



## Welcome Back!

Dear WSHS members and supporters,

I am excited to announce that the Washington State History Museum will re-open on **April 2, 2021**. During this year while our buildings have been closed to the public, our staff have continued to work diligently to fulfill our mission. From collecting images and items related to the pandemic, to creating new downloadable educational resources for at-home learners, to hosting virtual History After Hours programs complete with historic cocktails and dance lessons, we have worked to both document this historic time and quickly respond to the new needs of our audiences. This work has included supporting our heritage community in Washington through resource sharing and e-gatherings of leaders from across our state to discuss common concerns and creative solutions.

We've also engaged in institution-wide evaluation related to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and we continue to take steps toward needed changes. We encourage you to visit our website to read about the Black History Project, our Monuments and Markers project, and our new *Remembrance* gallery focused on the impacts of Executive Order 9066.

Like you, we have been deeply saddened by the toll of COVID-19 on our state and our nation. Yet history proves that Washingtonians are resilient, and we've seen an abundance of innovative solutions to work through the pandemic, as well as neighbors helping neighbors in inspiring ways. We'll continue to document these stories. One day, researchers will use our collections to understand how Washingtonians endured COVID-19.

When we open the History Museum's doors again on April 2, we will safely welcome visitors with a new exhibition and more on the way. This spring, we'll open *Remembrance*, a new long-term gallery in the Great Hall. Later in 2021 we will open *360*, a permanent gallery devoted to the question of how Washington has sustained people and commerce across its 360-mile wide expanse since time immemorial. On the back side of this page you'll see more details about upcoming events. We are grateful to have arrived at this point and we thank you for your continued membership and support.

*Image above: A crowd of visitors gathered at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma, Washington on opening weekend, August 10-11, 1996. WSHS catalog ID 2011.41.1.3.14.*



Jennifer Kilmer  
Director  
Washington State Historical Society

## UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Get full details at  
[www.WashingtonHistory.org/exhibitions](http://www.WashingtonHistory.org/exhibitions)

*Just the Ticket*  
April 2–August 22, 2021

Journey through the history of train travel in Washington! Although railroad travel was later eclipsed by the invention of the automobile, in the late 1800s-early 1900s, train travel was preferred for long distances. Objects and materials from the WSHS collections provide a glimpse into the how and why of rail travel.

*Crossing Boundaries: Portraits of a Transgender West*  
May 29–December 12, 2021

WSHS proudly presents this original exhibition created with historian Peter Boag, highlighting narratives of transgender people in the West from 1860–1940. Stories of individuals who did not conform to gender norms will illuminate the themes of visibility, identity, acceptance, and history, and connect to aspects of today's LGBTQ+ community. Westward migration provided opportunities for self-fulfillment as these individuals crossed both physical boundaries and the perceptual boundaries of their earlier lives. Learn more about the history of gender, identity, and changing cultural perceptions in the West.

*Remembrance: The Legacy of Executive Order 9066 in Washington State*  
Spring 2021

The Japanese community set down roots in Washington State during the 1890s, and within a few decades, these Washingtonians had become vital contributors to culture and commerce. In the early 1940s, changing laws and the stirring of war with Japan caused strain for Japanese Americans. Soon after the December 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor bombing, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 authorizing concentration camps for Japanese American citizens. This event marked the lives of Japanese American families and their communities forever. In *Remembrance*, visitors will experience this legacy through photographs, art, letters, and other items gathered through families who were directly impacted by this history, including camp survivors.

*IN THE SPIRIT Contemporary Native Arts*  
Summer 2021, opening date to be announced soon!

Celebrate emerging Native artists in this annual juried exhibition. Selected works will be on view through the summer, with artist awards in July and the indoor/outdoor Arts Market and Northwest Native Festival in August. Check for details in May at [www.InTheSpiritArts.org](http://www.InTheSpiritArts.org).

# EXPLORE IT! CALENDAR

**PLEASE NOTE:** Some programs and events will take place online through Facebook Live and Zoom. Questions about how to participate? Contact Molly.Wilmoth@wshs.wa.gov. For full details about all of these events, check our website at [www.WashingtonHistory.org/events](http://www.WashingtonHistory.org/events).

## APRIL

**Dolores Huerta Day**  
April 10, time to be determined  
**FREE Facebook Live Presentation**

In honor of her leadership in the farmworkers' civil rights movement, Washington State recognizes Dolores Huerta Day on April 10. However, few know about the impact she and Cesar Chavez made on farmworker rights in our state. Join us to learn more about the lasting contributions of Dolores Huerta and her legacy.

## MAY



**VIRTUAL History After Hours: COOPER**  
May 13, 7:00 PM  
For ages 21+  
\$10 members, \$15 non-members

Alive or deceased? Disgruntled or ingenious? Folk hero or terrorist? This ages 21+ program explores the layers of myth and mystery surrounding the 1971 hijacking of Northwest Orient Flight 305 and the enigmatic figure at that story's center. See material released by the FBI and hear harrowing first-hand accounts of crisis decision making from that Thanksgiving eve flight. Learn how to make Cooper's favorite mixed drink, see fashion from the time period, and decide if you think a human could survive a mid-flight jettison from a Boeing 727 aft staircase.

Get your tickets today:  
[www.WashingtonHistory.org/cooper](http://www.WashingtonHistory.org/cooper)

**South Puget Sound**  
**Japanese American Day of Remembrance**  
May 20, 5:00 PM  
**FREE Facebook Live Presentation**

Join us online to see *Never again: The story of the Japanese American incarceration*, presented by Dukesbay Productions. This play is a collection of first-person stories of those who were forced into incarceration camps during World War II. Over the course of several scenes, five actors will bring this powerful history to life.

Director and editor Aya Hashiguchi Clark is a Tacoma-based actor and producer who is co-founder of Dukesbay Productions and is a descendant of this history. She researched and identified the stories of featured individuals through Densho, a grassroots organization dedicated to preserving, educating, and sharing the story of World War II-era incarceration of Japanese Americans.



*A young girl imprisoned at Minidoka War Relocation Center in Hunt, Idaho during World War II. Courtesy Densho Digital Repository.*

**UWT Scholarly Selections— Never Again is Now: Japanese Internment, Anti-Asian Violence and Immigration Detention in the 21st Century**  
May 20, 7:00 PM  
**FREE Facebook Live Presentation**

Join us for a panel discussion about the history and meaning of U.S. government surveillance of Japanese Americans and World War II incarceration, in relationship to contemporary issues of anti-Asian violence, immigration and labor, private detention centers, and border patrol. Informed by history, we will address relevant questions about democracy and civil liberties, neoliberal policies, citizenship, and American identity. Panelists will also consider the possibilities of solidarity between social justice movements for freedom and equality, including Black Lives Matter.

Moderator: UWT Student Leader and Faculty Member, Tanya Velasquez

### *About Scholarly Selections:*

*A partnership between the UW Tacoma School of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences and the Washington State History Museum, Scholarly Selections brings UWT scholars' work to the public in an informal setting. Scholarly Selections talks are normally held at the History Museum on Third Thursday evenings with free admission, however the May 20 Scholarly Selections will be held virtually.*

## JUNE

**Crossing Boundaries: Portraits of a Transgender West**  
Curator Talk with Peter Boag  
June 10, 6:00 PM  
**FREE Facebook Live Presentation**

Join us for an immersive discussion surrounding our newest exhibition with its curator, Peter Boag, Professor and Columbia Chair in History of the American West at Washington State University and author of *Re-Dressing America's Frontier Past*. As Americans moved across the country to create new lives, some also used the opportunity to establish their authentic selves. Boag discusses his quest to find the history of those who changed their assigned genders when moving West and how they were written out of American history. WSHS Lead Curator Gwen Whiting gives a preview of materials used in the exhibition to illustrate these underrepresented stories.

### **Juneteenth** June 19

In 2007, the Washington State Legislature formally recognized Juneteenth, stating "on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the Civil War had ended and the slaves were now free..." Although the practice of enslavement was technically ended by the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, slavery continued in various American strongholds. Therefore, this moment when Union soldiers arrived in Galveston marked the actual ending of the practice of slavery in the United States. The oldest celebrated national commemoration of the ending of slavery, Juneteenth is commemorated to acknowledge a period in American history that continues to shape our communities.

To honor this significant date, we encourage you to join us in celebrating with one of our many partners who preserve the history of Black Americans and Washingtonians, including:

Black Heritage Society of Washington State: [bhs.wa.org](http://bhs.wa.org)

BlackPast.org

Buffalo Soldiers Museum: [buffalosoldierstacoma.org](http://buffalosoldierstacoma.org)

Northwest African American Museum: [naamn.wa.gov](http://naamn.wa.gov)

Connect with more Black arts and heritage organizations in our state through the Artist Trust website: <https://artisttrust.org/black-founded-arts-organizations/>



WASHINGTON STATE HISTORY MUSEUM, 1911 Pacific Ave., Tacoma, WA 98402  
253-272-3500 or (toll-free) 1-888-BE-THERE | [WashingtonHistory.org](http://WashingtonHistory.org)



The Washington State Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its program delivery and will provide, to the best of its ability, alternate formats upon request. For assistance, contact the ADA Coordinator at 253-272-3500, Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM, and indicate the nature of your accessibility need and preferred format.