Something Old, Something New

By Erica M. Varga, Executive Director, Bainbridge Island Historical Society & Museum

Ever wonder what a more visible location would do for your organization? Well, the Bainbridge Island Historical Society and Museum now knows. After nearly a year of slumber and a 4.5 mile road trip, Bainbridge Island’s Museum reopened its doors in late August to share, once again, the island’s historical wealth. The museum’s new Ericksen Avenue location puts local history in the heart of downtown Winslow on Bainbridge.

When I joined the Bainbridge Island Historical Museum as curator in the fall of 2001, the society’s board of directors was contemplating the need for a more central location. The museum had been tucked away in beautiful Strawberry Hill Park since 1971. Though the setting of the park was serene, it was out-of-sight and out-of-mind for the majority of islanders and visitors.

The City of Bainbridge Island showed its support by granting a 90 year lease to the society for property located in the historic Ericksen neighborhood just east of the Bainbridge Performing Arts Theater and City Hall. The site was critical in achieving the goal of making the museum more accessible to residents and tourists, because it allowed the museum to complete a “cultural corridor” in the downtown hub within walking distance of shops, anchor businesses and the well-used ferry.

With the collection expanding and the endeavors of the society increasing, the board decided to go for it and a capital campaign was launched in 2002. The goal was to raise $350,000 to cover the cost of relocating the museum’s 1908 schoolhouse and 1997 annex buildings and adding an adjoining lobby and office space.

The society had raised $150,000 and was in the middle of campaign efforts when something unexpected happened. Helen Bucey, an avid community supporter, bequeathed $400,000 in unrestricted funds to support the needs of the growing historical society when she passed away. Thanks to the generosity of Ms. Bucey, the plans of Seattle architects, Rohleder, Borges, and Fleming, and the society’s building committee were put into motion.

In the fall of 2003, museum staff turned their attention to the daunting task of securing adequate off-site storage for the collection and properly packing every button, basket and barber pole for the long winter ahead. A temporary office was found for staff to allow programs and publications to continue during the museum’s undetermined hiatus.

A crowd of spectators gathered in the winter of 2004, (see Moving Museum, page 3)
Editor’s Note:
The WMA Museum Messenger is published quarterly by the Washington Museum Association, a 501(c)(3) federally recognized non-profit organization consisting of institutions, businesses, and individuals whose mission it is to promote increased professionalism in and communication amongst all museums within Washington State. All articles within this issue may be reproduced and circulated to staff with appropriate credit given to the Washington Museum Association and the contributing author.

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Printing: InstantPress, Yakima, WA

Publishing Dates:
January 15, April 15, July 15, & October 15.
Materials must be in the hands of the editor a minimum of 6 weeks prior to these dates to be considered for inclusion.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Barbara Moe
Curator, Naval Undersea Museum

In looking back over 2004, there are three highlights that come to mind. We celebrated our first Museum Day in February in Olympia. We were able to present factual information about the museums in the state, thanks to our 2003 Washington State Museum Survey. Although the attendance was small, it was a great beginning, and we learned a great deal this first year. In June we had a marvelous conference hosted by the Nordic Heritage Museum in Ballard. We had previously scheduled the conference at another location, but when that fell through, Nordic Heritage Museum graciously stepped in and did a wonderful job. Thanks again to them for hosting the Conference. And yet another accomplishment has been the printing of the Museum Directories. I know everyone has been anxiously awaiting this publication. If you haven’t received your copy already, you should be receiving it very shortly. Karen Marshall, a former Board member and past-President, has been managing this project. With the many difficulties that have occurred, a lesser woman would have thrown up her hands and quit a year ago. Thanks, Karen. Our hats off to you!

Our last Board meeting was hosted by the Bainbridge Island Historical Society Museum on Bainbridge Island. Museum Director Erica Varga, a former Board member, has also volunteered to publish the e-Messenger. The Museum has recently moved, so it was a real pleasure to see the new location and additional space. What a great place to visit. Thanks, Erica for all your support!

Another former Board member, Chris Erlich, compiled and interpreted an internal Board Survey. The purpose was to identify things that were working pretty well, and areas that we needed to change. Chris did an excellent job of compiling all of this data and in presenting it to board of directors in a helpful format. We’ll continue looking at this information during the next few months. The Board is a group of highly dedicated professionals who are doing a good job, all the while realizing that the organization has room to improve. Thanks, Chris!

As we look ahead to a new year, the Board is already hard at work on several fronts. Watch for information on this year’s Museum Day. And, with the annual conference coming up in the spring in the beautiful Yakima Valley, please take the time to consider the award nominations. We need all your ideas.

It seems this message is about former Board members who are still offering their services to the organization. On that note, I would like to remind everyone that you too can be involved. Feel free to contact anyone of the board members. Thank you for your time and have a wonderful, prosperous new year.

The Board of Directors are always eager to hear from you, so please don’t hesitate to contact any of us, with either “atta-boys”, or “wish-you-would-haves”. If you send us emails at info@washingtonstatemuseums.org, just address it to whomever you want to contact, and it will be forwarded to them. If you want to contact me, my email address is bmoe@kpt.nuwc.navy.mil.
including the mayor and staff at City Hall, to cheer the nearly 100-year old red schoolhouse on down the road as it was relocated for the third time in its long life (possibly the most well-traveled building in Kitsap County!). It was settled onto its foundation and soon after, it was connected to the dressed-up annex building by a new atrium lobby. The project was of course expanded from its original concept. The research library was enlarged, a basement for collection storage and workspace was excavated, and a rotating exhibit gallery added.

The sound of the schoolhouse bell over Winslow in late August marked another milestone in the history of the historical society. Six hundred people came out to celebrate the grand re-opening with us! Bainbridge Island Vineyard & Winery’s Ferryboat White flowed while the music and feast rivaled that of any good wedding celebration.

It has been three months since the move and one question remains. Has our long closure and the hard work been worth it? In a good year at Strawberry Hill Park the museum would see roughly 1,200 visitors. In the three months following our grand opening events, we have had 770 visitors. Sure, you have the novelty and newness factor, but we intend to keep drawing visitors in and look forward to our first tourist season in our new location.

The rewards of our new location and expanded facility are numerous. We are now asking for admission. Gift shop sales have nearly doubled. We have been averaging 20 new members each month. Our family of volunteers has grown and now includes librarians and high school student docents. School group and public program attendance is on the rise. Opportunities for collaboration with other community organizations have also been revealed to us.

There are bound to be trials and tribulations with a change of this magnitude. Like moving into a new home, we have a large family to get settled in and comfortable with our expanded operation. Docents have faced the challenge of learning a new phone, computer, and alarm system. We have had to vamp services up a notch to enhance the visitor experience. Staff is busy responding to an increase in photo reproduction requests, needs for guest speakers and tour guides, and requests for the use of our space for community meetings. There are more memberships to process, donations to the collection to accession and catalog, research inquiries to respond to, garbage bags to empty, and grounds to maintain.

There will be more false alarms, accidental phone hang-ups, and cash register errors before this winter is out, but has it all been worth it, you betcha!
**RON CHEW RECEIVES DIRECTOR’S CHAIR AWARD**

Ron Chew, Director of the Wing Luke Asian Museum in Seattle, received the Western Museum Association Director’s Chair Award at the WMA Annual Meeting. The Director’s Chair Award is presented annually to an individual who has had a significant and lasting impact on museum practices or the museum profession in the Western Region. Ron’s contributions to his local community and the museum community over the years have been profound. During his 13-year leadership and through the strength of his Museum’s community-based, intergenerational programs, the Wing Luke Asian Museum has garnered numerous local and national awards, including the Institutional Excellence Award from the Washington Museum Association in 1993 and the National Award for Museum Service, presented in a White House ceremony in 1995. In 2002 the Museum was the recipient of the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies Western Museums Association Award for Exhibition Excellence for the exhibition “If Tired Hands Could Talk.”

Prior to his tenure at the Wing Luke, Ron worked as a journalist and writer for 13 years, serving as editor of the *International Examiner* newspaper, a Chinatown-International District publication from 1978-1988. He currently serves on the board of the Seattle Public Library Foundation and previously served on the governing boards of the National Endowment for the Humanities and Museum Loan Network.

Ron’s Director’s Chair Award was joined by two other awards for him announced the same week. The University of Washington Department of Communication inaugurated him into its new Hall of Fame, and the Ford Foundation named him a “Leadership for a Changing World” winner.

**Connecting Across Cultures**

The 17th Annual Washington Heritage Conference will be held on February 7–8, 2005 at the Red Lion Hotel in Olympia. This year’s conference is in conjunction with the Heritage Caucus meeting and the Washington Museum Association’s “Museum Day” Capitol Campus on February 9, 2005 (see article in this issue).

For 2005, the annual Washington Heritage Conference returns to its roots, as a gathering in Olympia during the legislative session of all Washingtonians doing heritage preservation and interpretation, to talk, share, and learn!

Workshops, breakouts, plenaries, and panels including State Representative Pat Lantz, Legislative District 26 and Heritage Caucus Co-Chair Allyson Brooks, State Historic Preservation Officer; Steve Crowell, Washington Museum Association and Karshner Museum; Robert Gruhn General Counsel and Washington Museum Association; Karen Klett, Association of King County Historical Organizations; David Nicandri, Washington State Historical Society; Barbara Moe, Washington Museum Association and Naval Undersea Museum; Charles Payton, Museum Advisor, 4Culture; Mary Thompson, Washington Trust for Historic Preservation

For hotel reservations, call the Red Lion at 360-943-4000. The rate for conference attendees on February 7th and 8th is $79.00 for a single or a double. Block will be released on January 17th.

For more information, contact Garry Schalliol at (253) 377-6278, garys@wshs.wa.gov, or go to www.washingtonhistory.org, to see the full program.


**Educational Legacy Fund Awards to Seattle Aquarium for High School Naturalist Program**

The Seattle Aquarium was recently awarded $20,000 from the Educational Legacy Fund located in Bellevue. This is the fourth year in a row the Aquarium has received an award from this organization to enhance the Aquarium’s High School Naturalist volunteer program.

The High School Naturalist program trains youth 16-18 years old to serve as volunteers at the Seattle Aquarium. These teen volunteers primarily perform as naturalists in the Aquarium exhibits, answering questions, giving talks and tours, and storytelling. The naturalists also assist with educational programs and special events. Advanced students may also assist with the care and feeding of aquarium animals and act as counselors for the Aquarium’s Marine Summer Camp.

The funds from this award are used to 1) provide more educational opportunities for the teens such as career exploration; 2) to provide new training and hands-on materials; and, 3) to increase staff time dedicated to recruitment and providing this opportunity to a diverse range of teens. Past funding has helped increase diversity in the program, as well as providing more artifacts to assist the teens in educating Aquarium visitors about the marine environment and the animals who live there.

For more information please contact Laura Austin at 206-386-4329 or Sue Donohue Smith at 206-386-4342.
Come join us in Olympia on February 9, 2005 for the second annual Museum Day sponsored by the Washington Museum Association. The purpose of Museum Day is to:

- Demonstrate to the legislature that museums of Washington State perform vital functions in their communities by preserving history, providing access to the arts, and supporting state educational learning standards.
- Build awareness of WMA as a statewide organization, a conduit of information between museums to the legislature, and an advocate for museum, historical, art, and cultural organizations.
- Thank legislators for their continued support of the preservation of Washington State history and the Capital Projects for Heritage Grant Program.

There are many ways you and your museum can participate in Museum Day activities. Below is the schedule for Museum Day.

7:00–8:00 a.m. - Attend the Heritage Caucus (Cherberg Building Conference room A/B)

The heritage Caucus is a group of Legislators, state agencies, non-profits and members of the public who are interested in heritage and it’s issues. The caucus meets weekly through the legislative session to review legislation and to learn each other’s activities. You are invited to attend this meeting and all of the other meetings throughout the session year. This is a great way to see and hear many of the state’s activities in celebrating and preserving Washington State’s many diverse histories.

8:00–9:45 a.m. - Meet with your Legislators

Make appointments to meet with your local legislative representatives at their offices. Thank them for their continued support of the Capital Projects for Heritage. If you have received this grant, let them know what it has enabled you to do (show pictures and share stories/experiences). Give them a brief report on the work you do in your community to preserve history, providing access to the arts and support state educational learning standards.

Making an appointment with your legislator is easy. The legislature’s website (www.leg.wa.gov.) will help you identify your representatives and give you contact information (email and/or phone number). Contact each of your legislators and let them know you are coming to Olympia for Museum Day activities and would like to meet with them briefly.

10:00–11:00 a.m. - Go on a guided tour of the Capital Buildings

Gather at the foot of the North Rotunda steps of the Capital Building for a guided tour of the newly reopened Capital Campus Buildings. We will see the restoration and changes that resulted from the impacts of the Nisqually earthquake.

12:00–1:30 p.m. - Museum Day gathering in the Columbia Room

Join your colleagues in the Columbia Room to celebrate and “talk up” Washington State’s historical, art, and cultural museum organizations. Listen to speakers such as Secretary of State Sam Reed, Representative Pat Lantz, Wing Luke Museum Director Ron Chew and others as they celebrate and “talk up” our museum communities. Light food and refreshments will be provided.

2:00–3:00 p.m. - Dessert and discussion at the Couch House

Join your colleagues at the Capital Museum’s Coach House for light desserts and refreshments. Come and grab a bite, reflect, and talk about the day’s activities with colleagues.

Want more information?
Contact Museum Day Coordinator Steve Crowell at scrowell@puyallup.k12.wa.us or (253) 841-8748.

If you can’t make to Olympia, consider writing a letter or email to your legislator. Let them know that you want to be involved and express to them how important museums are across this great state of ours: historically, socially, and economically.
Seeking the Best Exhibits, Projects, Individuals, & Publications:

WMA Award of Excellence Nomination & Conference Scholarship Forms Are Here!

by Lisa Hill-Festa Chair, WMA Awards and Scholarship Committee

The time has come once again to submit nominations for the Washington Museum Association’s Award of Excellence and to apply for scholarships to the 2005 WMA Annual Conference. The conference will take place on June 15 through 17, 2005, at the Yakima Valley Museum, located in sunny Eastern Washington.

Awards

The Washington Museum Association recognizes the outstanding achievements of museums, heritage organizations, and individuals, by awarding up to eight Awards of Excellence each year. One award will be given in each of the four categories of Exhibit, Project, Individual, and Publications, per annual organizational budget size (if not an organization, project budget size is requested) for budget sizes of less than $150,000.00 or budgets of $150,000.01 or more.

To be eligible for an award, the nominee must have exhibited the ability to set standards of leadership through outstanding service, established precedent, fulfilled mission and purpose, showed marked improvement, and provided an extended level of service to the community served. The Award of Excellence categories include Exhibits, which can be new, temporary, traveling, or permanent; Projects, which can include education, collections management, public programming, a web site, etc.; Individuals, people who have provided significant contributions to an institution or to the museum profession; or Publications, including postcards, newsletters, catalogs, exhibit invitations, books, films, videos, etc. The current award year runs from January through December 2004.

The WMA Board of Trustees will also honor a worthy individual, institution, exhibit, project, or publication with the distinguished WMA Board Award of Excellence. Nominations for this award can come only from the board and are not accepted from the general WMA membership or from the Awards and Scholarship Committee.

Scholarships

Are you a graduate or undergraduate student studying History, Museum Studies, Anthropology, Art History, or a related field, wishing to, but unable to attend the WMA 2005 Annual Conference due to budget constraints? Are you a volunteer at an institution that cannot afford to send you to the conference, but you desire to learn more about museums? Are you a professional working in a museum wishing to expand your knowledge and enhance your position, but cannot afford to attend the annual conference? If you fall within any of these categories, the WMA is looking for YOU to apply for an annual conference scholarship!

Three scholarships are offered and include the following: the Ellen Ferguson Student Scholarship. The recipient of this scholarship will receive a $200.00 stipend plus gratis conference registration. Not only will registration be covered, but meals and events directly associated with the conference registration will also be paid through this scholarship. In addition, the recipient will receive a one-year complimentary membership in the Washington Museum Association. To be eligible for this scholarship a person must be a student, discuss their interest in the museum or heritage field, their desire to attend the conference, and their need for a scholarship.

The Gus Norwood Volunteer Scholarship also includes a stipend of $200.00 plus fully paid conference fee, including all meals and events associated with conference registration, and a one-year complimentary membership in the Washington Museum Association. To be eligible for this scholarship a person must be a volunteer in any position at a museum of any size, must explain their volunteer position within the institution they work for, and explain their desire to attend the conference, as well as their reasons for needing and desiring a scholarship.

The third scholarship is the WMA Working Professional Scholarship. This scholarship is tailored for a professional person working in a museum who otherwise would not be able to attend the conference because of financial constraints. This scholarship also offers a $200.00 stipend plus paid conference registration, including meals and events directly associated with the conference registration, and a one-year complimentary WMA membership. To be eligible a person must be a working professional on any level, in a museum of any size. The applicant must explain their current status as a working professional, their reasons for attending the conference, and their reasons for needing and desiring a scholarship.

The $200.00 stipend associated with each scholarship will be very useful to help pay for the costs of lodging, transportation, and other related conference expenses not covered by the scholarship. Also, one need not be a WMA member to apply for and receive scholarship funding. But, a scholarship recipient must attend the 2005 WMA annual conference to receive the stipend. Also, each scholarship recipient is required to write about his or her experience at the conference or to write...
The Annual Conference of the Washington Museum Association will be hosted by The Yakima Valley Museum and will focus on themes of Process, Change, and Community Engagement.

Come to the Fruitbowl of the Nation—Gateway to Washington’s Wine Country—Home of the Yakama Nation...

(...sometimes also called “The Palm Springs of Washington” and “Yakivegas”)

..and join other museums and museum professionals in a discussion of long-term plans, slow change, lean times, and innovative ways to meet your goals in the real world.

And, of course, networking, socializing, and some “whining and wining.” Great weather guaranteed.

Details and more information in the next Museum Messenger.

The Washington State Heritage Capital Projects Fund (HCPF) is being considered this long legislative session. A new, ranked list of $4 million in museum and other heritage organization capital projects was presented by the Washington State Historical Society, as recommended by the Advisory Panel. The panel is chaired by former legislator Val Ogden and included John Baule as the Washington Museum Association representative. Governor Gary Locke included the list of projects for funding in the biennium beginning July 1, 2005. A series of alternative budgets will be considered by both houses of the legislature prior to final passage of an agreed upon budget and its delivery to the new governor for signature.

In addition to an expected new appropriation, currently funded Heritage Capital Projects Fund that have not spent all their funds were included as reappropriations in Governor Locke’s budget. A related grant program for Lewis and Clark projects was included for reappropriation as well.

The following HCPF projects are proposed for funding in 2005-2007:

**WHATCOM MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ART.**

The goal of this project is to conduct repairs to the 1892 Old City Hall building, which include a window survey/repair, masonry repair and to replace the basement door. In 1999, an exterior survey report revealed that “the entire exterior envelope of the historic 1892 structure is seriously in need of repairs and maintenance to prevent damage to both the structure and the building’s contents as well as to reduce risks to human lives.”

Amount Requested: $133,303.00
Amount Recommended: $133,303.00
Total Project Cost: $400,760.00
Start date: January, 2002
End date: January, 2004
Legislative District: 6

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE MUSEUM LIBRARY & RESEARCH CENTER.**

This proposal seeks funding for the Canoe Shed and Sacred Earth House, which constitute the final phase of the four phased development for the Tu Ha’ Buts Center complex. Specifically, the Museum proposal seeks support for architectural services that will include initial pre-design/concept development, schematic development, construction documentation, and construction costs for both the shed and earth house.

Amount Requested: $210,539.00
Amount Recommended: $210,539.00
Total Project Cost: $377,998.00
Start date: September, 2003
End date: September, 2006
Legislative District: 6

**CONFLUENCE PROJECT.**

This proposal seeks funds for the land bridge and interpretive trail within the Fort Vancouver National Historic Reserve. In 1805 and 1806, Lewis and Clark stopped on their journey to visit a densely populated multi-tribal gathering place at the confluence of the Columbia River and ancient Klickitat Trail, the region’s primary overland trade-route. This stopping place was later chosen for one of the NW’s earliest US outposts. The project features world class interpretive artwork and this grant will support the construction of this artwork as well as signage interpreting the artwork.

Amount Requested: $500,000.00
Amount Recommended: $500,000.00
Total Project Cost: $8,816,000.00
Start date: January, 2006
End date: July, 2006
Legislative District: 3

**FOX THEATER.**

The purpose of this grant is to seek funding to restore the auditorium decorative ceiling and wall murals, which are the most important features of the auditorium. The theater is an Art Deco treasure listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Exquisite hand-drawn murals rise from floor to ceiling; ornate lighting, ornamental plaster, decorative aluminum and etched glass create an atmosphere that is both artistic and fantastic.

Amount Requested: $102,000.00
Amount Recommended: $102,000.00
Total Project Cost: $327,375.00
Start date: June, 2005
End date: September, 2006
Legislative District: 4

**SEATTLE PARKS DEPARTMENT.**

This project will help to complete the second phase of the South Lake Union Wharf Project, a critical component to the creation of a new maritime themed heritage park in Seattle. A major component of this park is the establishment of a maritime heritage facility where historic vessels can be showcased to the public and interpretive programs can be offered. When complete, the South Lake Union Wharf will provide unique opportunities to explore Seattle’s rich and diverse maritime history.

Amount Requested: $150,000.00
Amount Recommended: $150,000.00
THE CENTER FOR WOODEN BOATS.
Funding from this project will be used to rehabilitate 5 historic buildings, which are part of the Cama Beach Resort, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The buildings will be interpreted by the Center for Wooden Boats and will be used to provide hands-on maritime heritage programs.
Amount Requested: $100,000.00
Amount Recommended: $100,000.00
Total Project Cost: $386,500.00
Start date: July, 2005
End date: June, 2006
Legislative District: 10

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
The project will relocate the Bainbridge Island Historical Museum from a remote park to the busy downtown Winslow district. The purpose is to greatly increase access to historical resources by visitors, community, and researchers and to build future support for heritage activities. The annex/library will be re-roofed and lengthened to add new exhibit space, a second ADA bathroom, and office. Modern interpretive technology will maximize limited exhibit floor space. Compact shelving will maximize collection storage space.
Amount Requested: $207,957.00
Amount Recommended: $207,957.00
Total Project Cost: $171,468.00
Start date: July, 2002
End date: July, 2006
Legislative District: 23

QUILEUTE TRIBAL COUNCIL.
The funds sought are for capital improvements that will involve exterior construction of a new porte-cochere and interior improvements to an existing 10,900 square-foot building. The newly renovated space will be used as a heritage interpretive area, visitor information space, living culture craft and workshop, and a non-profit gallery gift shop space. The remainder of the building space will be used as a conference center, with the walls providing display space for a variety of historical and contemporary crafts and arts.
Amount Requested: $150,000.00
Amount Recommended: $150,000.00
Total Project Cost: $450,000.00
Start date: July, 2005
End date: May, 2006
Legislative District: 24

THE NORTHWEST RAILWAY MUSEUM.
This project will build enclosed structures to house 970 track feet of the Museum’s collection of historic railway transportation artifacts. The facility will be designed as “open-storage” to accommodate public education programs, including tours.
Amount Requested: $360,000.00
Amount Recommended: $360,000.00
Total Project Cost: $1,722,600.00
Start date: September, 2004
End date: November, 2005
Legislative District: 5

PORT GAMBLE S’KLLALLAM TRIBE.
Funds from this program will go towards Phase 2 of the Longhouse Education Center, and will be used for the construction of the Little Boston Library project. The 4,294 square-foot facility will enable development of new programs for cultural preservation and education; provide space for exhibits of S’Kllallam art and artifacts, and allow for enhanced access to the Library’s collection of items on Native American history and culture.
Amount Requested: $363,579.00
Amount Recommended: $363,579.00
Total Project Cost: $1,090,737.00
Start date: January, 2001
End date: November, 2006
Legislative District: 23

CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM ASSOCIATION.
Funds are sought to renovate a building and grounds in the town of Concrete for public display of a collection of historic logging tools and equipment. The project will also preserve a growing number of donated documents, photographs, tools, and other items related to the history of the Upper Skagit area.
Amount Requested: $12,750.00
Amount Recommended: $12,750.00
Total Project Cost: $51,770.00
Start date: January, 2002
End date: June, 2005
Legislative District: 39

ALTERNATES

The project will involve the building and performing of a complete interpretive display. The proposal includes lifting the building and performing a complete underground repair to replace rotten beams, restoring the rest of the buildings exterior, acquiring flexible seating, and developing interpretive displays.
Amount Requested: $131,161.00
Amount Recommended: $65,580.50
Total Project Cost: $401,919.00
Start date: September, 2005
End date: June, 2007
Legislative District: 5

THE FOWATERWAY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.
Support from this grant will be used to complete the exterior restorations on the 1902 farmhouse, and 1897 barn, and rehabilitate the interior of the 3,300 square-foot barn as a gathering site for school groups and tours. The Farm entry and historic wagon road will be rehabilitated, and the first phase of parking will be designed.
Amount Requested: $242,950.00
Amount Recommended: $99,069.28
Total Project Cost: $729,458.00
Start date: July, 2005
End date: June, 2007
Legislative District: 31, 47
News & Announcements

Proposed Reforms for the National Nonprofit Community

The Senate Finance Committee has released a discussion draft of proposals for reforms and best practices to strengthen oversight and accountability of public charities, public foundations and other tax-exempt organizations. The Finance Committee is interested in working closely with the nonprofit community over the coming months to address reforms and is actively soliciting comments on the new proposals. A large part of the reform discussion centers around suggestions to improve charity accountability, IRS reporting, and greater State/Federal coordination. It will also address the valuation of gifts to museums and other charities. In particular gifts in the form of objects of artistic, historical, and other cultural value. For more information visit www.independentsector.org/programs/gr/Finhrng.htm

Museum Careers Website Launched November 1, 2004

AAM now offers updated job listings 24 hours a day with searchable listings by employer, location, salary range, job category, and/or title. Email alerts are also available when new listings appear and match a preferred profile. Advertisers are able to post jobs in real time right from their desktops and track activity online to measure and report on recruitment advertising. This new online service represents a major upgrade for job seekers and advertisers, making career development and staff recruitment easier, faster, and more effective for individuals and institutions. Information at http://museumcareers.aam-us.org.

AAM Annual Meeting and Museum Expo 2005

The American Association of Museums Annual Meeting and Museum Expo, “A Defining Moment: Museums at the Crossroads” will be held on May 1 - 5, 2005 and the Exposition May 2 – 4, 2005 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. Keynote Speakers will be Sherman Alexie, prolific novelist, poet and screenwriter; Marilyn Nelson, an award-winning author of children’s literature and professor of English; and Bill Shores, founder and executive director of Share Our Strength that has benefited the poor and hungry around the world. Shores also launched Community Wealth Venture, Inc. to provide counsel to corporations, foundations and non-profit organizations interested in creating community wealth. Visit www.aam-us.org/am05 for more information.

Western Museum Association Director’s Chair Award

The Western Museum Association is accepting nominations for the 2004 Director’s Chair Award. This recognition is designed to showcase and acknowledge outstanding achievement in the museum profession. The Director’s Chair Award is presented annually to an individual who has had a significant and lasting impact on museum practices or the museum profession in the Western Region. Please note that nominees can be working in any discipline. For nomination form and guidelines go to www.westmuse.org/award_director.htm. Mail, email or fax your nomination by May 1, 2005 to WMA Nomination Committee, Western Museums Association, P.O. Box 13314, #578, Oakland, CA 94661; director@westmuse.org; fax 510-665-9701.

Yesterday’s Tomorrows: Past Visions of the American Future Reaches Its Last Year in Washington State

This will be the last year for the traveling Smithsonian exhibit, Yesterday’s Tomorrows. This exhibit offers a unique history of popular expectations and beliefs about the shape of things to come. It examines ways that Americans of yesteryear have envisioned our collective future. Yesterday’s Tomorrows was created by the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) through the Museum on Main Street program, a partnership between SITES and state humanities councils. The following museums will host this exhibit for the year 2005: Gig Harbor Historical Museum, Dayton Historical Depot Museum, Kittitas County Historical Museum, Yakima Valley Museum, San Juan County Historical Museum, Upper Valley Museum, and Museum of Snohomish County History. For information on dates and local exhibits, visit the Humanities Washington website at www.humanities.org.

Berman Museum Seeking Venues

The Phillip and Muriel Berman Museum of Art at Ursinus College in Collegeville, PA is seeking venues for their touring exhibit of the watercolorist, Sara Steele’s, Blueprints for Paradise that will open June 12, 2005. The Museum is currently planning the exhibition’s tour schedule and welcomes suggestions for museums and other appropriate venues. For exhibition requirements contact Lisa Hanover, Director, Phillip and Muriel Berman Museum of Art at Ursinus College, 601 E. Main Street, Collegeville, PA 19426. You can email EHanover@ursinus.edu or phone 610-409-3500.
Harvesting Political Relationships

The following is taken from Vol. 27, No. 3 of the Oregon Museums Association’s OMA Dispatch.

Karen Huit, Director of Collections, Evergreen Aviation Museum and OMA Government Relations Chair, reminds museum professionals that “Communicating with our state legislator can occur on several levels. Making phone calls and writing letters is one way to tell them about your museum and the specific contributions it makes in your community. Face to face meetings with your representative or senator to share your museum’s activities and accomplishments also go a long way to establish good working relationships.” While nonprofits should not participate in political campaigns of politicians during an election, Huit offers other suggestions: Call or write your legislator now and arrange for them to visit your museum. If you are opening a new exhibit or holding a special event, plan to include them. Their appearance at your museum can attract the press, thus providing an opportunity for great public relations. “During their visit, take pictures of them participating in your event, then frame the photograph and send it with a thank you letter and a small promotional item. Add legislators to your mailing list so that they can receive updates about awards, governmental grants, museum events, and membership information. When individuals feel passionate about a cause they will advocate on its behalf. Further information on establishing good relations with state and national politicians is available at the American Association of Museums website: http://www.aam-us.org/programs/gov_affairs/advocate.cfm.

FAX, SPAM and All That Jazz

Congress has considered several bills governing the proliferation of FAX and SPAM messages. Soon you may not be able to send faxes to your own members or established customers without having their express written permission in advance. You can help avoid this development. Contact Congress in support of Senate Bill 2603. The Controlling the Assault of Non-Solicited Pornography and Marketing Act requires unsolicited commercial email messages to be labeled (though not by a standard method) and to include opt-out instructions and the sender’s physical address. It prohibits the use of deceptive subject lines and false headers in such messages. The FTC is authorized (not required) to establish a “do-not-mail” registry. State laws requiring labels on unsolicited commercial email or prohibit such messages entirely and are pre-empted; but provisions merely addressing falsity and deception would remain. The CAN-Spam Act took affect January 1, 2005. Non-profits are not exempt from this law. Therefore, technically, any email that promotes the sale of a product or a service is deemed commercial, even an event or program that has a fee or admission charge or the promotion of any educational material available for a charge. Nonprofits are working to convince the FTC that any email communication from a nonprofit that is in the furtherance of its tax-exempt purpose would not be considered commercial and therefore should not be covered by the CAN-SPAM Act. This Information is courtesy of the Virginia Association of Museums Fall 2004 issue of the VAM.

AASLH Award Program

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) is inviting nominations for its annual Award Program, which not only honors significant achievement in the field of state and local history but also brings public recognition to small and large organizations, institutions, and programs that contribute to this area. By publicly recognizing excellent achievements, AASLH strives to inspire others. AASLH recognizes achievements through four awards: Award of Merit, Certificate of Commendation, Albert B. Corey Award, and Award of Distinction. The deadline is March 1, 2005. For more information visit www.aaslh.org.

AAAHRP Second Annual Conference

The AAAHRP Inaugural Conference, held on February 28, 2004, with its theme “Exploring the Expanse and Continuance of the African American Experience” was an unqualified success. Building on that success, the AAAHRP’s Second Annual Conference will offer additional enlightening presentations and further discussion on this important subject. The theme, “Continuing the Exploration of the African American Experience,” denotes AAAHRP’s commitment to recording and disseminating African American history. The organizer anticipates that this conference will engage broad questions facing historians and those who study and research African American history. In particular, AAAHRP is striving to expand the dialogue established at its Inaugural Conference among scholars, historians, teachers, students, and the public. Metropolitan King County Council member Larry Gossett is the Honorary Conference Chair. Seattle attorney Moni T. Law will be the Keynote Speaker for the 2005 conference. This year’s conference will be held at the Museum of History and Industry on Saturday February 5, 2005. For more information visit www.aaahrp.org or call 206-547-5394.
IMLS 2005 Grant Deadlines Changed

For fiscal year 2005, several of the application deadlines for IMLS grant programs will change. By changing application deadlines, IMLS will be better able to serve grant applicants. IMLS hopes that by providing advance notice of the new deadlines that applicants will be able to plan accordingly. Should a deadline fall on a Sunday or a holiday, applications postmarked the following business day will be accepted. Applicants are required to provide a Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number when applying for Federal grants or cooperative agreements. All first-class and Priority Mail sent to IMLS is put through an irradiation process, which results in lengthy delays in mail delivery. Please consider using alternate delivery services. Due to the length and number of copies required for complete submission, applications cannot be accepted by fax or email. To learn more about IMLS 2005 Grants and Awards Program visit http://www.imls.gov/pubs/pdf/2005programs.pdf. Application deadlines for FY 2005 are also available online at: http://www.imls.gov/grants/dedln/FY2005deadlines.htm

Common Ground Wins Award

The National Park Service’s quarterly cultural resources magazine, Common Ground: Preserving Our Nation’s Heritage, has won the George Wright Society’s 2005 communications award. The nonprofit society, with professionals from an array of preservation fields, gives the award “to recognize outstanding efforts in communicating highly technical or controversial park-related subjects to the public in a clear and understandable manner.” Editor David Andrews will accept the award at the society’s biennial meeting in Philadelphia in March. For more information visit www.georgewrite.org or www.cr.nps.gov/CommonGround.

Common Ground: Preserving Our Nation’s Heritage

Burke Museum of Natural History & Culture is pursuing research on a new whale species in a collaborative project with the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. The Burke houses the fossils of several new whale species dating back to about 28 million years. The fossil under current study is the oldest known baleen whale. The fossils had been unearthed in Washington State’s Olympic Peninsula. The museum’s Smithsonian exhibit, Burgess Shale: Evolution’s Big Bang will be on display until March 6, 2005 and fits right in with the studies now underway. Museum information: 206-543-7907 or www.washington.edu/burkemuseum/

Common Ground

Fort Steilacoom Historic Association’s lecture series for the Steilacoom Sesquicentennial was very successful during the past year. President Carol Neufeld announced that the lectures, recorded by Rainier Media Communications are available to those who are interested. Those in the viewing area of Channel 76 should watch for the upcoming program on the history of the Fort. Museum information: 253-582-5838 or www.fortsteilacoom.com.

Common Ground

Regional News

Common Ground: Preserving Our Nation’s Heritage

Regional News: African American Museum in Tacoma will feature the contributions of York, a black man, slave and companion to William Clark and Sacajawea. Open mike or live jazz is held at the museum on the second and fourth Fridays of the month. Museum information: 253-274-1278.

Regional News: Burke Museum of Natural History & Culture is pursuing research on a new whale species in a collaborative project with the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. The Burke houses the fossils of several new whale species dating back to about 28 million years. The fossil under current study is the oldest known baleen whale. The fossils had been unearthed in Washington State’s Olympic Peninsula. The museum’s Smithsonian exhibit, Burgess Shale: Evolution’s Big Bang will be on display until March 6, 2005 and fits right in with the studies now underway. Museum information: 206-543-7907 or www.washington.edu/burkemuseum/

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Regional News: Frye Art Museum has begun an Art History Lecture Series with Rebecca Albiani, a Fulbright Scholar, who has received her master’s degree in Renaissance Art History at Stanford University and has lectured at several colleges. She has been affiliated with the National Gallery of Art and is a Frye Gallery Guide. Albiani returns to the Frye for a 12-part lecture series on art, artists, and the culture of their time. Known for her fresh and informed perspective, Albiani takes on the world of art and takes you along on the journey. Museum information: 206-622-9250 or www.fryeart.org.

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Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI) will hold an open house every first Thursday of the month. Admission is free and the hours are extended from 11:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. thanks to a grant from The Boeing Company. April 2 through June 12, 2005 MOHAI will feature Rivers, Edens, Empires: Lewis & Clark and the Revealing of America. The museum will be one of only three museums nationwide to host this special exhibition.


Issaquah Historical Society will host a presentation by local author and memoirist Kim Pearson on Saturday, February 5, 2005 at 11:00 a.m. at the Issaquah Depot. Pearson will share some of the ideas outlined in her upcoming book, Writing Your History: How to Remember, Record, Interpret and Share the Events of Your Life”. Guests may also order signed copies of the publication in advance. This presentation is free of charge and is open to the public. Museum information: 425-395-3500 or www.primary-sources.com.

Kirkland Arts Center is proud to announce two upcoming exhibitions. One is Art History, which will open on February 10 and run through March 5, 2005. The other is Release and Capture, which is curated by Fionn Meade and will open March 10 and run through May 7, 2005. Museum information: 425-822-7161 or www.kirklandartscenter.org.

Museum of Flight has students and volunteers busy restoring a 1993 Beech Starship 222A donated by the Raytheon Corporation. The Starship will be on display at the future National Flight Interpretive Center (NFIC) at Paine Field in Everett. The Beech Aircraft Corporation built only 53 Starship turboprops between 1986 to 1995. Unusual design factors include the “glass” cockpit. Even though it was a quiet and smooth ride with an outstanding safety record, it was not a commercial success. The modernistic airship is part of the Everett Community Colleges’ aviation vocational program. Over the winter, museum volunteers will complete the restoration efforts. Museum information: 206-764-5720 or www.museumofflight.org.

Museum of Snohomish County History in Everett has kicked off its yearlong 50th anniversary celebration in 2004 with the opening of a new exhibit, Industry on Parade: Early Enterprise in Snohomish County”. Using images and artifacts from the museum’s collection, the exhibit showcases the maritime, farming, logging, mining, milling, and manufacturing industries that provided the basis for the growth of Snohomish County. This exhibit will continue until Spring 2005. Museum information: 425-259-2022 or www.snomcomuseum.org.

Northwest Seaport Maritime Heritage Center in Seattle has been awarded a grant from 4Culture for the Heritage Special Project program. The grant will allow for the creation of interpretive displays for the Schooner Wawona. During the past year, a 4Culture grant allowed the Northwest Seaport to show four classic maritime movies aboard the Wawona. Museum information: 206-447-9800 or www.nwseaport.org.

Museum of Glass presents A Balancing Act with No Net: The Work of Einar and Jamex de la Torre which will run until May 22, 2005 and is sponsored by the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation and Channing Chase and Daniel Saxo. This exhibition will include 19 sculptures and one watercolor and is accompanied by a fully illustrated exhibition catalog published in collaboration with the University of Washington Press. The Museum is also proud to present Hot Lunches, which allows visitors to pre-order a box lunch from the Museum Café while watching some of the region’s hottest talent create art in the Hot Shop. Museum information: 253-284-4750 or www.museumofglass.org.

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way will be at the NW Flower and Garden Show at the Washington State Convention Center in downtown Seattle on February 9th through the 13th, 2005. Further Information: 253-838-4646 or www.snocomuseum.org.


Tacoma Art Museum will host two new exhibitions in 2005. One is Marsden Hartly: American Modern, which will run from January 15 through May 1, 2005. Marsden Hartley, a key member of America’s first artistic avant-garde, was a leading figure in the circle of artists and writers surrounding Alfred Stieglitz in the early decades of the 20th century in New York. The other exhibition is A Decade of Excellence: The Neddy Artist Fellowship, which will run from January 29 through June 5, 2005. The Neddy Artist Fellowship is awarded by the Behnke Foundation to “recognize excellence in an individual artist who demonstrates unique vision” for artists working in the Northwest. The award, named in honor of the painter Robert E. (Ned) Behnke has been given to 15 recipients since 1996. The exhibition will include works by all of the previous Neddy Artist Fellowship winners. Museum information: 253-272-4258 or www.TacomaArtMuseum.org.

Van Valey House in Everett held the first annual holiday glass sale this winter along with an exhibition of memorabilia from the Van Valey Collection. The historic Van Valey House was gifted to the city by Ed and Betty Morrow in 2002. It is now managed by Everett Parks & Recreation. It is located at 2130 Colby Avenue in Everett. For more information call 425-258-6300 or visit www.everettwa.org/parks.

Washington State Historical Museum will host September 11: Bearing Witness to History, which will begin January 30 and run through April 24, 2005. Nearly three years after the shocking terrorist attacks in the United States, Americans continue to connect to the events of September 11, 2001. The Washington State History Museum is proud to host this exhibit, which is an interactive, commemorative exhibition that encourages visitors to not only reflect on the specific events of that horrific day, but also to contemplate the significance of experiencing an historic event as it unfolds. The museum participated in the Money and Associates Survey, which is administered to over 30 museums across the U.S. They received a 79% excellent overall satisfaction rating (68% benchmark), 71% excellent value for admission (57%
benchmark), 74% excellence in educational experience (67% benchmark) and 93% excellence in employee courtesy (80% benchmark). They also learned their average visitor spends over two hours in the museum and returns several times a year. Museum information: 253-272-3500 or www.washingtonhistory.org.


White River Valley Museum in Auburn will host Dressing Up: What It Means & Why We Have Done It, which is a temporary exhibit in the Key Bank Gallery. Several of Auburn's leading ladies were asked the question, what do you dress up for? Fifteen fabulous formal dresses will be on display with quotes from the interviews. The display will feature outfits dating from 1870 to 1970. Museum information: 253-288-7433 or www.wrvmuseum.org.

Orcas Island Historical Museum has hosted two major lectures this winter. Sacagawea: An Interpretation by the Humanities Washington Inquiring Minds program with Sara Edlin-Marlowe as guest speaker. A second Orcas Island Historical Museum Speakers Series was Reverend John and Clara Tennant: Pioneering Methodist Missionaries on Orcas Island. The slide presentation was given by Bellingham regional historian Candace Wellman who has spent the past six years researching the lives of 12 Coast Salish women who married white settlers. Museum information: 360-376-4849 or www.orcasisland.org/history.

Port Townsend Marine Science Center will host Mammals of the Pleistocene, which is an exhibit that will open on January 13, 2005. Fossil specimens of a variety of mammals, on loan from the Burke Museum in Seattle, depict the fascinating geologic period of the Pleistocene Epoch, lasting from 1.6 million to 11,000 years ago. Over the next two months, weekend programs will be offered on glaciers, ice age mammals, and Pleistocene fossils, including activities especially for kids. Museum information: 360-385-5582 or info@ptmsc.org.

Whale Museum in Friday Harbor has relinquished its role as “central banker” for the Luna Stewardship Fund. The museum had assumed that role since the reunification of Springer in 2001. Now, Orca Network is taking on the responsibility of banking and processing future contribution for Luna. Donations made through Orca Network are tax deductible in the U.S. Luna (L-98) is a young L Pod orca that has been living alone for three years in Nootka Sound, British Columbia. The Whale Museum is continuing to play a role in Luna reunification efforts beyond the LSF fund. Starting this winter the institution will participate in a project placing hydrophones in Nootka Sound to monitor Luna and for possibly detecting the location of L Pod. Museum information: 360-378-4710 or www.whalemuseum.org.

Polson Museum in Hoquiam is looking for a donation of a 40-foot railroad flat car, the older the better. Director John Larson says the flat car is needed for the new Master Site Plan for the facility. The Museum recently received a $1,500 donation from the Sierra Pacific Foundation towards the development of a Master Site Plan by Will Foster Architect. The Eagle Scout’s have completed the project to extend the Polson hillside trail with a new platform to showcase Hoquiam’s only surviving old growth Douglas fir. The trail is a component of the Master Site Plan. The Polson called for proposals for the new annual Grays Harbor history publication to be printed in 2005. The Museum will continue the Hoquiam Then and Now photography exhibit by Cecil Herrington that featured 44 8 X 10 black and white prints focusing on Hoquiam’s lost architecture. Information at: 360-533-5862 or www.polsonmuseum.org.

Museum at the Carnegie in Port Angles opened in October. The Museum and Arts Center of Sequim worked with the Clallam County Historical Society in providing exhibit material.
American Museum of Radio and Electricity in Bellingham was awarded the 2004 Tourism Business of the Year award from the Bellingham/Whatcom Convention and Visitor Bureau. The award is granted annually to a Whatcom County business or organization that has made significant contributions to the tourism industry, the community or has made outstanding strides in growth and/or development within the last year. Museum information: 360-738-3886 or www.americanradiomuseum.org.

Museum of Northwest Art in La Conner will host Barbara Straker James: A Creative Decade, which is a small, select exhibition that will draw on the artist’s work during roughly the same period as Matriarchs. James graduated from Rhode Island School of Design in 1942. In 1944 she and her artist husband Clayton James relocated from the east coast to western Oregon. They moved to La Conner permanently in the 1950’s. From the 1940’s through the early 1960’s she produced a sensitive, reflective body of work: drawing painting, and collages in abstract and expressionist styles. James was the curator at the Museum for 11 years before retiring in 2002. The exhibit will run from January 15 through April 3, 2005. Museum information: 360-466-4446 or www.museumofnwart.org.

Clymer Museum of Art in Ellensburg has recently announced the resignation of Diana Tasker in October after serving as the Director since 1996. Diana was instrumental in creating several annual fundraisers that have aided in maintaining staff and museum operation. She was also closely involved with several John Ford Clymer originals being donated to the museum. The Clymer has begun their new winter hours, Monday through Friday 10:00 – 5:00, Saturday Noon – 4:00, and closed on Sunday. Museum information: www.clymermuseumofart.com or 509-962-6416

Franklin County Historical Society in Pasco is nearing the end of a successful fund raising project, which included the sale of banks made from brass Post Office Box doors that were used in the CBC Administration Building for many years. The museum received a grant from the US Fish & Wildlife Service, which paid for a digital camcorder for capturing oral history interviews. Old cassette tapes from the museum’s archives have also been indexed. Museum information: 509-547-3714 or www.franklincountyhistoricalsociety.org.

Kittitas County Historical Museum is playing a vital role in the first “Spirit of the West Cowboy Gathering” in Ellensburg by hosting several workshops in conjunction with the many traditional cowboy musicians, poets, and artists that will gather and perform in Ellensburg. Museum information: 509-925-3778 or www.kchm.org or www.acowboygathering.com.

Yakima Valley Museum and Yakima Valley Regional Library are offering the Yakima Memory 2005 Calendar, which features 14 images from both historic photograph collections. The images were selected from www.yakimamemery.com. A large portion of the museum’s ongoing exhibits, funded by an IMLS grant, will be approaching completion and visible “in process” for the 2005 WMA Annual Conference in June. Museum information: 509-248-0747 or www.yakimavalleymuseum.org.

Gonzaga University Jundt Art Museum in Spokane will host an exhibition of prints from the permanent collection selected by Gonzaga University’s political science Assistant Professor Laura Brunell and communication arts Associate Professor Tony Osbourne. Behind the Iron Curtain: East European Prints 1960-1984 will be on display through February 5, 2005. Museum information: 509-332-6611 or www.gonzaga.edu.

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Submit news to:
Gene Woodwick, Regional News
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Ocean Shores, WA 98569
(360) 289-2809
oremail: gw@olynet.com
Include your logo if possible.
Submissions must be less than 150 words (900 characters).
If you do not give us your news, we will choose what, if anything, to mention about your facility!
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WMA Membership Application

Please select one of the following membership choices in the Washington Museum Association:

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