Pencils Down For Old Parkland School: The Most Endangered Places Program Enrolls Its 11th School Building

Main Street Matters—Vancouver: An Authentic Place with an Easier Pace

Women on the Waterfront: Vanessa Castle, Fisheries and Wildlife Technician for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

APRIL SHOWERS BRING HERITAGE BARN CONSTRUCTION HOURS

Preservation Work Underway for Heritage Barn Grant Recipients
A publication of the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation

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JUNE 12-16
Washington Main Street Week
Main Street Week is a celebration of the more than 70 towns and cities in the Washington State Main Street Program network. Through their efforts to create welcoming public spaces and preserve historic character, bolster small businesses, and bring people together downtown, these Main Street organizations truly embody the heart and spirit of their communities.

Visit our website to learn how you can celebrate with us—both virtually and locally in Main Street Communities and Affiliates across the state!

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JULY 18-21
Youth Heritage Project
Tri-Cities

For this summer’s YHP, we’re headed to the Manhattan National Historical Park’s Hanford Site, a decommissioned nuclear production complex with a rich history. 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.

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OCTOBER 4-6
RevitalizeWA 2023
Vancouver

Registration for the 2023 RevitalizeWA conference in Vancouver is now open. With engaging panels and speakers, interactive workshops, and field sessions featuring bold and inspiring projects throughout Vancouver, this year’s conference will allow you to dive deep into creative ideas, build your network, and develop new solutions for your own community.

Early bird registration is set at $200, saving you $50 on registration until August 16. Check out the schedule at a glance and information about field sessions and lodging on our conference website. Don’t forget to select your field sessions and add a ticket to our Excellence on Main celebration to your order when you register!

preservewa.org/revitalizewa

For more information about Washington Trust events or programs, please visit preservewa.org or call our office at 206-624-9449.

Photo: Dad’s Diner in downtown Anacortes. Photo by Damian Vines. Photography courtesy of Downtown Anacortes Alliance.

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Photo: Dad’s Diner in downtown Anacortes. Photo by Damian Vines. Photography courtesy of Downtown Anacortes Alliance.
In January 2021, the Washington State Legislature began what could rightly be termed an unprecedented legislative session. The Capitol campus remained on lockdown from COVID-19, and legislators prepared to conduct all business remotely. Accommodations across the board were implemented, with elected leaders, staff, and essentially the entire legislative apparatus pivoting to implement a virtual session. Focus obviously centered on the impacts of the pandemic and legislative efforts to shepherd the state through the crisis.

The contrast with the 2023 legislative session could not have been more pronounced. After a two-year hiatus from Olympia (the 2022 session convened primarily in virtual fashion as well), policymakers were eager to be back in person. For those elected in November 2020, the 2023 session marked their first spent in the capital. Coupled with a larger-than-usual group of freshman legislators elected in 2022, a significant portion of the legislature could be counted as newcomers. As the only statewide advocacy organization dedicated to preserving historic and cultural resources, the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation closely followed the action in Olympia.

From a policy standpoint, housing stood out as a key issue for elected officials. We are facing a housing crisis across the state, in terms of both the supply and the cost of housing. Efforts undertaken last year to address this crisis were rekindled this session with the introduction of numerous bills intended to allow for more density in cities and towns across the state while also streamlining the permitting and regulatory processes that guide residential development. Throughout the session, we at the Washington Trust worked to remind legislators that historic neighborhoods—those that enjoy landmark designation at the local or federal level, along with those that simply represent unique and diverse collections of housing stock—have traditionally accommodated density over time.

Larger, single-family houses from the early 20th century have often been converted to multi-family structures with later (1920s-1940s) apartment buildings cropping up as residential infill when cities grow, expanding from the downtown core. These development patterns ceased as jurisdictions adopted more rigid land use rules, instituting zoning ordinances that mandated specific uses and housing types within delineated areas. Housing bills passed this session would reverse the trend, allowing by right four-unit structures in residential zones in many cities across the state. As these bills were debated, Washington Trust staff worked with legislators to acknowledge the important role that historic resources have played in providing a wide range of housing while also telling the story of how communities develop over time. Working with state elected officials, we crafted language ensuring consideration of locally designated historic buildings and districts as new infill housing is constructed. We centered the compatibility of increasing housing supply goals while also retaining existing buildings. Housing will continue to be an urgent priority in the coming years, and the Washington Trust is committed to working with the legislature on solutions that avoid erasure of neighborhood histories.

The state’s capital budget has always been a key source of funding for preservation- and heritage-related projects. Each year, we advocate for the continuation (and at times expansion) of these programs. This year was no exception, and we are thrilled to note the continuation of critical grant programs supporting the rehabilitation of historic resources.

Within the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), the following programs received funding in the 2023-2025 state budget:

- **Historic County Courthouse Grant Program**: $1.162 million to support rehabilitation of courthouses in 8 counties across the state (up from $1.175 million in 2021-2023)
- **Heritage Barn Grant Program**: $1 million to support working barns (equal to 2021-2023 funding)
- **Historic Cemetery Grant Program**: $515,000 to support cemetery preservation (up from $300,000 in 2021-2023)
- **Historic Theater Grant Program**: $515,000 to support rehabilitation work on historic theaters (up from $300,000 in 2021-2023)

For the Washington State Historical Society, the legislature again provided $10 million to fully fund the Heritage Capital Projects (HCP) Grant Program. Funding will support 28 projects across the state, the majority of which focus on historic rehabilitation work (including a roof replacement project on our own Stimson-Green Mansion and Carriage House). Collectively, these grant programs leverage local investment more than double the amount of grant funds awarded. They focus on projects that are truly unique and significant to their local communities. Finally, in the 2021-2023 state budget, as a response to the pandemic and in an effort to support small businesses across the state, the legislature increased support for the Washington State Main Street Program, which is housed in the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. This increase enabled the program to add staff and enhance services provided to more than 70 participating communities. Considered a one-time increase, however, concern soon arose about retaining these funding levels in the 2023-2025 state budget. Thankfully, DAHP prioritized the program, seeking to maintain funding levels as part of the agency’s budget request last fall. Governor Inslee too, understanding the power of Main Street, included full funding in his proposed budget in December. In April 2023, the legislature followed suit, maintaining the program’s full funding in the 2023-2025 budget as passed. Moreover, the budget makes this funding level the new norm for Main Street, obviating the need to seek full funding each budget cycle.

Overall, the budget turned out to be a positive one for preservation and heritage-related programs. We are appreciative to the governor and the legislature for their work to support historic and cultural resources in Washington!
The rebuilding of the jetties that protect the mouth of Port Townsend’s historic Point Hudson Marina is a perfect example of how modern structures can serve historic preservation ends.

Point Hudson is perhaps the most historic feature of historic Port Townsend. It was a seasonal camp used for thousands of years by Native Americans before Captain George Vancouver landed a longboat there in 1792. Native peoples have continued to make this place their home, event after whites platted a community here in 1852. Several generations of buildings followed. In the 1930s, wooden buildings arose around a primitive marina for use by the U.S. Coast Guard as a quarantine station. Jetties were built to protect the marina from winter’s southeasterly storms.

Over time, the winter storms won. The jetties were battered. In December 2018, a winter storm swept through the marina’s 50 slips at high tide. The Port of Port Townsend, which owns the marina, initially proposed replacing the jetties with a walled structure that would save money but alter the historic jetty design. Thanks to the involvement of the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation and Point Hudson’s inclusion in the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area Program Director.

The work of designing a new jetty to match design features of the old one was more expensive. But a portion of that extra cost now qualified as “mitigation” and opened the door to additional funding. The north jetty was completed in January of this year, but the south jetty won’t be replaced until the fall of 2023, after the end of the September Wooden Boat Festival, centered on Point Hudson. The cost of both projects together is pegged at more than $14 million, with over 50 percent coming from the federal government, $2.5 million from Washington State, and the rest from the Port of Port Townsend and Jefferson County.

The Washington Trust has been involved in Point Hudson as far back as 2003, when the historical integrity of the marina and its surrounding buildings were recognized through its inclusion on the Trust’s Most Endangered Places list. Working with the Port of Port Townsend, the Trust is focused not just on the jetties but on renovation and preservation work now being planned by the Port of Port Townsend to improve the Cupola House and other surrounding Point Hudson buildings as they approach 100 years of age. “By utilizing these historic structures for modern use, the Port is ensuring their long-term preservation and leveraging an important community asset,” said Gradwohl. ☟
PENCILS DOWN FOR OLD PARKLAND SCHOOL

The Most Endangered Places Program Enrolls Its 11th School Building

By Huy Pham, Preservation Programs Director

Around this time in 2022, the Washington Trust received an email with the subject line “Parkland School.” In it, a community member explained that the historic school building’s current owner, Pacific Lutheran University, had submitted not only a de-designation request but also a demolition permit to the Pierce County Landmarks and Historic Preservation Commission as part of a sale agreement prior to its transfer to a private developer. Noted the community member: “Time is short, and we need help.”

Built in 1908, Parkland School has stood as a centerpiece of the community’s oldest educational hub, having been designated as a historic landmark by Pierce County in 1986. A unique example of a schoolhouse designed in the Classical Revival style, the building’s prominent columns and pediment make it stand out from all other structures along the Pacific Avenue corridor, rendering it one of the most visible historic buildings in the area. Across its century of graduating classes, among the notable alumni of the school is Elson Floyd, who went on to become the president of Washington State University and the University of Missouri.

The importance of Parkland School lies not only in its age and unique architecture but also in its significance and potential to the local community. Parkland, a fast-growing community of 40,000 residents with a poverty rate of nearly 16% (well above the state poverty rate of 9.9%), has a rich history dating back to the 1880s. With the gymnasium intact, some advocates for the building’s preservation see it as the vessel for a much-needed community center, while others see the classroom walls as envelopes for affordable housing. Both perspectives acknowledge that perhaps only mixed-use, commercial, and/or office spaces would be economically viable for private investors, a compromise to consider for the sake of saving the building in the name of continuity of community character and environmentally sound land use.

Nominated by the Parkland Community Association’s Save Parkland School committee, the 115-year-old building joins 10 other schools that have been included on our Most Endangered Places list throughout the program’s history. Since we received the email of that concerned citizen in early 2022, a lot of progress has been made. The Pierce County Landmarks and Historic Preservation Commission rejected both requests to de-designate and demolish the building. Pacific Lutheran University entered a tentative agreement that will grant the county, a community-serving organization, and/or a community group the time (12 months from August 2022) and ability to purchase and develop a viable alternative for the Parkland School building. For the minimal appraised value of $2.85 million. In December, the Parkland Community Association was awarded a Valerie Sivinski Fund grant from the Washington Trust, connecting with historic architect Vernon Abelson to produce a conditions and feasibility report and capital needs assessment, before they seek public-private partnerships. By the end of March 2023, the Parkland Community Association gained 501(c)(3) status and entered a purchase-and-sale agreement, making official that Pacific Lutheran University will sell the property to the organization at the aforementioned price by November 1, 2023.

The Parkland Community Association knows that not only do they need to fundraise the minimum of nearly $3 million just to acquire Parkland School, they also need to find another $17 million for the building’s rehabilitation and long-term redevelopment, per the report findings. Like some other Most Endangered Places, their prerequisites to graduate off the list might be through a public-private partnership, institutional partnerships like renegotiating Pacific Lutheran University’s role or reaching out to the YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, or similar organizations; public partnerships with Pierce County; or private investments from for- or non-profit entities. Of the 10 schools already included on our Most Endangered Places list, four remain in progress, four have been saved, and two have been lost. If we have learned any lessons from these campaigns, it is that for places like Parkland School, where there is community support, there’s also hope and a path towards preservation. Learn more at SavemParklandSchool.org.
Former Most Endangered Places Site Update

BEVERLY BRIDGE REHABILITATION WINS ENGINEERING AWARD

By Chris Moore, Executive Director

We’re happy to report that the rehabilitation of the Beverly Bridge, which was added to our Most Endangered Places list in 2017, is not only complete but has now been recognized with a major engineering award!

The Beverly Bridge, located near Vantage and spanning the Columbia River between Grant and Kittitas Counties, was constructed in 1909, part of the westward expansion of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad and a major engineering feat of its day. By 1980, the railroad route was closed, but recognizing its historical significance, the Beverly Bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. From the 1980s through the 2010s, the bridge was out of service, closed to all access, and unmaintained. A wildfire in 2014 destroyed a portion of the bridge deck. Yet it was a vital link in the Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail, the longest rail-to-trail bridge in Washington, and the only non-motorized crossing of the Columbia River.

In 2017, momentum to rehabilitate the bridge began when the Palouse to Cascades Trail Coalition nominated it to our Most Endangered Places program. Once the Beverly Bridge was an official Most Endangered campaign, we at the Washington Trust worked to advocate for its rehabilitation at the state level. Through a creative Section 106 mitigation package, we received funding to manage a conditions assessment of the bridge, conducted by Exeltech Consulting of Lacey, to get a sense of the expense involved in the bridge’s rehabilitation. Following completion of the conditions assessment, the Washington Trust and a coalition of partners advocated for state funding to save the bridge for use as a public non-motorized trail. Our efforts were rewarded when the Washington State Legislature and Governor Inslee allocated $5.1 million to the Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP) in the 2019-2021 state capital budget for the Beverly Bridge rehabilitation and conversion into recreational trail use.

Washington State Parks worked with DAHP to manage the project, and Exeltech Consulting, the firm that had conducted the conditions assessment, returned to conduct the rehabilitation work. The project included replacing the railroad ties with precast concrete deck panels and custom-designed steel railing suitable for non-motorized traffic including pedestrians, bicycles, and equestrians. Deck and railing designs were developed to complement the historic characteristics of the bridge. Fencing along the bridge met Department of Transportation requirements for protective screening where the bridge crosses State Route 243 along the Columbia River. When the Beverly Bridge officially reopened in April 2022, it closed a gap in the 285-mile-long Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail and was once again open for public use and recreation.

The final flourish on this rehabilitation happy ending came in February 2023, when the Washington chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies presented Exeltech with a 2023 Engineering Excellence Best in State Gold Award for Social, Economic and Sustainable Design, in recognition of their outstanding rehabilitation of the Beverly Bridge. Congratulations and thanks to Exeltech for their work in helping preserve and rehab a Washington State icon!


Right: Visitors enjoy the stunning views from the Beverly Bridge’s new seated viewing areas. Photo courtesy of Exeltech Consulting.

Below: A group of VIPs celebrate the reopening of the Beverly Bridge in April 2022 (note Washington Trust Executive Director Chris Moore seated to the left of Governor Jay Inslee). Photo courtesy of Huy Pham.
APRIL SHOWERS
BRING HERITAGE BARN CONSTRUCTION HOURS

Preservation Work Underway for Heritage Barn Grant Recipients

By Abby Armato, Grants Coordinator

With April, we are celebrating more than just the arrival of spring. Warmer temperatures, sunnier days, and thawing earth means construction can finally commence on the remaining projects from the 32 historic barn grants awarded as a part of the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation’s (DAHP) 2021-2023 Heritage Barn Initiative.

Since 2007, the Heritage Barn Initiative has invested more than $3.7 million through roughly 170 grants to support preservation projects that ensure the long-term care of heritage barns across the state. Thanks to the Washington State Legislature and DAHP, approximately $1,000,000 in grant funding was awarded to heritage barns across 20 counties in the 2021-2023 state budget.

For the 2021-2023 biennium, the Washington Trust is proud to manage the Heritage Barn Initiative under contract with DAHP, and our staff have been delighted to watch the most recent preservation projects come to fruition. Meet a few of this round’s grantees and view their completed projects below:

Hull Farm (Maple Valley, King County)
Historically known as Blickfeldt Farm, Hull Farm is a lofted single-story gambrel roof barn located in King County. Constructed in 1929 by Danish immigrant Andrew Blickfeldt, the barn and silo were originally used to run a dairy. Today, they represent some of the last remaining structures of Maple Valley’s agricultural heritage. As part of their 2021-2023 grant, barn owner Justin Hull utilized the funding to tackle a much-needed reroofing project. “The funding allowed for a beautiful and successful reroofing project that has fixed all the leaks and will hopefully keep the barn standing for years to come,” reports Hull.

Krause Barn (Ritzville, Adams County)
A two-story gable roof barn, Krause Barn in Adams County used grant funding for exterior restorations, including cleaning and repainting the barn. Built in 1901 by German immigrant August Krause, the barn originally housed the horses the family used for farming. Four generations later, the property is now owned by Krause’s great-grandson and continues to play a large role in the family’s farming business and the larger community. “Sound structures like these are worth preserving for the next generation of farmers or citizens,” Charles Krause says. “This project will help people create a vision of the past that will provide for a better future.”

Vekved Barn (Ferndale, Whatcom County)
Historically known as Hugo Schroeder Barn #1, Vekved Barn is a single-story Gothic arch roof barn in Whatcom County. Constructed in 1941 by farmer Hugo Schroeder, the building was originally constructed for the family’s small dairy and poultry farm. Sherie Vekved, Schroeder’s granddaughter, is the current owner of the historic barn and a custodian of the area’s agricultural heritage. “This roof replacement was an encouragement to many people in the immediate neighborhood who value the sight of the barn,” says Sherie Vekved. “Historic grant funds were essential to this process as it provided a financial incentive to keep the barn instead of tearing down and installing a modern storage building.”

Historic barns play a vital role in telling the story of our state’s agricultural heritage. From repainting to reroofing, preservation efforts from barn owners like Justin, Sheri, Charles, and other grant recipients ensure this history lives on in our communities for generations to come.

preservewa.org/barn-grants
The Washington Trust’s team of citizen advocates was back in our nation’s capital—in person for the first time since 2020—for Preservation Advocacy Week 2023, which took place the first full week of March.

Preservation Advocacy Week is a cornerstone of our preservation advocacy work. Every year (outside of global pandemics), Washington Trust staff members and volunteers travel to Washington D.C. to advocate for historic preservation programs and funding at the federal level. Joined by fellow advocates from across the country, we meet with our state’s representatives and senators to emphasize the value of preservation to Washington’s communities. This is our chance to speak directly to the senators, representatives, and other high-level lawmakers who can enact real change to federal historic preservation policy and budgets.

With this year's return to in-person advocacy, our Washington delegation came out in force! Altogether, our team numbered 14. In addition to returning participants from the state Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and members of the Washington Trust staff, we welcomed seven newcomers: Washington Trust Development Director Kristy Conrad; The Historic Trust President/CEO Temple Lentz of Vancouver; JEM Development owner and Washington Trust board member Liz McGree of Yakima; architectural historian and Washington Trust board member Zoe Scuderi of Olympia; retired Washington State Transportation Commission staffer and former Washington Trust board member Paul Parker of Olympia; Yakama Nation archaeologist Noah Oliver of Cle Elum; and consultant and former Black Heritage Society president Monette Hearn of Seattle.

With such a large (and enthusiastic) delegation, we couldn’t help but attract attention. In fact, Preservation Action—the nonprofit that organizes Preservation Advocacy Week nationally and helps coordinate talking points across the various state attendees—awarded our Washington delegation an Advocate Award for “Most Advocates in Attendance,” even beating out the D.C. delegation!

Our team of citizen advocates met in person with Representatives Gluesenkamp Perez (District 3), Newhouse (District 4), and Kilmer (District 6), and with the staff of Representatives DelBene (District 1), Larsen (District 2), McMorris Rodgers (District 5), Jayapal (District 7), Schrier (District 8), Smith (District 9), and Strickland (District 10). We were also fortunate to meet in person with Senator Cantwell. In addition to highlighting case studies of preservation projects within each Congressperson’s district, here were some of the issues we advocated for in those meetings:

- **Increasing the Heritage Preservation Fund (HPF) to $225 million in Fiscal Year 2024.** Subject to the annual Congressional Appropriations process, in which Congress sets specific program spending levels for the upcoming fiscal year, the HPF is key to promoting important historic and cultural
places across the nation. The HPF provides critical funding to our State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), more than 200 Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), and a variety of grant programs which work to preserve and interpret historic sites nationwide.

- Permanent authorization of the Historic Preservation Fund at $300 million. Currently, program authorization for the HPF is set to expire in September 2023. Without program reauthorization, payments to the HPF will cease, undermining the importance of this funding. Furthermore, the HPF’s authorized funding level has not been increased since the program’s inception in 1976. Raising its authorized funding level to $300 million and ensuring that authorization is permanent will improve the ability of SHPOs and THPOs to fulfill their federally mandated requirements under the National Historic Preservation Act, create well-paying jobs, and have a visible impact on communities nationwide.

- Support of the Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity (HTC-GO) Act. The Federal Historic Tax Credit (HTC) is a 20% credit which can be applied to qualified rehabilitation costs for certified historic structures. As a program, it represents the largest federal investment in historic preservation and encourages economic development and community revitalization across the country. HTC-GO would increase the credit to 30% for projects with less than $2.5 million in qualified rehabilitation expenses, thereby encouraging more building reuse and more redevelopment in small, midsize and rural communities.

If you’re interested in joining us next March for Preservation Advocacy Week 2024, we’re always looking for more additions to our award-winning crew! Stay tuned to our website, preservewa.org, in the coming months for details on how to join us next year.

—Zoe Scuderi, Architectural Historian at Bionomics Environmental and Washington Trust board member, Olympia
VANCOUVER: AN AUTHENTIC PLACE WITH AN EASIER PACE

By Leslie Stose, Vancouver's Downtown Association

Vancouver is the largest downtown along the mighty Columbia. We have reconnected to our river with a trail that skirts its waters and an iconic pier where people gather. We reinvented our downtown park as a playground for all, a place to celebrate, and a market for our people. We had the vision to create the Confluence Land Bridge for people to walk alongside a railroad, over a freeway, and under jets to connect our river with the vast green spaces of Fort Vancouver National Reserve. Our downtown itself is framed by tall evergreens and lush plants. We are cyclists, walkers, rollers, and runners.

America’s Pacific Northwest owes much of its character to the industriousness of downtown Vancouver. Our Vancouver’s Downtown Association (VDA) has the mission of “Keeping Downtown Vibrant” and has done just that. We recently celebrated the historic 1922 Kiggins Theatre’s centennial anniversary with a façade improvement project to enhance areas of the building that reference its history in our downtown core. VDA has plans to enrich the historic theater by refreshing the building’s frontage which will further activate the corridor’s past in conjunction with the Main Street Infrastructure Project.

Starting in 2024, our Main Street Infrastructure Project will begin. The 10 southernmost blocks of Main Street in downtown are going to undergo a large transformation. Streets will be torn up and rebuilt into a better-looking and better-feeling corridor. The project has been 30 years in the making and is a strategic investment, given that downtown is the heart of Vancouver—a level of investment not seen since 1908. To celebrate culture and identity of place, VDA works hard to make improvements where needed to promote connectivity and activation in notable areas of the district with the use of public art. VDA has a strong emphasis on showcasing Northwest and world-renowned artists through public art. Within the last two years, VDA has added more than 30 new murals to our commercial corridors.

Curating and growing a visual multicultural historic arts district experience builds and enriches the future of the arts and paints color throughout our downtown streetscapes.

Within the last 33 years, VDA has remade our downtown into a vibrant place full of people. We brought a convention center and hotels to the heart of our city to bring groups together. We adapt historic buildings for modern uses. We build new buildings where people climb. We re-lite the neon on a stunning theater. We bring art to the streets to enliven our souls. We have set an intrepid course to reimagine what our waterfront can be and are watching it transform from a place of industry to a place where people live, work, and play.

Downtown is home to the largest collection of independent businesses in southwest Washington. We are shopkeepers and chefs, bankers and brewers, stylists and students. We are volunteers, residents, neighbors, and friends. We are a wave on the street, a smile to a stranger, and a warm welcome to all. We are an authentic place with an easier pace. Our downtown is our history, our pride, and our future.

vdausa.org

The Washington State Main Street Program is proud to partner with Vancouver’s Downtown Association to host the 2023 RevitalizeWA conference in Vancouver on October 4-6.

Registration is open now at: preservewa.org/revitalizewa
As my fellow DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) officers and I loaded into the car heading to the RevitalizeWA conference last fall, we were bubbling with nervous excitement. We didn't know a whole lot about Main Street except what we'd learned in the past few months, during my service on the board of Main Street Grandview, but we were eager to learn more and to bring those lessons back to our community. In Grandview, though we're starting to make progress towards revitalization, we're only in the beginning stages.

I've been on my city's Main Street board since April 2022. Serving as the DECA chapter president at my high school, I was then nominated and elected as a youth representative on the Main Street Grandview board. I'm also the lead project manager for Show of Hands, a community fundraising event to support aspiring business owners.

At RevitalizeWA in Wenatchee last fall, while at first it was daunting to hear from professionals in fields we had never heard of, we found speakers with similar backgrounds to us doing all kinds of important work in their communities. Take Mary Big Bull-Lewis for example, the owner of Wenatchi Wear, who not only has her own business but also uses her products to teach local Native American history. We visited her business after we heard her speak, and she allowed us to tour the facility as we connected over her equipment and practices, which are similar to our DECA school-based apparel enterprise. Another person we met was Emily Lawsin, a specialist at 4Culture in Seattle, who talked with us about overcoming language barriers in towns like ours in addition to representing underrepresented minorities in downtown revitalization. As she talked, an idea crossed my mind that I had not yet considered: why do we do historic preservation? Why do we need revitalized downtowns? Why do we preserve at all?

A common theme that came up throughout all of the conference sessions I attended and the informal conversations I had was the way in which policy shapes the action involved with Main Street. Even though we think of regulation as huge PDFs sitting on a computer, policy allows us to take certain actions and prevents us from doing others. When the current policies stand in the way of doing work like reviving downtowns already in a poor economic state before the pandemic, there is a need for that policy to better support the work. This subject gave me context for what we can implement in our town and how we can use what we've learned to make progress towards these new goals.

Our current DECA projects involve lobbying for the creation of a Certified Local Government in Grandview and putting on the Show of Hands event. One of my officers has written a paper about how the language used in the CLG Program's policies prevent it from easily being implemented, while I have been collaborating with different people to create the necessary forms and connections to make Show of Hands successful.

Now that the conference is in the back of my mind, I'm moving on from brainstorming to executing my ideas for Main Street instead. I'm also applying to colleges, hoping to major in political science and history so I can continue my journey with the work of Main Street and similarly oriented organizations. I find that they serve an underappreciated role in lifting up the work of ordinary people and making sure we all succeed. When it comes down to it, lifting up people is the most important thing we can do. Without people, there wouldn't be a need for what we do, which is exactly why we preserve.
I came into my first RevitalizeWA conference intrigued but confused. I had no idea what to expect, but I knew I was very interested in historic preservation.

Living in Walla Walla for the past four years, I have been exposed to conversations regarding the focus and purpose of historic preservation. The Marcus Whitman statue has been at the forefront of these discussions as many people within the Whitman community view it as a blatant romanticization of colonizers. However, that sentiment is not shared with others within the greater Walla Walla community. Year after year, the debate regarding the removal of the Marcus Whitman statue reignites, but the statue still remains.

The history of Walla Walla is not a pretty one: it is based on violence and colonization after the land was taken from the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla people. However, the Marcus Whitman statue does not represent this history. There was a clear erasure of historical context, and it made me wonder whose history was being prioritized within the field of historic preservation. Combined with the growing discourse regarding the removal of Confederate monuments around the United States, my interest in the biases within historic preservation grew. I thought that the RevitalizeWA conference was the perfect place to learn more about issues regarding equitable representation in preservation.

As I looked through the sessions, I felt drawn to the “Equity in Preservation” session, a panel discussion that included Nick Vann (Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation), Dana Phelan (4Culture), Emily Lawsin (4Culture), and Manish Chalana (University of Washington). The panelists provided new insight regarding the erasure of underrepresented groups in community development. They explained how historic preservation has changed over time, starting from white American history with an emphasis on cosmetic value. In the early stages of historic preservation work, the preserved sites were heavily influenced by their appearance, rather than the history they represented. As a result, we see that many historically rich locations are often overlooked because they do not appear to be “historically significant.”

As I thought about how it can be directly attributed to the erasure of history. These sessions on equity highlighted the importance of history and the trauma those communities have endured. Oftentimes, the histories of underrepresented communities are only supported when the stories depict the trauma those communities have endured. Although this is important, there should be a shift that allows for the preservation of aspects of mundane everyday life. This could be through community-loved establishments, artwork, and other locations of engagement. Preservation should not be so narrowly defined that it only focuses on depicting the treatment of underrepresented communities in American history. It should also highlight the aspects that allowed these groups to be their “true authentic selves”—what makes “this place” their place as well.

At a later session, “Getting Started with LGBTQ Historic Preservation,” panelists Susan Ferentinos (public history researcher, writer, and consultant), Manish Chalana (University of Washington), and Kolby LeBree (Bellinghistory Tours with the Good Time Girls) spoke about the importance of LGBTQ history and how it has been overlooked over the years. The emergence of LGBTQ neighborhoods began in the years after World War II, as LGBTQ people built communities where they could be their true authentic selves without fear of persecution. The importance of LGBTQ neighborhoods was often overlooked, which led to gentrification in many LGBTQ neighborhoods based in Seattle. This session really highlighted the importance of preservation for me and the impact that history can have. I had never thought about how the preservation of history also translates to the preservation of representation within a community.

Before attending this conference, I was unaware of these impacts and the frequency with which they came about. I’ve seen the impacts of gentrification in my own home in Los Angeles County but never thought about how it can be directly attributed to the erasure of history. These sessions on equity highlighted the importance of history and the tangible impacts it can have on communities.

However, I think that it is important to expand our focus when it comes to what should be preserved. Sometimes, the histories of underrepresented communities are only supported when the stories depict the trauma those communities have endured. Although this is important, there should be a shift that allows for the preservation of aspects of mundane everyday life. This could be through community-loved establishments, artwork, and other locations of engagement. Preservation should not be so narrowly defined that it only focuses on depicting the treatment of underrepresented communities in American history. It should also highlight the aspects that allowed these groups to be their “true authentic selves”—what makes “this place” their place as well.
ON THE WAYS: THE REMARKABLE RESTORATION OF THE FV SHENANDOAH

By Stephanie Lile, Director, Harbor History Museum

When the Shenandoah slid down the ways in 1925, no one envisioned her as a museum boat. She was 65 feet of fish-hauling tender, her engine room lit with modern electric lights, and a mighty towbit bolted to her work deck. Her launch helped catapult Croatian immigrant Nick Be into a multimillionaire “cannery man,” founder of Peter Pan Seafood. Her launch was also the pride of skipper Paso Dorotich, who had built a boat that would pass from father to only son.

Most old wooden boats riddled with rot and fungus get marched up. The big metal claws of shipyard demolition machines eat them for lunch. But by the twists and turns of historic fate, a handful of boats—by luck and pedigree—float into museum collections and are preserved for future generations. The Shenandoah is one such vessel. Some would think she’s the lucky one. Truth is, we humans, dropped from frames to paint and authentically rigged to soundstage.

The Shenandoah left active service as a fishing vessel in 1998. Now, she finds her home at the Harbor History Museum in Gig Harbor. “Most restoration is simply long overdue maintenance,” says Riley Hall, shipwright on the Shenandoah since 2018. Boats need ongoing care, and the preservative qualities of saltwater only go so far.

Hall and his dedicated crew of volunteers have worked through each section of the boat with surgical precision to remove rot, treat fungus, and restore the strength of the boat’s ancient timbers and knees. When Hall came on board, he brought a unique vision to the project. He’d been inspired by the Asgard, another remarkable museum boat on view at the National Museum of Ireland. Hall’s idea would make all those math teachers who chant “show your work” glow with pride. Because showing the work was exactly the idea. Not only do Hall and his crew work on the boat in full view of visitors to the Harbor History Museum, they are going a step beyond to preserve that work for future visitors to see.

Because the boat is not going back into the water, Hall proposed a unique restoration plan. He would clear coat the port side of the boat to show the delicate conservation and restoration techniques used to preserve as much of the original wood planking as possible. Giving guests a peek at the meticulous process. The starboard side would be fully restored from frames to paint and authentically rigged to how Shenandoah would have appeared on the fishing grounds of Puget Sound and beyond. Additionally, the “crumble-in-your-hand” rotten bulwarks would be reconstructed to their original 1925 configuration on the port side and their contrasting 1990s rebuild on the starboard. It’s a preservation approach rarely seen, but for this project, it really works.

A project like this is a massive undertaking, but the Shenandoah restoration crew is undaunted. Each person has brought special talents and interests to the project. Last October, the crew set a fully restored 8,000-pound Atlas engine into the Shenandoah’s hold, thanks to the dogged determination of retired chief engineer Craig Johnson. Johnson volunteered his time and expertise to breathe life into the rusty 1936 engine, which had originally been in the fishing boat Norm B. Even though the engine doesn’t run, it’s a ‘like new’ form.
and the boat isn’t going back into the water, the engine-vessel pairing brings a unique authenticity to the project.

Longest with the crew are John McFerran and Orrin Souers, who have been working on the project since the boat was moved to the museum site in 2009. Their efforts, and those of every volunteer on the project, will have a lasting impact on future generations. The museum has recently completed a $2.5 million capital campaign to enclose the Shenandoah’s open-air gallery and create a unique exhibit plan that allows guests to explore “under the waterline” and “at the waterline” of the vessel.

As for the boat’s early fishing crews, there are still some walking the planet and reliving those summers of piling net. In some cases, the Shenandoah was like Vegas—what happened aboard stayed aboard—but more frequently, as restoration efforts bring her back to life, those stories have emerged. A young Krist Novoselic, bass player for Nirvana, did step from boat deck to rock stage. Old Tom Maddock, who fell overboard in 1973, lived to tell his sons the harrowing tale. Even “little” Amanda Janovich, whose earliest days on the fishing crew were spent sleeping in a galley drawer while her mom cooked for the crew, has memories of picking fish and breathing diesel.

Today, the Shenandoah is back on the ways, much as she was just before her 1925 launch day at Gig Harbor’s Skansie Shipyard. “Dry-docked” in the Harbor History Museum’s Maritime Gallery, she’s had a full career as tender, seine, and now as teacher. With the gallery enclosure construction starting this summer, she’ll be protected from the weather and ready to celebrate her 100th launch day in 2025.

Questions? Contact Lydia Felty at lydia@preservewa.org or 206-584-2678

Registration for the 2023 RevitalizeWA conference in Vancouver on October 4-6 is now open. With engaging panels and speakers, interactive workshops, and field sessions featuring bold and inspiring projects throughout Vancouver, this year’s conference will allow you to dive deep into creative ideas, build your network, and develop new solutions for your own community.

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 care for this place has made it a great place to live, work, and play.

Early bird registration is set at $200, saving you $50 on registration until August 16. Check out the schedule at a glance and information about field sessions and lodging on our conference website. Don’t forget to select your field sessions and add a ticket to our Excellence on Main celebration to your order when you register!

Thank you to our partners:
WOMEN ON THE WATERFRONT: VANESSA CASTLE

Fisheries and Wildlife Technician for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

By Vanessa Chin, Maritime Storytelling Intern

I have been fighting for natural resources as an indigenous person since I was a child and followed in my ancestors’ footsteps, who have also been fighting to protect all of the things in the sea and the rivers for our future generations, to make sure that our resources are secure and sustainably harvested, to make sure that they continue.

—Vanessa Castle

Growing up as a Tribal fisherwoman, Vanessa Castle learned how to catch coho salmon from the Elwha River to help support and feed her family. When a decline in fish population forced her family to transition to saltwater fishing for crab, shrimp, and halibut, Vanessa learned what it meant to harvest sustainably. Years later, this background has provided a natural transition into a career with the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe’s Natural Resources Department.

“Stepping into Natural Resources, I knew that I wanted to continue to try to protect all of those things: the fish, the crab, and anything that we rely on for our cultural aspect, but also to feed us as people and to make sure that those things are available for my children,” said Vanessa.

As a fisheries and wildlife technician, Vanessa’s time is split between two important projects. Two days a week she works on the Olympic Cougar Project, tracking the big cats that live on the north Olympic Peninsula to learn more about their migration patterns, genetic diversity, and predation rate on species culturally significant to the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, such as deer and elk.

The rest of the week, Vanessa focuses on the fisheries side of her job, collecting data about the fish and animals found in the Elwha and neighboring watersheds. Starting in 2011, two dams were removed from the Elwha River, restoring access to more than 70 miles of mainstem and tributary habitat to salmon and other native fish species. During spawning season, the team looks at the outmigration of baby coho, Chinook, and steelhead salmon to estimate how many fish will swim out to sea. Since the dam removals, about 800 acres of land that were previously flooded are seeing the return of plant and animal species, which Vanessa and her team study with the help of camera grids. Once a month, they beach seine at the mouth of the Elwha River to look at the population of fish in the estuary, which has also changed a lot since dam removal.

For Vanessa, her greatest joy is seeing these changes and the impact that river restoration has had on the local wildlife: “By far, the most exciting and emotional moment for me was seeing Chinook above both previous dam sites and seeing that the salmon are returning to a place that they haven’t been in more than 100 years.”

As a Lower Elwha Klallam Tribal member, Vanessa continually tries to weave her scientific and indigenous perspectives to educate others about the natural resources field and the traditional ecological knowledge that has been passed down through countless generations. To continue this knowledge, she focuses on youth education in the hope of inspiring the next generation to fight for these resources.

Want to join Vanessa in the field? The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe’s Natural Resources Department is always looking for citizen scientists. For volunteer opportunities, please email Chelsea Behymer at Chelsea.Behymer@elwha.org.

—Vanessa Castle

The Maritime Storytelling Internship for the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area is made possible by funding from the Washington State Historical Society’s Diversity in Local History Grant Program.
We are proudly announcing the 2022 Washington Trust Annual Report, which details our activities across the past year—including public policy successes, grassroots advocacy efforts, Washington Main Street news, Most Endangered Places updates, Maritime Washington National Heritage Area milestones, and more.

Below are highlights from the report. We hope that you will take a moment to review the full document online at preservewa.org/2022-annual-report. If you like what you see and want to support our work, consider making a donation to the Washington Trust. Not only is your donation fully tax deductible, it makes a huge difference in helping us save the places that matter!

**Valerie Sivinski Fund**
- $20,000 awarded in 2022
- $221,800 in grants and pro bono services awarded to 175 projects since 1992

**Maritime Washington National Heritage Area**
- Successful approval of the Maritime Washington Management Plan, which included:
  - Directional guidance for the new Maritime Washington National Heritage Area
  - Plans for interpretation, marketing, business structures, and implementation of this new program
  - Inventory of 528 resources related to Washington’s maritime heritage, including 100 key sites
  - 42 letters of support from elected officials, Tribes, agencies, organizations, and other partners
  - Input from more than 580 individuals and 1,500+ volunteer hours

**State Grant Programs**
- $3,247,355 total in 59 grants administered
- 8 Historic Cemetery Grants
- 13 Heritage Barn Grants
- 35 Historic County Courthouse Grants
- 3 Historic Theater Grants

**Geographic Distribution of Statewide Grant Programs**

**Most Endangered Places**
- 4 sites saved, 2 sites added, and 20 ongoing campaigns

**Designated Main Street Communities**
- 36 communities supported
- 478 businesses established or expanded
- 1,358 jobs created
- $100,970,182 in downtown investment
- 57,898 volunteer hours organized (valued at $1,734,045)

**Washington State Main Street Program**
- 458 businesses established or expanded
- 1,358 jobs created
- $100,970,182 in downtown investment
- 57,898 volunteer hours organized (valued at $1,734,045)
By Cathy Wickwire, Operations Manager

Although the upturned eave of the roof provided a clue about the building’s Asian-inspired design, it wasn’t enough to give readers of our Winter 2023 issue of This Place the confidence to send in a guess. We are happy to reveal the Chong Wa Benevolent Association as the featured location as well as one of the venues for our 2023 Vintage Washington fundraising event on May 20. The substantial red brick building has anchored the northeast corner of 7th Avenue South and South Weller Street in Seattle’s Chinatown-International District since its completion in 1930, several decades after the founding of the association.

Similar to other organizations in cities around the United States, the association sought to meet the needs of Chinese immigrants with housing, language, loans, and employment assistance. It was also a political interest organization that was involved in dispute mediation and resolution for issues that arose among competing interests in the district. Benevolent associations were also active in the interpretation and representation of the passage of local laws and involved in legal challenges to discriminatory federal immigration policies (1882-1943) that affected all Chinese Americans.

Initially housed in rented spaces, the Chong Wa Benevolent Association raised funds from local property owners, shopkeepers, and residents to build a permanent home that included a Chinese language school on the first floor and an auditorium with a stage on the second floor. The association turned to architect Wing Sam Chinn to design their new home, although the architect of record for the building was Max A. Van House because Chinn was not licensed at the time of design. Chinn is notable for being the first Asian-American student to graduate with a degree in architecture from the University of Washington and the first Asian American licensed to practice architecture in the State of Washington. In this commission, Chinn sought to combine eastern and western design traditions and created a structure with forms and decorative features from both cultures. Over the past century of its existence, the building has served as a center for Chinese language classes and cultural activities, and the association continues to promote Chinese culture and general welfare within the community.
THANKS TO YOU

Only through membership contributions and donations is the Washington Trust able to accomplish our mission to help preserve Washington’s historic places through advocacy, education, collaboration, and stewardship. The Board of Directors and staff sincerely thank those who contributed this past quarter:

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Your individual membership supports our work in advocating for Washington’s historic and cultural places, revitalizing historic downtowns through the Washington State Main Street Program, and offering educational and experiential programs that inform and inspire new audiences to join the preservation movement.

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Main Street Week is a celebration of the more than 70 towns and cities in the Washington State Main Street Program network. Through their efforts to create welcoming public spaces and preserve historic character, bolster small businesses, and bring people together downtown, these Main Street organizations truly embody the heart and spirit of their communities.

Visit preservewa.org/main-street-week-2023 to learn how you can celebrate Main Street Week with us—both virtually and locally in Main Street Communities and Affiliates across the state!