which no longer exist. Some places, such as Morning Star Baptist Church and Kurtzman Park, are still important places to the African American community of the Tri-Cities. Despite the economic deprivation and lack of community services, a strong sense of pride and community filled East Pasco. The railroad tracks may have been the divider, but the Lewis Street Underpass was the gateway to the robust African American community in the Tri-Cities during the second half of the 20th century. 🏠



Left: A 1909 postcard image of Pasco. Photo courtesy of University of Washington Special Collections.

Above: Black workers in Hanford in 1944. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Department of Energy.

Below: Workers at Hanford queue for paychecks. Photo courtesy of Crosscut.

Below left: The Lewis Street Underpass in Pasco. Photo courtesy of the National Park Service.





# RECORD NUMBER OF GRANT RECIPIENTS FOR 2023

By Huy Pham, Preservation Programs Director

The 2023 grant recipients of the Valerie Sivinski Fund have been announced, and we couldn't be more excited to share the news with all of our preservation supporters!

The Valerie Sivinski Fund—named in honor of the late Valerie Sivinski, a preservation powerhouse and former board president of the Washington Trust—supports local preservation projects through direct funding or planning, research, education, and advocacy initiatives. Since its establishment, the Valerie Sivinski Fund has awarded more than \$200,000 in cash grants and building assessment services to 186 projects across the state, supporting local organizations and historic preservation advocates in their efforts to save the places that matter in Washington.

This year, we're happy to award a total of \$20,000 (doubling our typical grant distribution amount, thanks to the generosity of our guests and donors at the Sivinski Holiday Benefit in December), to 11 organizations and community groups engaged in preservation efforts across Washington.

- **Neely Mansion Association:** In support of design and printing for materials to better highlight the diverse histories of the land and river where the Neely Mansion sits, including the Coast Salish peoples and the five immigrant families who have lived and worked there.
- **Duwamish Valley Neighborhood Preservation Coalition:** In support of the South Park Neighborhood Center to research and interpret the history of the historic fire station building and the surrounding South Park neighborhood.
- **Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial:** In support of developing a new visitor center for the memorial wall that winds down the Eagledale ferry dock landing site, where the first of more than 120,000 Japanese and Japanese American citizens were banished from their West Coast homes and placed in incarceration camps during World War II.



- **Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding:** In support of the historic Port Hadlock Heritage Campus's efforts to research and interpret the legacies of the region's indigenous peoples—the S'Klallam, Chemakum, and Snohomish—on their maritime campus.
- **Point Roberts Historical Society:** In support of the Point Roberts Community Center's project to create interpretive signs around the community driving traffic from locals and tourists to the museum and archives.
- **Friends of Saint Ignatius Hospital:** In support of the immediate stabilization of the roof of Saint Ignatius Hospital in Colfax, including hiring a structural engineer and addressing urgent physical repair needs.
- **Spokane Valley Heritage Museum:** In support of repairs of missing stucco and other exterior features for Opportunity Township Hall.

- **Parkland Community Association:** In support of creating a conditions assessment or redevelopment plan of the Old Parkland School (listed as one of our Most Endangered Places in 2022) to pitch to potential partners.
- **The Olympia Tumwater Foundation:** In support of lead abatement and repainting of the wraparound porch at the Schmidt House.
- **The Save Our Water Tower organization:** In support of the exterior restoration of the Burlington Northern Railroad Wooden Water Tower in the City of Roy.
- **Ilwaco Heritage Foundation dba Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum:** In support of window restoration on the Doupé Building.

We are thrilled to see these grants supporting such a diverse range of projects and historic sites across the state. Congratulations to all of the 2023 Sivinski grant recipients! 🎉



Opposite left: Japanese American Heritage Day celebrations at the Neely Mansion. Photo courtesy of the Neely Mansion Association.

Opposite right: The Eagledale ferry dock at the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial. Photo courtesy of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Association.

Above: The 1893 Saint Ignatius Hospital in Colfax. Photo courtesy of Friends of Saint Ignatius Hospital.

Right: The Parkland School in Tacoma, one of our 2022 Most Endangered Places. Photo courtesy of the Parkland School Association.





# RAISING FUNDS FOR GRASSROOTS PRESERVATION PROJECTS

By Kristy Conrad, Development Director

On Tuesday, December 13, spirits ran high in one particular building in the First Hill neighborhood of Seattle. From the outside, the historic Stimson-Green Mansion glowed, with no-flame candles alight in every window. Inside the mansion, ornament-laden trees stood in corners of the library and dining room, garland lined the banisters of the central stairway, and a pianist played “Jingle Bells” on the piano watched over by a portrait of Harriet Stimson. Catering staff from Kaspars Catering & Events bustled in the kitchen, preparing appetizers and pouring glasses of wine. Our own Washington Trust staff donned light-up holiday necklaces and forced our beleaguered executive director Chris Moore into a green-and-red sequined blazer for the third year running.

‘Twas the night of the Sivinski Holiday Benefit, and excitement was in the air—not only because of the holiday season, but because of the opportunity the evening presented to raise funds for some of our state’s most deserving preservation projects!

The Sivinski Holiday Benefit is one of the Washington Trust’s signature annual events. Taking place every year at our headquarters, the beautiful Stimson-Green Mansion, it’s a festive fundraising event, with all ticket proceeds, donations, and raffle ticket sales benefiting the Valerie Sivinski Fund. Unlike other grant programs which we manage on behalf of the state or other funders, the Valerie Sivinski Fund is our own—a grant program intended to support grassroots community efforts to preserve, interpret, and advocate for important historic and cultural places across Washington State.

The Fund began as the Washington Preserves Grant Program in 1997. One of the Fund’s first donors was Valerie Sivinski, a preservation powerhouse and Washington Trust board president. When Valerie died tragically in 2000 at age 49, the grant program was renamed in her honor. Since its establishment, the Valerie Sivinski Fund has awarded more than \$200,000 in cash grants and building assessment services to 186 projects across the state.

The need for funding for these kinds of projects has only increased in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, we received more Sivinski Fund applications than ever before—altogether, 30 applications, with asks totaling nearly \$60,000 (by comparison, our normal annual grant distribution is around \$10,000). To better meet the demand, we set the ambitious goal of raising double the funds from the holiday benefit, in order to provide grants to 11 deserving projects. Generous contributions from Judith Murdock, Susan Goff, and the Fred Goldberg Family Foundation provided the momentum we needed to get started. With these gifts serving as a matching gift challenge to other donors, and with a slate of lovely raffle prizes spurring raffle ticket sales to an all-time high, we’re proud to announce that we successfully raised more than \$24,000 towards our 2023 Sivinski Fund grants. (See pages 18-19 for a full list of grantees and funded projects.)

Thanks to all of the sponsors, guests, and donors who helped make our Sivinski Holiday Benefit such a success! 🍷



Opposite: Dan and Elaine Say of Swenson Say Fagét hop aboard the festive attire bandwagon.

Above left: Kris Nelson of Port Townsend has a good laugh at Chris Moore's festive holiday jacket.

Above right: The evening's raffle prize winners celebrate their victories.

Below: The SHKS Architects crew (including Washington Trust board member Matt Inpanbutr, far right) strikes a pose.

Left: The Seattle contingent of the Washington Trust staff celebrates at the end of the night.

All photos courtesy of C.B. Bell.





# THE MARITIME UNDERGROUND RAILROAD OF PUGET SOUND

By Lorraine McConaghy, Historian

In September 1860, a Black teenager ran away from slavery in Olympia, Washington Territory. An African-Canadian network helped him flee to Victoria—but Charles Mitchell’s “underground railroad” was a steamer on Puget Sound.

The boy had been born into slavery on a Maryland plantation, son of a Black house slave and a white Chesapeake Bay oyster fisherman. Charles Mitchell was born in 1847 and named for his father. His mother—whose name we do not know—died in the cholera epidemic of 1850 and on her deathbed begged

her mistress, Rebecca Gibson, to “take good care of my Charlie.”

Mistress Gibson gave Charles to her cousin James Tilton—the boy was considered to be no more than a piece of property. Tilton had been appointed Surveyor General of Washington Territory, a patronage reward for his political efforts to get Franklin Pierce and then James Buchanan elected to the U.S. presidency. Tilton brought his household west, including Charles Mitchell.



Above: Although there are no known photographs of Charles Mitchell, award-winning illustrator R. Gregory Christie created this image of the young boy on the verge of a life-changing decision.

The Tilton family arrived in 1855 and settled in Olympia. After the U.S. Supreme Court’s Dred Scott decision of 1857, chattel slavery was legalized in the territories, which meant that Charles Mitchell was legally owned at the Olympia house.

The years following Tilton’s appointment were dramatic ones in the new territory, as hasty, exploitive treaties were “negotiated” with Tribes. Afterward, many Native people resisted the treaty terms and fought back in the Treaty War of 1855-1856. Tilton took a major military role in that conflict, as well as in the post-treaty surveys of territorial land for settlement.



Above: James Tilton, 1855. Courtesy of Washington State Archives’ Military Department Photograph Collection.

Left: The former Tilton Home in Olympia, Washington in 1902. Courtesy of the Washington State Historical Society.

Below: 1860 Federal Census showing household of James Tilton (lines 19-26) including Charles Mitchell, age 13.

An African-Canadian man, William Jerome, spent some time in Olympia and noticed Charles Mitchell in the marketplace, the shops, the street. While Charles was not the only person of color in western Washington Territory, he was the only enslaved person we know of. Jerome returned to Victoria and spoke with members of the Black community there. In 1860, Victoria was about 20% Black, following a mass migration of families of color from San Francisco, escaping California’s systemic racism. Victoria’s community included Black men and women who had participated in the underground railroad back East and who had helped many fugitive slaves escape to Canada.

With the help of that community, three Black men—James Allen, William Davis, and William Jerome—devised a plan to approach Charles Mitchell and encourage his escape to the freedom of Victoria on a maritime underground railroad. James Allen was the cook on board the sidewheel steamer *Eliza Anderson*, which had the international mail run between Olympia and Victoria, pausing at flagged stops along the way. Two of the men approached Charles Mitchell in secret in Olympia and persuaded him to escape. On September 24, 1860, Charles stole out of the Tilton house at dawn and ran down the hill to Percival Landing where the *Eliza Anderson* was getting up steam. Cook Allen was waiting for him and waved him on board, hustling him down

304 SCHEDULE 1—Free Inhabitants in \_\_\_\_\_ in the County of \_\_\_\_\_ State of \_\_\_\_\_  
of \_\_\_\_\_ enumerated by me, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1860. \_\_\_\_\_ Asst. Master.

Post Office \_\_\_\_\_

Line	Name	Sex	Age	Color	Profession, Occupation, or Trade	Value or Estate		Place of Birth	Married	White and Colored	Total
						Real Estate	Personal				
19	M. A. Mason	M	21	W	Farmer			N. Y.			
20	Chas. Bennett	M	21	W	Blacksmith			France			
21	G. P. Bennett	M	22	W	Blacksmith			N. Y.			
22	Quinn	M	21	W				N. Y.			
23	Glenn	M	21	W				N. Y.			
24	L. P. Bennett	M	21	W	Blacksmith			N. Y.			
25	Chas. Bennett	M	22	W	Blacksmith			N. Y.			
26	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
27	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
28	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
29	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
30	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
31	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
32	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
33	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
34	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
35	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
36	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
37	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
38	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
39	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
40	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
41	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
42	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
43	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
44	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
45	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
46	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
47	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
48	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
49	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
50	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
51	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
52	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
53	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
54	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
55	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
56	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
57	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
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59	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
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63	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
64	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
65	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
66	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
67	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
68	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
69	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
70	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
71	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
72	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
73	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
74	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
75	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
76	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
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78	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
79	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
80	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
81	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
82	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
83	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
84	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
85	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
86	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
87	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
88	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
89	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
90	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
91	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
92	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
93	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
94	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
95	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
96	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
97	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
98	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
99	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			
100	Allen	M	21	W				N. Y.			





Above: The sidewheel steamer Eliza Anderson at Yesler Wharf in Seattle circa 1884. Image by Asahel Curtis Photo Company, courtesy of the University of Washington Libraries Special Collections.

Below: View of Victoria, Vancouver Island in 1860, by H.O. Tiedemann, Thomas Picken, and Day & Son, from the Library of Congress.



to the galley and hiding him there. Davis was a passenger on board the steamer, keeping an eye on Charles Mitchell.

The *Eliza Anderson* steamed north and stopped in Seattle so that a U.S. Army squad could search for deserters from Fort Steilacoom. They found no deserters, but they did find Charles Mitchell hidden in the galley. Hauled before the steamer's captain, John Fleming, Mitchell was recognized as James Tilton's property. The captain decided to return Mitchell to Tilton in Olympia and that in the meantime Mitchell would work for his keep, shoveling coal to fuel the steam boiler.

As the *Anderson* steamed toward Victoria, Captain Fleming considered his position. Fleming decided to fire James Allen and put him off the vessel in Victoria. He had also likely guessed that passenger Davis was a member of the African-Canadian conspiracy "to set a bond boy free."

At the Victoria waterfront, a large crowd awaited the *Anderson's* docking. They jostled and murmured, "Where is the boy?!" Fleming announced from the steamer's deck that he refused to release Charles Mitchell, who was locked up on board, and that he intended to return the boy to his master in Olympia.

The three African-Canadian conspirators rushed to the Victoria law office of barrister Henry Crease. There, they filed affidavits declaring their knowledge of Mitchell and his efforts to escape slavery in Olympia. Crease hastened to request a writ of *habeas corpus* from the civil authorities. The writ, delivered by Victoria's sheriff and his burly deputy—and supported by an increasingly angry crowd—convinced Captain Fleming to reluctantly release Charles Mitchell to custody on shore.

After the boy's night in jail, Crease represented him before the Supreme Court of Civil Justice, and Mitchell was freed. "It was," editorialized the *Victoria Colonist*, "a righteous decision." Charles Mitchell was free to grow up in the welcoming Black community of Victoria.

Owner James Tilton, Captain John Fleming, and Washington Territorial acting governor Henry McGill all wrote heated letters to protest Charles' "seizure" as a violation of international marine law. Little came of their protests, though Mitchell's escape was covered by newspapers up and down the West Coast. After his schooling in Victoria, Charles Mitchell joined many Black Victorians as they returned to San Francisco after the Civil War's conclusion.

Charles Mitchell is the only passenger we know of on Washington Territory's underground railroad, created and staffed entirely by African-Canadian men. This extraordinary maritime story became a flashpoint for discussion of race and slavery in the Territory, as newspapers in Port Townsend and Olympia decried "the worthless free negroes from Victoria" who had alienated Mitchell from his master. But the Steilacoom *Puget Sound Herald* anxiously pointed out that a western maritime underground railroad to "the British Possessions on this Coast" was as likely as the well-established routes back East. In the future, more research may reveal other voyagers on the Puget Sound underground railroad. ■



# 2023 EXCELLENCE ON MAIN AWARD WINNERS

By Breanne Durham, Washington Main Street Director

The Excellence on Main Awards are organized annually by the Washington State Main Street Program to celebrate exceptional entrepreneurs, organizers, and preservationists across Washington State. Organizations in the Washington Main Street network are invited to make nominations in a variety of categories. Through a competitive awards process, roughly a dozen people, places, or projects are recognized each year.

In 2022, we were delighted to celebrate the following awardees at the RevitalizeWA conference held in Wenatchee in October:

**OUTSTANDING PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN**

#StevensonStrong,  
Stevenson Downtown Association

**ECONOMIC VITALITY**

Pandemic Economic Recovery Effort,  
Olympia Downtown Alliance

**BRICK & MORTAR REHABILITATION**

The Geddis Building, Ellensburg

**COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

Rotary Marketplace, Yakima

**OUTSTANDING SPECIAL PROJECT**

Main Street Through a Child’s Eyes, Gig Harbor

**OUTSTANDING SPECIAL PROJECT**

Ridgeline Lighting Transformation,  
Downtown Camas Association

**ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

Block Parties, Centralia Downtown Association

**ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR**

Chesed Farms, Walla Walla

**LEADERSHIP ON MAIN**

Mary DesMarais, Gig Harbor

**LEGACY ON MAIN**

Moonraker Books, Langley

**EXCELLENCE ON MAIN**

Linda Haglund, Wenatchee

And for the fourth year running, the Excellence on Main celebration also included recognition of outstanding volunteers from local Main Street programs across the state, including:

- Dawn Nielson, Stevenson
- Todd Hodges, Yakima
- Keith Watts, Cle Elum
- John Rankin, Ritzville
- Judy Ecklund, Issaquah
- Randy Curtis, Camas
- Lindsey Boisso, Ellensburg
- Marnie Bodine, Prosser
- Doug Sharnhorst, Kent
- Jerri Barkley, Wenatchee
- Karrie Polinsky, Gig Harbor

Congratulations and thank you to all of our 2022 Excellence on Main awardees and spotlighted volunteers! Learn more about each category, our 2022 awardees, and all past awardees by visiting [preservewa.org/eom-archive](https://preservewa.org/eom-archive).



Opposite left: Downtown Camas Association Executive Director Carrie Schulstad cheers for the Ridgeline Lighting Transformation project, which received an Outstanding Special Project award.

Opposite right: Main Street staff surprise Wenatchee Downtown Association Executive Director Linda Haglund with the Excellence on Main Award.

Left: Olympia Downtown Alliance executive director Todd Cutts and downtown projects manager Desiree Freeland celebrate their Economic Vitality award win.

Above: An enthusiastic crowd cheers for Gig Harbor Downtown Waterfront Alliance executive director Mary DesMarais’s big win in the Leadership on Main award category.

Below: All Excellence on Main Award winners celebrate in Wenatchee in October 2022.

All photos courtesy of Heirloom Creatives.





# PARTNERS IN PRESERVATION: THE IMPORTANCE OF BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

By Paige Rooney, 2022 PreserveWA Fellow

At my first session of RevitalizeWA, “Main Street 101,” the presenters from the Washington State Main Street Program asked the audience to turn to their neighbors and discuss what makes a successful Main Street. I felt a tap on my shoulder from someone sitting behind me, who asked if I wanted to join their group. As I turned around, I noticed two Puyallup Main Street Association nametags. Coincidentally, I had moved to Puyallup just three months prior! The three of us had a lovely conversation about Puyallup and the success of the Main Street organization there, and I walked out of that session feeling inspired to get more involved. A few days after returning home from the conference, I decided to sign up to volunteer for the Puyallup Main Street Association to connect with my community and continue to build relationships here.

Fostering relationships and community building were major themes of RevitalizeWA this year, as these concepts are at the core of the Main Street Approach. Despite coming from various backgrounds and disciplines, the presenters at each of the six sessions

I attended discussed the importance of partnerships, building relationships, and community building. They also discussed how these themes can be applied to my field of historic preservation. Preservation is a key part of Main Street because it not only involves protecting the historic buildings themselves, but it is also the foundational backdrop for economic revitalization, adaptive reuse, sense of place, and community pride.

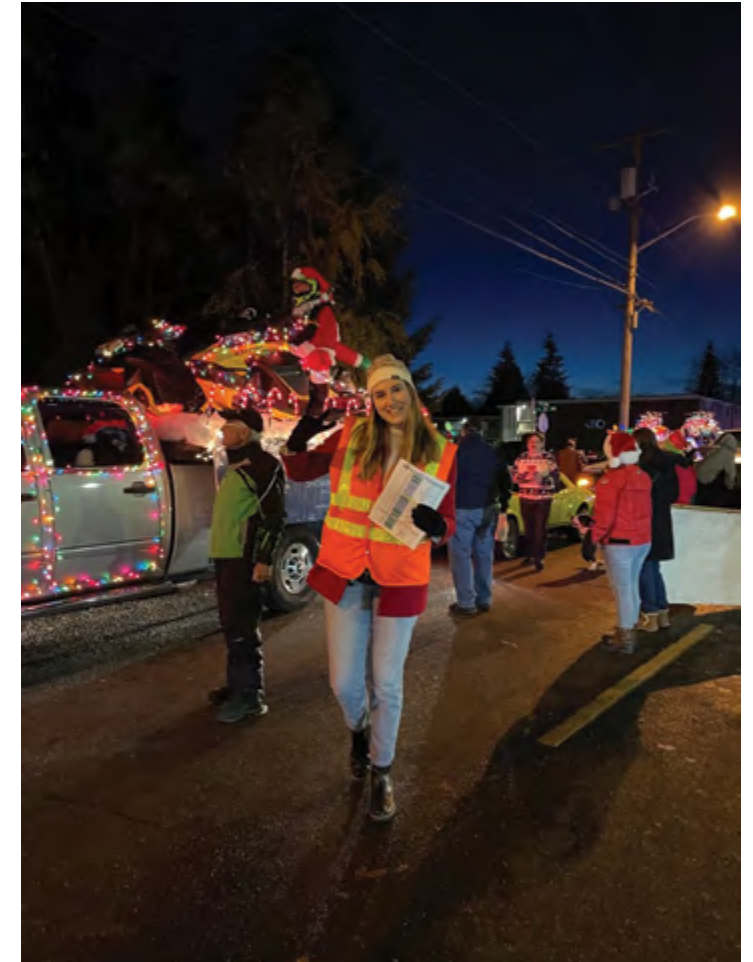
I hope to build close relationships with communities throughout my career as well as to be an active resident in my own community to support its needs. RevitalizeWA helped me think about this more deeply, and I came away with some new tools. For example, at the “Main Street 101” session, one of the presenters simply used the word “with,” not “for,” to bolster their point that community revitalization is a team effort. This resonated with me, as I believe that involving local communities in the work preservationists do is imperative. We should not only work *for* the community, but we should work *with* them. In order to do this, preservationists should be attentive to what people advocate for within their own communities.

The session “At Home on Main Street: Making Housing Happen in Washington State,” presented by Mike Powe of Main Street America, developed this idea further, stating that we must build relationships with city officials, property owners, developers, planners, and anyone else involved in the revitalization of a community. Building relationships in this way is the first and one of the most vital steps to any successful project, such as creating more housing in historic downtowns.

Finally, at the last session I attended, “Catalyzing Social Change Through Real Estate,” Summer Hess of the business consultancy firm Measure Meant declared, “‘Community building’ is both a noun *and* a verb.” This simple concept further reiterated for me that historic preservation is more than saving a physical place; it involves building relationships with the community to do so. Furthermore, a historic building—especially one in a historic downtown—acts as both a physical landmark for the community

as well as a community gathering place for shopping, eating, and conversing. This line struck me, and it reaffirmed to me the importance of this in my own approach to historic preservation.

Not only did I learn about partnerships at RevitalizeWA, I also had the chance to build some of my own relationships with new colleagues. I moved to Washington in July 2022, fresh out of graduate school, not knowing anyone in the preservation field here, but I was—and still am—excited to meet new people and learn from their experiences in this state. That first conversation with the people from the Puyallup Main Street Association allowed me to build a relationship with people in my new city and sparked a fire in me to foster relationships with all kinds of people to conduct valuable preservation work for the benefit of the community. Attending this conference provided me with the opportunity to grow relationships with others in my field as well as in fields such as real estate, marketing, and nonprofits, which gave me new perspectives in my own preservation work. Attending RevitalizeWA not only made me feel welcomed to Washington—it also inspired me to always put people and communities at the core of my work in this state. 🍷



Above: Downtown Puyallup at South Meridian Avenue. Photo courtesy of the Puyallup Main Street Association.

Top right: Paige helping out with float staging for the Puyallup Santa Parade. Photo courtesy of Paige Rooney.



Above: RevitalizeWA attendees talking to the owner of Wenatchee Valley Brewing Company about revitalization, the Wenatchee community, and brewing. Photo courtesy of Paige Rooney.



# PYBUS PUBLIC MARKET: UNDERSTANDING THE UNIQUENESS OF PLACE

By Luke Viscusi, 2022 PreserveWA Fellow

As an architectural designer and place professional, I get a rush walking into Pybus Public Market in Wenatchee. It’s a beautiful space, and there is something intangible that sticks with me. The space feels unique—it feels like I can’t find it anywhere else. Maybe what I am feeling is what one article calls “the pulse of Wenatchee.”

I later learned that what I was feeling coincided with a unique origin story inherent to the site. During a panel discussion, the Pybus Market Charitable Foundation, Port of Chelan County, City of Wenatchee, and Graham Baba Architects shared that Pybus became Pybus because of the original structure, the history of the site as a steel warehouse, the relationship between the Port and the City, and community input. Each stakeholder emphasized that their specific roles and abilities created an environment where Pybus could flourish. Then the architect mentioned that they’ve been asked by several cities if they can also design Pybus Public Markets for them.

That got me thinking, “Deep down, do I also want a Pybus Public Market where I live?” I think about the old rail tracks that come into the building so that a stage (appropriately named “the band wagon”) can be moved outdoors or indoors. I enter past giant steel doors that make me feel minuscule. I’m flanked by artisan shops that I’d never find in an outlet mall, which sell items ranging from lavender-flavored mead to aged balsamic vinegars. Its architectural design is reflective of its history, it celebrates local culture, and its programming is responsive to community needs. Who wouldn’t want a Pybus?...

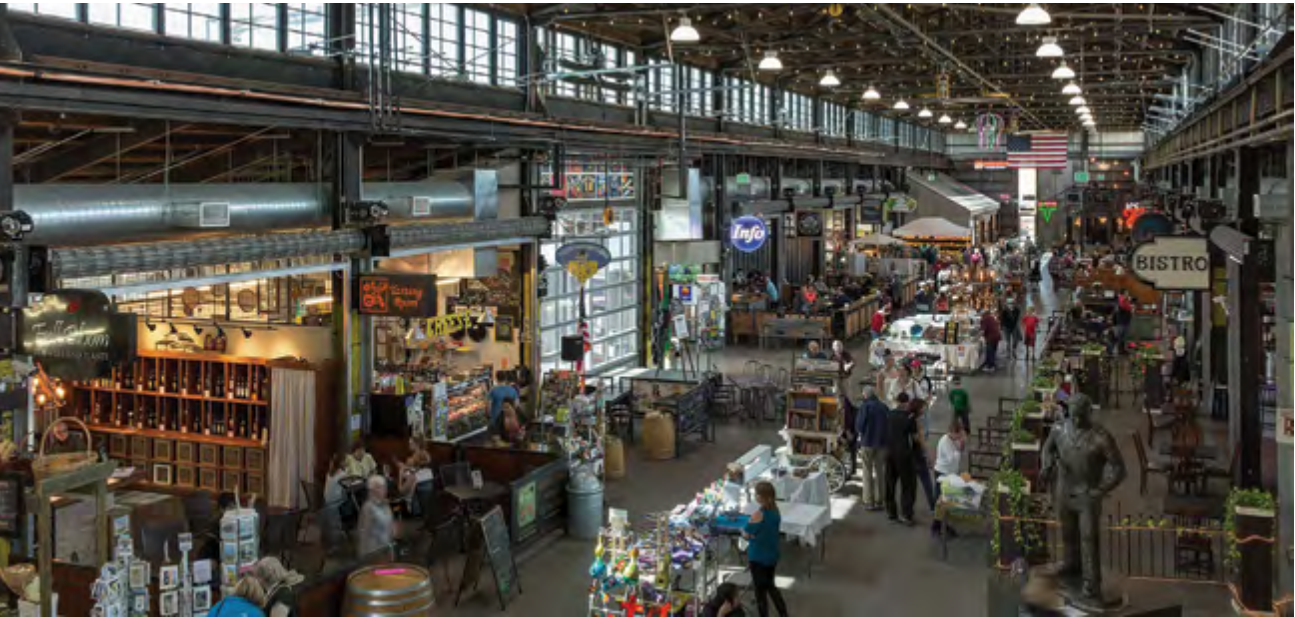
...And I realize I’m doing it too. I’m romanticizing this space as if it would work anywhere else.

It seems we so frequently forget that the spaces and situations within the places we inhabit are specific to us. We imagine that a building or an atmosphere can just be replicated—since it works



Above: The vast interior of the former warehouse. Photo courtesy of Graham Baba Architects.

Below: The exterior of Pybus Public Market and its iconic sign in Wenatchee.



Above: The interior of Pybus Public Market and its many shops. Photo courtesy of Robert Inn.

Below: A band performs on the “Band Wagon” stage during Friday Night Music at Pybus Public Market. Photo courtesy of Pybus Public Market.



## About the PreserveWA Fellowship

Each year, the Washington Trust offers the PreserveWA Fellowship to support emerging leaders and amplify youth perspectives in the field of preservation and community building. The Fellowship supports first-time attendance at RevitalizeWA by students and young professionals (ages 18-29) in Washington State with interest in gaining professional exposure to the fields of historic preservation and downtown revitalization.

The award covers the cost of registration for RevitalizeWA, plus a stipend for travel and lodging, and each selected Fellow is matched with a leader in a related field to serve as a mentor. The Fellow connects with their Mentor prior to and/or during the conference to discuss educational and professional paths.

Following the conference, Fellows are asked to write an article about what they learned as a first-time attendee (or other relevant topic) to be published in *This Place*.

Look out for more articles from our 2022 Fellows in upcoming issues, plus this year’s application opening in June!



Above: The 2022 PreserveWA Fellows and Mentors at RevitalizeWA in Wenatchee last October. Photo Courtesy of Heirloom Creatives.



# MAIN STREETS: ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEMS

By Lydia Felty, Main Street Resources Coordinator

In 2022, the Washington State Main Street Program released a resiliency study that showed that businesses located in Washington's designated Main Street Communities rebounded from the pandemic at a faster rate than businesses in similar districts without the presence of a Main Street organization. Many Main Street activities, including marketing, promotions, and creative use of public spaces, contributed to this resiliency. Local Main Street organizations host so many ongoing programs that support small businesses, especially microbusinesses and entrepreneurs. Here we share some of our favorite trends and stories of creating entrepreneurial ecosystems in downtown districts across Washington State.

We first turn our eyes to farmers markets across the state. A number of our Main Streets have taken on the development and coordination of markets that support local farmers, artisans, and artists. Markets in Puyallup, Pasco, Yakima, Walla Walla, Gig Harbor, and Prosser are all backed by Main Street—to name just a few! When a successful farmers market takes place in a downtown district, there are many positive outcomes, not least of which is the supportive environment provided to market

vendors looking to expand their business to a bricks-and-mortar location.

Business grants are another way that Main Street organizations can support small business resiliency in their downtown districts. The City of Ferndale demonstrated their own investment in Main Street's ability to effect this kind of impact, allocating \$850,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the Ferndale Downtown Association to help them hire their first executive director, coordinate organizational programs for three years, and enhance their downtown core through individual business grants.

Main Street organizations have also taken the lead in growing small businesses in their communities. We've seen the development and growth of Main Street-run incubators in Aberdeen, Moses Lake, and Mount Vernon. In 2022, two organizations in our network—the Colfax Downtown Association and Downtown Walla Walla Foundation—were awarded grants from the Department of



Above: The Downtown Aberdeen Association's volunteer crew at the Aberdeen Summerfest. Photo courtesy of Rick Moyer.

Left: The Renton Downtown Partnership farmers market in Renton. Photo courtesy of Christain Jones.



Commerce's New Small Business Innovation Fund to develop business incubators.

In other efforts to build entrepreneurial ecosystems, the Renton Downtown Partnership (RDP) is currently launching their Main Street Entrepreneur Workshop and Pitch Competition. Entrepreneurs looking to open small businesses or expand current operations downtown will receive coaching from industry leaders as they walk through each step of the process, from defining their business idea to registering and launching their business. As a finale, contestants will pitch their idea to a panel of judges for cash and non-cash prizes totaling more than \$30,000. "We want to empower all the contestants, not just the winners," Sue Bollinger, chair of RDP's Economic Vitality Committee, said, "and provide the know-how and mentorship they need to be successful in their journey, whether it leads them to a storefront in downtown Renton or elsewhere."

In Grandview, we're seeing an initiative with similar goals: a business pitch competition called Show of Hands. After contestants submit preliminary applications and full business plans (with support from Main Street Grandview), established local business owners will select three contestants for a "Shark Tank"-style pitch at a larger fundraising event. The pitch with the largest vote by "show of hands" will receive the funding.

That spirit of empowerment is what Main Street-led entrepreneurial support is all about. Local Main Street directors and volunteers build relationships of trust with entrepreneurs and small business owners while simultaneously spending the time necessary to learn about resources available to them and fill the gaps with creative programming. When a business does open its doors in a Main Street district, they are met with enthusiasm, dedication, and a sense of community that makes all the difference during good times and when challenges inevitably arise.

Looking across the state in 2022, our Communities welcomed 380 new businesses; saw 78 businesses expand in square footage, number of employees, or major business offerings; and created 1,237 new jobs. We also recorded 57,898 volunteer hours (a time

Left: The owners of Serfes Foods in Colfax. Photo courtesy of Mirror Up Imagery.

Below: The owners of Orchard food truck in Cle Elum. Photo courtesy of Myles Basterrechea.



investment valued at \$1,734,045) and \$100,970,182 in private and public community investment. Looking at the numbers, it feels safe to say that as our Main Streets support their communities, their communities delight in contributing their own resources. It's solid proof that the work of our Main Streets prioritizes people and seeks to make everything they do a community-driven effort. In other words, we're proud to see our network living up to an oft-repeated Main Street motto: "With, not for." 🍷

## Additional Resources & Reading

Want to learn more? Dive into our resiliency study, microenterprise study, and incubator highlight at the following links:

- [preservewa.org/resiliency](https://preservewa.org/resiliency)
- [preservewa.org/microenterprise](https://preservewa.org/microenterprise)
- [preservewa.org/incubators](https://preservewa.org/incubators)



## Donor Focus

# VAN ASSELT SCHOOL: 21ST CENTURY LEARNING IN A 1909 SCHOOLHOUSE

By Tegan Hill, Bassetti Architects

Situated at the heart of Seattle's Beacon Hill neighborhood, the Van Asselt School building was constructed in 1909. One of the first elementary grade schools in south Seattle, the original building was designed by Seattle architect Edgar Blaire. The school structure featured four classrooms surrounding a central stair and has been described as a "free interpretation of the Tudor style," with a heavy timber porch and decorative half-timbering at the central gabled bay. Bassetti's renovation started in 2019 and will be the school's third major renovation over its 113-year lifespan.

One hundred ten years after the school's first students graced its classrooms, Bassetti Architects was hired by Seattle Public Schools to renovate the 1909 school building as part of a master plan



*Opposite: (Top) The Van Asselt School in 2019, prior to rehabilitation. (Bottom) The historic Van Asselt School in 1909. Photos courtesy of Bassetti Architects.*

*Right: The original school under renovation and the new addition under construction. Photo courtesy of Bassetti Architects.*

*Below: A rendering of views from the hallway of the new addition, overlooking the historic school. Rendering courtesy of Bassetti Architects.*



to add additional classroom space to the site. Adding to the legacy of the school, it received a City of Seattle Landmark designation in May 2019. A large focus of the renovation is preserving the interior and exterior integrity of the landmarked schoolhouse while providing 21st-century learning environment standards. As part of the restoration, the classrooms will keep their original plaster walls and black slate chalkboards, while new mechanical, electrical, fire safety, and technology systems will be thoughtfully integrated.

Historic schoolhouses are often repurposed into apartments, museums, retails, or offices. Because modern-day schools require spaces and systems that are difficult to fit into smaller and older structures, the reuse of this historic schoolhouse into a 21st-century learning environment is particularly niche and complex. Both the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board and the Beacon Hill community have expressed excitement at the iconic schoolhouse gaining a new lease on life and keeping its original mission of educating South Seattle students.

Construction is now well underway on both the historic schoolhouse and Bassetti's design of a two-story classroom and gymnasium addition to provide space for an additional 650 students that will be on campus. Inspired by the original wood construction, the new addition will display a sustainable structural system of cross-laminated timber. It will adjoin the original Van Asselt School in a way that maintains the prominence of the original schoolhouse entry and provides a backdrop against which the landmark structure is featured. A formal courtyard, designed to accentuate the symmetry of the 1909 façade, further elevates the neighborhood presence of the landmarked building.

The overall goal of the renovated schoolhouse and addition is to accentuate the original architectural features of the landmarked Van Asselt School while seamlessly integrating the new addition into the campus for the community to enjoy for another 100 years. 🏡





# WHERE IN THE WA

By Cathy Wickwire, Operations Manager

While the large anchor featured in the Fall 2022 issue of *This Place* might not be out of place in any of our state's shoreline cities and towns, newly elected Washington Trust board member Stephen Waite of Edmonds correctly guessed that this particular anchor is located in Port Gamble behind the general store. Signage identifies it as coming from the sunken lumber schooner *War Hawk*, having been found 200 feet from the hull in Discovery Bay. However, further sleuthing is required to uncover the storied past of the vessel and its final resting place a half hour's drive away.

According to Scott Boyd of Emerald Sea Scuba, the *War Hawk* is one of the oldest wrecks that can be easily visited by divers in the Pacific Northwest. Built in 1855, the wood-hulled clipper ship carried lumber from the mills in Discovery Bay to San Francisco. On April 12, 1883, the ship caught fire while tied up

at dock at the Port Discovery Mill. The crew untied the ship to keep it from burning down the mill, and the *War Hawk* sank just south of Mill Point on the western shore of the bay, where she still rests today.

Check out the former sawmill and more than 200 other points of interest on our Maritime Mapper and plan your next maritime adventure: [map.preservewa.org](https://www.preservewa.org). 📍



Right: Anchor from the sunken lumber schooner *War Hawk*.

Below: Panorama of Port Discovery Mills in 1890 by William T. Worthington, courtesy of Washington Rural Heritage.



## REGISTRATION OPENS THIS SPRING

We are delighted to partner with Vancouver's Downtown Association on our annual statewide conference. Focused on the continued care of place through historic preservation, placemaking, and economic development, RevitalizeWA allows preservationists, planners, downtown development professionals, and anyone who cares about place to dive deep into creative ideas, build their network, and inspire new solutions. As we think about everything from culture and heritage to community building through economic empowerment, we'll use spaces throughout downtown Vancouver as our classroom—learning about its past, present, and future, and seeing in action how deep care has made this a great place to live, work, and play.

Have an idea for a session? Look out for our request for proposals in February!

Conference details, online registration, and additional information about submitting a session proposal can be found on our website: [PRESERVEWA.ORG/REVITALIZEWA](https://www.preservewa.org/revitalizewa)

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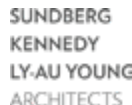
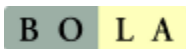
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Individual and corporate memberships are available at a variety of price points, and annual membership fees are fully tax-deductible! Questions? Email Development Director Kristy Conrad at [kconrad@preservewa.org](mailto:kconrad@preservewa.org).

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In addition to my membership, enclosed is a gift to the Washington Trust of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to:

- ☐ support the Most Endangered Places program
- ☐ provide Valerie Sivinski Fund grants
- ☐ maintain the historic Stimson-Green Mansion
- ☐ assist the area of greatest need
- ☐ other: \_\_\_\_\_

The Washington Trust welcomes tax-deductible gifts of stock or other securities, whether they have appreciated or declined in value, and we are able to work directly with your broker or financial advisor to facilitate the gift. As always, we suggest that you consult with your independent financial, tax, or legal advisor for specific help with your particular situation before you proceed with such a donation. Contact us for more information.

### Payment Information

- ☐ I am enclosing a check payable to the **Washington Trust for Historic Preservation** or WTHP
- ☐ Please bill my credit card: ☐ Master Card ☐ Visa  
Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ CV2 Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ My employer will match my gift (please send form from employer)

Or join online at:  
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We are committed to being an inclusive, empowering, and anti-racist organization.

To work towards these values, we're undertaking a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity audit of our organization and work.



**We welcome your perspective! Take our community DEI survey starting February 3 at [preservewa.org/dei-survey](https://preservewa.org/dei-survey).**