

PLACES



GIG HARBOR

OCTOBER 8-10, 2025



WASHINGTON STATE
MAIN STREET
PROGRAM



WASHINGTON TRUST
FOR HISTORIC
PRESERVATION



DEPT. OF ARCHAEOLOGY &
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

THE WATERFRONT
Alliance
gig harbor, wa



MARITIME
WASHINGTON
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

8:00 AM-5:00 PM	REGISTRATION + CHECK-IN	Hop Pharm
10:00-11:30 AM	OPENING PLENARY + KEYNOTE ADDRESS DOORS OPEN AT 9:45 AM; PROGRAM BEGINS AT 10:00 AM	Gig Harbor Yacht Club
11:30 AM-1:30 PM	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	Downtown Gig Harbor
1:30-4:30 PM	MOBILE TOUR BLOCK 1	
MT1.	Cities as Historic Preservation Champions: The Restoration and Management of Historic Properties by the City of Gig Harbor	Meet at Hop Pharm
MT2.	Anchored in Bremerton: A Maritime Main Street Experience	Meet at Hop Pharm
MT3.	Gig Harbor & Beyond: Educational Boat Cruise [ENDS AT 3:00 PM]	Meet at the Destiny Harbor Tours Dock
1:30-2:30 PM	SESSION BLOCK A	
A1.	High Tech and High Touch: Leveraging Connections and Data in Recruitment Efforts	The Club @ the Boatyard (Gig Harbor Marina & Boatyard)
A2.	Translating Passion Into Better Stories: How to Make the Audiences Care About the Places We Steward	Gig Harbor BoatShop at the Historic Eddon Boatyard
A3.	Introduction to the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation's Programs	Gig Harbor Church of the Nazarene - Sanctuary
A4.	Main Streets and Museums: Expanding Our Collective Capacity	Gig Harbor Church of the Nazarene - Fellowship Hall
3:00-4:00 PM	SESSION BLOCK B	
B1.	New Perspectives, Shared Stories: Harnessing the Potential of Traveling Exhibits	The Club @ the Boatyard (Gig Harbor Marina & Boatyard)
B2.	Not Just Lucky: The Power of Community Partnerships	Gig Harbor BoatShop at the Historic Eddon Boatyard
B3.	Belonging Barometer Pilot: A Case Study in Measuring Belonging on Main Street	Gig Harbor Church of the Nazarene - Sanctuary
B4.	Metropole Building: Historic Preservation for Community and Culture	Gig Harbor Church of the Nazarene - Fellowship Hall
4:15-5:15 PM	CLG BY THE SEA	Morso Bistro
5:00-7:00 PM	WELCOME BLOCK PARTY	Pioneer Way near Harborview

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

6:30-7:30 AM	MORNING RUN WITH LOCAL GUIDES	Meet at Hop Pharm
7:30-8:30 AM	MORNING COFFEE WITH PROXI	The Club @ the Boatyard (Gig Harbor Marina & Boatyard)
8:00 AM-4:00 PM	REGISTRATION + CHECK-IN	Hop Pharm

| See icon legend on page 7.

For venue addresses and a map, see pages 30-31.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

9:00 AM-12:00 PM	MOBILE TOUR BLOCK 2	
MT4.	Hop-On/Hop-Off Tacoma T Line Tour	Meet at Hop Pharm
MT5.	Interpretive Planning Made Easier: A Step-by-Step Approach to Creating a Basic Interpretive Plan	Meet at the Harbor History Museum
9:00-10:00 AM	SESSION BLOCK C	
C1.	Chinese Exclusion in Washington: Reconciliation Through Designation	The Club @ the Boatyard (Gig Harbor Marina & Boatyard)
C2.1.	Oceans Have No Borders: Bringing Respect and Reciprocity to Your Programming	Gig Harbor BoatShop at the Historic Eddon Boatyard
C2.2.	The Blue Schools Initiative: Recentering the Waterfront in Economic Development and Heritage Work	
C3/D3.	Beyond Main Street Board Basics: Strengthening Board and Executive Director Functionality, Individually and Together [EXTENDED WORKSHOP: 9:00-11:30 AM]	Gig Harbor Church of the Nazarene - Sanctuary
C4.	Is That A Good Idea?: A Guide to Alternative Materials	Gig Harbor Yacht Club
10:30-11:30 AM	SESSION BLOCK D	
D1.1.	Social Media Strategies for Place-Based Organizations: Engaging Your Community in the Digital Age	The Club @ the Boatyard (Gig Harbor Marina & Boatyard)
D1.2.	Navigating Entrepreneur Challenges & Opportunities: Strengthening Main Street Businesses with Resources They Need	
D2.	Place-Based Knowledge and Tribal Leadership in Fisheries Management	Gig Harbor BoatShop at the Historic Eddon Boatyard
D4.1.	Building Relocation: A New Option for Preservation	
D4.2.	Gone But Not Forgotten: Resources for Historic Cemetery Preservation in Washington State	Gig Harbor Yacht Club
11:30 AM-1:30 PM	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	Downtown Gig Harbor
1:30-4:30 PM	MOBILE TOUR BLOCK 3	
MT6.	From Policy to Placemaking: Neighborhood Action Planning Implementation	Meet at Hop Pharm
MT7.	Gig Harbor through a Main Street Lens	Meet at Hop Pharm
MT8.	Gig Harbor & Beyond: Educational Boat Cruise [ENDS AT 3:00 PM]	Meet at the Destiny Harbor Tours Dock
1:30-2:30 PM	SESSION BLOCK E	
E1.	Coastal Preservation & Adaptation: Addressing Flooding at Historic Properties	The Club @ the Boatyard (Gig Harbor Marina & Boatyard)
E2.	Railspur: Transformational Adaptive Reuse in Seattle's Historic Pioneer Square	Gig Harbor BoatShop at the Historic Eddon Boatyard
E3.1.	Bright Ideas: How to Fund, Build, and Implement a Main Street Lighting Project	Gig Harbor Church of the Nazarene - Sanctuary
E3.2.	DIY Foot Traffic Tracking: A Low-Cost Tech Solution for Main Streets	
E4.	We're All Part of the Crew: Building Effective Collaborations	Gig Harbor Yacht Club

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

3:00-4:00 PM SESSION BLOCK F		
F1.	Beyond Buildings: Why Historic Contexts are Essential to Inclusive Preservation	The Club @ the Boatyard (Gig Harbor Marina & Boatyard)
F2.1.	Conserving Cultural Heritage in Gig Harbor	Gig Harbor BoatShop at the Historic Eddon Boatyard
F2.2.	A Blast from the (Recent) Past: The Future of Preservation and the Post-Modern Era	
F3.	We've Got 99 Problems, but Parking Shouldn't Be One	Gig Harbor Church of the Nazarene - Sanctuary
F4.	Navigating Complicated Public Histories: Celebration and Reflection for America250 and Beyond	Gig Harbor Yacht Club
5:30-8:30 PM EXCELLENCE ON MAIN DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM; PROGRAM STARTS AT 6:30 PM		Foss Waterway Seaport

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

6:30-7:30 AM MORNING WALK WITH LOCAL GUIDES 		Meet at Hop Pharm
8:00 AM-12:00 PM REGISTRATION + CHECK-IN		Hop Pharm
9:00 AM-12:00 PM MOBILE TOUR BLOCK 4 		
MT9.	Gig Harbor's Maritime Histories and Mysteries 	Meet at the Harbor History Museum
9:00-10:00 AM SESSION BLOCK G		
G1.	Unreinforced Masonry Buildings on Main Street: Surveys, Codes, and Incentives	The Club @ the Boatyard (Gig Harbor Marina & Boatyard)
G2.	Keeping History Afloat: Preservation of Historic Vessels	Gig Harbor BoatShop at the Historic Eddon Boatyard
G3.	Creating Communities by Including Housing in Historic Preservation	Gig Harbor Church of the Nazarene - Sanctuary
G4.	Championing Owner-Occupied Storefronts to Enhance Main Street Resilience	Gig Harbor Church of the Nazarene - Fellowship Hall
10:30-11:30 AM SESSION BLOCK H		
H1.	Preservation in Peril	The Club @ the Boatyard (Gig Harbor Marina & Boatyard)
H2.	How to Build a Boatbuilder: Different Approaches to Teaching Traditional Trades	Gig Harbor BoatShop at the Historic Eddon Boatyard
H3.	Stronger Together: Building and Sustaining Local Partnerships for Main Street Success	Gig Harbor Church of the Nazarene - Sanctuary
H4.	Care of Place: How Protecting Communities' Cultural Identities Can Honor History and Build Economic Resilience	Gig Harbor Yacht Club
11:30 AM-1:30 PM LUNCH ON YOUR OWN		Downtown Gig Harbor

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

1:30-2:30 PM SESSION BLOCK I		
I1.	Bridging Historic Preservation and Community Transportation Needs: Cultural Resource Reporting on Federally-Funded Bridge Projects	The Club @ the Boatyard (Gig Harbor Marina & Boatyard)
I2.	The Power of Oral Histories: Activating Archives Through Community-Based Storytelling	Gig Harbor BoatShop at the Historic Eddon Boatyard
I3.1.	Arbutus Folk School: A Case Study for Strengthening Your Local Creative Economy	Gig Harbor Church of the Nazarene - Sanctuary
I3.2.	A Legacy of Placemaking: Building Community, Place, and Memories at the Historic Peter Kirk Building	
I4.	Empowering Our Volunteers to Become Strong Leaders	Gig Harbor Yacht Club
2:30-4:00 PM FAREWELL PICNIC IN THE PARK		Skansie Park
5:30-7:00 PM WASHINGTON TRUST ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING		Harbor History Museum

ATTENDEE GUIDE

We are dedicated to building a welcoming environment at this year's PLACES conference. Please scan the QR code at right to view our attendee guide, which includes our community norms, shuttle information, and an easy map to plan your route around Gig Harbor. For venue addresses and a physical map, please see pages 30-31.



MOBILE TOURS

Please make note of the start location of each mobile tour in the program. Plan to arrive 10 minutes prior to the start time listed in the program.

SHUTTLES

All venues are within the downtown district and no more than 0.8 miles apart—perfect for an autumnal harbor stroll. We will also have shuttles to help you get around. Please scan the QR code at right to find our official shuttle schedule.

COVID-19

Proof of vaccination and masking are not required for attendance at PLACES 2025. We encourage any attendees who prefer to wear masks to do so.

A NOTE ON TIMING

At this year's conference, you'll notice we've included a 30-minute passing period between each session block. This is meant to give you plenty of time to move between the various venues of the conference, explore downtown Gig Harbor, and support local businesses. We hope you'll also take this built-in break to reflect upon the session you just attended, connect lessons learned with your own work, and discuss new ideas with your fellow conference attendees.

WELCOME TO PLACES



LEGEND

-  Events that require an additional ticket are marked with this icon. The back of your name tag lists what additional tickets you have. Want to purchase a mobile tour or Excellence on Main ticket? Come visit us at registration!
-  Denotes that a mobile tour will take place entirely on foot.
-  Denotes that a mobile tour will include bus transportation to and from the tour site (but will still include walking!).
-  Denotes a boat-based mobile tour.
-  Denotes a session or event location.
-  Denotes networking events.
-  Denotes "Double Headers." We have several blocks that feature "Double Headers"—two dynamic, back-to-back, 30-minute sessions in the same space, generally with a common theme or anticipated audience. You can find their specific times in the program below.

Dear attendees,

Welcome to Gig Harbor! The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation and Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP) are happy to welcome you to PLACES 2025, Washington State's conference focused on the continued care of place through historic preservation, placemaking, and economic vitality.

This year, we're thrilled to be hosting PLACES in Gig Harbor, which is both a thriving Main Street Community and one of Washington's most iconic maritime sites. Indeed, Gig Harbor bills itself "the Maritime City"! Hosting the conference here gives us the opportunity to bring together two different but aligned programs—the Washington State Main Street Program and the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area—and to explore how history, storytelling, placemaking, and community come together at the heart of both.

We are so grateful to our local partner, the Gig Harbor Waterfront Alliance, for coming to us with the proposal to host the conference here. The Alliance and their partners are doing incredible work in their community, supporting local entrepreneurs through small business grants, bringing residents

and visitors together with events like the Gig Harbor Farmers Market, and brightening downtown streets through cooperative lighting projects. They brought the same can-do attitude to planning this year's PLACES—connecting us to unique sites across the city for conference sessions and mobile tours, and to new partners and sponsors who are so proud to share their love of Gig Harbor with conference attendees.

On behalf of both of our organizations, we extend our appreciation to all of the partners, sponsors, and volunteers who make this conference possible. Whether you're a first-time conference attendee or a seasoned veteran (might we say, a salty sea dog?), we hope you find plenty of new friends, fresh ideas, and inspiration at PLACES 2025!

Cheers,



Chris Moore
Executive Director,
Washington Trust for
Historic Preservation

Dr. Allyson Brooks
State Historic Preservation
Officer/Director,
Washington State
Department of Archaeology
& Historic Preservation

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

8:00 AM-5:00 PM

REGISTRATION + CHECK-IN

 Hop Pharm

Visit us at Hop Pharm to check in, add on additional mobile tours, and ask our local guides for recommendations!

10:00-11:30 AM

OPENING PLENARY + KEYNOTE ADDRESS

DOORS OPEN AT 9:45 AM;

PROGRAM BEGINS AT 10:00 AM

 Gig Harbor Yacht Club

Join us for the official kickoff of PLACES 2025. The plenary will be a hearty welcome to Gig Harbor and an energizing start to a conference full of creative ideas, delightful connections, and insightful solutions to bring back to your own community. Brendan A. Nelson, a widely respected leader in Tacoma's nonprofit and civic landscape, will present our conference keynote, inspiring us to think deeply about the power of inclusive community building in our multifaceted work. You won't want to miss it!

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Tag your posts from the conference with
#places2025 to share them with us!



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The KRIS NELSON FAMILY OF RESTAURANTS Port Townsend



11:30 AM-1:30 PM

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

📍 *Downtown Gig Harbor*

We recommend checking out a local restaurant on your lunch break. Need a recommendation? Swing by the hospitality table at registration!

1:30-4:30 PM

MOBILE TOUR BLOCK 1 📱

MT1. CITIES AS HISTORIC PRESERVATION CHAMPIONS: THE RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES BY THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR 🏡

📍 *Meet at Hop Pharm*

In this walking tour, we will visit several historic properties in the heart of Gig Harbor's historic downtown district that are owned and have been restored by the City. Our four stops will include three physical buildings and one archaeological site of importance to the Puyallup Tribe. At each site, tour guides will discuss the challenges and rewards of purchasing, restoring, and managing historic properties, as well as the partnerships that have made them successful.

- **Jeff Langhelm, PE**, *City of Gig Harbor*
- **Jennifer Haro**, *City of Gig Harbor*

MT2. ANCHORED IN BREMERSTON: A MARITIME MAIN STREET EXPERIENCE 🚢

📍 *Meet at Hop Pharm*

During this tour, we'll explore the vibrant intersection of Bremerton's naval heritage, downtown revitalization, and community identity. Tour stops include the Kitsap History Museum, Puget Sound Navy Museum, Bremerton Ferry Terminal, U.S.S. *Turner Joy*, and more! Learn about the historic architecture of downtown Bremerton and its revitalization projects while hearing from Main Street practitioners, preservationists, cultural heritage professionals, and public transportation planners. Join this tour to discover how maritime history continues to shape the heart and design of Bremerton today!

- **Katie Pratt**, *Northwest Vernacular*
- **Jessica Combs**, *Downtown Bremerton Association & Quincy Square Manager*
- **John Clauson**, *Kitsap Transit*
- **Kitsap History Museum Staff**
- **U.S.S. *Turner Joy* Docents**
- **Puget Sound Navy Museum Staff**

MT3. GIG HARBOR & BEYOND: EDUCATIONAL BOAT CRUISE 🚢 [ENDS AT 3:00 PM]

📍 *Meet at the Destiny Harbor Tours Dock*

Join Destiny Harbor Tours for a 1.5-hour scenic and educational cruise through the stunning waterways of Puget Sound. Departing from Gig Harbor, this autumnal tour travels under the Narrows Bridges. Along the way, learn about the region's rich maritime history, local wildlife, and the working waterfronts that shaped the Pacific Northwest. On the return, enjoy views of Salmon Beach and the forested cliffs of Point Defiance Park. Views and life vests provided. Please be sure to bring a jacket!

This mobile tour will be offered on both Wednesday and Thursday.

- **Captain Ethan Allen**, *Destiny Harbor Tours*

1:30-2:30 PM

SESSION BLOCK A

A1. HIGH TECH AND HIGH TOUCH: LEVERAGING CONNECTIONS AND DATA IN RECRUITMENT EFFORTS

📍 *The Club @ the Boatyard (Gig Harbor Marina & Boatyard)*

During a time of decreased foot traffic in downtown sectors, along with public safety concerns, this panel will focus on the community-based economic development strategies that have helped Pioneer Square and downtown Everett attract and retain businesses in their districts. With rising costs, shifting consumer habits in the post-pandemic era, and the growing trend of online shopping, these organizations have leveraged data sources (such as CoStar, Fulcrum, and Placer.ai), key initiatives, and community connections to reduce retail vacancies and foster vibrant communities. You'll learn what a "community broker" is and how you can engage them alongside existing business owners to attract new businesses and revitalize a district, regardless of size.

- **Alissa Bolla**, *Alliance for Pioneer Square*
- **Karen True**
- **Scott Hulme**, *Downtown Everett Association*

A2. TRANSLATING PASSION INTO BETTER STORIES: HOW TO MAKE AUDIENCES CARE ABOUT THE PLACES WE STEWARD

📍 *Gig Harbor BoatShop at the Historic Eddon Boatyard*

Whether we are advocates for Main Street revitalization or folks in the historic preservation field, we are all passionate about the places we

care for. At times, though, that passion is difficult to translate to the public. Join us to translate your passion into an effective story that audiences will care about. We'll go over the aspects of good storytelling and interpretation, then work in small groups to find ways to bring the story of your places alive through tours, exhibitions, and more!

- **Chuck Lennox**, *Lennox Insites*
- **Emily Jacobs**, *Story Quilters Consulting*

A3. INTRODUCTION TO THE WASHINGTON TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION'S PROGRAMS

📍 *Gig Harbor Church of the Nazarene - Sanctuary*

This session will introduce each of the Washington Trust's three key programmatic areas: preservation and advocacy, the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area, and the Washington State Main Street Program (a program of the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation, managed under contract by the Washington Trust). By the end, attendees will better understand ongoing efforts to preserve Washington's places, stories, and identity and learn how they can get involved.

- **Alex Gradwohl**, *Washington Trust for Historic Preservation*
- **Maira Nadal**, *Washington Trust for Historic Preservation*
- **Breanne Durham**, *Washington Trust for Historic Preservation*

A4. MAIN STREETS AND MUSEUMS: EXPANDING OUR COLLECTIVE CAPACITY

📍 *Gig Harbor Church of the Nazarene - Fellowship Hall*

Local Main Streets and history museums are a partnership made in heaven, both working to create stronger, more vibrant communities. Oftentimes, we both only have a few (or no) paid staff, but by focusing on our overlapping priorities and unique constraints, we can unlock our combined potential and expand our collective capacity to serve the needs of our communities. Join us for a participatory workshop where Main Streets and museums can talk about their priorities, share their hopes for meaningful partnerships, and brainstorm projects to elevate both of our missions.

- **Lindsay Ogles**, *Bainbridge History Museum*
- **Stephanie Lile**, *Harbor History Museum*
- **Dylan High**, *Washington State Historical Society*
- **Tara McCauley**, *Jefferson County Historical Society*

3:00-4:00 PM

SESSION BLOCK B

B1. NEW PERSPECTIVES, SHARED STORIES: HARNESSING THE POTENTIAL OF TRAVELING EXHIBITS

📍 *The Club @ the Boatyard (Gig Harbor Marina & Boatyard)*

Traveling exhibits offer a powerful and cost-effective way to share stories. For host sites—whether in museums, retail spaces, ferry terminals, or other creative community spaces—these exhibits bring fresh perspectives and opportunities for community engagement. For storytellers, traveling exhibits can help narratives reach larger audiences. This panel discussion will explore how traveling exhibits work and how you can make the most of them. Panelists will share practical tips and resources for finding and tailoring traveling exhibits to your space, as well as inspiration for those interested in creating their own.

- **Alex Gradwohl**, *Washington Trust for Historic Preservation*
- **Amy Cohen**, *Exhibit Envoy*
- **Jackie Peterson**, *Jackie Peterson | Exhibit Services*
- **Tara McCauley**, *Jefferson County Historical Society*

B2. NOT JUST LUCKY: THE POWER OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

📍 *Gig Harbor BoatShop at the Historic Eddon Boatyard*

Have you ever wondered why some nonprofits are lucky enough to get all the press, have tons of sponsors, and always know who to ask for more funding? Well, it's not luck. The most successful nonprofits know how to leverage relationships with donors, volunteers, staff, and board members to create community partnerships. In this workshop, we will explore the different kinds of community partnerships and how they can benefit your organization in different ways. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own current and prospective partners that we can examine as "real-life" examples.

- **Brent Mason**, *Foss Waterway Seaport*

B3. BELONGING BAROMETER PILOT: A CASE STUDY IN MEASURING BELONGING ON MAIN STREET

📍 *Gig Harbor Church of the Nazarene - Sanctuary*

Can belonging be measured? Many believe that people are intrinsically tied to place, but we wanted to know if there was any data to back it up (spoiler alert: not yet!). Using the American Immigration Council's Belonging Barometer, a multi-level partnership

emerged to study this question and create a pilot program. The goal was to understand if and by how much a Main Street organization strengthens a community's sense of belonging to create safe and thriving places. Come learn the insights in this tactical case study on piloting the Belonging Barometer in Washington State!

- **Nick Vann**, *Washington State Historical Society*
- **Mike Powe**, *Main Street America*
- **Ellen Gamson**, *Mount Vernon Downtown Association*
- **Liz Arias**

B4. METROPOLE BUILDING: HISTORIC PRESERVATION FOR COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

📍 *Gig Harbor Church of the Nazarene - Fellowship Hall*

How can you revitalize an abandoned building in a National Historic District to benefit businesses and the community? Originally built in the 1880s, the historic Metropole Building was sitting vacant in downtown Seattle until it underwent a comprehensive renovation and transformation. The completed restoration project offers a vibrant and innovative mix of community resources and services, positively impacting racial equity, culture, and livability in Seattle's downtown core. Join architect Matt Aalfs from BuildingWork, owner Kendra Walker from the Satterberg Foundation, and structural engineer Francesca Renouard from SSF Engineers as they discuss the process, challenges, and joy of transforming a dilapidated building into a LEED Platinum Certified historic gem.

- **Matt Aalfs**, *AIA, BuildingWork*
- **Francesca Renouard**, *PE/SE, Swenson Say Faget (SSF) Structural Engineers*
- **Kendra Walker**, *Satterberg Foundation*

4:15-5:15 PM

CLG BY THE SEA 🌊

📍 *Morso Bistro*

Certified Local Government (CLG) commission members and their local Historic Preservation Officers (CLG Liaisons between the commission and DAHP) are cordially invited to come chill with your counterparts from around the state. This event is hosted by your State CLG Coordinator and number one cheerleader Michelle Thompson. Bring your questions, your stories of your wins and...not so wins to share...and also, bring your wallets. This is a buy-your-own event!

5:00-7:00 PM

WELCOME BLOCK PARTY 🌊

📍 *Pioneer Way near Harborview*

How better to get to know Gig Harbor than with our Welcome Block Party? We're taking over downtown, shutting down a full block of Pioneer Way between Tarabochia Street and Harborview Drive. (Special thanks to the City of Gig Harbor for their support of our downtown takeover.) Enjoy hot dogs grilled by the Gig Harbor Kiwanis Club, free ice cream and French fries from Iscreamery, and a beer and wine garden featuring local libations from Evergreen Brewing and Morso Bistro. Hear from our wonderful hosts at the Gig Harbor Waterfront Alliance, make new friends playing lawn games (cornhole, anyone?), and kick off PLACES 2025 with a bang! We'll see you there!

Anthony's at Gig Harbor. Photo by Sarah Montgomery, courtesy of the Gig Harbor Waterfront Alliance.





ESCAPE TO WONDER

From sunrise on the harbor to golden-hour toasts, Gig Harbor invites you to linger, breathe and reconnect with the simple pleasures that matter most.



Plan your visit:
[VISITGIGHARBOR.COM/COASTALESCAPE](https://visitgigharbor.com/coastalescape)



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

6:30-7:30 AM

MORNING RUN WITH LOCAL GUIDES 🏃

📍 *Meet at Hop Pharm*

One of the best ways to learn your way around a new place is to hit the pavement! Grab your sneakers and join local Gig Harbor guides for this easy two- to three-mile jog along Gig Harbor's waterfront.

7:30-8:30 AM

MORNING COFFEE WITH PROXI ☕

📍 *The Club @ the Boatyard (Gig Harbor Marina & Boatyard)*

Get your morning started with this networking session brought to you by Proxi! Enjoy a cup of coffee while hearing about Proxi, the map with a mission. Learn how Proxi can help Main Streets create interactive maps for walking tours, weekend guides, and must-see spots that get people exploring and spending locally. Create fun challenges to encourage exploring local shops, restaurants, and sites of interest. Share local stories, historical landmarks, and hotspots through a simple, easy-to-navigate map (no code required!). You'll leave the session energized for a day of conference learning and with a new tool for Main Street marketing under your belt.

8:00 AM-4:00 PM

REGISTRATION + CHECK-IN

📍 *Hop Pharm*

Visit us at Hop Pharm to check in, add on additional mobile tours, and ask our local guides for recommendations!

9:00 AM-12:00 PM

MOBILE TOUR BLOCK 2 🚌

MT4. HOP-ON/HOP-OFF TACOMA T LINE TOUR 🚊

📍 *Meet at Hop Pharm*

In this hop-on/hop-off tour using Tacoma's light rail line (the T Line), we will explore major historic preservation project areas connected along a major transit line. Our three stops include the Union Depot/ UW-Tacoma, Old City Hall, and the Hilltop District. At the UW-Tacoma campus, we'll learn about adaptive reuse and compatible infill and discuss how the campus reused historic buildings. At the Old City Hall stop, we'll discuss the revitalization of long vacant, landmarked buildings; funding sources for major historic rehabilitation projects; and historic design review. Finally, at the Hilltop District stop, we'll discuss broadening historic preservation to better include sites significant to underrepresented communities and place-based interpretation.

- **Susan Johnson**, *City of Tacoma Planning & Development Services*
- **Reuben McKnight**, *City of Tacoma*
- **Ben Mauk**, *University of Washington-Tacoma*

MT5. INTERPRETIVE PLANNING MADE EASIER: A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO CREATING A BASIC INTERPRETIVE PLAN 🗺️

📍 *Meet at the Harbor History Museum*

Do your interpretive planning projects ever feel intimidating to align with organizational priorities or to accomplish at all? In this session, we'll explore how to make this process relatively speedy and maybe even fun! Through a step-by-step presentation and handy take-home tools, participants will learn how to create "quick and dirty" interpretive plans using the Harbor History Museum's large-scale outdoor objects, sculptures, and historic archaeological evidence as an interactive case study.

- **Stephanie Lile**, *Harbor History Museum*
- **Laura Frick**, *Studio Understory*
- **Angela Mele**, *Studio Understory*

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9:00-10:00 AM

SESSION BLOCK C

C1. CHINESE EXCLUSION IN WASHINGTON: RECONCILIATION THROUGH DESIGNATION

📍 *The Club @ the Boatyard (Gig Harbor Marina & Boatyard)*

Across Washington, the history of Chinese exclusion remains deeply buried—both literally and figuratively. Asian & Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation (APIAHiP), in partnership with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, is working to change that through a National Park Service Underrepresented Communities Grant, identifying and nominating related sites to the National Register of Historic Places. This panel dives into the challenges of preserving histories erased by policy, violence, and time. Attendees will gain insight into uncovering lost stories, navigating the preservation process, and mobilizing networks of historians and advocates to ensure these sites are recognized before they disappear completely.

- **Edward Echtle**, *Washington Secretary of State*
- **Huy Pham**, *APIAHiP*
- **Ron Chew**, *Chew Communications*
- **Nick Vann**, *Washington State Historical Society*

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SHKS Architects
Benjamin Benschneider Photography

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND ADAPTIVE REUSE

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Gig Harbor Lighthouse. Photo by Sarah Montgomery, courtesy of the Gig Harbor Waterfront Alliance.

C2.1. OCEANS HAVE NO BORDERS: BRINGING RESPECT AND RECIPROCITY TO YOUR PROGRAMMING 🗨️

[9:00-9:30 AM]

📍 *Gig Harbor BoatShop at the Historic Eddon Boatyard*

Why does working with your community matter, and what does it actually look like in practice? This session explores the art and work of building authentic relationships through the case study of Bellingham SeaFeast, an annual sea-to-table celebration celebrating coastal culture and honoring our working waterfronts. Participants will hear real-world examples of how SeaFeast has cultivated partnerships—particularly with Tribes and Tribal artists—to bring a large-scale, multi-day festival to life in new and vibrant ways. With a focus on respect and reciprocity, this session will share tangible tips on how to approach, provide platforms for, develop mutual programming with, and compensate contributors to sustain shared success for all.

- **Kevin Coleman**, *Bellingham SeaFeast*
- **Tatiana Stone**, *Bellingham SeaFeast*

C2.2. THE BLUE SCHOOLS INITIATIVE: RECENTERING THE WATERFRONT IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HERITAGE WORK 🗨️

[9:30-10:00 AM]

📍 *Gig Harbor BoatShop at the Historic Eddon Boatyard*

The Blue Schools Initiative is an approach to reconnecting communities to their waterfronts, students to maritime careers, and everyone to greater participation in environmental restoration. As we are seeing in three communities across western Washington, this approach leverages heritage, economic development, and the environment for the benefit of the whole. In this session, attendees will learn about the Blue School Initiative theory of action; how it is currently being implemented in rural, mid-sized, and urban areas; and how a changing relationship to the sea is starting a movement towards a Blue Economy—a future that moves beyond an extraction-based economy to one that balances economic and environmental outcomes.

- **Jake Beattie**, *Northwest Maritime*

C3/D3. BEYOND MAIN STREET BOARD BASICS: STRENGTHENING BOARD AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FUNCTIONALITY, INDIVIDUALLY AND TOGETHER

[EXTENDED WORKSHOP: 9:00-11:30 AM]

📍 *Gig Harbor Church of the Nazarene - Sanctuary*

For Main Street Executive Directors and Board Members Only

It's no secret that a strong board and executive director are both critical to a Main Street organization's success. As unique entities, each community's board develops purposeful ways of operating successfully. This serves both the members that comprise the board as well as the staff they support. In this session, join us as we shed light on these essential relationships. In our first half, Norma Ramirez de Miess will lead us through Main Street board dynamics, including relationships within a board and between boards and executive directors, as well as staff working relationships. In our second half, we'll transition into two breakout conversations, one for Main Street board members (led by Caroline Mercury and Carrie Schulstad) and one for Main Street executive directors (led by Linda Haglund and Mary DesMarais). These breakout conversations will allow time for attendees to discuss their individual circumstances and get feedback from workshop leaders and Main Street peers. Don't miss this opportunity to reflect and grow as a Main Street board and as an executive director!

- **Caroline Mercury**, *Downtown Camas Association*
- **Carrie Schulstad**, *Downtown Camas Association*
- **Norma Ramirez de Miess**
- **Linda Haglund**
- **Mary DesMarais**

C4. IS THAT A GOOD IDEA?: A GUIDE TO ALTERNATIVE MATERIALS

📍 *Gig Harbor Yacht Club*

"It looks exactly the same as the original!" Or does it? Come and explore the world of alternative materials with State Architectural Historian Michael Houser. In today's building material market, there is an ever-changing and deep list of options available to owners of historic buildings. Are any of these products okay to use, or is the answer always no? Attendees will get a firsthand look at some of the options for windows, roofing, and siding and will learn how these products have held up to Houser's rigorous product testing!

- **Michael Houser**, *Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation*
- **Michelle Thompson**, *Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation*

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10:30-11:30 AM

SESSION BLOCK D

D1.1. SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGIES FOR PLACE-BASED ORGANIZATIONS: ENGAGING YOUR COMMUNITY IN THE DIGITAL AGE 🗨️ [10:30-11:00 AM]

📍 *The Club @ the Boatyard (Gig Harbor Marina & Boatyard)*

Engaging communities. Attracting visitors. Amplifying impact. We all know the reasons why we should be using social media for our organizations, but so often we feel we don't have the time. In this session, you will learn practical social media strategies tailored for place-based organizations. We'll cover content planning, platform best practices, and storytelling techniques that turn online engagement into real-world connections. Through guided reflection, idea generation, and small group discussions, you will develop actionable strategies suited to your unique needs. You will leave with a clearer understanding of how to maximize your time dedicated to social media, practical strategies for being effective with low capacity, and the confidence to implement ideas that drive real engagement.

- **Nathalie Wagler**, *Downtown Bellingham Partnership*

D1.2. NAVIGATING ENTREPRENEUR CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES: STRENGTHENING MAIN STREET BUSINESSES WITH RESOURCES THEY NEED 🗨️ [11:00-11:30 AM]

📍 *The Club @ the Boatyard (Gig Harbor Marina & Boatyard)*

So often entrepreneurs need assistance that is beyond what local partners can offer. This workshop will provide community economic developers like Main Street organizations with meaningful ways to refer local businesses to essential tools and resources. The session will provide interactive exercises and creative solutions that help business owners better understand how to respond to challenges that arise. Through story, lived experience, and resources like Evergreen BizLink, attendees will learn practical ways to connect to technical assistance, training, and financing resources that small businesses need right now. Leave with more tools for businesses to grow strong, profitable, and productive enterprises that benefit the whole community.

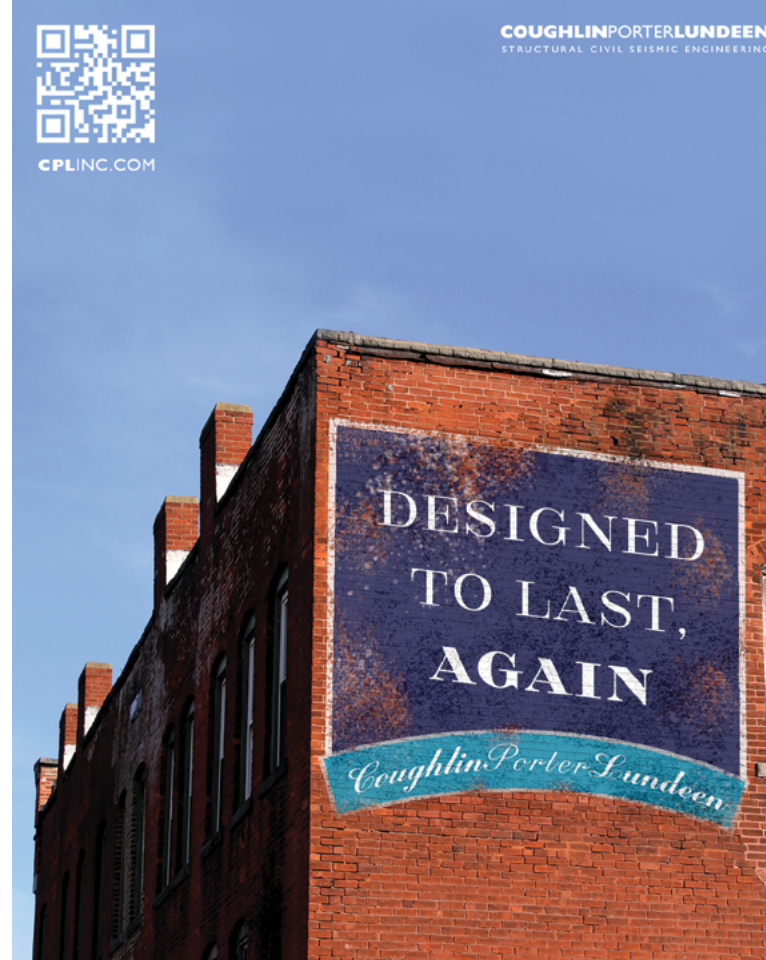
- **Lisa Smith**, *Washington State Microenterprise Association*

D2. PLACE-BASED KNOWLEDGE AND TRIBAL LEADERSHIP IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

📍 *Gig Harbor BoatShop at the Historic Eddon Boatyard*

This session explores how Tribal nations in Washington are applying traditional ecological knowledge to lead sustainable fisheries management efforts. Panelists will share case studies, best practices, and current challenges in maintaining healthy marine ecosystems amid climate change and industrial impacts. Attendees will gain insights into the regulatory frameworks Tribal communities use, the ecological and cultural significance of these efforts, and the broader implications for placemaking and preservation. Participants will leave with concrete, actionable steps to support Tribal-led marine stewardship as professionals, planners, and community members.

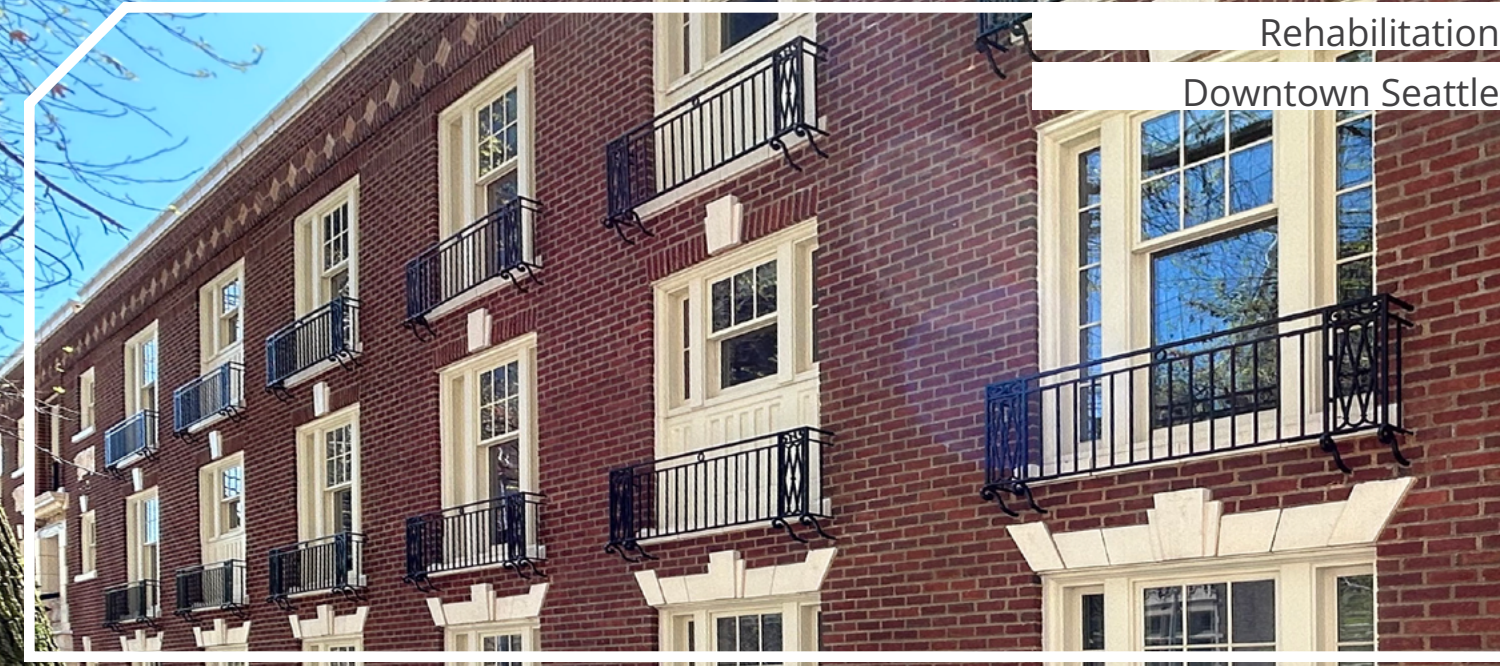
- **Meagan Harden**, *Washington Trust for Historic Preservation*
- **Azure Boure**, *Suquamish Tribe*
- **Viviane Barry**, *Suquamish Tribe*
- **Robin Sigo**, *Suquamish Tribe*



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D4.1. BUILDING RELOCATION: A NEW OPTION FOR PRESERVATION 🗨️ [10:30-11:00 AM]

📍 *Gig Harbor Yacht Club*

Once they are deemed in the way of "progress," historic buildings are often removed due to their poor condition. But rather than demolition, have you considered relocation? Building relocation offers a more sustainable alternative to demolition, oftentimes cheaper than building movers. Join this session to learn about the process, costs, and reassembly alternatives that are a far better choice than demolition.

- **Dave Bennink**, *RE-USE Consulting*

D4.2. GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: RESOURCES FOR HISTORIC CEMETERY PRESERVATION IN WASHINGTON STATE 🗨️ [11:00-11:30 AM]

📍 *Gig Harbor Yacht Club*

More than the final resting places of the deceased, cemeteries provide both a tangible record of our past and contribute to our collective memory. They convey individual, family, and community stories while

also revealing information about socioeconomic conditions, public health, and religious beliefs. Join us to learn about two historic cemetery preservation resources available in Washington State. The first, the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's Cemetery Care and Maintenance Program, gives nonprofit organizations the authority to preserve, protect, and restore abandoned cemeteries. The second, the Historic Cemetery Grant Program, benefits the public by preserving outstanding examples of the state's historical heritage. In this session, we discuss the details of both programs and present some examples of how they have been implemented.

- **Jennifer Spence**, *Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation*

11:30 AM-1:30 PM

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

📍 *Downtown Gig Harbor*

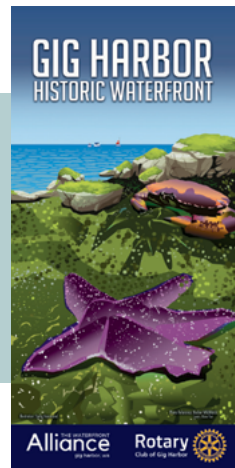
We recommend checking out a local restaurant on your lunch break. Need a recommendation? Swing by the hospitality table at registration!

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PLACES

GIG HARBOR | OCTOBER 8-10

"We believe partnerships are central to a more connected community."
Mark Rieck, President, Gig Harbor Rotary Foundation



Rotary's newest partnership, the Welcome Sign & Flagpole Project at the City Center entrance, is a shining example of community collaboration. Working alongside the City of Gig Harbor and PenLight, the Rotary Club of Gig Harbor helped create a welcoming gateway that celebrates our city's pride and spirit.



"By working together through public-private partnerships, we ensure a stronger and more vibrant future for Gig Harbor."
Katrina Knutson, Gig Harbor City Administrator

1:30-4:30 PM

MOBILE TOUR BLOCK 3

MT6. FROM POLICY TO PLACEMAKING: NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION

Meet at Hop Pharm

This tour will explore implementation of the McKinley Hill Neighborhood Plan, highlighting successful strategies for translating public input into funded, community-driven projects. Participants will visit key locations in this historically working-class and culturally diverse community just south of the Tacoma Dome to see how public art, infrastructure investment, and cultural storytelling can transform a neighborhood. Learn from local leaders about securing resources, building partnerships, and fostering long-term community involvement in placemaking and place-keeping efforts.

Featured stops will include the McKinley Overlook, a new public space created with community input; a new street mural and intersection safety enhancement; and other temporary art installations.

- **Anneka Olson**, City of Seattle
- **Brian Wang**, City of Tacoma
- **Lauren Hoogkamer**, City of Tacoma
- **Rebecca Solverson**, City of Tacoma

MT7. GIG HARBOR THROUGH A MAIN STREET LENS

Meet at Hop Pharm

Discover the dynamic Main Street waterfront district of Gig Harbor and explore its evolving journey. This walking tour offers a pragmatic look at how Gig Harbor embraces the principles of the Main Street Approach, highlighting its successes, programs, and continuous efforts to adapt and grow. We'll showcase impactful initiatives like our small business grant program and the illumination of the Finholm District, alongside our collaborative partnerships to deliver events and initiatives. We'll visit and meet with several businesses and organizations along the waterfront for key insights. Importantly, we'll also touch upon future plans and the ongoing work necessary to maintain a vibrant downtown, offering a nuanced perspective on the realities of Main Street management. Join us for an honest and insightful exploration of Gig Harbor's Main Street, where the iterative journey is just as important as the milestone achievements.

- **Clare Dunis**, Gig Harbor Waterfront Alliance
- **Lindsey Stover**, Harbor WildWatch

MT8. GIG HARBOR & BEYOND: EDUCATIONAL BOAT CRUISE
[ENDS AT 3:00 PM]

Meet at the Destiny Harbor Tours Dock

Join Destiny Harbor Tours for a 1.5-hour scenic and educational cruise through the stunning waterways of Puget Sound. Departing from Gig Harbor, this autumnal tour travels under the Narrows Bridges. Along the way, learn about the region's rich maritime history, local wildlife, and the working waterfronts that shaped the Pacific Northwest. On the return, enjoy views of Salmon Beach and the forested cliffs of Point Defiance Park. Views and life vests provided. Please be sure to bring a jacket!

This mobile tour will be offered on both Wednesday and Thursday.

- **Captain Ethan Allen**, Destiny Harbor Tours

1:30-2:30 PM

SESSION BLOCK E

E1. ADDRESSING FLOODING AT HISTORIC PROPERTIES

The Club @ the Boatyard (Gig Harbor Marina & Boatyard)

How do you adapt a historic building to mitigate the risk of coastal flooding? In this session, Washington Trust for Historic Preservation staff will recap their ongoing efforts to support property owners and communities navigating the impacts of climate events on historic coastal places. This will be followed by a conversation with small business owners from Coupeville, a Washington Main Street Community. They'll discuss what it means to be at the front line of coastal flooding events, the impacts to their businesses, how they are managing (including adapting their buildings) and working with local government, and what needs for support remain.

- **Maira Nadal**, Washington Trust for Historic Preservation
- **Meg Olson**, Kingfisher Bookstore

E2. RAILSPUR: TRANSFORMATIONAL ADAPTIVE REUSE IN SEATTLE'S HISTORIC PIONEER SQUARE

Gig Harbor BoatShop at the Historic Eddon Boatyard

What does it take to tackle a multi-project revitalization effort in an urban historic district? Railspur is a newly completed revitalization project in Seattle's Pioneer Square Historic District that utilized a slew of strategies to bring new life to this historic block. Join this session to explore the development and design strategies as well as the cross-project

synergy that went into bringing the project to life. You'll learn how this dedicated team approached issues such as sensitive historic adaptive reuse, historic tax credits, and nature-based design. And how did they change City ordinances to allow for a new rooftop bar and an alley-front dining enclosure? Join us to find out!

- **Mike Jobs**, *The Miller Hull Partnership*

E3.1. BRIGHT IDEAS: HOW TO FUND, BUILD, AND IMPLEMENT A MAIN STREET LIGHTING PROJECT 🗨️
[1:30-2:00 PM]

📍 *Gig Harbor Church of the Nazarene - Sanctuary*

Lighting is one of the most effective yet overlooked tools for revitalizing a downtown district. It enhances safety, creates ambiance, and supports small businesses by making commercial areas more inviting after dark. But how do you take a large-scale lighting project from an idea to reality? In this session, we'll break down the step-by-step process of launching a capital improvement project, from building partnerships with property owners and securing funding to working with vendors and navigating logistics. Whether you're considering roofline lighting, alleyway illumination, or another placemaking project, you'll leave with actionable strategies to bring your vision to light. You'll be able to apply these strategies to any capital improvement project, not just lighting!

- **Carrienne Ekberg**, *Gig Harbor Waterfront Alliance*
- **Rich Newman**, *Outdoor Lighting Perspectives*

E3.2. DIY FOOT TRAFFIC TRACKING: A LOW-COST TECH SOLUTION FOR MAIN STREETS 🗨️
[2:00-2:30 PM]

📍 *Gig Harbor Church of the Nazarene - Sanctuary*

How do you measure the success of your Main Street promotions? Foot traffic data is essential for tracking trends, evaluating events, and helping businesses understand conversion rates, but professional solutions can be expensive. This session presents a low-cost, DIY approach developed by the Anacortes High School Robotics Team in partnership with the Downtown Anacortes Alliance. Attendees will learn how to build and implement simple foot traffic tracking devices, how to collaborate with local schools for tech projects, and how to use the collected data to inform Main Street initiatives. Leave with a practical, step-by-step guide to replicating this solution in your community.

- **Angus Edelman**, *Anacortes High School*

E4. WE'RE ALL PART OF THE CREW: BUILDING EFFECTIVE COLLABORATIONS

📍 *Gig Harbor Yacht Club*

In today's interconnected world, success rarely happens in isolation. Whether you're launching a community initiative, managing a team, or seeking to forge partnerships across sectors, the ability to build authentic, effective collaborations is essential. This workshop is designed for anyone working to create genuine partnerships with others or operating within team environments where collective impact matters most. Through interactive exercises and peer-to-peer learning, you'll explore practical strategies for identifying potential collaborators who share your values and vision, even when they come from different perspectives. By session's end, you'll leave with a practical toolkit including partnership assessment frameworks, communication templates, and strategies for sustaining long-term collaborative relationships. More importantly, you'll feel inspired by the possibilities that emerge when people come together with shared purpose and mutual respect.

- **Christine Gilmore**, *Rural Development Initiatives*



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“The character of a place is given by the things that happen there.”
- Aldo van Eyck

Eddon Boat Building | Gig Harbor, WA

3:00-4:00 PM

SESSION BLOCK F

F1. BEYOND BUILDINGS: WHY HISTORIC CONTEXTS ARE ESSENTIAL TO INCLUSIVE PRESERVATION

📍 *The Club @ the Boatyard (Gig Harbor Marina & Boatyard)*

Historic contexts play a vital role in ensuring an inclusive approach to historic preservation work. This session will explore the importance of historic contexts and how to approach them in your own preservation practice. Led by architectural historian Katie Pratt, public historian Sarah Martin, and SEPA and Section 106 coordinator Michael de Lange, this presentation will focus on their recently completed historic contexts—women's labor history in Oregon and disability activism in Seattle—and include a review of their successes, struggles, and other lessons learned to jumpstart your own historic context research.

- **Katie Pratt**, *Northwest Vernacular*
- **Michael de Lange**, *City of Seattle*
- **Sarah Martin**, *SJM Cultural Resource Services*

F2.1. CONSERVING CULTURAL HERITAGE IN GIG HARBOR 🗨️
[3:00-3:30 PM]

📍 *Gig Harbor BoatShop at the Historic Eddon Boatyard*

From commercial fishing to boatbuilding, the occupational traditions of Gig Harbor are historically the cultural foundation of our waterfront community. But as waterfront property values have increased, working waterfront properties are routinely displaced. Join this session to learn how our community saved our local historic cultural heritage in spite of these challenges. We will explore three concrete examples of working waterfront preservation, each slightly different but all leading to the conservation of our place-defining occupational traditions. Attendees will take away one community's how-to experience and a sample road map that might inspire similar efforts in their community.

- **Guy Hoppen**, *Gig Harbor BoatShop*

F2.2. A BLAST FROM THE (RECENT) PAST: THE FUTURE OF PRESERVATION AND THE POST-MODERN ERA 📢

[3:30-4:00 PM]

📍 Gig Harbor BoatShop at the Historic Eddon Boatyard

Take a journey into the not-so-distant past to see what the future of preservation might be! Join State Architectural Historian Michael Houser and relive the 1970s and '80s to get a better understanding of what types of resources might be up for historic designation in the next five to 10 years. Learn about styles, terminology, and trends of this post-modern era. Bring your big hair, shoulder pads, and neon colors!

- **Michael Houser**, Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

F3. WE'VE GOT 99 PROBLEMS, BUT PARKING SHOULDN'T BE ONE

📍 Gig Harbor Church of the Nazarene - Sanctuary

Parking often comes up as a top challenge on Main Street America's community surveys, but do we really have a parking shortage? The answer, interestingly, is no. In this entertaining and interactive session, we will demonstrate how parking is actually plentiful and how our perceived shortage is actually kneecapping Main Street vitality—physically, socially, environmentally, and economically. It will take a village for us to cast aside the shackles of our perceived parking problem, but each one of us can make a difference!

- **Mike Powe**, Main Street America
- **Samantha Lorenz**, Terra Soma

F4. NAVIGATING COMPLICATED PUBLIC HISTORIES: CELEBRATION AND REFLECTION FOR AMERICA250 AND BEYOND

📍 Gig Harbor Yacht Club

Public anniversaries, like the upcoming American semiquincentennial (America250) in 2026, offer unique opportunities for both celebration and reflection. These anniversaries are a time to both celebrate historic successes while also reflect on historic impacts that still negatively affect communities today. Through facilitated conversation, participants in this session will consider ways to bring communities together for commemorations that honor different perspectives on our shared history. Washington State Historical Society staff will share specific strategies for gathering feedback from communities to help you plan successful programs and offer ideas for building partnerships and

collaborations across sectors.

- **Allison Campbell**, Washington State Historical Society
- **Jay Baersten**, Washington State Historical Society
- **Lorraine Ralston**, Washington State Historical Society

5:30-8:30 PM

EXCELLENCE ON MAIN 📢 📢

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM;
PROGRAM STARTS AT 6:30 PM

📍 Foss Waterway Seaport

Exceptional entrepreneurs, organizers, and preservationists from communities across the state will be celebrated at our annual Excellence on Main awards reception. Join us to celebrate the recipients with an evening full of exemplary projects, delightful hors d'oeuvres, local beverages, and fun! If you plan to enjoy some local beer or wine, don't forget to bring your ID.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

6:30-7:30 AM

MORNING WALK WITH LOCAL GUIDES 📢

📍 Meet at Hop Pharm

Grab your sneakers and join local Gig Harbor guides for an energizing start to your Friday morning. Connect with fellow attendees and get to know Gig Harbor better during this easy two- to three-mile morning walk.

8:00 AM-12:00 PM

REGISTRATION + CHECK-IN

📍 Hop Pharm

Visit us at Hop Pharm to check in, add on additional mobile tours, and ask our local guides for recommendations!

9:00 AM-12:00 PM

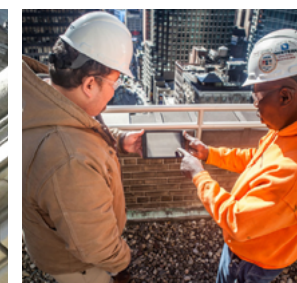
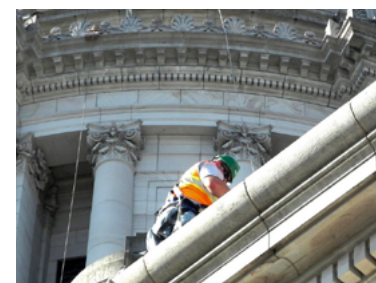
MOBILE TOUR BLOCK 4 📢

MT9. GIG HARBOR'S MARITIME HISTORIES AND MYSTERIES 📢

📍 Meet at Harbor History Museum

Put on your walking shoes and grab your binoculars to step back into Gig Harbor's maritime history. From log dumps to fish boats and fearsome explorers, this tour starts at the Harbor History Museum and ends at the old ferry landing. Along the way, you'll visit the site of the Swift Water village, step inside an historic netshed, and learn about dreams of grandeur lost at sea. Led by lifetime harbor kid and museum director Stephanie Lile, participants will be challenged to find evidence of past maritime history still lurking at the water's edge.

- **Stephanie Lile**, Harbor History Museum
- **Riley Hall**, Harbor History Museum

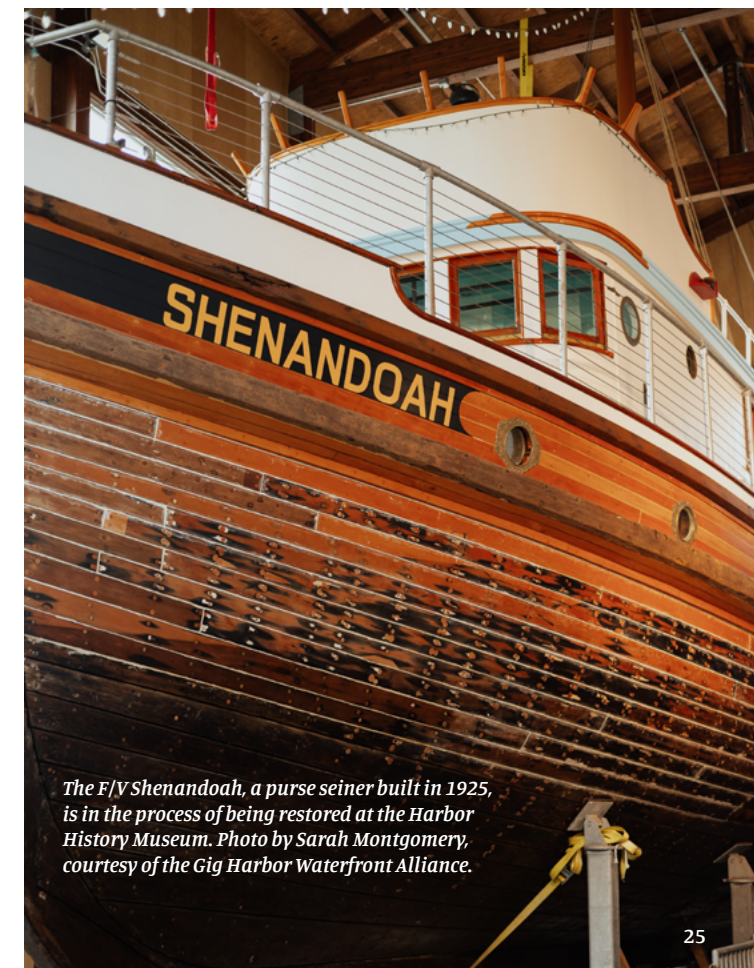


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The F/V Shenandoah, a purse seiner built in 1925, is in the process of being restored at the Harbor History Museum. Photo by Sarah Montgomery, courtesy of the Gig Harbor Waterfront Alliance.



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Find information to support your business in the Start-Up and Growth tabs



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architects

Preserving History



9:00-10:00 AM

SESSION BLOCK G

G1. UNREINFORCED MASONRY BUILDINGS ON MAIN STREET: SURVEYS, CODES, AND INCENTIVES

📍 *The Club @ the Boatyard (Gig Harbor Marina & Boatyard)*

Unreinforced Masonry Buildings (URMs) pose significant risks to the economic stability and safety of Main Street communities across Washington. This session explores how historic preservation and disaster resilience intersect to identify and retrofit URMs. Representatives from the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and Washington State Military Department's Emergency Management Division will discuss survey efforts in Everett and Tacoma, training resources, and the upcoming URM online dashboard for property owners and city officials. Staff from the City of Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections will also cover the city's URM Retrofit legislation and financial incentives to support retrofits. Learn how communities can use these tools to reduce seismic risks while preserving their historic character.

- **Amanda Hertzfeld**, *City of Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections*
- **Maximilian Dixon**, *Washington State Military Department Emergency Management Division*
- **Riley McNabb**, *Washington State Military Department Emergency Management Division*
- **Ellen Mirro**, *Studio TJP*
- **Michelle Thompson**, *Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation*
- **Jeronimo Roldan**, *Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation*

G2. KEEPING HISTORY AFLOAT: PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC VESSELS

📍 *Gig Harbor BoatShop at the Historic Eddon Boatyard*

Historic vessels represent an integral piece of Washington's maritime heritage. Keeping those vessels in ship shape, however, can be a complex and rewarding endeavor, requiring careful planning, skilled craftsmanship, and sustainable funding. This session brings together experts to guide attendees through the essential steps of historic vessel maintenance and restoration, including assessing historical and structural needs, selecting appropriate materials, assembling a skilled team, and securing funding. Panelists will share insights from real-world projects, offering practical strategies for successful preservation. A moderated Q&A will provide attendees with the opportunity to engage directly with experts

and gain actionable advice for their own maritime preservation efforts.

- **Alex Gradwohl**, *Washington Trust for Historic Preservation*
- **Alicia Barnes**, *Virginia V Foundation*
- **John Bishop**, *Center for Wooden Boats*
- **Blaise Holley**, *Haven Boatworks*

G3. CREATING COMMUNITIES BY INCLUDING HOUSING IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION

📍 *Gig Harbor Church of the Nazarene - Sanctuary*

Housing has become a headline-grabbing need in communities statewide. Centering the priority of creating community with the introduction or expansion of housing in historic places is a meaningful way to create greater community commitment. New housing means new residents who will enjoy maintaining local history while simultaneously expanding the economic vitality of their neighborhood. Rehabilitating existing buildings to include housing also reduces many of the environmental impacts introduced through demolition and wholesale new construction, thus minimizing negative consequences for existing businesses and residents. Speakers will share development practicalities and outcomes associated within their historic projects!

This session features Bellingham with speakers from the City and Downtown Bellingham Partnership along with community stakeholders working to build communities that include housing along with historic preservation.

- **Laura Franke**, *Housing Development Consortium*
- **Emy Scherrer**, *City of Bellingham*
- **Lexie Costic**, *RMC Architects*

G4. CHAMPIONING OWNER-OCCUPIED STOREFRONTS TO ENHANCE MAIN STREET RESILIENCE

📍 *Gig Harbor Church of the Nazarene - Fellowship Hall*

This session examines the decline in owner-occupied storefronts: a critical threat to downtown longevity. Through a data deep-dive and interactive brainstorming, participants will explore significant barriers faced by Main Street entrepreneurs—including high-interest debt, eroded equity, and insufficient owner compensation—and learn how building ownership can provide much-needed stability in a challenging business landscape. Using South Tacoma as a case study, stakeholders will discover methods of using local data to assess ownership trends in their areas. The session will conclude with a brainstorming session on actionable

strategies to help entrepreneurs build equity in the real estate assets they occupy.

- **Katherine Raz**, *The Fernseed*

10:30-11:30 AM

SESSION BLOCK H

H1. PRESERVATION IN PERIL

📍 *The Club @ the Boatyard (Gig Harbor Marina & Boatyard)*

At both the state and federal level, historic preservation is facing challenges in terms of policy and funding. Legislation passed at the state level is fundamentally changing the way communities can designate and preserve local landmarks in several jurisdictions, while at the federal level, efforts to pare back the regulatory framework in place for cultural resources could result in the loss of significant sites and buildings. Join this panel discussion to hear updates on preservation policy, the threats cultural resources are facing in light of pending proposals, and the action you can take to support preservation!

- **Chris Moore**, *Washington Trust for Historic Preservation*
- **Dr. Allyson Brooks**, *Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation*
- **Brandon Reynon**, *Puyallup Tribe of Indians*
- **Tim Thompson**, *Thompson Consulting Group*

H2. HOW TO BUILD A BOATBUILDER: DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO TEACHING TRADITIONAL TRADES

📍 *Gig Harbor BoatShop at the Historic Eddon Boatyard*

As demand for skilled trades grows, programs across Washington are passing on traditional boatbuilding skills to professionals and hobbyists alike. This panel will explore different training models, from family and adult classes, to professional schools and apprenticeships, to informal opportunities for hands-on learning. Panelists will share insights on engaging learners, overcoming challenges, and preserving craftsmanship. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of how these programs sustain essential trades, preserve cultural heritage, and support a thriving maker economy.

- **Josh Anderson**, *Center for Wooden Boats*
- **Tyson Trudel**, *Maritime High School*
- **Sam Laher**, *Wood Technology Center at Seattle Central College*
- **Betsy Davis**
- **Tom Regan**, *Gig Harbor BoatShop*

H3. STRONGER TOGETHER: BUILDING AND SUSTAINING LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR MAIN STREET SUCCESS

Gig Harbor Church of the Nazarene - Sanctuary

Successful Main Street programs don't work in silos; they thrive through strong partnerships. This session will explore how to build and sustain collaborative relationships with cities, nonprofits, service clubs, and other community organizations to achieve shared goals. A panel of leaders from various sectors will share real-world examples of successful partnerships, covering topics like joint funding opportunities, shared resources, and aligning missions for maximum impact. Attendees will gain practical strategies for identifying potential partners, fostering long-term collaboration, and overcoming common challenges. Whether starting from scratch or strengthening existing relationships, this session will provide actionable takeaways to enhance community-driven success.

- Jill Guernsey, Gig Harbor Morning Rotary Club
- Katrina Knutson, City of Gig Harbor
- Miriam Battson, Gig Harbor Chamber & Visit Gig Harbor
- Pat Schmidt, Gig Harbor Waterfront Alliance

H4. CARE OF PLACE: HOW PROTECTING COMMUNITIES' CULTURAL IDENTITIES CAN HONOR HISTORY AND BUILD ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

Gig Harbor Yacht Club

Many historically rich communities, including Tacoma's Hilltop neighborhood, are facing rapid changes due to development and rising property values. Without intentional preservation and economic strategies, longtime residents risk being displaced. This workshop empowers the community to take an active role in protecting cultural identity and maintaining affordability while supporting sustainable growth. Attendees will learn how to preserve community identity, related placemaking strategies, and approaches for equitable economic development.

- Brendan Nelson, AYA Community Land Trust

11:30 AM-1:30 PM

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

Downtown Gig Harbor

We recommend checking out a local restaurant on your lunch break. Need a recommendation? Swing by the hospitality table at registration!

1:30-2:30 PM

SESSION BLOCK I

I1. BRIDGING HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION NEEDS: CULTURAL RESOURCE REPORTING ON FEDERALLY-FUNDED BRIDGE PROJECTS

The Club @ the Boatyard (Gig Harbor Marina & Boatyard)

With our state's vast number of waterways, bridges are ubiquitous throughout Washington. But aging structures coupled with growing populations and increased traffic are contributing to an increased number of bridge replacement, repair, or enhancement projects, often along vital transportation routes. While basic infrastructure is important to communities, so too is retaining the cultural heritage and sense of place created by historic bridges. In this session, we will discuss three Section 106 projects focused on bridges, underscoring how historical and cultural contexts can change cultural resource survey approaches. Featured projects include the Cramer Road NW Bridge, the North Aberdeen Bridge, and the Old Wenatchee Bridge.

- Brenna Tennant, Aqua Terra Cultural Resource Consultants
- Carson Golden, Aqua Terra Cultural Resource Consultants
- Jackey Anderson, Aqua Terra Cultural Resource Consultants

I2. THE POWER OF ORAL HISTORIES: ACTIVATING ARCHIVES THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED STORYTELLING

Gig Harbor BoatShop at the Historic Eddon Boatyard

Oral history projects have the power to foster both community engagement and intergenerational connections. In this session, explore real-world lessons from community-driven oral history projects in the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area and beyond. We will share projects that break oral histories out of their archives and into the world, pairing academic rigor with creative facilitation. This workshop will inspire you to give your community the tools to record their histories and bring archives to life through events and programming.

- Caroline Villanova, Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area
- Emily Turner, MOHAI
- Shenise Ramirez, Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area
- Griff Tester, Central Washington University
- M. Eliatamby-O'Brien, Central Washington University

I3.1. ARBUTUS FOLK SCHOOL: A CASE STUDY FOR STRENGTHENING YOUR LOCAL CREATIVE ECONOMY

[1:30-2:00 PM]

Gig Harbor Church of the Nazarene - Sanctuary

Since it opened its doors 10 years ago, the Arbutus Folk School in downtown Olympia has had a tremendous impact on the district's creative economy. Utilizing place-based principles, Arbutus has supported an ecosystem of local artists as well as the surrounding small businesses, all while navigating the challenges of occupying a historic building not initially intended to support their creative industry business model. Join this session to learn more about Arbutus's approach to building their creative community and examine the various roles a folk school can play in strengthening your own creative economy.

- Desiree Freeland, Olympia Downtown Alliance
- Hillary Tully, Arbutus Folk School

I3.2. A LEGACY OF PLACEMAKING: BUILDING COMMUNITY, PLACE, AND MEMORIES AT THE HISTORIC PETER KIRK BUILDING

[2:00-2:30 PM]

Gig Harbor Church of the Nazarene - Sanctuary

This session explores placemaking and its role in fostering community at the Kirkland Arts Center (KAC). For more than six decades, KAC has brought together people, arts, and community in the historic Peter Kirk Building (built in 1892), the oldest commercial building on the east side of the Seattle region and the only extant structure directly associated with the founder and namesake of Kirkland. As advocates for engagement, preservation of heritage, and stewards of cultural landscapes, this panel will consider strategies taken to integrate a sense of place with organizational mission and objectives. Come prepared to fuel the conversation through polling results displayed live onscreen!

- David Lynx, Kirkland Arts Center
- Eddie Kim, DLR Group
- Carrie Cassidy, Kirkland Arts Center

I4. EMPOWERING OUR VOLUNTEERS TO BECOME STRONG LEADERS

Gig Harbor Yacht Club

Community-based organizations rely upon civic engagement to achieve their missions. Yet often there is a gap between the cry of "we need volunteers!" and the organizational structure in which volunteerism can take root and thrive. More than free labor, volunteerism presents an opportunity for community

members to increase their sense of ownership and develop their leadership potential. In this session, you'll learn how your organization can be a tool for people to join your mission and how, through analysis of community demographics and organizational culture, you can grow a strong team culture and leadership pipeline.

- Norma Ramirez de Miess

2:30-4:00 PM

FAREWELL PICNIC IN THE PARK

Skansie Park

As PLACES 2025 comes to a close, we're excited to bring attendees together one last time to connect with each other at our Farewell Picnic. Join us for good snacks, great company, and exciting historic boat tours. Whether you just stop by for a snack, swing by to say farewell to friends old and new, or settle in to build new connections and swap ideas born out of the conference, we'll look forward to seeing you there.

5:30-7:00 PM

WASHINGTON TRUST ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

Harbor History Museum

We hope you'll stick around after the conference to join us for the Washington Trust's Annual Members Meeting for a little more food, drink, and camaraderie as we celebrate preservation accomplishments throughout the state and vote in our newest board members.



CONFERENCE VENUES

REGISTRATION + CHECK-IN

📍 HOP PHARM
3216 Judson St

SHUTTLES

Please check the shuttle schedule in the Attendee Guide, as shuttles will not be operating continuously throughout the week.

🚌 HOTEL TO HOP PHARM SHUTTLE

If you're staying outside downtown Gig Harbor, we recommend taking our "Hotel to Hop Pharm" shuttle, which runs between the Best Western Wesley Inn & Suites and Hop Pharm.

- Park at the **GIG HARBOR PARK & RIDE**: 6565 Kimball Dr, Gig Harbor, WA 98335
- Take the shuttle from the **BEST WESTERN WESLEY INN & SUITES** located across the street: 6575 Kimball Dr

🚌 HARBORVIEW SHUTTLE

For your convenience, our "Harborview" shuttle will run the length of Harborview Drive, from Pioneer Way (closest to Hop Pharm and the Gig Harbor Church of the Nazarene) to the Harbor History Museum with a stop at Eddon Boatyard (close to the Yacht Club).

CLASSROOM VENUES

- 📍 GIG HARBOR CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
7721 Pioneer Way
- 📍 GIG HARBOR YACHT CLUB
8209 Stinson Ave
- 📍 GIG HARBOR BOATSHOP AT THE HISTORIC EDDON BOATYARD
3805 Harborview Dr
- 📍 THE CLUB @ THE BOATYARD (GIG HARBOR MARINA & BOATYARD)
3117 Harborview Dr

MOBILE TOUR MEETING PLACES

- 📍 HOP PHARM
3216 Judson St
- 📍 HARBOR HISTORY MUSEUM
4121 Harborview Dr
- 📍 DESTINY HARBOR TOURS DOCK
8829 N Harborview Dr (behind Anthony's at Gig Harbor)

SPECIAL EVENTS VENUES

- 📍 GIG HARBOR YACHT CLUB
8209 Stinson Ave
- 📍 CORNER OF PIONEER AND HARBORVIEW
Or route to Commencement Bank:
7804 Pioneer Way
- 📍 SKANSIE BROTHERS PARK
3211 Harborview Dr
- 📍 FOSS WATERWAY SEAPORT
705 Dock St, Tacoma, WA 98402

SCAN QR CODE TO VIEW
DIGITAL MAP, SHUTTLE STOPS,
AND PARKING LOCATIONS IN
OUR ATTENDEE GUIDE:





SEE YOU NEXT YEAR AT
PLACES
IN ELLENSBURG
OCTOBER 7-9, 2026



Sign up for our newsletter to stay updated:
preservewa.org/places

PLACES 2025 CONFERENCE PARTNERS



preservewa.org



preservewa.org/mainstreet



maritimewa.org

The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to partnering with communities to preserve, share, and shape the future of historic places in Washington State.

Since 1984, the Washington State Main Street Program has been helping communities revitalize the economy, appearance, and image of their downtown commercial districts using the successful Main Street Approach®. WSMSP is a program of the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation, managed under contract by the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation.

Spanning 3,000 miles of Washington State's saltwater shoreline, the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area recognizes our state's unique and diverse maritime cultures. Managed by the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation in partnership with the National Park Service, this heritage area builds a region-wide network and increases collaboration to support our coastal communities in celebrating, maintaining, and sharing their water-based stories.



dahp.wa.gov

Protect the past, shape the future.

The Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP) is Washington State's primary agency with knowledge and expertise in historic preservation. DAHP advocates for the preservation of Washington's irreplaceable cultural resources (historic and archaeological) which include significant structures, sites, objects, and districts. Through education and information, we provide leadership for the protection of our shared heritage. Preserving these physical reminders of our past creates a sense of place, resulting in an environment that instills civic pride and community spirit.



ghdwa.org

The Gig Harbor Waterfront Alliance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2008 to unite community and Waterfront District stakeholders to encourage economic vitality and preserve historic character.

The Waterfront Alliance is a Nationally Accredited Main Street Organization active in the Washington State Main Street Program.

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RECHARGE ROOM

Presented by the Gig Harbor Waterfront Alliance and Sievers Real Estate, the Recharge Room is your go-to space to rest and reset during the PLACES conference. Stop by between sessions or over lunch to enjoy complimentary coffee, drinks, snacks, and free wifi. Relax with comfy seating, puzzles, yoga mats, or simply take a quiet moment to recharge before heading back into the action.

📍 **SIEVERS REAL ESTATE**
7716-B PIONEER WAY,
GIG HARBOR, WA 98335

🕒 **OPEN WEDNESDAY
THROUGH FRIDAY,
9:00 AM-4:00 PM**



ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

October 10, 2025 | Harbor History Museum, Gig Harbor

Come meet our slate of new board nominees and celebrate preservation accomplishments across the past year. All Washington Trust members and friends are welcome to attend our Annual Members Meeting on Friday, October 10, from 5:30-7:00 pm at the Harbor History Museum (4121 Harborview Drive).



Scan QR code or visit **preservewa.org/members-meeting** to RSVP.

