COMMUNITY VOICES
ANNUAL REPORT FY18
(July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018)
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**Artist Chris Demarest demonstrating his work in the museum lobby and talking with students.**
NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Looking back over the past year, we have continued to dynamically connect with communities across the Evergreen State through exhibitions, heritage projects, workshops, public programs, publications, and conversations. Our goal is to bring history into focus in such a way that the reader, visitor, or participant cannot help but feel deeply connected to the people and events of the past.

But connecting people to their history can be complicated, and often there are barriers. One significant barrier can be the cost of participation. That’s why the Society is committed to access for all. We do this by offering multiple days with free or discounted museum admission, and this year 13,634 visitors gained access through discounted admissions (see p. 8). We’ve served over 15,000 students and are proud to offer a sliding fee scale based on the percentage of free and reduced price lunch students at each school. Additionally, we offer school bus grants to reduce the cost of transportation to the museum.

Another barrier to connection can occur when we fail to tell the stories of Washington’s diverse communities. We strive to reduce these barriers by partnering with our community to represent diverse voices and experiences in exhibitions and programs. This past year, we partnered with 64 different organizations. Witness to Wartime: The Painted Diaries of Takuichi Fujii and Filled with Grace explored the harsh realities of the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, and we partnered to honor the annual Day of Remembrance in Tacoma with a free community event. Fall 2017 saw the opening of our new gallery Washington: My Home, featuring the diverse stories and faces of our state, from the Native American Tribes that have called Washington home since time immemorial, to Europeans who immigrated here in the early 20th century, to the Syrian refugees who arrived last year. Additionally, each spring we work with Native artists to bring the annual In The Spirit Contemporary Native Arts exhibition to the History Museum, and we partner with Tacoma Art Museum for the free summertime Northwest Native Festival.

A final barrier to connection can simply be distance, and we continually ask ourselves how we can better serve Washingtonians across our state. A few efforts of note include a new traveling exhibition about the impact of WWI in Washington, which has been on view in multiple venues and can also be downloaded through the Society’s website. Our Heritage Capital Projects grant program distributes up to $10M per biennium to fund public heritage, history interpretation, and historic preservation projects across the state. Finally, our popular public history magazine COLUMBIA is enjoyed by readers of all ages. The magazine’s new section “39 Counties” highlights historical organizations and events around the state.

None of these programs, exhibits, and services would be possible without your ongoing support. Your participation is greatly appreciated and vital to our continued success. You help us overcome barriers and connect the people of Washington to their history and to each other. Thank you for all that you do!

Sincerely,

— Jennifer Kilmer
Director
EDUCATION

“The Historical Society has been a tremendous support for my classroom. Their sponsorship of National History Day has provided my students with excellent resources and strong motivation to engage in high-level research and project development. Moreover, in many cases I’ve seen these opportunities spark a curiosity in history that has carried far beyond the classroom. Students have discovered stories and events of our local history that are totally absent in any packaged curriculum. The students often return after graduation and share the skills they develop by engaging in historical research have been the most beneficial as they move on to post-high school education. The Historical Society has been at the core of this process that I have seen transform my students into critical thinkers, pursuing deeper understanding on a range of complex issues, preparing them for challenges that they may face in an effort to be better 21st century citizens.”

— Luke Thomas
History teacher,
Mt. Spokane High School
Mead School District

EXHIBITS

“What started as a casual walk through the Washington State History Museum with my wife turned into one of the most in-depth cultural conversations we’d ever had. She’s originally from China, and the Great Hall became a catalyst for a discussion about the role of Chinese people in Washington State’s origin story, and how they were – and are – treated here. It wasn’t always a comfortable or happy conversation, but it was meaningful. Washington: My Home was like looking into a mirror of her immigration story, and I felt like she saw a lot of parallels to her life that I didn’t intuitively pick up on. Maybe most eye-opening of all was actually TOYTOPIA. In all our years together, we’d never really discussed the toys of our childhood, but it became a lens to discover just how different our lives were as kids. History isn’t just a set of dates and names: It’s a narrative that helps explain why things are the way they are today and why many of us are the way we are today. I’m glad Washington State History Museum gets that.”

— Matt Wakefield
Museum patron

2017-18 EXHIBITS:
• Gridiron Glory: The Best of the Pro Football Hall of Fame
• Witness to Wartime: The Painted Diary of Takuichi Fujii
• Glasnost and Goodwill: Citizen Diplomacy in the Northwest
• Loyal Opposition: The Protest Photos of George P. Hickey
• Collections Selections: In the Nursery
• In The Spirit Contemporary Native Arts
• Toytopia
• Play Dates

82,998 Visitors

236 Field Trips Served
15,353 Students

36 History Box Rentals Served
1,088 Students in Schools

COLLECTIONS

“When I was younger I didn’t really know anything about museums or historical societies, but I’ve always been drawn to how civilizations function. Seeing a tool and understanding how they used it day to day. I remember being younger, being in a museum and being stuck reading everything about the items in the cases. As I’ve gotten older a lot of things have changed, but I still love history and I feel enough about that subject to want to contribute to it. The first item I gave was a 1962 fold out brochure from Seattle World’s Fair. It was something my parents went to and it was such a neat thing to save. I’ve given a few more items since then and it means something every time. Sharing something that used to be personal or handmade … and I’m not losing it, it’s catalogued and becomes available for even more people, and I can go online and still appreciate it.”

— Gerty Gerstmar
Donor

WHAT’S IN OUR COLLECTION?

Artifacts (3-D objects): 83,000
Photographs: 600,000
Ephemera: 65,000
Digital items: 1,800
Maps: 3,300
Books: 17,000
Manuscript collections (about 8 million pages): 650

VOLUNTEERS

“I love history. I enjoy the idea of transmitting history to younger generations. I started here in 2002 responding to an ad. I thought, and still feel, that the work they are doing here lined up with my own values and interests. The main reason I volunteer here is because of my capacity to influence young people. To help them become more appreciative of history and encourage them to want to learn more. I just believe it’s important to know about the past so you don’t repeat mistakes in the future.”

— Joe Lewis
WSHS Volunteer

82 Volunteers
7,932 Volunteer Hours

The Dode Trip collection consists of the book Washington State Art and Artists, 1850-1950, written by Dode and Sherburne Cook, and about 40 paintings including this oil on canvas painting, The First Hop Dry House Built in the Puyallup Valley, Washington, by James Everett Stuart, March 11, 1891. The building in the painting is thought to be Ezra Meeker’s hop house, the first hop grower in the valley.
OUTREACH

“The Puyallup Valley Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League has been impressed with the displays and exhibits produced by the Washington State Historical Society and Museum. Early in 2017, the museum produced Filled With Grace which traced the immigration of the early Japanese pioneers, their wartime experience imprisoned in concentration camps, and their resettlement and success in the South Sound. Following this exhibition, many items were donated to the Puyallup Valley JACL for its 75th Remembrance of “Camp Harmony”, the only concentration camp in Washington State. During the Washington State Fair season, over one million visitors had the opportunity to learn about this chapter in American history, and the donated items assisted in telling the story.

Presently, a display (Washington: My Home) representing the diversity of Washington through various artifacts, includes a pair of getas, Japanese wooden shoes, given by our past president, Elsie Taniguchi. Her story of growing up in the Fife/Puyallup River Valley is representative of our early pioneers.

The museum employs multi-media approaches with photographs, sketches, poems, paintings, and even taiko drums. It’s novel approaches to subject matter draws the audience in and inspires repeat visits.

We appreciate the thoughtfulness and thoroughness of the displays produced by the Washington State Historical Museum. It often finds unknown stories or unique perspectives to share with guests.”

— Eileen Yamada Lamphere
President, Puyallup Valley Chapter, Japanese American Citizens League

HERITAGE OUTREACH PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS

• Pacific Northwest History Conference, Spokane, October 12-14, 2017
• Arts and Heritage Day 2018, Olympia, February 7, 2018
• Facing Pierce County Homelessness: Creating HomeFULLness, Tacoma, April 28, 2018, presented by the League of Women Voters-Tacoma and Pierce County. WSHS provided the location, a presentation and a group discussion, and was full sponsor of this conference.

FEATURED EVENTS:

July  Friday Football Flick, Invincible
August  IN THE SPIRIT Northwest Native Arts Festival
October  66th Pacific Northwest History Conference
December Annual Model Train Festival
January  Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration
February Scholarly Selections: Understanding Approaches to Water Quality
March Pierce County Reads Kickoff Event
April Facing Pierce County Homelessness: Creating HomeFULLness
May Tacoma Day of Rememberance
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

4Culture
American Association of State and Local History
Arts Alliance
Asia Pacific Cultural Center
Boys & Girls Club
Broadway Center for the Performing Arts
Buffalo Soldiers Museum
Camp Harmony Committee
Capital Furnishings Preservation Committee
Cheney Historical Museum
Children's Museum of Tacoma
Cowlitz County Museum
Des Moines Memorial Drive Preservation Association
Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Fife Historical Society
Fort Nisqually Living History Museum
Fort Vancouver National Historic Site
Foss Waterway Seaport
Gonzaga University
Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
Job Carr Cabin Museum
Island County Museum
LeMay America's Car Museum
Lewis County Museum
League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County
Puyallup VFW Post 2224
Military Order of the World Wars
Museum of Glass
Museum of History and Industry
Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture
Office of the Secretary of State
Pacific Northwest Historians Guild
Pierce County Library System
Pierce Transit
Puyallup Valley Japanese American Citizens League
Rainbow Center
South Puget Sound Business and Professional Women
Tacoma Art Museum
Tacoma Community House
Tacoma Historical Society
Tacoma Preservation Office
Tacoma Public Libraries
Tacoma Public Schools
Tacoma Symphony
Tacoma FVW Post 91
Target Seattle
University of Puget Sound
University of Washington Tacoma
University of Washington, Ellison Center for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies
United State World War One Centennial Commission
Washington Military Department Emergency Management Division
Washington Museum Association
Washington State Archives
Washington State Digital Archives
Washington Nonprofits
Washington State Arts Commission
Washington State Parks
Washington State Department of Transportation
Washington State Department of Veteran's Affairs
Wentachee Valley Museum
Western Museum Association
Whitworth University
YMCA

In The Spirit Northwest Native Festival.
Tacoma Day of Remembrance origami birds.
HERITAGE CAPITAL PROJECTS

“When a small historical society has big dreams and only an annual budget of $40,000, how is it possible to restore historic buildings? The answer is two-fold for us: you find community support to help make a vision possible, which we had for restoration of the Reiman-Simmons House and the Pioneer Church (1904 structures), and you find money. The first part happened as our community rallied to envision a heritage place for our small town. The second part, finding the money, was given a huge boost by the Heritage Capital Projects program. People began to see that we could have statewide support for our projects, and we believe this helped spur people to give to the match we needed to progress. We began with a smallish project of around $27,000 in HCP funds to restore the House, and then a much larger project to restore the Pioneer Church (around $150,000). With each success, our community support grew, and our membership, which was around 25 in 2004, is now over 150. I believe strongly in using the model of community match versus outright entitlements. When the community invests their heart, time and resources, it increases the value to everyone, and they feel a part. It breeds the “we built/did this together” mentality, and that only has positive outcomes, no matter the circumstance. We are extremely grateful to the Heritage Capital Project program. It has been a true partner for us in creating our community heritage site!”

— Harriet Weber
Director of Operations,
Quincy Valley Historical Society

2017-19 BIENNUM

The Heritage Capital Project program provides 1/3 matching grants for public history, heritage, and preservation projects. The 2017-19 biennium produced 35 new heritage projects approved for $8.9 M in HCP grants, totaling almost $27 M invested in projects across Washington.

| 35 new HCP projects |
| $8.9 M in HCP grants |
| $27 M invested in local communities across the state |
EXAMPLE HERITAGE CAPITAL PROJECTS:

**Organization:** Quincy Valley Historical Society  
**Project:** Community Heritage Barn  
**Appropriation:** $205,000  
**Scope:** Construct a barn on the heritage site already occupied by the Reiman-Simmons House & Pioneer Church. This building will serve to interpret and preserve local history both in terms of archive/collection for the region and the shared history of agriculture in this valley. Both the Archive/Research Room and the exhibit space will be an asset to residents and tourists for many years to come, and the building itself will be used as a community "hub" for history and culture.  
www.qvhsm.org

**Organization:** Quilcene Historical Museum  
**Project:** Worthington Park (Five Phases)  
**Appropriation:** $244,000  
**Scope:** Local philanthropist and founding Quilcene Historical Museum member Eileen Worthington property—consisting of a 1892 Victorian mansion, a 1915 barn, two outbuildings, and ten acres—was purchased by the museum in 2011 and began a five-phase project called Worthington Park. Its shared vision is to effectively integrate the historical museum, restored Victorian mansion, and outdoor theater into a multi-functional event center to attract increased numbers of visitors as it educates, entertains, and enriches. Worthington Park is an emerging tourism asset that is expected to attract significant and increasing numbers of visitors as it becomes fully operational in the spring of 2019—with all of the $1.5M restoration effort proceeding without debt.  
quilcenemuseum.org  
**Award:** Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation Stewardship Award

1995 - PRESENT

Heritage Capital Projects was established by the legislature in 1995, and since then nearly $80 million has been distributed to more than 300 public heritage projects across the state.

$80 M in HCP grants  
$240 M invested across Washington  
300 heritage, history, and preservation projects for the public to engage with, utilize, and learn from.
FINANCIALS

REVENUE
Government ................................................... $ 2,613,500
Contributions, non governmental ........... $ 134,932
Earned revenue ............................................. $ 1,212,651
In-kind contributions ............................... $ 1,250

Total Operating Support and Revenue $ 3,962,333

OPERATING EXPENSES
Exhibits and Programs .................................$ 2,051,268
Collections .....................................................$ 323,206
Administration/IT ........................................$ 1,062,429
Development and Marketing .....................$ 278,537

Total $ 3,715,440

STATEMENT OF POSITION

ASSETS
Current.............................................................. $ 744,163
Investments ...................................................... $ 1,177,916

Total Assets $ 1,922,079

NET ASSETS
Unrestricted .................................................... $ 641,896
Restricted ........................................................ $ 1,177,917

Total Net Assets $ 1,819,813

LIABILITIES
Total Liabilities ............................................... $ 102,266
Total Net Assets ............................................. $ 1,819,813

Total Liabilities and Net Assets $ 1,922,079

ACCESS PROGRAMS

Number of free or reduced admissions per program.
Teen Tix ................................................................. 39
Culture Kids (and families) ......................... 247
Free Third Thursdays ................................. 5,632
QUEST card holders and Foster Families. ....... 710
Library passes ............................................... 4,441
Martin Luther King Jr. day (free for all) and Veterans Day (free for active/retired military) ................. 744
In The Spirit Northwest Native Festival .......... 716
Blue Star Program........................................... 1,030

13,634
Free or Discounted Admission Tickets

OUR MISSION

The Washington State Historical Society partners with our communities to explore how history connects us all.
THANK YOU WSHS MEMBERS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

ACTIVE MEMBERS Between 7/1/2017 - 6/30/2018

VIP MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM
University of Washington
Tacoma

AFFILIATES
Anacortes Museum
Fort Nisqually Living History Museum
Harbor History Museum
Hiram M. Chittenden Ballard Locks
Historic Fort Steilacoom
Kitsap County Historical Society Museum
Lakewood Historical Society
Lelooska Foundation & Cultural Center
Moss Lake Museum and Arts Center
Okanogan County Historical Society
Olympia Historical Society and Bigelow House Museum
Pacific County Historical Society
Spokane Valley Heritage Museum
Steeilacoom Historical Museum
Tumwater Historical Society
University of Washington

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