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Grants Awarded to Preservation Projects Across Washington

Washington Trust for Historic Preservation Announces 2024 Valerie Sivinski Fund Grant Awards

SEATTLE - Each year the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation provides grants through the Valerie Sivinski Fund to organizations and community groups engaged in historic preservation across the state. Founded in 1976, the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation is a nonprofit organization with a mission to promote sustainable and economically viable communities through historic preservation. The Valerie Sivinski Fund grant program embodies the mission of the Washington Trust by supporting preservation projects where they really happen: at the local level.

Named in memory of Valerie Sivinski, a beloved former board member of the Washington Trust who served as president in the early 1990s, the Fund was established in 1997 with the first grants awarded in 1998. Since its establishment, the Fund has awarded more than \$230,000 in cash grants and building assessment services to nearly 200 projects across the state to local organizations and historic preservation advocates.

Recipients of the 2024 Valerie Sivinski Fund grant awards were publicly announced on December 12, 2023, at the Washington Trust's annual Sivinski Holiday Benefit, held at the Stimson-Green Mansion, their landmark headquarters. All proceeds from the benefit go to support the grant program. The 2024 grants were awarded to the following 10 organizations in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$3,000, with a total of \$20,000 awarded:

- **Fox Island Historical Society:** In support of research and development of public signage about Native American internment on Fox Island. The Fox Island Museum is embarking upon a long-term project to provide a series of permanent, weather-proof educational markers along the perimeter of the museum parking lot. These markers will be available whether the Museum is open or not and will provide visitors with important points of Fox Island's history and culture.

- **Ritzville Downtown Development Association:** In support of replacing the motor that operates the stage curtain at the historic Ritz Theater, protecting the movie screen and allowing the stage to be used for live events and presentations. The Ritz Theater has been used almost continuously as a movie theater since its construction in 1937. The original 1937 movie curtain was removed in 2020, and a new curtain was installed in 2023.
- **E.B. Dunn Historic Garden Trust:** In support of hosting author and historian David Buerge for a series of lectures on area indigenous histories, in advance of developing a Duwamish interpretive trail. As the only private Olmsted estate in Washington open to the public, visitors to Dunn Gardens in Seattle have the unique opportunity to witness the evolution of garden design in the Pacific Northwest. The lectures are a component of the organization's broader initiative to focus on pre-Olmsted (1915) history.
- **Mason County Historical Society:** In support of their restoration of original exterior elements on their headquarters, the historic Shelton Public Library and Town Hall building. The building was built in 1914 and since 1990 has been home to the Mason County Historical Museum, which shares the history of the region with visitors.
- **Bayside Housing & Services:** In support of their project to repaint the exterior of the historic Starrett House, which will be used for workforce housing. The lavishly appointed Starrett House was built in 1889 in the Gothic and stick architectural style. The choice of colors for repainting will be guided by the Port Townsend National Landmark Historic District Approved Color Palette.
- **Northport Historical Society:** In support of building upgrades to the Northport Welcome Center, built in 1901 as the Croft Boarding House. Originally built as a family home when Northport was a booming smelter town, this is one of the few structures in Northport remaining from this time. Since 2017, the property has been undergoing restoration and conversion into a museum and welcome center for the Northport Historical Society.
- **Schooner Martha Foundation:** In support of assessing and planning for restoration of the historic Schooner *Martha's* cabin top and house. Since 1997, *Martha* has been used for youth and adult sail training. The cabin and top house add to the structural integrity of the vessel and will ensure that *Martha* can continue to be used in the future.
- **South Pierce County Historical Society:** In support of their work to research and document the historic Eatonville Tofu House. Erected by the Eatonville Lumber Company sometime between 1910 and 1915, the building may be the last existing domestic building in western Washington used by members of the Japanese-American community that worked in the area during the steam logging era.
- **City of Wenatchee:** In support of a proposed historic context study surveying the city's Mid-Century Modern architectural assets. The contextual background and surveys derived from this study will be used by the city to identify areas or properties that could potentially become a new historic district.

- **South Whidbey Historical Society:** In support of their development of a long-term plan to preserve the historic Langley Road Log Cabin. The cabin on South Whidbey Island in unincorporated Island County reveals new early logging history involving the founder of Langley as well as the histories of the Coast Salish Snohomish Tribe on South Whidbey.

To see or download images of the award-winning projects, please visit the Washington Trust's website: <http://preservewa.org/sivinski>

About the Washington Trust:

The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation is a statewide, tax exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1976 to safeguard Washington's historic places through advocacy, education, collaboration, and stewardship. For additional information regarding the 2023 grant recipients or for information on contributing to the Valerie Sivinski Fund visit www.preservewa.org or call 206-624-9449.

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