Washington State Historical Society Chronology:

1891 - the Society is organized
1896 - the Society is incorporated
1903 - the State Legislature passes an act designated the Society as a trustee agency of state government
1909 - the State Legislature appropriates $25,000 to the Society to build its own building on Stadium Way in Tacoma
1911 - the original Society building is dedicated
1911 - the Society merges with the Ferry Museum that had been built adjoining its building
1914 - the Hewitt Research Library is established
1973 - a new wing is added to the facility on Stadium Way
1986 - the Society’s board of trustees adopt a long range plan to guide its growth
1987 - the Society commences publication of COLUMBIA Magazine
1987 - the State Legislature appropriates planning funds for a new museum
1993 - the Society merges with the State Capital Museum in Olympia
1995 - the Heritage Capital Projects program is created under the auspices of the Washington State Historical Society to support historic preservation statewide

1996 - the Society opens the new Washington State History Museum next to the restored Union Station in downtown Tacoma
1999 - the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Advisory Committee is created under the auspices of the Washington State Historical Society
2000 - Society’s board adopts a new strategic plan for 2000-2010
2004 – Washington State Historical Society receives accreditation from the American Association of Museums
2005 – Women’s History Consortium is created by the Washington State Legislature, led by the Society
2010 - Society organizes the Washington Women’s Suffrage Centennial commemoration, receiving an Award of Merit from the American Association of State and Local History the following year for its efforts
2011 – Longtime Society Director David Nicandri retires, succeeded by Jennifer Kilmer, current Director
2012 – Middle Village/Station Camp highway interpretive site opens to the public in Ilwaco, WA, the result of a partnership between the Society, National Park Service, and the Chinook Tribe.
2012 - Society adopts new strategic plan for 2012-2017
2015 – Society celebrates 10th Annual In the Spirit Native American Arts Festival and 20th Annual Model Train Festival
2016 – Society celebrates its 125th year of service to the people of Washington