

Weyerhaeuser Corporate Campus



WASHINGTON STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN

# INHABITING OUR HISTORY

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2021-2026 PLAN HIGHLIGHTS



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# INTRODUCTION

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The Washington State Historic Preservation Plan for 2021-26, *Inhabiting Our History*, was crafted during a period when the state and nation faced the global COVID-19 pandemic and social unrest in 2020. Marked by abundant questions about the future, a scarcity of trust in the present, and challenges to long-held assumptions, historic preservation work rarely seemed so challenging. At the same time, it has never been more important and full of opportunity.

The past five years brought its own mix of wins and losses. On the one hand, readily available cash sparked significant historic building rehabilitation projects. On the other hand, a thriving economy has also resulted in significant losses of cultural resources. As the nation and Washington state transition from a decade of robust growth and development to recovery from the pandemic shock, preservationists find themselves facing new, yet familiar challenges and opportunities.

And so our important work continues...



# DEFINING ROLES

## THE SHPO & THE PRESERVATION COMMUNITY

In fulfilling requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, DAHP, as Washington's state historic preservation office, is the responsible entity for developing the Plan. However, implementing the Plan is a shared responsibility that includes DAHP and encompasses the efforts of a wide range of interested individuals, organizations, businesses, and government entities. In short, *Inhabiting Our History* is not a plan solely for DAHP nor is it a DAHP agency work plan. Rather, the Plan is a statewide tool for conveying shared priorities and guiding cooperative efforts to preserve the state's cultural heritage.

Other key stakeholders playing a role to implement the Plan include: property owners; federal, state, and local agencies; private nonprofit organizations; professionals in closely related fields such as architecture, archaeology, planning, project development, and real estate; and our colleagues working in education, archives, historical societies, museums, and the arts and the humanities. In the private, nonprofit sector, Washington has several strong voices for heritage, including but not limited to the Association for Washington Archaeology (AWA) and the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation (WTHP). At the local level, strong advocates for preservation include organizations such as Spokane Preservation Advocates, Historic Seattle, Association of King County Historical Organizations

(AKCHO), and Historic Tacoma. Others focus on specific historic places such Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks, The Historic Trust in Vancouver (focused on preserving Providence Academy), and the Yakima Interurban Lines Association, dedicated to maintaining the former Yakima Valley Transportation Co. streetcar system. Also worth noting here are Main Street organizations now found in 65 (mostly rural or suburban) communities throughout the state. Last, but certainly not least, historic preservation stakeholders include many individuals from all backgrounds having an active interest in preserving heritage to foster the well-being and vitality of their communities.



*Yakama Nation tribal partners with Youth Heritage Project participants.*



*Main Street partners in Waterville, WA*

## NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES: KEY PARTNERS IN PRESERVATION PLANNING

The SHPO, DAHP, and the historic preservation community respect Native American Tribes as sovereign nations with unique cultures and traditions. Their strong connection to the land and deep commitment to sustaining Tribal culture enriches our state. It also inspires and strengthens our present aspirations to protect cultural and natural resources. Sincere appreciation is extended to Native American Tribes and members for their care and dedication to preserving cultural resources and our heritage.

At the initial stage of drafting the Plan, the Plan Steering Committee and the SHPO placed high priority on fully engaging with Native American Tribes in the preservation planning process. This high priority acknowledged that ancestors of present-day Native Americans lived here for thousands of years. Therefore, they have deep-rooted ties to the land and the cultural resources that manifest this heritage, and a heartfelt commitment to protecting these resources for future generations. Indeed, there is no distinction between cultural and natural resources. This strong commitment to the land also makes Tribes key stakeholders and partners in statewide historic preservation efforts.

Melissa Calvert, Director of Muckleshoot Wildlife, Preservation and General Services Department, Dennis Lewarch, THPO for the Suquamish Tribe, and Kevin Lyons, Cultural Resources Program Manager for the Kalispel Tribe, together represented Native American concerns and interests on the Plan Steering Committee. Our appreciation extends to Ms. Calvert, and Messrs. Lewarch and Lyons for providing a Tribal voice on the committee. Recognition is also made here of all the THPOs, Tribal historic preservation agencies, cultural resource programs, cultural committees, and Tribal Elders across the region who speak and act so effectively on behalf of the cultural and natural resources that are of importance to their respective Tribes.



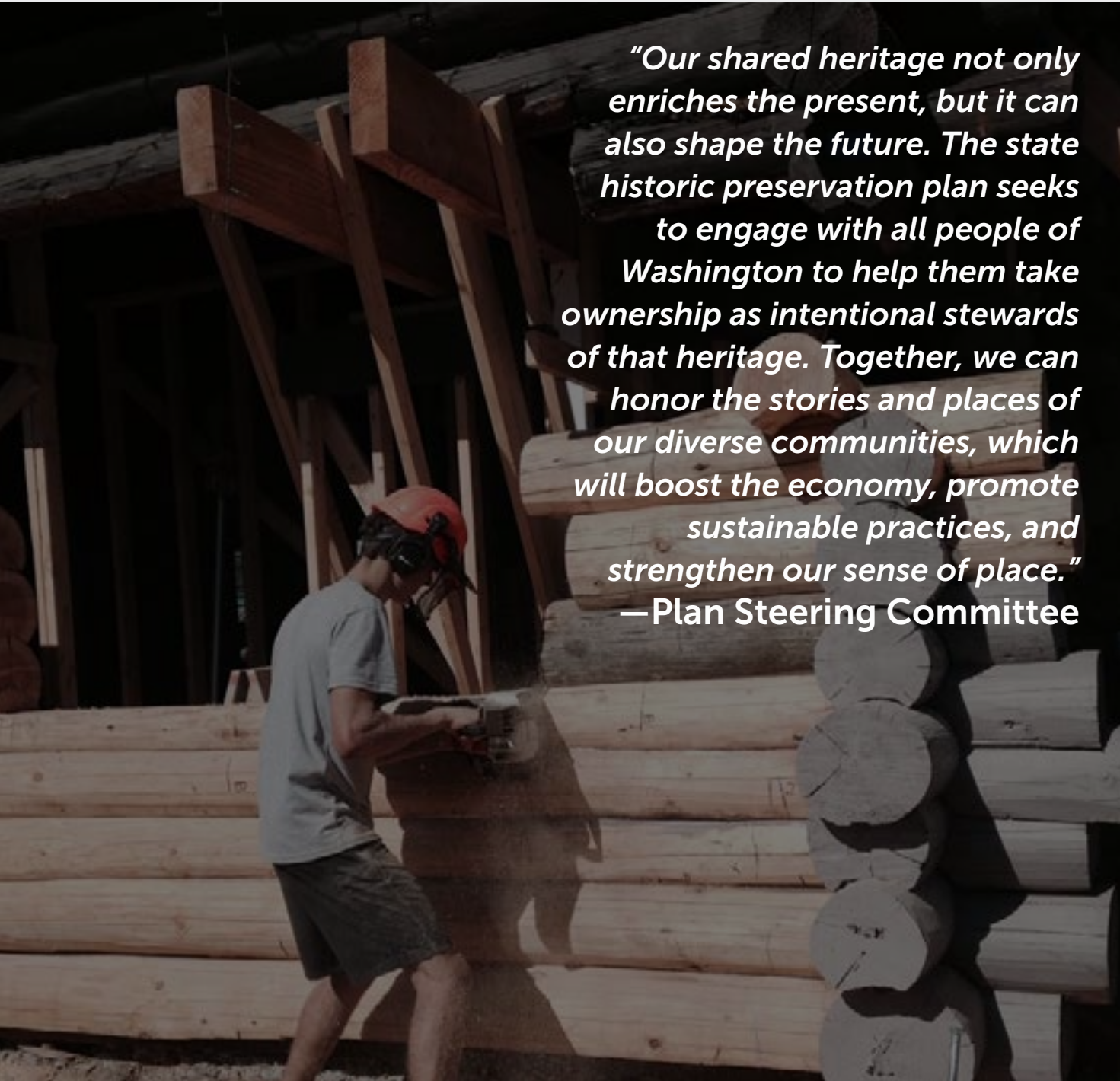


Image credit Lindsey Wasson, [www.SeattlePI.com](http://www.SeattlePI.com)

# INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Inhabiting Our History intends to take the previous discussion about increasing the presence of underrepresented communities a step further to include ICH (intangible cultural heritage) resources, sometimes referred to as “living heritage” resources or “intangible heritage.” UNESCO refers to ICH as the “...practices, representations, expressions, knowledge and skills handed down from generation to generation. This heritage provides communities with a sense of identity and is continuously recreated in response to their environment...” Examples of ICH include, but are not limited to, performing arts and crafts; oral traditions and languages; celebrations and ceremonies; and scientific/technical achievements. The historic preservation community in Washington, across the U.S., and beyond increasingly advocates for expanding the boundaries of what kinds of resources are considered important for passing on to future generations. Because of this expanded thought, historic preservation planning initiatives included in this Plan also consider ICH resources and their connection to place as worthy of recognition and preservation.





*“Our shared heritage not only enriches the present, but it can also shape the future. The state historic preservation plan seeks to engage with all people of Washington to help them take ownership as intentional stewards of that heritage. Together, we can honor the stories and places of our diverse communities, which will boost the economy, promote sustainable practices, and strengthen our sense of place.”*  
—Plan Steering Committee

# THE PLANNING PROCESS

For the 2021–2026 Plan, DAHP engaged a wide range of interested individuals, professions, and organizations involved in preserving the state’s cultural resource base. The ideas and recommendations gathered during the planning process were synthesized into the goals, strategies, and actions that comprise the Plan.

## STEERING COMMITTEE

Formulation of a Plan Steering Committee was the first step in the state historic preservation planning process. The committee formed a vision statement and defined guiding principles for the plan:

- The Plan must be implemented
- The Plan must address the full range of cultural resources within the state
- The Plan belongs to all of us; all share in its implementation

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

The Plan Steering Committee designed a methodology for maximizing opportunities for the public to engage. The engagement process used a variety of participation methods including:

- Online survey/questionnaire
- Public meetings
- Conference/workshop presentations
- Targeted focus group meetings
- Targeted outreach to Tribal council and THPOs.



## RESULTS

The public engagement process for the 2021–2026 Plan reached a diverse group of individuals and stakeholder groups. The following points were consistently made:

1. Broaden the span of historic preservation work—preservation work must reflect the state’s cultural diversity and be proactive in identifying and documenting the places and traditions that define the many cultures that thrive in Washington.
2. Honor and preserve Native American heritage—acknowledge and protect Native American heritage across the state’s landscape and the interconnections with natural resources.

3. Do a better job of telling our stories—raise the profile of historic preservation and heritage in the media and in education across all age groups.
4. Enhance the economics of historic preservation—If historic places are going to be saved, steps are needed to make rehabilitation work easier and economically viable.
5. Historic preservation is sustainability—keep making the case that preservation is the ultimate in conserving natural resources by recycling built environment resources.
6. Historic preservation and land-use planning—make sure that local comprehensive planning includes consideration of development impacts on cultural resources.
7. Historic preservation builds social capital—preservation sustains a community’s pride and “sense of place” that promotes social equity and leverages social capital.

#### PLAN SUMMARY AND GOALS

Recognizing a fundamental shift has taken place in how the state and nation view change in our communities, *Inhabiting Our History* emerged as the Plan’s title. This title intends to convey the sense that historic preservation is not about setting aside and freezing in time a select collection of buildings for nostalgia. Rather, historic preservation is about sustaining, enhancing, and shaping dynamic, living communities. History, and by extension, historic preservation, transcends boundaries, and preservationists are proactive in protecting and stewarding the places that have been the platform on which lives and cultures have unfolded, and will continue to unfold, for generations.



*McMenamins ELKS Temple in Tacoma was restored with the assistance of the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit program. Photo Kathleen Nyberg*

The goals, strategies and actions set forth on in the following pages comprise the very heart of the Washington State Historic Preservation Plan 2021–2026. They represent a distillation of the issues, needs, and opportunities identified by Washington’s preservation community and stakeholders over the course of preparing the Plan.

# YHP

Youth Heritage Project is an annual multi-day heritage field school that engages high school age youth and teachers by connecting them to historic, cultural, and natural resources in Washington. YHP engages students hands-on as they expand their knowledge about historic preservation and develop an understanding of how cultural resources affect a community. In addition to exposing students to the benefits of historic preservation, YHP strives to teach youth that they can be a part of shaping their own communities through participation and activism. Through YHP the Washington Trust seeks to inspire and excite our youth — the next generation of community leaders — to get involved and advocate for saving the places that matter to them.

YHP fulfills a long-standing goal of the Washington Trust to engage younger and more diverse audiences in the important work of historic preservation. We work to widely recruit across all socio-economic backgrounds and offer the program free of cost to accepted applicants in order to have as diverse a group and collection of ideas as possible.

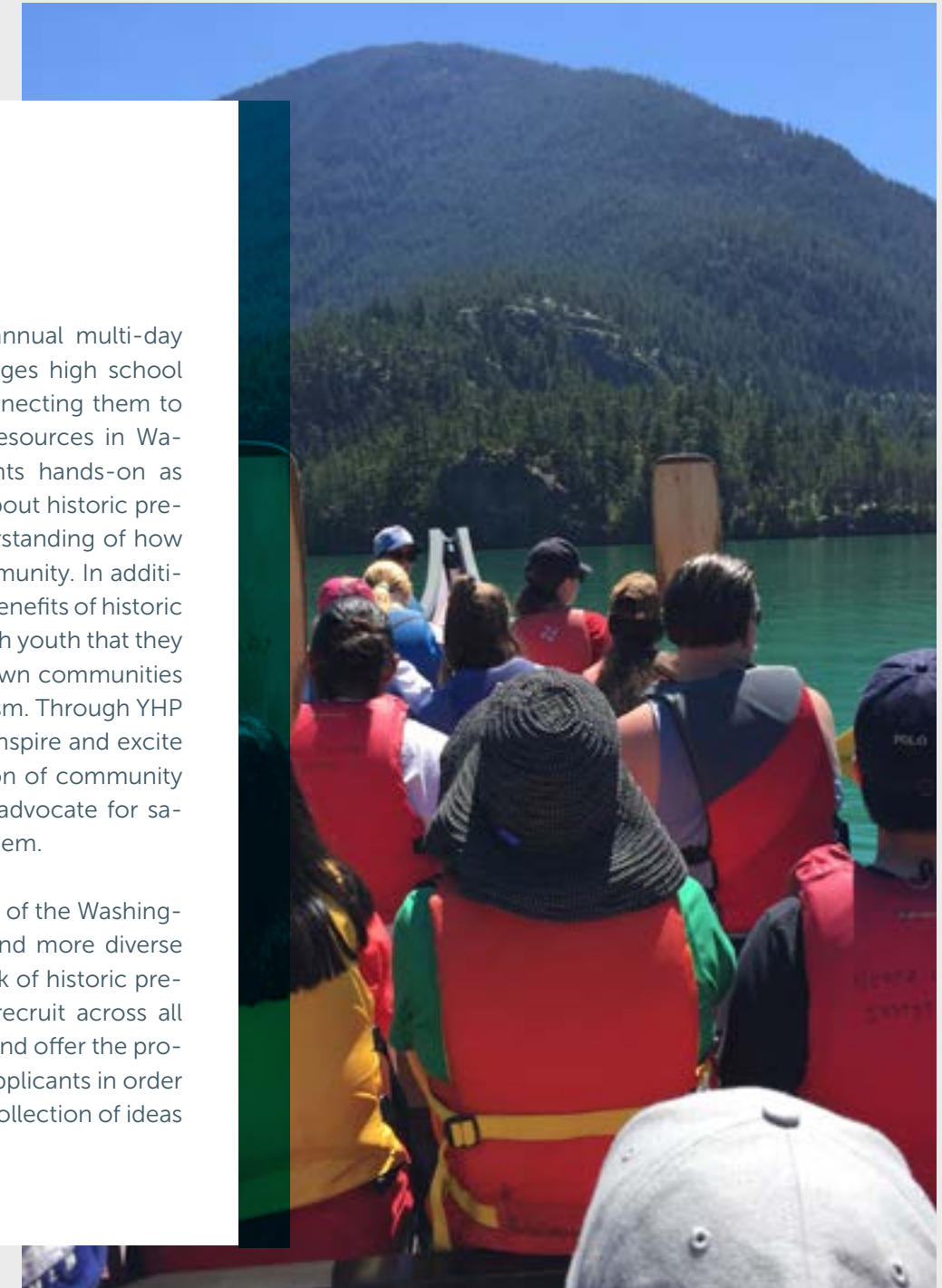






Image Courtesy Kevin Lyons, Kalispell Tribe

# HISTORIC PRESERVATION & NATIVE AMERICAN VALUES

For thousands of years, Native Americans called Washington State and the Pacific Northwest home. Today's descendants of the pre-contact generations continue the timeless activities of hunting, fishing and gathering the generous bounty that Mother Nature provides throughout the seasons. These annual activities provide an opportunity for grandparents and parents to share and teach the younger generation about the cultural value of the Natural Resources, and to hand down the responsibilities and expectations of stewardship in order to maintain opportunities to continue these necessary activities. These personal experiences assist our children to understand who they are and where they come from; the act of harvesting salmon in the same water system that has provided food for their beloved ancestors for many generations creates a profound relationship and understanding that will never be forgotten. In this way, the salmon is no longer just a fish, the water is no longer just a Bay, Lake or River...it is home.

The state of Washington is unique with many different habitats that provide food, tools, general supplies, and medicine to Native peoples. From *Vaccinium membranaceum*, Big Huckleberry, which can be found in the Cascade Mountain range up to 5000 feet in elevation to the *Panopea generosa*, Pacific Geoduck, which can be found 40 feet below the surface of the Puget Sound, the State of Washington is clearly rich with a variety of natural resources. So, it is important to understand that each Tribe will have a strong and unique understanding of the natural resources and their habitat from which they live. There are 29 federally recognized Tribes in the State of Washington, each Village located within a very specific habitat and ecosystem. Because of the vast variety and character of Washington State, it becomes remarkably clear why a government-to-government relationship with individual Tribes must be established in order for growth and development to continue...

# GOALS & STRATEGIES

## ONE

RECOGNIZE THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES AS KEY TO FOSTERING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, LOCAL IDENTITY, AND COMMUNITY PRIDE; PROMOTE HISTORIC PRESERVATION AS THE “PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE” WHEN IMPLEMENTING PROGRAMS, POLICIES, AND PROJECTS THAT SHAPE OUR COMMUNITIES.

**Engage** with organizations and local units of government to integrate historic preservation into state and local land use and growth management policy • **Seek** opportunities to promote the connection between historic preservation, climate change, economic recovery, and sustainability/environmental initiatives • **Increase** and strengthen cultural resource management programming and support at the state and local levels.



El Centro de la Raza, Seattle

## TWO

EXPAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION TO EMBRACE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE, THAT IS, TO INCLUDE A BROADER SPECTRUM OF PLACES, PERSONS, AND EXPERIENCES THAT HAVE SHAPED OUR COMMUNITIES.

**Increase** efforts to identify, document, or commemorate places associated with diverse communities • **Identify** and/or establish forums in which to engage with members of under-represented communities on topics of mutual interest.



Ohme Gardens, Wenatchee

## THREE

SHARE, WITH EVER LARGER AND DIVERSE AUDIENCES, OUR RICH AND VALUABLE STORIES IN INNOVATIVE FORMATS AND ENGAGING WAYS.

**Develop** an innovative media strategy that will bring insights and appreciation for Washington’s past to broader audiences • **Support** existing, and launch new outreach efforts by agencies and organizations to educate others about cultural resource management policies and practices.



Basket weaving

## FOUR

INVEST OUR TIME, EXPERTISE, AND PASSION FOR PRESERVATION IN THE PLACES, PEOPLE, AND ORGANIZATIONS WHERE DECISIONS ARE MADE THAT AFFECT OUR HERITAGE.

**Expand** the use of existing, and implement new incentives that protect and preserve cultural resources • **Collaborate** with Tribal governments to raise awareness, recognition, and protection of Traditional Cultural Places, and cultural landscapes • **Share** data and information with wider audiences to demonstrate the benefits of preservation and cultural resource management decision-making.

## FIVE

TO PROTECT CULTURAL RESOURCES, EXPAND THE WAY WE PREPARE FOR, RESPOND TO, AND RECOVER FROM EMERGENCIES AND THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

**Assemble** expertise and funding to create a toolbox of disaster planning resources and materials to help local governments, organizations, and property owners to prepare for, respond to, mitigate, and recover from disaster events • **Design** and implement a comprehensive outreach effort to provide information, “best practices,” and “hands-on” training for protection of cultural resources in the event of a disaster • **Formalize** communication and data sharing with Emergency Management Division and responding agencies.



# ACTIONS

ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR	FIVE
Transform the Governor’s Executive Order 05-05 to assist state agencies and local governments in considering the impact of their actions on cultural resources.	Investigate establishing a statewide Intangible Cultural Heritage register that would identify and honor a broader range of cultural resources.	Convene a working group of media specialists and the historic preservation community to create and sustain opportunities for innovative means to share the stories of cultural and historic properties.	Explore the feasibility of creating a statewide public development authority (PDA) to purchase, preserve, and resell historic properties, including archaeological sites, for long-term preservation.	Draft and disseminate a model disaster plan directed to assist local emergency management planners, historic preservation agencies, and THPOs.
Engage in statewide discussions to update the 1990 Growth Management Act (GMA).	Review and update existing NRHP nominations to incorporate potential Areas of Significance and/or new/corrected text that address association(s) with underrepresented communities.	Develop a multimedia approach that promotes the Main Street program as a bridge between economic development and other local issues (housing, social equity, sustainability, etc.).	Collaborate with Tribes, property owners, agencies, planners, and others to identify and nominate TCPs to the NRHP.	Plan and host workshops for emergency planners, responders, and cultural resource managers on protecting cultural and historic resources in the event of an emergency or disaster, such as earthquake, flood, fire, etc.
Promote the use of preservation tools such as financial incentives, zoning overlays, design guidelines, local historic register protection, etc. to preserve historic character of neighborhoods.	Support efforts by local, Tribal, and other culturally based initiatives to undertake “theme studies” or heritage plans that identify a broader range of cultural resources, along with strategies for long-term preservation.	Create a “user-friendly” guide in accessible formats directed to owners of properties where archaeological resources are present, which will encourage awareness, appreciation, and good stewardship practices.	Convene annual “summits” with the SHPO, THPOs, Tribal representatives, and other interested parties to discuss issues of mutual concern.	Build and maintain a network of state, local, and federal emergency management agencies, as well as law enforcement agencies and volunteer organizations as conduits of information flow, providing situational awareness and coordinating with any clearinghouses in the event of an emergency or a violation of archaeological site protection laws.
Develop and make available model comprehensive planning templates to integrate historic preservation and Main Street approaches into “Downtown” and “Economic Development” plan elements.	Engage with and facilitate discussions with members of underrepresented communities to identify and commemorate the places and resources deemed to have significance and are important to pass along to future generations.	Create and post podcasts on cultural resource management and planning topics and “best practices.”	Update the 2006 Economic Impact Analysis of Historic Preservation on Washington’s Economy and disseminate to a broad audience.	Continue effort to identify and establish incentives to encourage property owners to undertake work to retrofit historic properties for earthquake, flood, wildfire, and other emergencies.

\*This is a partial list of action items developed for the plan. For the comprehensive list of action items and proponents please see the full text document at [www.dahp.wa.gov/preservationplan](http://www.dahp.wa.gov/preservationplan)



**LEFT:** The developers of the Louisa Hotel, within the National Register-listed International District (Seattle), received a SHPO Award for the successful rehabilitation of the building for use as affordable housing. (Image Courtesy Tanya Woo)

**BELOW:** A major achievement related to Goal 1. C. Promote cultural and heritage tourism was the designation by Congress in 2019 of two National Heritage Areas (NHA) in the state: the Washington Maritime and the Mountains to Sound NHAs. (Image Courtesy



## IN REVIEW: 2014-2019 *GETTING THE FUTURE RIGHT*

As Washington's historic preservation community looks ahead to the next five years, it is useful to look back over preservation accomplishments during the last five. The previous plan, *Getting the Future Right*, was drafted as Washington was recovering from the effects of the 2008 economic recession. And as such, was tailored to help local and state land-use decision-makers learn about and implement tools to aid economic and community development initiatives. A few notable examples of accomplishments over the past five years include the following:

In accord with Goal 1. A. Create new and enhance existing incentives for historic preservation, in 2018 the State Legislature established the Historic Cemetery preservation program that included a cemetery rehabilitation grant fund. After two grant cycles, the cemetery preservation funds invested over \$900,000 in 43 rehabilitation projects in 19 counties, and generated nearly \$300,000 in matching funds.

Both the Washington Heritage Barn and Historic County Courthouse rehabilitation grant programs have also grown over the past five years. This included over \$2.5 million in State funding directed to WA Heritage Barn Register-listed barns in nearly every county.

Rehabilitation grants to county courthouses now approaches \$20 million in State investment alone, which

has triggered over \$30 million in local matching funds.

The Washington Main Street Program (WMSP) has been administered by DAHP since 2010 after being transferred to the agency by the State Legislature. Since coming to DAHP, the WMSP has grown exponentially in terms of impact, profile, and influence. In addition to raising the tax credit cap, the WMSP program attained other successes during the 2014–2019 planning cycle, including national recognition of its effectiveness in supporting downtown revitalization work. DAHP's Main Street program also planned and hosted highly successful Revitalize WA annual conferences held in historic downtowns in Chelan, Wenatchee, Bellingham, Ellensburg, and Port Townsend. These successful events were capped when WMSP hosted the National Main Street Center conference in 2019, attracting over 3,000 attendees to Seattle.

Legislation in 2017 raised the Main Street Tax Credit program cap to \$2.5 million. Because of this increase, businesses can now receive a 75% credit on their Business & Occupation (B&O) or Public Utility Tax obligations given as donations to Main Street programs of their choice. Raising the cap benefits additional businesses who want to invest directly in the communities they serve, as well as expanding the number of Main Street programs that benefit from the increased revenue stream.





**LEFT:** This unassuming house in the Seattle suburbs was found to be eligible for the National Register for its association with Mexican-American artist Alfredo Arreguin. Funding for the Latino Heritage survey was provided by an Underrepresented Communities Grant from the National Park Service.

A work group convened by DAHP to explore expanding or creating new incentives for historic building rehabilitation focused on ways to incentivize the seismic retrofitting of historic unreinforced masonry (URM) buildings in Washington. Discussion by the work group merged with efforts by the City of Seattle that led to success in obtaining State funding to research the number of URMs and estimate the dollars needed to seismically retrofit these buildings.

Great strides were made to reach Goal 2. C. Create education programs tailored for elementary through high school students. The 2014–2019 planning cycle has seen six successful Youth Heritage Project (YHP) sessions and two CLG grants targeted to youth heritage education.

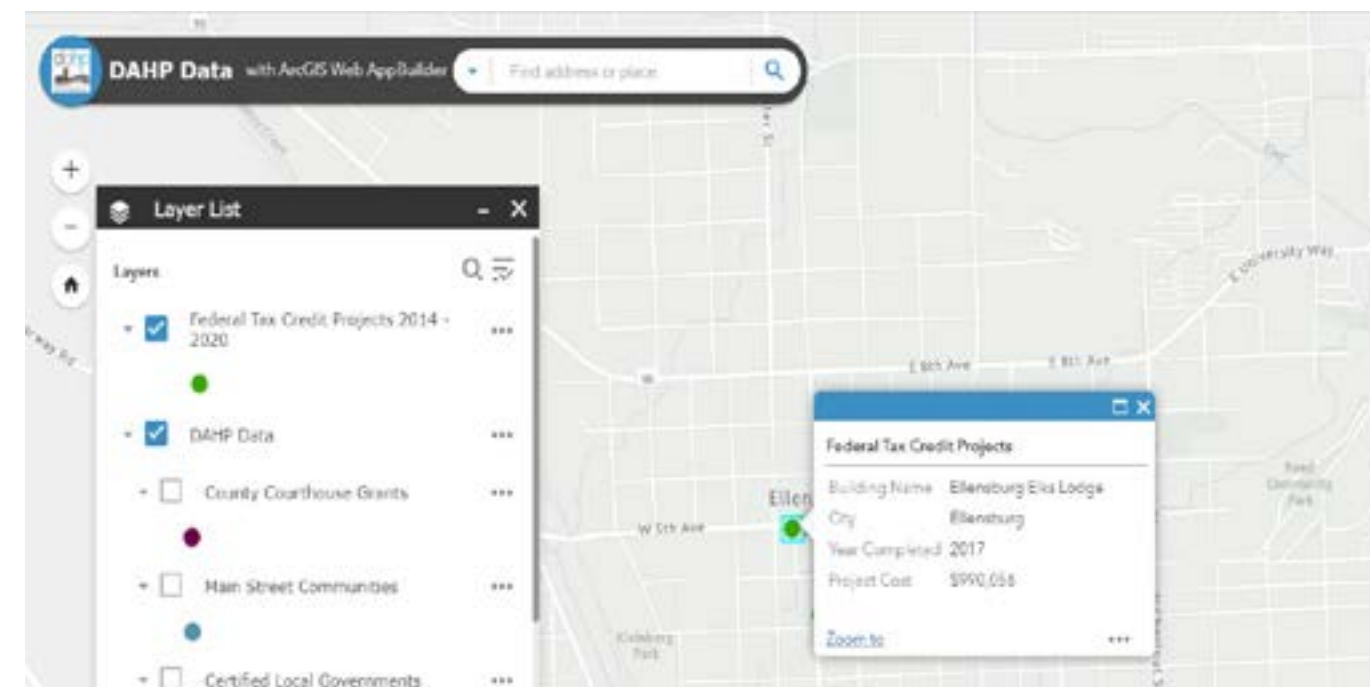
To realize Goal 2. D. Encourage more National Register nominations that reflect the diversity of our heritage, DAHP was successful in receiving two grants from the NPS's Underrepresented Communities grant program. These grants helped to gain an understanding of events and resources associated with the Latino Community in Washington State.

# GIS DATA AT DAHP

DAHP administers the state's inventory of cultural resources. But did you know that DAHP also collects and administers data that goes beyond the scope of the statewide inventory of cultural resources? DAHP collects data for all programs that we administer, including grants, Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits, Human Remains cases, regulatory compliance, Certified Local Governments, Main Street, and archaeological permitting. We use this data to report on our activities to the legislature as well as the National Park Service to illustrate our progress toward meeting plan goals.

As it pertains to the previous planning cycle, a map is useful to illustrate where historic preservation funding is going, and maybe more importantly, where it is not going, helping us all to target outreach to communities that may be underserved. To that end, we have created an easy to use interactive mapping application to view related data.

*Click on the map to launch the application.*





Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation  
1110 Capitol Way S, Olympia, WA 98504 • T. 360.586.3065

[www.dahp.wa.gov](http://www.dahp.wa.gov)