

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's not uncommon for museum accrediting and foundation grant officers to ask if the board of the state historical society is actively engaged in the governance of the institution. As president of the Washington State Historical Society and chairman of its board of trustees, I am proud to say the answer is a resounding "Yes!"

The board recently held a meeting in what mayor and Society trustee Royce Polard proudly refers to as Vancouver, USA.

The Vancouver National Reserve is one of our state's major heritage assets and the Society is proud of our own emerging role in its development. More than 20 trustees took time out of their busy schedules to tour Fort Vancouver and the reserve, attend a lecture on the mapping of the Columbia River Basin, and conduct a full day of official Society business. That's active engagement in institution governance of which we can all be proud.

One of my colleagues on the board who is very active in financial affairs and community service recently mentioned that of all the organizations he is familiar with, ours is the best managed. For that we are grateful to Executive Director Dave Nicandri and the staff for their leadership and dedication, and to trustees, members, contributors, and volunteers past and present for their generosity.

Special recognition of Administrative Director Marie DeLong is appropriate. Marie recently retired after 20 years of exemplary service to the Society. We wish her well and pledge to maintain her enthusiasm and commitment to the Society and its mission.



Daniel K Grimm,
President

—Daniel K Grimm

THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that History Museum attendance and earned and donated income to the Society increased in FY08 over the previous year. You may recall that in last year's report I expressed concern about the necessity of avoiding a continuous downward cycle, which institutions like ours can have difficulty escaping if the condition becomes endemic. I credit the strong support of mission by our board, members, and stakeholders; stellar exhibitions; and improved promotion for this turnaround.

Notwithstanding the growth in attendance, there is some risk in positioning that metric as the defining measurement of the Society's success. Yes, the History Museum is probably the most important thing we do, but it's not the only thing we do—it's not even most of what we do. When you add up the cumulative effect of National History Day, the Center for Columbia River History, the State Capital Museum, the Heritage Resource Center, Heritage Capital Grants, WashingtonHistory.org, the Pacific Northwest History Conference, the Washington Women's History Consortium, and *COLUMBIA Magazine*, to name just a few programs, you have a notable aggregation of outreach services—activities that define our brand statewide.

—David L. Nicandri



David L. Nicandri,
Executive Director



FOUR-YEAR FINANCIAL & PROGRAM SUMMARY

Statement of operation (operating accounts only). July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

	FY05 [7/04-6/05]	FY06 [7/05-6/06]	FY07 [7/06-6/07]	FY08 [7/07-6/08]
EARNED INCOME & STATE APPROPRIATION				
State General Fund Appropriation	\$2,505,477	\$3,312,541	\$3,265,992	\$3,557,487
Business Income	\$436,974	\$537,797	\$437,853	\$394,775
Contract Service Receipts	\$263,140	\$343,577	\$166,481	\$238,523
Admissions	\$304,219	\$341,872	\$269,242	\$288,441
Membership Dues	\$144,706	\$137,051	\$120,610	\$119,819
Other Income	\$119,729	\$76,520	\$71,914	\$244,145
TOTAL	\$3,774,245	\$4,749,358	\$4,332,092	\$4,843,190
CONTRIBUTIONS				
Unrestricted & Miscellaneous Support	\$48,978	\$87,982	\$48,114	\$64,256
Information Technology Development	—	—	\$78,600	\$266,400
Education Development	\$3,410	\$32,215	\$8,849	\$18,500
Capital Museum & Outreach Services	\$83,832	\$22,757	\$64,968	\$13,705
Member, Donor, Public Relations	\$14,068	\$10,674	\$72,417	\$30,863
Collection Development	\$12,475	\$4,943	\$2,300	\$15,100
Exhibit Development	\$15,625	\$2,340	\$43,833	\$415,636
TOTAL	\$178,388	\$160,911	\$319,081	\$824,460
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$3,952,633	\$4,910,269	\$4,651,173	\$5,667,650
DISBURSEMENTS				
Statewide Outreach Services	\$602,519	\$1,127,682	\$1,059,896	\$783,296
Administrative Services	\$453,593	\$499,156	\$589,278	\$568,202
Exhibit Services	\$450,317	\$492,352	\$430,126	\$801,764
Information Technology	\$341,711	\$478,731	\$382,171	\$665,286
Facilities Maintenance & Utilities	\$291,365	\$448,341	\$542,575	\$568,056
Member, Donor, Public Relations	\$586,181	\$443,226	\$526,294	\$506,011
Museum Support Services	\$349,063	\$346,101	\$361,741	\$351,763
Collection/Research Services	\$363,753	\$330,689	\$384,876	\$482,882
Capital Museum Operations	\$315,762	\$297,462	\$322,109	\$437,759
Education Services	\$354,985	\$251,587	\$275,424	\$246,902
Visitor Services	\$79,305	\$86,073	\$85,924	\$83,805
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$4,188,554	\$4,801,400	\$4,960,414	\$5,495,726
TOTAL RECEIPTS LESS DISBURSEMENTS	\$(235,921)	\$108,869	\$(309,241)	\$171,924
PROGRAM MEASURES				
History Museum Attendance	116,393	101,053	87,736	94,265
State Capital Museum Attendance	13,021	11,621	3,468	6,346
Total Members	2,519	2,605	2,074	2,083
Objects Inventoried	7,072	5,633	3,116	3,944
TOTAL STAFF				
Full-time	25	32	34	33
Part-time	36	32	30	34
Volunteers	163	141	134	136
Estimate of Volunteer Hours	14,226	13,356	11,319	11,486

EXHIBITIONS July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

History Museum

Bridging the Narrows
March 31, 2007 - November 18, 2007

In the Spirit: Contemporary Northwest Native Arts Exhibit
May 12, 2007 - July 22, 2007

COLUMBIA at 20: Northwest History for Everybody
March 3, 2007 - September 9, 2007

The Artist and the Tycoon
November 21, 2006 - October 7, 2007

Keeping Boats and Culture Afloat
September 7, 2007 - December 9, 2007

Evolution of the Art Quilt
September 15, 2007 - December 9, 2007

Washington's Historic Quilts

September 15, 2007 - December 2, 2007

Faces of Leadership: Presidential Portraiture

November 10, 2007 - January 11, 2009

Art of the Stamp
December 8, 2007 - March 2, 2008

12th Annual Model Train Festival
December 26, 2007 - January 1, 2008

Remembered Light
January 12, 2008 - March 2, 2008

Becoming American: Teenagers and Immigration
March 22, 2008 - June 1, 2008

Curators' Choice

March 29, 2008 - December 14, 2008

The West the Railroads Made

April 13, 2008 - January 24, 2009

In the Spirit: Contemporary Northwest Native Arts Exhibit
June 19, 2008 - July 20, 2008

Capital Museum

From Sea to Shining Sea: 200 Years of America's Coast Survey
June 21, 2007 - September 20, 2007

Giants in the Mountains: The Search for Sasquatch
October 2, 2007 - October 18, 2008

AWARDS Presented at the Society's 117th Annual Meeting on June 21, 2008

Robert Gray Award – Walt Crowley
Peace and Friendship Awards – Roberta Conner and James Payne
Governor's Award for Teaching History – Dori Wuepper

John McClelland Jr. Award – Andrew Fisher
Lorraine Wojahn Award – William Crosby Bruzas
Jean Richards Award – Kelsea De Costa

David Douglas Fellowship Award – Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project (www.densho.org)
Charles Gates Memorial Award – Stephen Moore

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