



Ford W. Bell Speaks On The Future Of Museums To WMA



The WMA was honored to have Ford W. Bell, President and CEO of the American Association of Museums (AAM) as the keynote speaker for the 2009 Annual Conference in Pullman, Washington. Bell spoke passionately about the role of Museums and the AAM. Below are excerpts from his lecture.

At AAM, we feel museums are as vital to the social fabric of their communities as schools, libraries or utilities. As an organization and a field, we have decided that what we need to do most is to communicate that value more clearly and consistently to lawmakers, policy makers, funders, the media and the public at large.

Museums Advocacy Day (held in February) was a true collaborative effort, engaging our colleagues from across all museum disciplines, all professional fields, and all sizes of museums. This initiative, I think, is indicative of the new AAM. Perhaps some of you are all too familiar with the old AAM. I'm told our reputation was that of an unresponsive, glacial-paced, insular organization. We are doing our best to change that, and I think we have made progress. Today AAM is all about collaboration, crucial to a concerted effort to provide the field the services it needs to succeed.

(Ford Bell Speaks continued on page 3)

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Editor's Note:

The *WMA Museum Messenger* is published quarterly (including one conference issue) by the Washington Museum Association, a 501(c)(3) federally recognized non-profit organization consisting of institutions, businesses, and individuals. The WMA mission is to promote increased professionalism 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: Instant Press, Yakima, WA

Publishing Dates:

April 30, September 30, & January 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

BRENDA ABNEY

Director, Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center



Fall is the time of year the Washington Museums Association kicks off a season of work on behalf of the museums, historical societies and historic houses of Washington State. We accomplished important tasks last season, culminating with a wonderful conference at Washington State University in Pullman in June. Our thanks go to Mary Collins of WSU and the many staff, students and volunteers who helped coordinate and work to make the gathering of museum professionals from around the state such a success.

In this issue of the newsletter, you will see information about the new board members who have joined the existing members of the WMA board to work for you and for museums in Washington. The board provides useful resources and professional development opportunities; and facilitates advocacy on the local, state and national levels for the Washington museum community. We encourage you to let your neighboring museums, societies and historic houses know about the benefits of the association so they too can become members. It helps us all when we stand together for the greater good of museums in the state. It also benefits each member individually by providing timely information about funding sources, jobs, and tools to use in getting noticed or seek funding. In addition to the newsletter, additional information is provided our email bulletin, "eMessenger". If you are not currently signed up to receive eMessenger, please send an email to contact@washingtonstatemuseums.org to get signed up.

Our next program to highlight the value of museums and gain support will take place in March when WMA hosts a day of advocacy in Olympia. Mark your calendars and plan to join us to visit with your legislators, interact with colleagues and find out about resources useful to your organization on March 3 and 4, 2010. More details about this and other pertinent information can be found on our website at www.washingtonstatemuseums.org.

We are looking forward to this and to all the activities we plan accomplish in the 2009-2010 season. Be sure to participate, stay informed and share your views with us so WMA can be successful in leading the museum community of Washington State.

Museum Messenger NEWSLETTER AD RATES:

Half Page (4 1/2" x 7 1/2") \$250

One-Third Page (4 3/4" x 4 1/2")

OR (2 1/4" x 9 1/4") \$125

One-Sixth Page (2 1/4" x 4 1/2") \$80

One-Twelfth Page (2 1/4" x 2 1/2") \$55

Classifieds: Members: 10¢/word
Non-members: 25¢/word

Multiple Insertion Discounts:
10% for 4 editions, prepaid in full

Ad Preparation: contact Andy Granitto at andy@yakimavalleymuseum.org for production requirements before sending your materials.

Opinions expressed in the articles within this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the WMA. Unsolicited articles, photographs, and graphics are always welcome. WMA reserves the right to edit material submitted.

(*Ford Bell Speaks, continued from cover*)

We are also about sustainability, and that's why we think museums must be very strategic in their adjustments to this troubled economy. You do not want to cut your programs and staff so drastically that you will find yourself struggling again when the economy rebounds. When things improve, museums need to be ready to expand their public programs, exhibitions and civic engagement. We do not want to be in a position where we are spending months or years gearing back up to take advantage of the good times.

At AAM we are also looking toward the future, attempting to envision the challenges that museums and society will face in the coming decades. Toward that end, we have created the Center for the Future of Museums, just getting up and running at our Washington headquarters. The Center will be a forum for developing and testing new ideas, new ways of doing business, so that we can ensure that museums in America thrive in the future as they have done for more than two centuries.

We want the Center to be a place where we can invite the best thinkers and practitioners from outside the museum field—from business, from the law, from the media, from the university, from science and from the high-tech world, anywhere that innovative and creative thinking is shaping society. The Center will not only explore ways that society will shape museums, but also the ways in which museums can shape society.

The Center has already commissioned a study by James Chung and his firm, Reach Advisors, which some of you may know. They looked at broad societal trends and what we in the field need to know in order to engage new audiences. James and his team have created a paper that is fascinating, and very illuminating. It is called *Museums and Society: 2034*, and can be found on the Center's Web site, at www.futureofmuseums.org.

One of the findings of this study was a trait common to us in the museum world. James Chung's research found that authenticity holds an enduring appeal for Americans. One might see this as obvious, but I think it is not so plain to see. Look at our world today.

We Americans are adrift in an ocean of the superficial—celebrities, glitz, reality television. At the same time, we are subjected to the great tidal pull of the virtual—the Web, video games, and the like. In the midst of this, museums stand like islands of the authentic, rare sanctuaries of substance. Despite the influences pulling our citizens—particularly our younger ones—toward the ephemeral, they are nonetheless engaged and enchanted by what is real. Now IMLS tells us that people who visit museums

online are far more likely to visit in person; and virtual reproductions are great for education and exploration and for writing term papers. In the museum world, we have no choice but to embrace the joys and opportunities offered by the virtual world. But, in terms of creating memories, in terms of appreciating great artistry and craftsmanship, in terms of living and breathing our country's great history, an online reproduction, however good, is not the same as being there. Most of us would rather stand in awe before a totem created by Northwest Indians or

a work by Goya here at the Washington State University Museum of Art than look at its representation online.

All of us here today are in the business of honoring and interpreting the past. And in that endeavor, our single greatest asset is authenticity. The genuineness of place or structure or artifact is what gives these things the power to amaze and even transform the visitor. They carry within them the spirit of the original inhabitant or artist or event. This is something intangible but still very palpable, and deeply, undeniably authentic. Virtualizes such things and their spirit is gone, their magic along with it.

That is the business the Washington Museum Association is in: preserving the magic. And the same is true for all museums. Or, put another way, we are all in the energy conservation business. We seek to save and sustain the immense power of these sites and objects. It is not easy. We all drive hybrids, while the world is one big Hummer. But together, we can achieve our great goal—to preserve the magic for generations to come, to conserve that unique power of our heritages—historical, cultural, natural—to pass that on, that power, to those who will follow.



Ford Bell, Mike Siebol (conference program chair), Mary Collins (local arrangements chair), and Ellen Terry (WMA president) in front of the WSU Museum of Art.

NEW WMA BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS:

WMA is pleased to welcome the following museum professionals as new members of the WMA Board of Directors. Each one has expressed enthusiasm about being on the WMA Board and representing the broad range of constituents throughout the state. We are delighted to present them to you.

Betsy Millard, Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum, Ilwaco

Betsy Millard is the executive director at the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum in Ilwaco bringing over 20 years experience in museums to the table. She earned her Masters Degree from the University of Kansas while working with prints and photos at the Spencer Museum of Art and later at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. She moved from there to the Saint Louis Art Museum where she later became curator for Contemporary Art. Prior to her move to Washington, Betsy was the executive director of the Forum for Contemporary Art (now the Contemporary Art Museum) in St. Louis.

Betsy loves museums of all types and is ardent about the role they play in local community education, tourism and sense of place.

Eric Taylor, 4Culture Heritage Lead

In assuming the position of Heritage Lead in May 2007, Eric Taylor brought over 30 years of museum experience to 4Culture in King County. Eric began his career in at the Western Heritage Center in Billings, Montana, as exhibits curator. He continued his education with instruction at the Smithsonian Institute, earned his BA Degree in Museum Exhibit Design at Western Washington University and earned a certificate in Genealogy and Family

History from the U.W. Extension, in addition to numerous AASLH workshops.

Previously, Eric was Exhibit Designer at the Whatcom Museum of History & Art in Bellingham, operated an exhibit consulting firm, Taylor'd Exhibits, in Seattle, and worked with the WA State Heritage Resource Center to offer technical assistance and workshops for museums in the areas of planning, funding, facilities, collections, and programming. Eric advocates exploration of family and local history as a way of establishing continuity within one's life and providing a meaningful connection to the global community.

Lorna Walsh, Walsh Consulting, Spokane

Lorna Walsh grew up in the museum world - her father was a paleontologist, her mother an anthropologist and both were museum directors... so what would you expect? Lorna is currently sharing her expertise as an independent consultant through her business, Walsh Consulting in Spokane. Formerly Chief Development Officer for the Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture, Lorna has over 18 years experience in nonprofit and museum work, chiefly in government and community relations, fundraising and non profit management. She has worked at the University Museum of Anthropology in Albuquerque, New Mexico as well as with a number of other nonprofit institutions.

Lorna is passionate about the role that humanities and arts play in providing excitement and entertainment, bolstering creative thinking and drawing intellectual capital and tourism dollars alike into our communities.

HOLD THE DATES – MORE TO COME

WMA Museum Day 2010

Tues.-Wed., March 2-3

State Capital Museum, Olympia Washington

March 2: Members Workshop, Reception for members, guests and elected officials

March 3: Heritage Caucus, Legislative visits and Lunch

Cruise the South Sound in 2010 **Annual Conference, June 16-19**

at the Harbor History Museum
in beautiful Gig Harbor, Washington.

Enjoy a behind the scenes tour
of the new museum plus a special
Annual Banquet Dinner Cruise

Award and Scholarship Recipients for 2009

Every year, the Washington Museum Association recognizes the outstanding achievements of museums, heritage organizations, and individuals by presenting several Awards of Excellence. Awards are given in the categories of *Exhibit*, *Project*, *Individual*, and *Publications*; nominees are classified by the size of their annual budgets (under \$200,000 or over that amount). The Board of Trustees would like to congratulate the following award and scholarship winners.

The 2009 Award of Exhibit Excellence was presented to:

Clark County Historical Museum for their exhibit *Boomer!*, which demonstrated leadership in the areas of quality design, creative interpretation, and reassessment of collecting practices.

The 2009 Award of Project Excellence was presented to:

Todd Warger, Whatcom Museum of History and Arts and David Lowrance, Family History Videos, for their documentary *Shipyard – Wooden Ships and Fiberglass Boats: A.W. Talbot and the Bellingham Shipyards 1941-1963* which was an extraordinary project that required six years of effort in conducting over 150 hours of interviews.

The 2009 Award of Individual Excellence was presented to:

Kevin Hanken, who was honored for his exceptional accomplishments at the Washington State Historical Society and for his efforts in developing the Women's History Consortium webpages.

Karen Washabaugh, who was recognized for her work on behalf of the Washington Museum Association with the WMA Survey Project.

The 2009 Award of Publication Excellence was presented to:

The Center for Wooden Boats, for their beautifully crafted *Center for Wooden Boats Program Catalogue*.

Bainbridge Island Historical Society and Museum for producing *BIHS Museum News*, a concise snapshot of the work of the museum and historical subjects.

Fort Nisqually Living History Museum, recognized for their publication *Occurrences – The Journal of Northwest History During the Fur Trade*, which has data-filled pages that are a researcher's treasure and an armchair historian's dream.

The 2009 WMA Board Award of Excellence was presented to:

Karen Marshall was recognized for her dedication to the museum field in Washington State. Karen displayed amazing leadership as the Washington Museum Association's President. She continued her support of WMA after she left the Board. Her dedication to public service and her inspired ideas have earned the gratitude and respect of her colleagues throughout Washington State.

2009 WMA Scholarships

Every year, the Washington Museum Association presents scholarships to museum professionals to enable them to attend the WMA Conference. This year we bestowed the following: Robert Gruhn Working Professional Scholarships: Beth Bestrom & Rebecca Jones; Gus Norwood Volunteer Scholarship: Irene Bloom; and Ellen Ferguson Student Scholarship: Melissa Sue Halverson.

(Irene Bloom and Beth Bestrom report on the 2009 WMA Annual Conference on the following pages.)



Karen Marshall receives the WMA Board Award of Excellence from WMA president Ellen Terry, as award and scholarship committee chair Mike Siebol looks on.

Scholarship Winners Report on the 2009 Conference

Irene Bloom

Gus Norwood Volunteer Scholarship

A recap of my attendance at the WMA Annual conference in Pullman this June must begin with my hearty thanks to those who made the Gus Norwood Volunteer Scholarship possible. Participation at the three-day annual gathering of museum professionals was not only a wonderful opportunity, but also a natural segue into my new career as a museum educator.

I graduated in June from the University of Washington Museum Studies Certificate Program and fulfilled my practicum working on a history kit education project at the Renton History Museum. This fall I will be attending the Bellevue Art Museum Docent Training Program with hopes of finding museum employment in the future.

My workshop choices centered on my interests and background in education. I love working with students of all ages, their families, and teachers, and was eager to gain more insight into how to make a positive impact upon museum visitors.

I was very impressed with Stephanie Lile, Head of Education at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma. I attended both of her workshops. Stephanie's expertise in art and child psychology was evident in her exploration and discussions of what makes a viable education program, building a vision, and adopting an educational approach that best suits the needs of your organization.

Presenter Andy Granitto, Curator of Exhibits at the Yakima Valley Museum outlined the ground rules for creating an effective and educational exhibit design. His enthusiastic workshop clearly stressed the importance of excellent physical planning in order to allow the visitor to gain a deep understanding of the subject matter.

Thinking Through Art: An Introduction to Visual Thinking Strategies provided an introduction to the VTS education method that uses art to build on the observer's abilities to think, listen, and communicate. Heidi Arborast, Art Educator at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture provided a powerful session, which included amazing film footage of this approach with children in the Isabella Stuart Gardener School Partnership Program in Boston, which fosters community and school programs.

All in all, I had a very positive and empowering experience at the conference. Not only did I learn about changes and challenges that museums are facing in these difficult economic times, but I also had the opportunity to schmooze with like-minded museum professionals who supported and encouraged me to continue my dream of working in museum education. I hope to see you next year at the WMA Conference!



Above: Irene Bloom receives the Gus Norwood Volunteer Scholarship from from WMA president Ellen Terry.

Opposite: Beth Bestrom receives the Robert Gruhn Working Professional Scholarship from Ellen Terry, while Mike Siebol (award and scholarship committee chair) looks on.

Beth Bestrom, Manager, Karshner Memorial Museum
Robert Gruhn Working Professional Scholarships



The campus at Washington State University was the perfect venue for this year's WMA Conference. The campus and the weather were beautiful. The WSU Department of Anthropology was a gracious host.

Ford Bell, President of AMA, gave an inspiring address regarding the importance of museums and their duty to inspire and encourage communities to protect their history. I am happy to say that Mr. Bell was quite impressed with my museum, The Paul H. Karshner Memorial Museum, in that it is owned and operated by our school district. He saw this as a unique teaching opportunity for the students in Puyallup School District.

There were a variety of classes offered at this year's conference. Putter Bert from the Children's Museum of Bellevue and Tanya Andrews from the Children's Museum of Tacoma shared information regarding ideas to inspire and engage children.

Andy Granitto from Yakima Valley Museum shared many wonderful ideas on exhibit installation to insure visitors are drawn into exhibits and that text panels include enough, but not too much, information.

This year's WMA Banquet, at the WSU Art Museum, provided the perfect venue for art, socializing, good food and beverages. Kudos to the entire WMA Board of Directors for presenting another, successful, inspiring conference. And, were it not for the Paul Gruhn Scholarship, I would not have been able to attend this year's conference. Many thanks, I plan to use all of the ideas learned at Karshner Museum.

Connecting to Collections (C2C) Project Update

In 2008-09, the Washington State Library, Washington State Archives, Washington State Historical Society, University of Washington, Washington Library Association, Washington Museum Association, Yakama Nation Library, and their staff and members worked together through the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) funded Connecting to Collections project to formulate a preservation plan that can help institutions preserve their collections and establish networks to be better prepared for emergency response needs. See archived reports and minutes at <http://www.secstate.wa.gov/library/libraries/c2c/>.

Conferences with broad representation of institution types were held at the Washington History Museum in Tacoma on October 16-17, 2008 and May 21, 2009. Between the two conferences 46 people from Washington historical societies, museums, archives, and libraries participated in four Work Groups to address issues which are key to developing a preservation plan for our State's cultural resources: 1) Advocacy, 2) Collaborative disaster planning, 3) Building sustainable institutional preservation programs and 4) Creating a sustainable statewide preservation program.

The project consultant completed a report on our work and the C2C Steering Committee is currently working on developing a statewide preservation plan as outlined in the initial grant. The next step will be to submit an IMLS Connecting to Collections sigrant proposal for statewide implementation in 2010. Should that grant be awarded, we will advance toward implementation.

WMA is grateful to our members and friends who participated in this effort (19 of the 46 mentioned above) and we look forward to working with more of you in the future. Stay tuned.

Carnegie Library Consortium of Washington & The Legacy of the Richest Man in the World

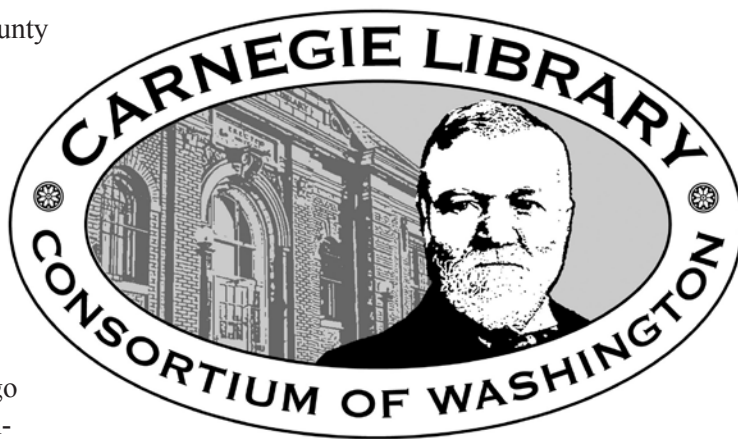
By Susan M.G. Tissot, Executive Director, Clark County Historical Society & Museum, Vancouver, WA.

Everyone loves an anniversary celebration and this year's double anniversary at the Clark County Historical Museum (CCHM) will have lasting impacts on the heritage community. Housed in Vancouver's 1909 Carnegie Library, the CCHM has been celebrating the buildings 100th birthday and the museum's 45th birthday with a series of year long special events (go to www.cchmuseum.org for more information). To commemorate the museum's double anniversary and to draw attention to the 2,509 Carnegie Libraries built worldwide by 19th Century industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, the CCHM created a special state-wide initiative, the Carnegie Library Consortium of Washington.

Forty-one Carnegie Libraries were built in the state of Washington; 33 have survived and 28 continue to operate as museums, libraries, art centers and even as a French Restaurant. All of these historic beauties are coming of age. The Tacoma Public Library was built in 1903; the Walla Walla Public Library was built in 1905; like Vancouver the Anacortes Historical Museum's building was built in 1909 and it goes on from there (see side bar). The buildings represent a time when the public really began to embrace civic responsibility.

When he was a teenager, Andrew Carnegie was given access to the personal library of wealthy businessman, Col. James Anderson, an iron manufacturer in Allegheny City, PA. Carnegie (1835-1919) never forgot the experience or the opportunity to further his education. Upon his retirement, Andrew Carnegie became *the richest man in the world*, amassing a fortune of \$500 million (about \$200 billion in today's dollars). Believing that "the man who dies rich, dies disgraced," Carnegie's retirement years were spent giving away his fortune through numerous cultural donations.

Carnegie donated the funds for the construction of the libraries. But it was up to the community and its members to provide the land, pay for the books and furnishings and staff the library. This opportunity provided the catalyst for community engagement. In Vancouver, the Hidden Family donated the land and the library was built with a \$10,000 grant. The library opened on December 31, 1909

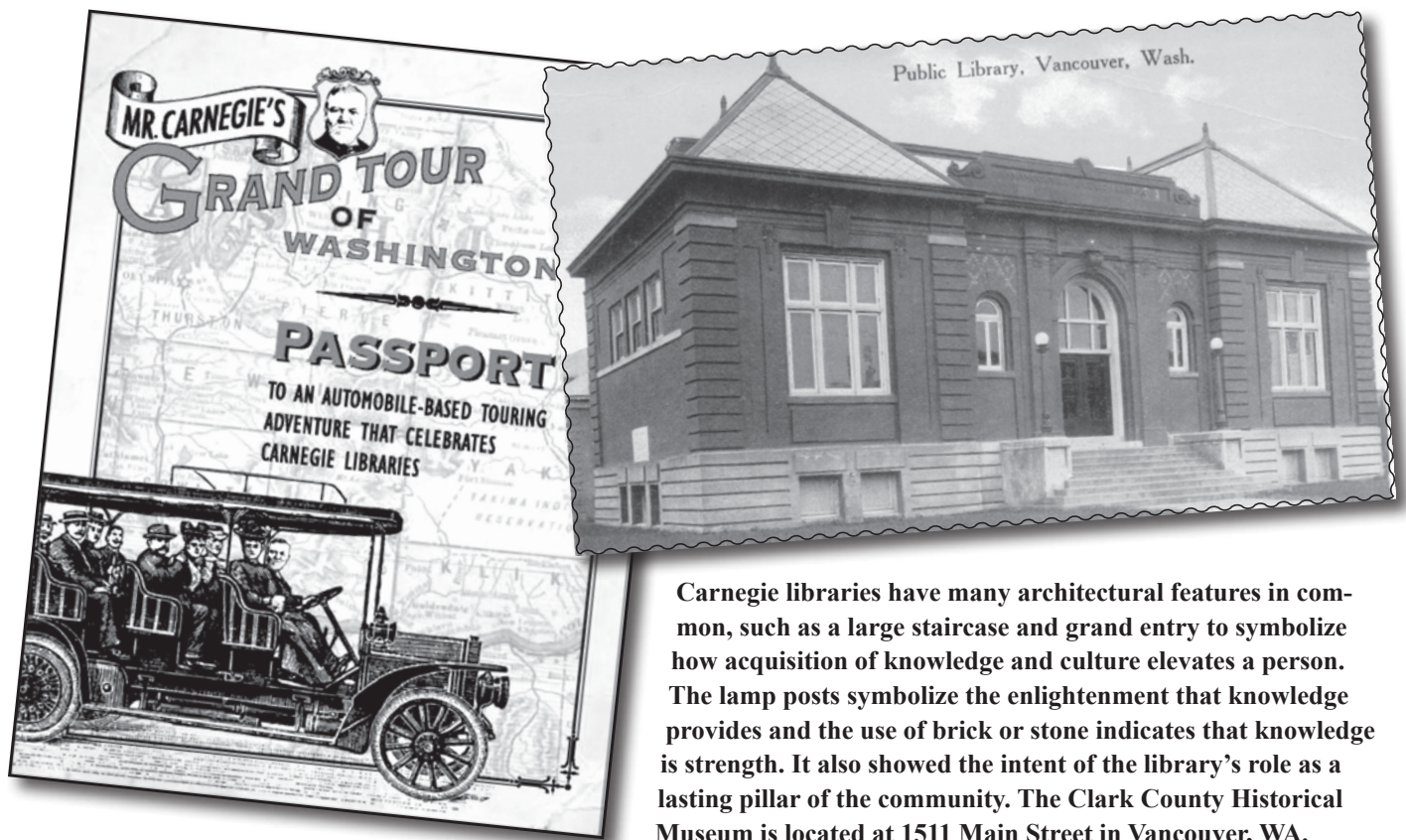


and was the former home of the Vancouver Public Library which later became the Fort Vancouver Regional Library System. All of these buildings represent Carnegie's legacy and his belief "of giving a hand up, not a hand out."

Twenty-one of Washington State's remaining 33 Carnegie Libraries have partnered to form the new Carnegie Library Consortium of Washington (CLCW) which was created by the Clark County Historical Museum. The consortium's goals are to promote heritage tourism, history and commerce, and to preserve Carnegie Libraries. During the consortium's first year, the CLCW launched a free automobile-based heritage passport program entitled, *Mr. Carnegie's Grand Tour of Washington*, as well as curriculum, scavenger hunts and a children's story book entitled, *Andy the Library Explorer*.

Tour participants that have visited three or more sites have the option of submitting the last page of their passports to the Clark County Historical Museum for a year end drawing for a basket of Washington State products. These programs are offered to the public freely at each participating location as well as on the Clark County Historical Museum's website (www.cchmuseum.org).

This annual program is a great model of a heritage partnership that encourages individuals to travel the state, learning more about the history and cultural resources we have to offer. Additional heritage sites are included in the passport. The CLCW hopes to expand their list of state-wide partners in 2010, with plans to go regional and national there after. For more information about the CLCW partnership or *Mr. Carnegie's Grand Tour of Washington*, contact me at the Clark County Historical Museum at 360-993-5679 or tissots@pacifier.com.



Carnegie libraries have many architectural features in common, such as a large staircase and grand entry to symbolize how acquisition of knowledge and culture elevates a person. The lamp posts symbolize the enlightenment that knowledge provides and the use of brick or stone indicates that knowledge is strength. It also showed the intent of the library's role as a lasting pillar of the community. The Clark County Historical Museum is located at 1511 Main Street in Vancouver, WA.

**CARNEGIE LIBRARY CONSORTIUM OF WASHINGTON
2009 PARTNERS:**

Tacoma Public Library 1903
 Walla Walla Public Library 1905
 Walla Walla Public Library 1905
 Ritzville Public Library 1907
 Clark County Historical Museum 1909
 Anacortes Historical Museum 1909
 Snohomish Public Library 1910
 Edmonds Historical Museum 1910
 Green Lake Branch, Seattle Public Library 1910
 University Branch, Seattle Public Library 1910
 West Branch, Seattle Public Library 1910
 Franklin County Historical Museum 1911
 Queen Anne Branch, Seattle Public Library 1913
 Port Townsend Public Library 1913
 Auburn Dance Center 1914
 Goldendale Community Library 1914
 Naegeli Reporting 1914
 Columbia Branch, Seattle Public Library 1915
 Burlington Edison School District 1916
 Clallam County Historical Society 1918
 Fremont Branch, Seattle Public Library 1921

WMA

BUSINESS MEMBERS

support the businesses that support us:

Washington State Housing Finance Commission
 Paragon Research Associates
 Spacesaver Northwest
 Artech Fine Arts Services
 Alice Parman, Interpretive Planner
 Chris Erlich, Chrisworks

NEW MEMBERS

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 Lisa J. Watt • Joan Sutliff • Melinda Stoops
 Rebecca Jones • Susan Schultz
 Eastern Washington State Historical Society
 Francis Cullooyah • Jesse Clark McAbee
 Museum of Culture and Environment
 Irene Bloom • Melissa Halverson
 Connell Heritage Museum • Jill Erickson
 Robert Hoot • Teresa Taylor • Lorna Walsh
 Pacific Science Center • Alisha Martin

FREE WASHINGTON ARCHIVES MONTH WORKSHOPS

The Washington State Historical Records Advisory Board (WSHRAB), Washington State Archives, National Archives Pacific-Alaska Region, and the Heritage Resource Center, (Washington State Historical Society) presents The Basics of Archives in recognition of Washington Archives Month.

A Practical, One-Day Workshop For Those Who Work With Historical Records But Are Not Trained Archivists!

Monday, October 5, 9 am - 4 pm

Washington State Archives Puget Sound Region, 3000 Landerholm Circle SE, Bellevue, WA

Thursday, October 15, 9 am - 4 pm

Washington State Archives Central Region, 400 E. University Way, Ellensburg, WA

Wednesday, October 21, 9 am - 4 pm

City Hall of Battle Ground, 109 SW 1st Street, Battle Ground, WA

Thursday, October 29, 9 am - 4 pm

National Archives Pacific-Alaska Region, 6125 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA

Instructors: Experienced archivists volunteered by member organizations of the Washington State Historical Records Advisory Board will instruct your class.

In the Basics of Archives Workshop you will learn:

What historical records are—and aren't

How to decide what to keep

How to make sure you have legal title to your collections

How to handle collections when you get them so you know what you have and how to locate collections

How to protect your collections from theft

How to deal with copyright issues

What tools you need to create to help users find the information in your collections

How to take care of historical records to ensure their preservation and accessibility into the future

How to let the public know what you have and how to get people excited about using your collections

And where to go when you need help

Register by October 1 (or as soon as possible)

Telephone, e-mail, or fax your information to:

Mark Vessey
Heritage Resource Center
Phone: 360-586-0219
Fax: 360-586-8322
e-mail: mvessey@wshs.wa.gov

About WSHRAB: The Washington State Historical Records Advisory Board serves the public as the central advisory board for historical records projects and plans and provides leadership and guidance to help ensure the identification, preservation, and use of the state's historical records: <http://www.secstate.wa.gov/archives/wshrab.aspx>

Strengthen Your Museum with the Museum Assessment Program

Jill Connors-Joyner, Assistant Director, Museum Assessment Program for the American Association of Museums wrote to us about their upcoming MAP deadline:

The Museum Assessment Program (MAP) is an affordable way to strengthen your museum and achieve excellence. Within a year your museum can conduct a self-study, consult with a museum professional and gain the tools to become a stronger institution. Apply for one of four MAP assessments: Institutional, Collections Management, Public Dimension, Governance.

Please visit the MAP website at www.aam-us.org/map for application details. Museums will be accepted on a rolling basis through the postmark deadline of November 30, 2009. Space is limited, so please submit your application as early as possible. If you have any questions about the program, contact program staff by email at map@aam-us.org or by phone at (202) 289-9118. The annual application is supported through a cooperative agreement between AAM and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations opened September 15

The American Association of State and Local History newsletter announced that after years of work by staff and more than 130 volunteers from across the country, the new Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations (StEPs) was opened September 15.

StEPs is a voluntary, self-assessment program for small and mid-sized history organizations that encourages awareness and achievement of national standards. Organizations that enroll in the self-study program use performance indicators (Basic, Good, Better) to rate their current situation in six standards sections. Your organization will clearly identify and document strengths and areas needing improvement so you can begin taking StEPs to plan for positive change. Grant funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services supported the program's development. Enrollment dues are required for more information contact Cherie Cook, AASLH Senior Program Manager at cook@aaslh.org.

New NEH Conservation Grant

The Division of Preservation and Access at the national Endowment for the Humanities announced a new preventive conservation grant program, *Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections*, with a deadline of December 8. The program offers U.S. nonprofit museums, libraries, and archives, as well as state and local governmental agencies and tribal governments with humanities collections two kinds of awards: Planning and Evaluation Grants (up to \$40,000) and Implementation Grants (up to \$400,000). Guidelines will be posted on the new NEH website in early November.

REGIONAL NEWS HAS MOVED TO OUR WEBSITE

In order to keep the Regional News fresh and relevant, **all regional news announcements will now appear on the WMA website at www.washingtonstatemuseums.org** instead of in the newsletter. This is a self-entry system and, thanks to our webmaster, David Lynx (YVM), it is very user-friendly. It will allow us to get your information out to a wider audience within days. Plus, you can direct others to the WMA website link to see your announcements and other activity in your region.

To submit your news item just go to the website, click on Regional News, and fill out the online form. Please limit content to approximately 200-250 words as you did for the print Messenger. If you have problems posting, please send queries to contact@washingtonmusems.org.

You may also use this email address to send photos of your institution to be posted on the website. We think you will like this change. Watch for new items of interest in future issues of the Messenger.



Fall 2009

MUSEUM MESSENGER



WMA Museum Messenger
P.O. Box 10633
Yakima, WA 98909
Address Service Requested

WMA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS ARE MANY...

- Network of people dedicated to museum advocacy, professional standards, clear communication, education, and diversity.
- Reduced registration fee for annual WMA Meeting conference, voting privileges for Board election and WMA direction.
- *Museum Messenger* newsletter, including articles, reports, photos, calendars, and job listings.
- e-Messenger internet news on important legislative issues, updates, job listings, and other current museum topics.
- WMA website with a directory of Washington museums, resources, and regional news.

Additional benefits for Institutional Members:

- Expanded website listing.
- Two conference registrations at WMA rate.

Additional benefits for Business Members:

- An exhibit table at the annual conference.
- Recognition in the WMA *Museum Messenger* newsletter.

JOIN TODAY!
(Fill out form below)

Contact WMA

Visit our web site:
www.washingtonstatemuseums.org
Question about your membership?
Need to reach a WMA board member?
Have an item for Museum Messenger?
A suggestion for the Annual Conference?
Reach us by sending an email:
contact@washingtonstatemuseums.org

Please mark email attention to:
Membership Coordinator: David Lynx
Newsletter Co-Editors:
Betsy Millard and Janda Volkmer
Newsletter Designer: Andy Granitto
Webmaster: David Lynx
2010 Conference Program Chairs:
Mike Siebol, Eric Taylor, Angela Neller
2009 Conference Local Arrangements
Chair: Victoria Blackwell (Ex-Officio)
Advocacy & Legislative Liaisons:
Susan Rohrer, Brenda Abney
President (inquiries, suggestions,
complaints): Brenda Abney
E-Messenger: Rebecca Engelhardt at:
emessenger@washingtonstatemuseums.org
Regional News – moved to website
go to www.washingtonstatemuseums.org
and enter your information.

WMA Membership Application

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

Personal

• \$20 Individual _____
\$10 Student _____
\$10 Senior, 62+ _____
\$100 Patron _____

Organizational

\$30 Institutional (non-profit) _____
\$100 Business/Commercial _____

Name _____
(Mr/Ms/Miss/Mrs or Organization Name)

Title _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ FAX _____

email _____

For Organizational members, please name Representative to act as voting agent and who will receive the WMA mailings:

(Mr/Ms/Miss/Mrs) _____

(Title) _____

Payment::

\$ _____ Membership dues

\$ _____ Additional tax deductible contribution

\$ _____ TOTAL (Check payable to WMA)

By selecting a higher category of membership or giving a contribution in addition to your membership, you promote the Association's goals. Thank you for your support!

Please mail your information and check to:

WMA Membership Coordinator
P. O. Box 10633
Yakima, WA 98909