

THIS PLACE

**The Beauty of the Front Door:
New Efforts to Open the
Stimson-Green Mansion to
the Public**

**Gig Harbor: A Maritime City
for the Past and the Future**

**Maritime Washington
National Heritage Area:
Filipinos and Washington's
Waterfront**

YAKIMA VALLEY TROLLEYS ADDED TO WASHINGTON'S MOST ENDANGERED PLACES LIST

THIS PLACE

Summer 2025

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Cover: A conductor leans out of Yakima Valley Trolleys Streetcar 1976 taking passengers down the streets of Yakima. Photo courtesy of Kenneth Johnsen.

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FOR HISTORIC
PRESERVATION

The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation is a nonprofit organization that works to advocate for and preserve Washington State's historic and cultural places.

Here are just a few of the programs we operate:



WASHINGTON STATE
MAIN STREET
PROGRAM



MARITIME
WASHINGTON
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

YOUTH
HERITAGE
PROJECT



Washington's **MOST
ENDANGERED
PLACES**

**THIS
PLACE**
MAGAZINE

VALERIE
SIVINSKI
FUND

GET INVOLVED

MONTHLY, AUGUST-DECEMBER 2025

Historic Talks in Historic Buildings Seattle

We are thrilled to announce a new lecture series, "Historic Talks in Historic Buildings," in partnership with Historic Seattle. The series brings public programs into historic places across Seattle—places rich with history and meaning—while highlighting the voices and scholarship shaping our understanding of the past. Selected from the 2024-2025 Humanities Washington Speakers Bureau, the speakers showcase the range of topics, questions, and discussions at the heart of historic preservation in Washington State.

preservewa.org/historic-talks

WEEKLY, AUGUST- NOVEMBER 2025

Thursdays at the Stimson-Green Mansion Seattle

We're excited to debut a series of new events at the historic Stimson-Green Mansion this summer! Come experience this stunning historic setting and meet new friends at one of our Thursday evening events, which include pop-up trivia, secret concerts, silent reading nights, and more. Tickets start at just \$10.

preservewa.org/sgm-events

OCTOBER 8-10, 2025

PLACES Conference Gig Harbor

Registration for PLACES 2025 is now open! As we bring PLACES to Gig Harbor for the first time ever in collaboration with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, the Gig Harbor Downtown Waterfront Alliance, and the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area, attendees at this fall's conference can look forward to engaging panels and speakers, mobile tours across Gig Harbor and beyond, our beloved Excellence on Main ceremony, and much more!

At this unique conference focused on the continued care of place through historic preservation, placemaking, and economic vitality, we'll dive deep into creative ideas, connect with likeminded place professionals from around the state, and inspire each other with thoughtful questions and innovative solutions.

preservewa.org/places

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

ADVOCACY MATTERS

By Chris Moore, Executive Director

Back in March, Congress passed a Continuing Resolution to fund the federal government through September 2025. Continuing Resolutions are a tool the federal government uses when they can't agree on a new budget (which, sadly, happens all too frequently). When a Continuing Resolution is put in place for an entire fiscal year, it essentially means that spending levels to operate the government (and all its programs) from the previous fiscal year are simply shifted to the next fiscal year. In other words, it is status quo from a spending standpoint.

What was different this time around, however, was that despite Congress appropriating funds for a variety of programs for federal fiscal year 2025, the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) failed to provide guidance to agencies related to spending for a variety of Congressionally authorized programs, many of which are in statute. In short, OMB actively withheld funds intended to support important programmatic work. In our world of historic preservation, this resulted in a tremendous amount of uncertainty for two critical historic preservation programs: the Historic Preservation Fund and the Heritage Partnership Program. The former funds several important competitive grant programs but more importantly provides support for our State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices. The latter provides support for 62 National Heritage

Areas that collectively work to preserve and share the stories and resources significant to the development of our nation.

We are pleased to announce that in early July, OMB released Congressionally appropriated funds



Above: The Office of Management & Budget in Washington, D.C., is housed in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, a historic building constructed in 1871. Photo courtesy of Smith Group.

Below: The United States Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. Photo courtesy of Clio.



Right: The Snoqualmie Tribe is one of the many Tribes in Washington State whose Tribal Historic Preservation Office will now receive its allotted federal funding. Photo courtesy of the Snoqualmie Valley Record.

Below: The renovation of the Hotel Maison in Yakima was achieved using Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives, administered by the state Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation. Photo courtesy of JEM Development.

Bottom right: With federal funding released for 2025, we are thrilled to continue our management of the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area. Photo courtesy of Mark Saran.



to the National Park Service to support preservation activities. With this announcement, State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices will finally receive their share of federal matching funds to support federal preservation activities (several State Historic Preservation Offices had begun staff layoffs due to the delay in receiving federal funds). This work includes review of nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, implementation of the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program, and the important role of reviewing federal projects that impact historic resources, thus balancing resource protection with timely project delivery. Additionally, funds intended to support the National Heritage Area Program have also been released. This means the Washington Trust will be able to continue our operation and management of the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area.

With the release of funds comes a collective sigh of relief. Yet the question remains: what ultimately tipped the scales to push OMB to finally take action? While the answer is multi-pronged, we do know that an outpouring of advocacy played a foundational role in forcing OMB to act. Across the country, grassroots advocates—ordinary individuals who care about the importance of preserving and celebrating places that give insight to our collective histories—reached out to their elected officials, demanding accountability. In turn, members of Congress—Representatives and Senators from both sides of the aisle—contacted OMB and the White House, pushing for action.

Without this groundswell of support, this article would instead be focused on severe cuts to state and Tribal preservation programs, including greatly diminished capacity to manage our wonderful



Maritime Washington National Heritage Area. Instead, we express our gratitude to you, our members and supporters, who participated in outreach efforts. Over the last few months, we've distributed many advocacy alerts, calling on you to reach out and engage with your members of Congress. You did. And it worked. Thank you.

We take time to enjoy this victory, but we also acknowledge our advocacy work is never finished. While federal fiscal year 2025 funds to support the Historic Preservation Fund, State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, and National Heritage Areas have been released, the Administration's budget proposal for fiscal year 2026 seeks to eliminate funding for these critical programs altogether. As Congress turns its attention to next year's budget, our collective advocacy will again be paramount. Which means you will again be hearing from us, imploring you to reach out to elected officials, nurture and sustain those relationships, and convey the important role that historic preservation plays in our communities as a tool for economic development and for our shared history. Again, thank you. Advocacy matters. 🇺🇸



YAKIMA VALLEY TROLLEYS ADDED TO WASHINGTON’S MOST ENDANGERED PLACES LIST

By Moira Nadal, Preservation Programs Director

If you’re a long-time supporter of the Washington Trust’s advocacy efforts, the Yakima Valley Trolleys might sound familiar. The nation’s last remaining interurban electric railroad of its kind has connected downtown Yakima to downtown Selah since the turn of the 20th century.

Once a ubiquitous form of transportation in America, interurban railroads bridged the gap between the horse and buggy days and the rise of the automobile. The Yakima Valley Trolleys (YVT) began as a streetcar system in Yakima until purchased in

1909 by a subsidiary of Union Pacific Railroad, which operated them until 1985. The Yakima Valley Trolleys were then donated to the City of Yakima and became the museum and interurban lines that survive to this day—including the original shop facilities, streetcars and electric freight locomotives, power-generating equipment, and overhead wire and track systems.

Only 21 of the original 48 miles of track were donated, which resulted in sections of the rail lines eventually being removed outside of the areas controlled by the City of Yakima. This prompted the Washington Trust to sound the alarm in 1989, listing the YVT on our “10 Most Wanted” list, a precursor to our Most Endangered Places list. When Union Pacific subsequently put up the complex of buildings housing the carbarn, powerhouse, and substation—all vital in running the trolleys—for sale in 1992, supporters of the trolleys moved to have it included as one of the state’s Most Endangered Places in the inaugural year of that list. After successfully raising funds to acquire the complex, the Yakima Interurban Lines Association nonprofit and later the Yakima Valley Trolleys group have continued regularly running the trolleys for charters and public excursions. Riding the trolley has been a feature of local life—one that has been enjoyed by generations of Yakima residents and visitors.

The trolleys and complex were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 and are currently under consideration for designation as a National Historic Landmark (NHL). There are currently only 24 NHLs in Washington State, 22 of which are west of the Cascade Mountains. If designated, the Yakima Valley Trolleys complex would be the first new NHL in Washington State since 2008.

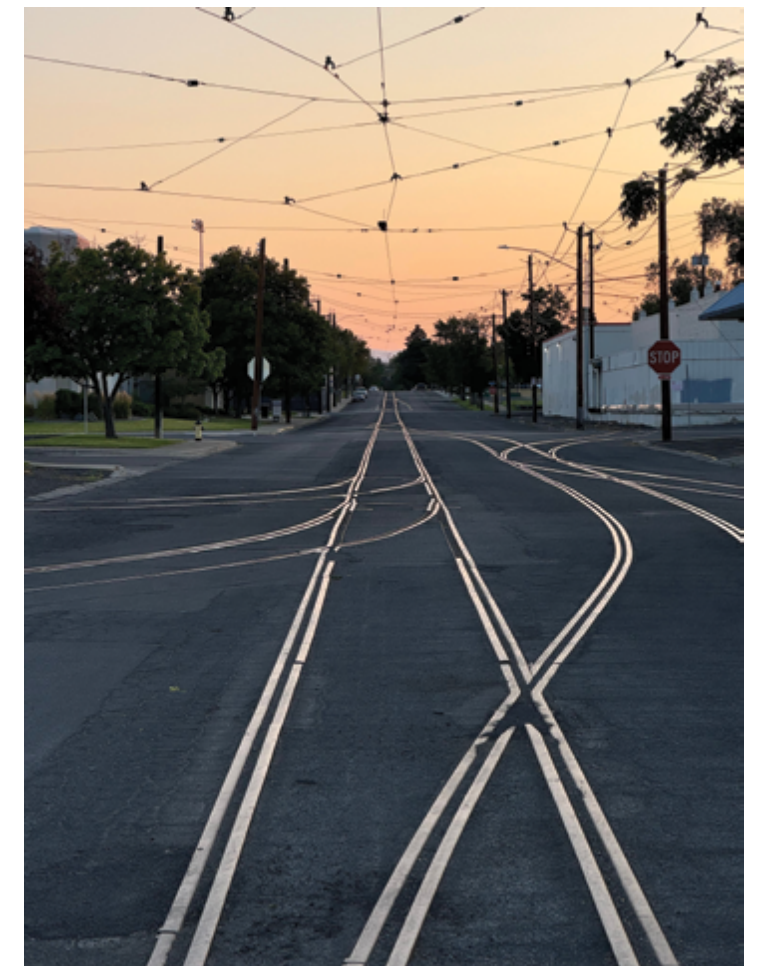
In 2023, the Yakima City Council unanimously adopted a plan to rebuild the downtown section of 6th Avenue, which includes a section of the trolley tracks. Designs for the project include options to retain the rail lines and the overhead electrical system, but the council is also considering an option that would remove a portion of the tracks and overhead



lines—which has been estimated at half of the total cost. If the tracks are removed, trolley cars would no longer be able to operate between Yakima and Selah, and the Yakima Valley Trolley line would cease to be truly “interurban” in nature. Removal of the tracks could also impact the line’s eligibility for designation as a National Historic Landmark, given that part of the Yakima Valley Trolleys’ significance is due to the working line’s high degree of operational integrity.

With the threat of the tracks in downtown Yakima being demolished, the Yakima Valley Trolleys organization reached out to the Washington Trust with a request to be re-listed as one of the state’s Most Endangered Places, which was approved and announced publicly earlier this year. Alongside a longstanding group of local supporters, many of whom were involved in the previous advocacy period in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Washington Trust has been working hard behind the scenes and publicly to advocate for the trolleys. We have written letters of support, issued a press release to regional media, advertised the Most Endangered listing via our website and social media channels, participated in a local news report on KIMA TV, and supported the live recording of the “Cascade of History” radio show from the trolley powerhouse. Thanks to the grassroots organizing of volunteers and long-term fans of the trolleys, there has been a strong appetite for more information and for opportunities to support the preservation of this last-of-its-kind resource.

Public support for retaining and preserving the trolley tracks is irrefutable: a city-administered survey found that the majority of respondents favored design plans to preserve the rail lines. On



Top: An overhead view of the powerhouse building, part of the Yakima Valley Trolleys complex of historic buildings. Photo courtesy of Gregory Johnsen.

Above: Yakima Valley Trolley tracks in downtown Yakima. Photo courtesy of Gregory Johnsen.

Above: Yakima Valley Trolleys Streetcar 1976 leaving the countryside from scenic Selah Gap, in the final approach to downtown Selah. Photo courtesy of Kenneth Johnsen.

June 17, when a City Council meeting assembled to discuss the design plans, there were so many supporters in attendance advocating for the trolleys that the hearing room was filled and rows of overflow seating were set up in the City Hall lobby. Many residents testified to the pride and sense of place that the trolleys give them, recounting emotional stories of family trips on the trolleys across generations. I myself testified to the rarity and importance of designation as a National Historic Landmark, emphasizing that the Yakima Valley Trolleys is well into the multi-year process but likely to be found ineligible if no longer interurban.

The Yakima City Council considered the many testimonies offered during the meeting. Ultimately, City Council elected to keep the full rail renovation project on a list of proposed citywide projects, meaning that the door has been left open—leaving open the possibility that the trolley complex can be listed as a National Historic Landmark. This would open avenues for funding that the trolleys are not currently eligible for, in addition to increased heritage tourism to the City of Yakima.

We hope you will join us in supporting the Yakima Valley Trolleys by following our ongoing advocacy, making a donation to YVT or sharing their story, and hopefully even by visiting the trolley museum and going for a ride! 🚊



Above: Trolley lovers of all ages show their support. Photo courtesy of Yakima Valley Trolleys.

Below: Brandishing trolley support signs in advance of the City Council meeting. Photo courtesy of Moira Nadal.



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AMERICA'S 250TH IN WASHINGTON STATE

By Jay Baersten, Director of Heritage Outreach,
Washington State Historical Society

The observance of America's 250th in Washington State is led by Washingtonians and focused on lifting up the work of history-focused partner organizations statewide.

The year 2026 will mark 250 years since the founding of the United States as marked by the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. This commemoration is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to come together with a shared purpose in reflecting on the past while working together to build stronger, more connected communities in the future.

The Washington State Legislature formed the Semiquincentennial (250) Committee in 2022, which is chaired by the lieutenant governor, managed by the Washington State Historical Society (WSHS), and comprised of state legislators and delegates from a variety of state agencies and commissions. As the designated managing agency, WSHS is taking the lead on public outreach by engaging partners and community groups across the state including local governments, museums, libraries, arts and cultural organizations, tourism organizations, and more.

While Washington State may feel far away from the events of the Revolutionary period, America's 250th is an opportunity to focus attention on the foundational principles of democracy, importance of civic participation, and valuing history as a community priority. In particular, WSHS will be

working to highlight the importance of history as a civic value and to support the strength and sustainability of local history organizations. In many communities across the state—especially in rural areas—the local history museum is often the only provider of community-based cultural programming. By emphasizing the value of local history and the organizations that preserve it, WSHS is using the opportunity of the 250th to further advance our mission: partnering with communities to explore how history connects us all.

WSHS is committed to supporting a statewide commemoration that is inclusive, meaningful, and honest. Our current planned initiatives include:

- **Out of Many, One** — A collaborative exhibition about the American experience through objects, images, and artworks simultaneously



Above: The American flag and Washington State flag flying side by side. Photo courtesy of the Washington State Historical Society.

Left: The Washington State Historical Museum in Tacoma. Photo courtesy of South Sound Talk.

exhibited and interpreted at individual museums across Washington State.

- **Four Key Statewide Commemorative Dates in 2026** — We are encouraging communities to organize a Day of Service (June 14); supporting local Independence Day events (July 4); establishing a new “Washington State Museum Day” (August 8) that will be ongoing annually; and emphasizing the importance of democratic participation through a Day of Civic Engagement (September 17).
- **Programming at the Washington State History Museum** — We will be hosting a lecture series to engage cultural and community organizations in reflecting on the commemorative theme of “We the People” as well as developing a major exhibition examining state and national founding documents through the lens of “An American Experiment.” During the commemorative year, we will also be highlighting—and contrasting America's 250th with—our new permanent exhibition, *This is Native Land*, which is set to open this fall.
- **Resource Kit for Teachers** — Our education team has developed a curated set of primary and secondary resources as well as classroom activities centered around four topics: Pacific Northwest Treaties, the Washington State Constitution, the Revolutionary War, and the Declaration of Independence.
- **Marketing and Promotional Support** — WSHS has developed a Washington-specific logo and is currently working to build out a packet of marketing materials and templates for use statewide. We are also developing an online calendar of events where partners will be able to submit their own activities for statewide promotion.
- **Pacific Northwest History Conference** — To be held in October 2026 in Spokane, the conference will invite historians, educators, students, and community members across the state to engage with historical complexities, especially as we consider the importance of learning and understanding history during America's 250th.
- **Moments that Made US** — We will offer a customizable, print-on-demand exhibition exploring turning points in American history through the ideals outlined in the Declaration of Independence. This will be delivered in a digital format and is designed to be adapted for use in a wide variety of settings such as museums, cultural centers, libraries, community centers, schools, municipal buildings, etc.

As part of the ongoing work of forming “a more perfect union,” we invite all Washington communities—regardless of size, capacity, or location—to join us by participating in America's 250th in a way that is meaningful to them. More information about all our initiatives can be found at America250WA.org. 🇺🇸

The 250 Committee established three commemorative themes which guide the initiatives and activities we are planning. Communities across the state are encouraged to adopt our themes!

We the People

Democracy is an ongoing effort that requires a collective commitment to our shared values of liberty and equality. How can your 250 activities explore democratic principles and support active civic participation in your community?

Power of Place

Our places—natural, built, and cultural—help shape Washington communities and stories. What historic and cultural places that contribute to our shared senses of identity and community can you highlight during the 250th?

Sharing History

Sharing inclusive histories will help us better understand the past and build stronger, more connected communities in the future. How can we use the 250th to support local history organizations and improve history and civics education in our state?



Above: The Washington-specific logo developed by the Washington State Historical Society in honor of America's 250th. Artwork courtesy of the Washington State Historical Society.

Below: The Washington State Historical Museum in Tacoma. Photo courtesy of 365 Things To Do In Scenic Washington State.



The Beauty of the Front Door

NEW EFFORTS TO OPEN THE STIMSON-GREEN MANSION TO THE PUBLIC

By Abby Armato, Public Programs Specialist

If you have ever been to the Stimson-Green Mansion, you know firsthand that the Mansion's front door is a thing of beauty.

Situated on a residential block in Seattle's First Hill neighborhood, stone steps flanked by green shrubs lead up from the sidewalk to a portico of ruddy brick. Shaded beneath this portico, the oak veneer of the front door pinches at the top into a classic Gothic silhouette, mirroring the shape of the Gothic window nestled within. Tasteful metalwork adorns the oak where the doorframe meets the hinges. A weighty metal door handle hangs, waiting for you to open it up and step inside.

We at the Washington Trust are working to more fully open that beautiful door to the public. Increasing private rentals of the Mansion has been one way we have worked to accomplish this goal. Available for all kinds of community purposes, private rentals allow the Mansion to showcase its history and glamor, inviting guests to step back in time and explore the historic architecture of this well-preserved 1901 treasure.

The Mansion has a long history of playing host to gatherings and events. After Historic Seattle purchased the property from the Green family in 1975 and obtained its landmark status, the organization sold the Mansion to a private company in 1980, who opened it up as a private events venue. The Stimson-Green was later purchased by Patsy Collins (granddaughter of the original owners, C.D. and Harriet Stimson), who operated her own private events and catering business there. When Patsy donated the Mansion to the Washington Trust in 2001, we carried on that legacy of opening the Mansion up for private events.

But even with these decades under the Mansion's belt, countless guests have walked in on the day of their event only to exclaim, "I didn't realize this venue was here!" We joke that the Stimson-Green Mansion is the best-kept secret in Seattle, but all joking aside, we don't want to be.

In 2024, leading with our goal to more fully opening the front door, a new part-time role was created to lead outreach efforts, schedule logistics, and build new partnerships to increase visibility and versatility of rentals possible. Since establishing this new role and the partnerships developed along with it, every week is busy with nonprofit meetings, concerts, and film shoots on the weekdays, followed by weddings, corporate events, and murder mystery parties on the weekends. Private events hosted at the Mansion have nearly doubled in the first two



Left: The Stimson-Green Mansion has hosted numerous events over the decades, including many weddings. Photo courtesy of Jerome Tso Photography.

Below left: Peering into the library and dining room from the front entryway. Photo courtesy of Jerome Tso Photography.

Bottom right: Our Thursdays at the Mansion event series will include concerts by local musicians. Photo courtesy of Dryft Productions.



"Historic Talks in Historic Buildings," our upcoming lecture series featured as part of Thursdays at the Mansion, demonstrates the synergy of our recent partnership building and community events efforts. To bring this lecture series to life, we partnered with our friends at Historic Seattle, who are helping us co-organize the series and are co-hosting the events as well, with the lectures split across the Stimson-Green Mansion and Historic Seattle's property at the Good Shepherd Center. Another local institution playing a key role in the lecture series: Humanities Washington, which organizes an annual Speakers Bureau, assembling professors, artists, historians, journalists, and others to share their expertise with audiences across the state. From these professionals, we look forward to welcoming speakers Harriet Baskas, David George Gordon, John Halliday, LaToya Brackett, and Joel Underwood in through our front door.

Yes, the Stimson-Green Mansion's front door is a thing of beauty. But even more beautiful is what lies inside: our history, our mission, and our community. We hope you'll join us at one of these exciting upcoming events to see for yourself. 🏡

quarters of 2025 alone, with more than 2,100 guests walking through our beautiful door.

Another approach we're taking is to increase our connection to our members and neighbors. Once a mansion in a sea of other First Hill mansions, today the Stimson-Green is surrounded by high-rise apartment buildings and senior assisted-care facilities. The building itself sits on a quarter of a city block that our neighbors walk by every day but never come inside. As the Mansion has only been open by appointment or private rental, our neighbors haven't had a regular invitation to step inside—until now.

This summer, the Washington Trust announced our first-ever community events series, Thursdays at the Mansion, inviting our full community—members, partners, and neighbors—to gather in the elegance of these historic rooms and enjoy community programming. Most of these events are geared towards engaging in historic preservation, architecture, and adject fields through fun activities like pop-up trivia and lectures. Others offer a gentler foot in the door of our mission, programs like a silent reading night and a concert series featuring local artists.



Above: The front façade of the Stimson-Green Mansion, facing Minor Avenue, in Seattle. Photo courtesy of Nathan Tain.

Right: The Mansion's beautiful oak front door, beckoning you inside. Photo courtesy of Jerome Tso Photography.



Event Recap

2025 GOLDFINCH GALA

By Kristy Conrad, Development Director

This year, our annual spring fundraiser underwent a big makeover. While we loved the old Vintage Washington name and format, for 2025 we wanted to shake things up a bit. We rebranded the event as the Goldfinch Gala (with the “gala” part of its name hinting at the added fundraising activities on the evening’s agenda), and we expanded the event’s scope from focusing only on our Most Endangered Places advocacy to encompassing all of the Washington Trust’s many programs and initiatives. We also shifted from the seated-dinner format to a more experiential model, inviting our guests to join us for an evening sail across Lake Union in Seattle on board the historic ferry *Hiyu*.

As luck would have it, the finicky spring weather cooperated, with nary a raindrop in sight. The evening began with the *Hiyu* moored on South Lake Union alongside the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI). Guests who opted into the pre-event happy hour were the first to board, sipping champagne, exploring the boat, and hearing about the vessel’s history from Captain Eric. As our guests learned, the *Hiyu* joined the Washington State Ferries system in 1967, originally working the Point Defiance-Tahlequah route. In later years, she served as an inter-island boat traveling between stops in the San Juan Islands, then as a training vessel and back-up

ferry. She was officially retired in 2016 and sold into private ownership. The *Hiyu* now operates as an event venue hosting weddings, concerts, and corporate events on Lake Union.

The rest of our guests then joined the happy hour group on board for the main event, and the *Hiyu* officially set sail. On board, guests enjoyed delicious beer from Lucky Envelope Brewing and hors d’oeuvres from Kaspars Catering while exploring the vessel’s unique spaces—including two specialty bars, the midcentury modern style Salish Room and the Tiki style Pau Hana Lounge. Guests also



Above right: Captain Eric gives a tour and relates some history to our guests.

Right: The historic ferry Hiyu sails across Lake Union in Seattle.

All photos in article courtesy of C.B. Bell.



Above left: Guests enjoy the view as bridges rise for our passage across the lake.

Above right: Miss Goldfinch was on hand to help sell raffle tickets.

Below: Dan and Elaine Say check out the silent auction table.



were given their passport for the evening, which included information on several of the Washington Trust’s programs and invited them to engage in program-themed activities with staff spread across the boat: Maritime Washington staff asked people to identify their favorite maritime sites on a map of the state coastline; Main Street staff explored guests’ definition of belonging in their communities; staff at the Youth Heritage Project table asked people to share their advice for our state’s next generation of place stewards; and our Preservation Programs staff asked people to name the sites they most want to see saved in Washington State.



Naturally, as a fundraiser, there were also plenty of ways for guests to give. Throughout the evening, our exciting raffle—promoted by the likes of Washington’s Miss Goldfinch herself!—offered the opportunity for guests to enter to win two roundtrip tickets anywhere Alaska Airlines flies. At the silent auction, guests vied for the chance to win baskets of local goodies and experiences generously donated by eight of our Main Street organizations: Anacortes, Bellingham, Centralia, Colfax, Roslyn, Stevenson, Wenatchee, and Yakima. The live auction got even more competitive, with such impressive prizes as a stay at the Captain Whidbey Inn and sail on the Schooner *Suva*; a weekend getaway to the historic Tokeland Hotel and dinner at the Wandering Goose; a weekend of wine and culture in Walla Walla, including dinner at Saffron Mediterranean Kitchen and tickets to a performance at Gesa Power House Theatre; an Oregon Coast excursion with gift certificates for local shopping; and box suite and terrace club tickets to a Seattle Mariners game. But at the end of the evening was when our guests really stepped up to donate—contributing nearly \$25,000 to our paddle raise.

We were thrilled at the response to the Goldfinch Gala and could not be more grateful to the many donors, sponsors, partners, and guests who supported and attended the event, helping raise money to support the Washington Trust’s preservation advocacy and programs across the state. Stay tuned for plans for the 2026 Goldfinch Gala next year! With 2026 as our organization’s 50th anniversary year, you know the gala will be bigger and better than ever. 🐦



Above: Port Townsend guests ride the swells on board the Hiyu.

Left: Bidding gets heated during the live auction.

UPCOMING GRANT INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE GRANTEES

By Moira Nadal, Preservation Programs Director

At a time where funding for historic preservation and cultural resources is both scarce and at risk, we are feeling especially celebratory in announcing that several rounds of grant programs will be open for applications this fall!

The Washington State Legislature continued its support for historic preservation in the 2025-2027 state budget, in large part due to the ongoing advocacy of historic preservation supporters across the state. These funds are administered to the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) to provide critical funding for historic resources—barns, county courthouses, cemeteries, and theaters—across Washington. The Washington Trust proudly administers these grant programs on behalf of DAHP.

The Heritage Barn Initiative was created in 2007, launching both the Heritage Barn Register and the Heritage Barn Grant Program, which distributed its first round of funding in 2008. Since then, dozens of barns have been restored and brought back into active use. The 2025-2027 state budget allocated \$900,000 in funding for this grant program. Barn grant applications are scheduled to open this August and close in October.

Established in 2016, the Historic Cemetery Grant Program is intended to benefit the public by preserving outstanding examples of the state's history and heritage, enabling historic cemeteries to serve their communities and honor the military

veterans buried within them. This includes the opportunity for community members to certify local abandoned cemeteries so that they can intervene through applying for grants and doing hands-on repairs. In the 2025-2027 state budget, \$515,000 was allocated for this grant program. Cemetery grant applications are scheduled to open this September and close in November.

The newest DAHP grant program arose in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. After a statewide survey and physical needs assessment profiled the capital needs of 80 of Washington State's extant historic theaters, the Historic Theater Grant Program was established in 2021. Entering its third cycle, this grant program has been allocated \$515,000 in the 2025-2027 state budget. Theater grant applications are scheduled to open this September and close in November.

The Washington Trust's long-standing grant program is the Valerie Sivinski Fund, which annually provides grants of up to \$3,000 to organizations and community groups engaged in historic preservation around our state. Awards are given in the name of the late beloved Washington Trust board member Valerie Sivinski. The grant program embodies the mission of the Washington Trust by supporting historic preservation where it really happens: at the community level. Applications for the Valerie Sivinski Fund are scheduled to open in October and close in November.

Lastly, in 2024, the Washington Trust was awarded a Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant from the National Park Service to support preservation projects in rural communities threatened by sea

level rise and king tides. This Coastal Preservation & Adaptation for Rural Communities (CPARC) Program will provide subgrants for preservation activities on properties listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in rural coastal areas of Washington. Eligible projects must be major building renovations or adaptations (including to the landscape surrounding a building) intended as a response to flood events, using one of the technical strategies recommended by the National Park Service. The total funding available for this one-time grant opportunity is approximately \$650,000. CPARC applications are scheduled to open in November and close by January.



Above: The Skamokawa Valley Barn in Wahkiakum County, recipient of a Heritage Barn Grant.

Right: The Spokane County Courthouse in Spokane, recipient of a Historic County Courthouse Grant.



Top right: The Poor Farm Cemetery in Walla Walla, recipient of a Historic Cemetery Grant.

Left: The lobby of the Ruby Theatre in Chelan, recipient of a Historic Theater Grant.

Below: The Gesa Power House Theatre in Walla Walla, recipient of a 2025 Valerie Sivinski Fund grant.

All photos in article courtesy of Moira Nadal.



GIG HARBOR: A MARITIME CITY FOR THE PAST AND THE FUTURE

By Carrienne Ekberg, Executive Director,
Gig Harbor Waterfront Alliance

Growing up in Gig Harbor, I never imagined that I would one day get to help shape and care for my hometown. My family owned the Shoreline Restaurant on the waterfront for more than 20 years—right where Anthony's now sits—and I spent much of my childhood learning the ins and outs of what it means to own a small business and watching the community grow. Now, as Executive Director of the Gig Harbor Waterfront Alliance, I'm grateful every day for the opportunity to give back to the community that helped raise me.

My husband and I both grew up here, and we're now raising our own kids in this same small town. That personal connection to place informs everything we do at the Alliance. We understand the power of a walkable district, a familiar face, and a vibrant historic waterfront district filled with local businesses. We've seen firsthand what it means

when Main Street thrives—not just economically, but emotionally. It becomes the heartbeat of a community.

Over the past decade, the Gig Harbor Waterfront Alliance has evolved from a small, volunteer-driven organization to a Main Street powerhouse making a real impact. We've championed streetscape improvements, flower basket programs, and public art murals; brought new energy to community traditions; and worked side-by-side with small business owners through thick and thin. From holiday events that draw thousands to Thursday afternoon farmers markets that feel like true community gatherings, we've made it our mission to protect what makes the waterfront district so



Above: The Gig Harbor Farmers Market is a weekly fixture on the waterfront.

Left: Murals welcome visitors to beautiful Gig Harbor.



Left: The Gig Harbor BoatShop offers opportunities to get hands-on with maritime traditions like boatbuilding.

Below: A local walking tour pops in to explore Heritage Distilling downtown.

Bottom left: Local small businesses celebrate the town's maritime identity...

Bottom right: ...While keeping things whimsical.

All photos in article courtesy of the Gig Harbor Waterfront Alliance.

beloved—while also helping it grow into something even better.

In the past few years, we've tackled some ambitious new projects. We launched our first-ever small business grant program—funded through a grassroots fundraiser—to help boost our local entrepreneurs. We've invested in placemaking efforts like historic home signage, roofline lighting projects, and landscaping projects that reflect the unique character of Gig Harbor and keep it beautiful. We've partnered with local artists, youth groups, and schools to infuse the waterfront with a sense of shared pride and creativity.

Collaboration has become one of our strongest tools. Whether we're working with tourism partners, our local chamber, the City of Gig Harbor, or local community organizations like Rotary and Kiwanis, we've embraced the belief that we can do more together. That spirit shows up in everything from joint volunteer efforts to joint clean-up days.

What makes Gig Harbor so special isn't just the view—though the boats in the harbor and the sight of Mount Rainier never get old. It's the people who wave hello when they pass you on the sidewalk. It's



the businesses that remember your name and your favorite coffee order. It's the way this place manages to feel like home, even if you're just visiting for the weekend.

The Gig Harbor Waterfront Alliance is proud to carry forward a legacy shaped by a maritime heritage that still holds strong today, by small business owners and by a community that cares. Our work continues, and our commitment remains: to honor the past while building a vibrant, welcoming waterfront for the future. 🍷



BELONGING BAROMETER PROJECT

By Liz Arias, Main Street Representation & Belonging Research Intern

What makes downtown feel like home? Is it the familiar faces at the farmers’ market? The comfort of seeing your culture reflected in storefronts and events? Or simply knowing you have a seat at the table when decisions are made?

These questions drove the Washington State Main Street Program’s 2025 Belonging Barometer Project, a six-month study measuring how effectively our downtowns increase a sense of belonging for downtown stakeholders. After identifying four communities to participate in the project—Chehalis, Ellensburg, Mount Vernon, and Wenatchee—we partnered with Main Street America to administer an online survey using the Belonging Barometer framework created by the American Immigration Council. We then conducted one-on-one interviews with 16 residents and stakeholders to get their individual perspectives on belonging. Lastly, I worked to synthesize the survey data, interview responses, and additional research into a final report. In analyzing the results, we discovered both

heartening successes and critical opportunities to deepen community connections.

Belonging, as defined by the American Immigration Council, is about the quality of fit between oneself and a group or place—feeling emotionally connected, welcomed, and valued for your authentic self. It means having the freedom to share your opinions, even when they differ, and having the power to influence decisions. When we embrace the belief that everyone has the right to belong, regardless of identity or background, we can build more equitable communities.

Our research confirms that true belonging in public spaces like downtowns is multifaceted. It goes beyond tolerance—it’s about knowing that you’re valued, that your voice matters, and that your needs shape shared spaces. As Mount Vernon resident Jeff McInnis noted, “Good accessibility design doesn’t just remove barriers for some; it creates a better experience for all.” This principle reflects how intentional design can foster belonging for everyone.



Left: Volunteering with a Main Street organization can increase residents’ sense of belonging (and provide learning experiences for the kids too). Photo courtesy of the Colfax Downtown Association.

Below: Yakima’s Chalk Art Festival offers a low-cost option for family-friendly fun. Photo courtesy of the Downtown Association of Yakima.

Bottom left: Small businesses can use signage and decor to bolster inclusivity, as in this restaurant in downtown Anacortes. Photo courtesy of the Downtown Anacortes Alliance.

Belonging is more than a social ideal. It is a fundamental human need with profound implications for physical health, psychological well-being, and societal stability. Research shows that when people feel connected and valued, they experience lower stress, better health, and longer lives—factors that directly impact workforce stability and productivity. Economically, belonging reduces turnover, boosts innovation, and strengthens local businesses. Socially, it builds civic engagement and trust between local residents, creating more cohesive and resilient communities. For downtown revitalization, fostering belonging is a strategic advantage, turning public spaces into thriving hubs where people want to live, work, and invest.

The Main Street Effect

Established Main Street organizations significantly boost a community’s sense of belonging. Our data shows that residents involved with Main Street programs report 10% to 15% higher belonging scores than unaffiliated peers. The reason? Main Streets excel at relationship-building and curating shared experiences, like Mount Vernon’s Tulip Festival or Ellensburg’s Buskers in the Burg,



experiences that evolve into multigenerational traditions, seamlessly integrating newcomers into the fabric of the community.

These events act as the living heartbeat of downtown belonging, fostering a collective identity through festivals, markets, and traditions. Shared memories from these gatherings bond people to place and to each other. In fact, 81% of interviewees cited Main Street-hosted events as their most cherished downtown memories, proving their role as essential anchors of belonging.

Beyond events, Washington’s Main Streets serve as laboratories for innovation, tackling unique community needs with creative solutions, from inclusive public spaces to sensory-friendly programming for neurodiverse families. Their work bridges systemic gaps through adaptable, scalable experiments that strengthen downtowns.

Ultimately, the “Main Street Effect” is the culmination of events, grants, public art, and problem-solving, all working together to create places where people love to gather, connect, and belong.



Left: Chelan’s Dia de los Muertos event celebrates Latinx culture with a parade, dancing, and singing. Photo courtesy of the Historic Downtown Chelan Association.



Gaps in Belonging

While older residents report moderate connections to downtown, youth and parents face significant barriers—limited gathering spaces, restrictive business hours, and few low-cost engagement opportunities. Since young people often lack disposable income, they're frequently overlooked as place stewards. Yet engaging them is critical: they're the future decisionmakers who will choose whether to stay in or leave their hometowns. Investing in youth, especially amid rising mental health challenges, can empower them as active co-creators of inclusive downtowns.

Accessibility remains a persistent challenge. Survey respondents with disabilities reported the lowest belonging scores across all four cities, citing inadequate ADA parking, obstructed pathways, and even social stigma toward those who mask at public events. These physical and social barriers exclude entire communities from downtown life.

Historical segregation compounds these gaps. Washington cities rank among America's most racially divided, perpetuating systems at odds with Main Street's mission of inclusive placemaking. Native respondents, for instance, described ambiguous belonging in downtowns, where the near absence of Tribal cultural centers or Native-owned businesses reinforces exclusion.

Main Streets have always been pillars of community connection. Now it's time to expand that legacy by building downtowns where no one

feels ambiguous about their belonging. Addressing these gaps through intentional design, inclusive programming, and community partnership is how we transform downtowns from places of exclusion to engines of belonging and economic resilience.

Built to Belong

Main Street has always been about people—the connections we build, the spaces we share, and the feeling that downtown is a place where everyone can find belonging. Belonging takes shape through intentional design, through programs that invite participation, and through policies that make room for all voices to be heard. Change happens in the details—a bench placed thoughtfully, a business owner improving accessibility, a festival that brings generations together. These moments create the foundation of a downtown that serves and includes people. When Main Streets approach their work with openness and imagination, they build vibrant communities where belonging grows naturally.

Washington Main Street's Main Street Representation & Belonging Research Internship was made possible through the Washington State Historical Society's Diversity in Local History Internship Program. Thank you! The Washington State Main Street Program is a program of the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, managed by the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation. 🏡



Above: Small business owners can also affect (and be affected by) their community's sense of belonging and inclusivity. Photo courtesy of the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation.



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WALLA WALLA’S FORGOTTEN CHINATOWN

By Uma Bratt, Whitman College

Our PLACES’ Advancing Leaders (PALs) Program provides funding for students and young professionals to attend our annual PLACES conference and then write an article about what they learned as an attendee (or other relevant topic). Look out for articles from our 2024 PALs in this year’s issues of *This Place* and online at preservewa.org/pals-articles.

In October 2024, PLACES brought hundreds of historic preservationists to the Marcus Whitman Hotel in Walla Walla, situated in the heart of Walla Walla’s historic downtown district. During the last day of the conference, I listened to Jennifer Karson Engum from the Tamastlikt Cultural Institute describe Walla Walla as a place “not in the middle of nowhere, but the middle of somewhere, [she] just didn’t understand it yet.” For many in Walla Walla and other small towns, hidden histories, no matter how buried, have the capacity to carve connections and create physical belonging, revealing rich layers of heritage.

I am not a Walla Walla native. Similar to Engum’s experience, however, I feel that my understanding of Walla Walla subtly grows annually. Last summer, I interned with the City of Walla Walla’s Development Services department, knowing little about the greater area. A week into the job, I attended a meeting focused on the archaeological aspects of the 5th Avenue Bridge restoration and, after residing in the town for more than two years, spontaneously discovered the existence of a historic Chinatown district. As a Wasian (half-white/half-Asian) raised in Asia and western Washington, I’ve always been

surrounded by diverse cultures. When I decided to attend Whitman College in Walla Walla, a town in which the population is three-quarters white, I accepted that I would be forgoing this connection to my heritage. I imagine this may be the origin of my fascination with Walla Walla’s historic Chinatown.

With the help of Walla Walla 2020 and the Northwest Archives, I learned about Walla Walla’s forgotten Chinatown. There are multiple accounts of when the first Chinese immigrants arrived in Walla Walla. Some say they were drawn to the valley by the Idaho gold rush in the 1860s. Others cite railroad construction in 1872. Regardless, Chinese settlers arrived in the wake of two significant anti-Asian laws: the Naturalization Act of 1870 and the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which excluded Asians from the American naturalization process and prevented Chinese laborers from entering the United States. After completion of the Walla Walla-Wallowa railroad, many Chinese immigrants settled in the valley, opened businesses, or became truck farmers (small-scale, market-oriented farming that evaded prohibitions from owning land). By 1880, the town had the largest Chinese community in eastern Washington. Although the exact number of

Chinese residents is highly contested, according to a local newspaper Walla Walla’s Chinese population at the time was comparable in size to Seattle’s. In 1907, Walla Walla was home to 23 recorded Chinese businesses, including 10 merchants, two druggists, one grocer, six laundries, one medicine manufacturer, and three restaurants.

What happened to Walla Walla’s Chinese community? A combination of events may have contributed to the drastic population change. For one, a building known as the Pacific Enterprise Building, which was built by prominent members and hosted many residents, was bought and closed by a non-Chinese businessman, dispersing the population. Despite the presence of a strong community, racism still thrived in eastern Washington. In 1887, in an event known as the Chinese Massacre, a group of men from Wallowa County shot more than 30 Chinese miners, tossing their bodies into the Snake River. According to a research paper written by Whitman College student Drew Ackerland, around three-quarters of the Chinese population left Walla Walla between the years 1900 and 1920—some returning to their homeland, others joining the larger community in Seattle.

Little remains of Walla Walla’s historic Chinatown. Despite the lack of physical presence, excavating Walla Walla’s complex history revealed rich layers of heritage that transcended generations. After attending a predominantly white institution in a town so far removed from my background, I was drawn to the stories of those who struggled and succeeded in a setting not so different from my own. This demonstrates the need to preserve a key part of Asian American history in the Northwest, despite how racial demographics in Walla Walla have changed over time. By doing this, we can shift perceptions, transforming a place that seemingly resides in the middle of nowhere into one that cultivates and inspires communities. 🐉



Top right: A newspaper clipping documenting the Chinese Massacre of 1887. Clipping courtesy of the Northwest Archives.

Above: A plaque created by local organization Walla Walla 2020 commemorating walla walla’s forgotten Chinatown. Photo courtesy of walla walla 2020.

Right: A decorative dragon used in traditional Chinese performances in walla walla. Photo courtesy of walla walla 2020.



Left: Downtown Walla Walla in southeastern Washington. Photo courtesy of Little Theatre of Walla Walla.

FILIPINOS AND WASHINGTON’S WATERFRONT

By Alex Gradwohl, Maritime Washington Program Director

This spring marked the debut of “Filipinos and Washington’s Waterfront,” a new traveling and virtual exhibit exploring more than a century of Filipino history, labor, and community along our state’s saltwater shores.

Over the past two years (thanks to generous support from the National Park Foundation and National Trust for Historic Preservation), this exhibit was developed as a partnership between the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area and Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS). Working with Auntie Dorothy Cordova—the remarkable 93-year-old historian, activist, and co-founder of FANHS—and exhibit developer Jackie Peterson, we collaborated to record new oral histories, scan archival photos, dig through archives, and organize contributions from many members of the Filipino American community in Washington State.

This exhibit surfaced many stories, but the overarching theme for me was the deeply personal connections that so many of us have to our state’s

maritime heritage. For many individuals featured in the exhibit, Washington’s waters were the highways that brought them to America for the first time. The shorelines were places of opportunity, where they found work in shipyards and canneries, served in the U.S. military, cooked at iconic Pacific Northwest restaurants, and mapped previously uncharted waters. And, perhaps most importantly, Washington’s waterfronts were gathering spaces where families came (and still come) together to host picnics, dig clams, celebrate religious festivals, and connect with nature.

“These stories have always existed, but too often they were kept in personal memory or family archives,” says Auntie Dorothy. “This exhibit brings them to light—not just to honor the past, but to inspire pride and connection in future generations.”

Sharing these stories through the “Filipinos and Washington’s Waterfront” virtual exhibit, as well as a traveling banner exhibit that will visit a series of museums and public spaces throughout

the region into 2026, is exactly the kind of work that Maritime Washington is meant to do: connecting people with their state’s maritime heritage. By highlighting these stories and raising the visibility of our water-based heritage, we aim to inspire all

Washingtonians to explore their own connection with our saltwater shores.

Check out a few of our favorite stories from the exhibit here, and visit maritimewa.org/fanhs to learn more. 🗣️

Below: Filipinos have led the kitchens of some of Washington’s most famous seafood restaurants and influenced the state’s food scene by opening numerous Filipino restaurants focused on the harvest from the sea. Auntie Dorothy’s father, Mike Castillano (pictured below, front row, second from left), worked as a chef at Ivar’s for more than 40 years, starting at the fish bar on the Seattle waterfront and going on to train dozens of other cooks. He eventually became the right-hand man for Ivar Haglund, owner of Ivar’s, and remained one of the Filipino community’s most beloved cooks. Read Mike’s story in the virtual exhibit.



Above: In the 1930s and 40s, 36 Indigenous women from 19 different tribes in Canada, Washington, and Alaska migrated to Bainbridge Island to pick berries for local farmers. Many met and married young Filipino immigrants who were also working on strawberry farms. Their families settled on the island, the traditional territory of the Suquamish people, and many continue to live there today, embracing both their Indigenous and Filipino heritage. Here, Gilda Rapada and other members of Bainbridge Island’s Indipino community sit in the “Three Sisters” canoe during the annual Salmon Days Celebration on the Seattle waterfront. Image courtesy of the Filipino American National Historical Society.



Left: Filipino workers have played a large role in labor organizing along Washington’s waterfronts. In the wake of the Great Depression, Filipinos found employment working on the docks, in shipyards, and in canneries. In particular, many Filipinos found work in Alaskan salmon canneries, shipping out from Seattle’s docks each spring for a season of hard work. In the early 1930s, several Filipino men began organizing a union to advocate for better working conditions, living accommodations, and pay for these workers. They eventually founded the Cannery Workers and Farm Laborers Union Local 18257.

Right: During the Philippine-American War, American forces hired a team of skilled Filipino workers to lay underwater communication cables between islands to aid the war effort. In 1903-1904, this team of experts was brought to Washington to lay similar cables between Seattle and Alaska—establishing a vital communications link from southeast Alaska to Seattle and the lower 48 states. Image courtesy of the University of Washington Libraries Special Collections, UW 7372.



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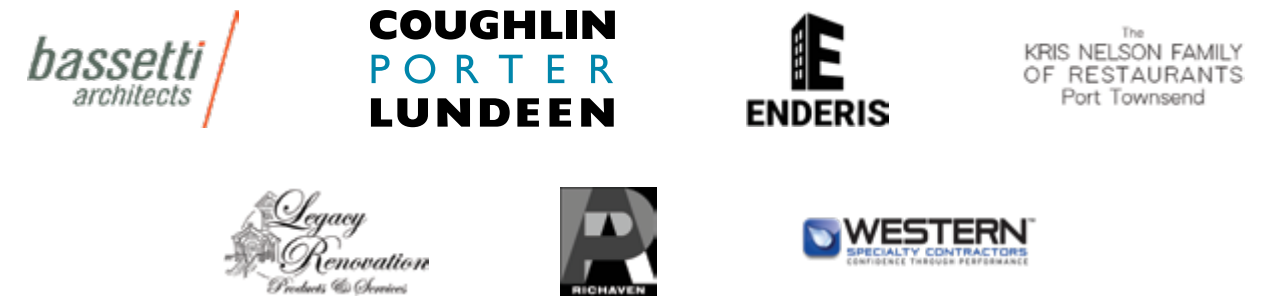
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