

YOUTH HERITAGE PROJECT



EBEY'S LANDING NATIONAL HISTORICAL RESERVE 2024 FINAL REPORT



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PRESERVATION



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A huge thanks to our program partners for their significant financial and programmatic support for this year's Youth Heritage Project!

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EBEY'S LANDING NATIONAL HISTORICAL RESERVE

This year, the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation held our 11th annual Youth Heritage Project (YHP) in Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve on Whidbey Island. YHP is an immersive overnight summer program for high school students, focused on the history, culture, and nature of Washington's special places. This program is a central piece of the Washington Trust's work to engage younger and more diverse audiences in the important work of historic preservation.

The location and topics for YHP change each year, allowing students to explore new areas of our state and address real-world, place-specific issues. In past years, YHP has traveled to some of the state's most vibrant and historic communities, including:

- Hanford and the Tri-Cities (2023)
- Port Townsend (2022)
- Olympic National Park (2019)
- North Cascades National Park (2018)
- Tacoma and Gig Harbor (2017)
- Mount Rainier National Park (2016)
- Fort Vancouver National Historic Site (2015)
- Chinatown-International District in Seattle (2014)
- Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve on Whidbey Island (2013)
- Yakima Valley (2012)

This year, students had the opportunity to explore Ebey's Reserve, the nation's first national historical reserve. Students learned about the various peoples who have lived, worked in, and shaped the area—from early Tribes whose management practices resulted in prairies, to European settlers who established communities like Coupeville, to the U.S. military who built fortifications such as Fort Casey. Throughout Ebey's Reserve, we saw various ways that climate change is impacting these landscapes, buildings, and features.



PROGRAM

The Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve was established in 1978 to preserve a rural community and its unbroken historical record of exploration and settlement in Puget Sound. Since then, Ebey's Reserve has been co-stewarded by the Town of Coupeville, Island County, Washington State Parks, and the National Park Service. During YHP, students explored sites within the Ebey's Reserve area and met with many partners who are all, in their own ways, navigating the balance of preserving history while managing threats from a changing climate.



TUESDAY

On the first day of YHP, students and teacher/mentors gathered at historic Camp Casey to check in and get acquainted with each other. From there, we went to the Ebey's Reserve offices for an orientation to the program and area, led by State Representative Dave Paul. The students walked the Prairie Overlook Trail to see the Jacob and Sarah Ebey House and Ebey Blockhouse and learned about the types of landscapes found in the reserve. National Park Service historian Chris Johnson presented to the group about NPS' four-part climate change response strategy.

Later, students visited the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, where they learned how to identify and remove invasive species in lands protected under conservation easement. They also visited the Pearson-Engle Farm,

visiting several historic buildings on the site including a barn, water tower, farmhouse, and agricultural outbuildings and learning about buildings' character-defining features, materials and craftsmanship, and tolerance for adaptive reuse. Renowned architectural conservationist Harrison Goodall showed students the ongoing hands-on preservation work that he and a team of volunteers have undertaken at the farm.



WEDNESDAY

The next morning, the students toured historic Fort Casey and the Admiralty Head Lighthouse, participating in a photographic scavenger hunt. Students then took to the water in two groups—half boarding the historic Schooner Suva at the Coupeville Wharf, half pairing off into tandem kayaks departing from the Captain Whidbey Inn dock. Both groups explored Penn Cove, witnessing the relationship between Coupeville and the waterfront and trying



their hands at manning watercraft. Back on shore, they met owners of the local business Beaver Tales Coffee, Michelle Calvin (Ah Dah Néik - Adopted Tlingit) and Tony Cladoosby (Spah Kia Kud - Swinomish Tribal Member)—now known as Mr. and Mrs. Cladusbid (ʔíłdusbíʔ). Michelle and Tony shared their experience operating the first Indigenous-owned business in Coupeville. Later in the afternoon, students toured the Island County Historical Museum, Haller House, Kingfisher Bookstore, and Coupeville Wharf, seeing firsthand how several were impacted or threatened by king tides and climate change.



THURSDAY

On Thursday, the students visited the Pacific Rim Institute, where they helped collect camas seeds for prairie restoration and Tribal replanting programs. After lunch, they broke out into four project groups to re-visit the sites to which they would be applying the NPS' climate change response strategy in their Town Hall presentations. Mary Hogan of the Port of Coupeville walked students through the proposed plan to raise the Coupeville Wharf building to avoid further damage from king tides. Lynn Hyde



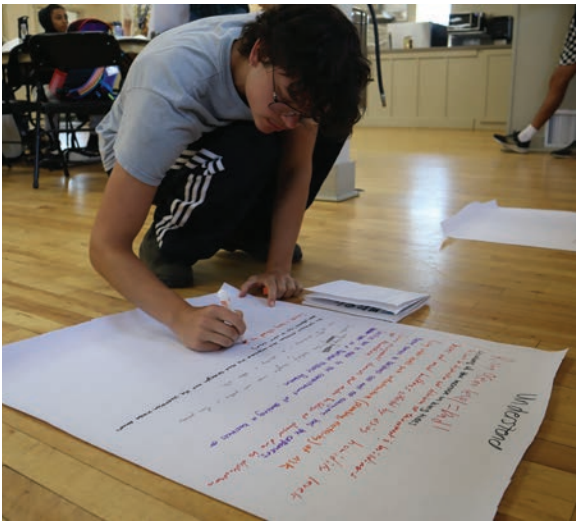
of Historic Whidbey toured a group through downtown Coupeville to show how buildings are being lost to shoreline erosion. Jen Gray of Washington State Parks helped a group of students focus on two searchlights at Fort Casey threatened by shoreline erosion. Lastly, a group revisited lands held under easement by the Whidbey Camano Land Trust to learn about the benefits of increasing absorbable land, the challenges of sustaining native plants, and prairie maintenance through controlled burns.



FRIDAY

On the final day of YHP, students finished their presentations. Each group spent time giving peer reviews of each other's presentations, and teacher/mentors coached students on public speaking. All gathered at Camp Casey's Auditorium for the Town Hall event, and the students took the stage for an audience of their peers, families, community members, Washington Trust board members, and organizational partners. We kicked off with words of encouragement from Hayden Jenkins, Northwest Washington Director

for U.S. Senator Patty Murray. Then YHP participants presented their final projects to an expert panel: State Historic Preservation Officer Dr. Allyson Brooks, Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve Preservation Coordinator Josh Pitts, and Central Whidbey State Parks Area Manager John Whittet. The panel had encouraging responses to the students' proposals and their thoughtful, creative approaches to understanding climate change and trying to manage its impacts on historic resources.





STUDENT PROJECTS

COUPEVILLE WHARF

Students in this group looked at the tidal impacts to the Wharf and its structure, noting condition issues in addition to the vulnerability of its location. They developed a creative solution inspired by mitigation efforts made by a local small business, the Kingfisher Bookstore, and applied it to the larger scale of the Wharf.



Students: Diego, Lance, Rohan, Laine, Angela, Sara, Gabby, Cleome

Teacher/Mentors: Tanner Dotzauer, Wenatchee High School; Maddie Levesque, Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation



FORT CASEY SEARCHLIGHT

Students in this group took a closer look at two historic searchlights built on the coastal bluff surrounding the fort that are threatened by erosion and harsh weather conditions. They made a measured decision to sacrifice one searchlight at higher risk in order to consolidate resources into preserving the second searchlight.



Students: Evangeline, Luna, Finn, John, Vianey, Saharsh, Gus, Cayden
Teacher/Mentors: Emily Jacobs, Washington State Parks; Anita Simon, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.



ADMIRALTY INLET

Students in this group took a closer look at the impacts of invasive species, threats to pollinators, and misunderstandings about prairie maintenance. They developed a humorous and effective example video for the communication phase of NPS' climate change response strategy that had the entire audience engaged.

Students: Marin, Saul, Serenity, Camden, Patricia, Ansel, Michi, Sophia

Teacher/Mentors: Chris Johnson, National Park Service; Carmen Kardokus, Olympia School District



DOWNTOWN COUPEVILLE

Students in this group visited local small businesses along Front Street in downtown Coupeville and interviewed firsthand local business and property owners to hear how they are engaging with issues of flooding and erosion.

Students: Tristan, Daniel, Eleanor, Angelo, Finch, Sin'cere, Leslie, Lillie, Daya

Teacher/Mentors: Moira Nadal, Washington Trust for Historic Preservation; Renee Phelps, West Seattle High School



“ The staff were all very wonderful, worked well with us, and maintained a good learning and supportive environment.
—**Finch**, student



“ I learned how much work is needed to preserve historical sites and places.
—**Gus**, student



“ It influences my classroom culture because it reminds me how flexible and motivated students can be given the right environment.
—**Tanner Dotzauer**, teacher/mentor



“ Watching and listening to students from all over the state and from very different schooling experiences connect and share was really powerful.

—**Renee Phelps**, teacher/mentor



“ [The main reason I wanted to come to YHP was] to learn what it looks like to work in history and see if it's something I want to pursue.

—**Eleanor**, student



“ My favorite part about YHP was how educational it was. I learned a lot about conservation and the history of Whidbey Island that I was previously unaware of.

—**Michi**, student



“ I was really impressed with the creativity of the program and the way the program engaged the students and challenged their thinking.

—**Anita Simon**, teacher/mentor

ROSTER

STUDENTS

Aberdeen
Serenity Allread

Bellevue
Saharsh Boddam
Sophia Hu
Luna Lopez

Beverly
Angela Santiago
Diego Santiago

Coupeville
Marin Winger

Covington
Sin'Cere Cowles

Eastsound
Finn Ontjes
Angelo Vaccarella

East Wenatchee
Vianey Valdovinos

Gig Harbor
Maya Nagy

Kennewick
Patricia Avis

Kent
Gabriela Arias

Lynnwood
John Gill

Mattawa
Dayanara Cano Salas
Saul Castro
Leslie Gonzalez

Mercer Island
Clara Moore

Oak Harbor
Michi Rosas

Olympia
Lance Coppo
Gusten Kardokus
Laine Magaro

Richland
Rohan Nune

Seattle
Ena Laughlin
Cleome Parker

Tacoma
Camden Hoxit
Eleanor Smith

Tumwater
Cayden Alexander

Vancouver
Daniel Chen
Tristan Huang
Lillie Sawyer

West Richland
Sara Hamby

Yakima
Ansel Case

Chapel Hill, NC
Finch Kortus



TEACHERS/MENTORS

- Tanner Dotzauer**, Wenatchee High School
- Emily Jacobs**, Washington State Parks
- Chris Johnson**, National Park Service
- Carmen Kardokus**, Olympia School District
- Maddie Levesque**, Department of
Archaeology and Historic Preservation
- Moira Nadal**, Washington Trust for Historic
Preservation
- Renee Phelps**, West Seattle High School
- Anita Simon**, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates,
Inc.



PRESENTERS

- Dalva Church**, Island County Historical
Museum
- Michelle and Tony Cladusbid**, Beaver Tales
Coffee
- Harrison Goodall**, independent architectural
conservator
- Jen Gray**, Washington State Parks
- Jen Hajny**, Whidbey Camano Land Trust
- Mary Hogan**, Port of Coupeville
- Lynn Hyde**, Historic Whidbey
- Mosa Neis**, Pacific Rim Institute
- Meg and Brad Olson**, Kingfisher Bookstore
- Josh Pitts**, Ebey's Landing National Historical
Reserve
- John Whittet**, Washington State Parks



TOWN HALL PANELISTS

- Dr. Allyson Brooks**, State Historic
Preservation Officer, Director of the
Department of Archaeology and Historic
Preservation
- Josh Pitts**, Preservation Coordinator, Ebey's
Landing National Historical Reserve
- John Whittet**, Area Manager for Central
Whidbey State Parks, Washington State
Parks



THANK YOU

Each year, we are fortunate to work with incredible national, statewide, and local partners to plan and host engaging, place-based learning experiences for YHP participants. This year, we were honored to work with a fantastic group of partners to bring 35 students to Ebey's Reserve for a truly unique and memorable week—free of cost to all participants.

The Washington Trust would first like to thank our funders, without whom YHP would not be possible: Enderis Company, Lummi Nation, Masonry Institute of Washington, Tulalip Tribes, National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Washington, Bassetti Architects, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Hammer & Hand Construction, Hunters Capital, Port Gamble S'klallam Tribe, and Studio TJP.

We would like to extend an extra special thank you to the National Park Service and Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation for their ongoing support of YHP. Both agencies have served as our anchor

partners and funders since establishing the Youth Heritage Project in 2012, allowing hundreds of students to attend the program free of cost.

In addition to our funding partners, we extend our gratitude to the partners who contributed so much of their time and expertise to our YHP programming this year: Washington State Parks, Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, National Park Service, Marie Shimada, Historic Whidbey, Pacific Rim Institute, Whidbey Camano Land Trust, Island County Historical Museum, Port of Coupeville, Meg Olson, Camp Casey, and Michelle and Tony Cladusbid. We would also like to thank the Town of Coupeville for their hospitality throughout the week. We thank our distinguished Town Hall panelists, who provided encouragement and feedback on student presentations.

Last but not least, we thank our fantastic teacher/mentors, who guided students through the week and provided invaluable support in making this year's YHP a success.



YHP 2025

We're excited to announce that next year's YHP—our 12th annual program—will take place in the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area! Be sure to check our website for updates this fall and sign up for our YHP email list:

preservewa.org/yhp



Youth Heritage Project
is a program of the



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preservewa.org/yhp