

# YOUTH HERITAGE PROJECT



TACOMA / GIG HARBOR • 2017

MARITIME HERITAGE

# PARTNERS

A HUGE THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING PARTNERS FOR THEIR SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL AND PROGRAMMATIC SUPPORT!



# YHP 2017

The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation held our sixth-annual Discover Washington: Youth Heritage Project (YHP) in Tacoma and Gig Harbor. This program continues to fulfill a long-standing goal of the Washington Trust to provide proactive outreach to and education for young people. YHP is designed to introduce historic preservation to a younger generation: future leaders who will work to save the places that matter in Washington State and beyond.

The location and study topics for YHP change annually; previous locations have included:

**2016 - Mount Rainier National Park**

**2015 - Fort Vancouver National Historic Site**

**2014 - Chinatown-International District in downtown Seattle**

**2013 - Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve on Whidbey Island**

**2012 - Yakima Valley and Mount Rainier National Park**

The Washington Trust was delighted to again work with the National Park Service and the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation. Both agencies have served as our anchor partners since establishing the Youth Heritage Project in 2012. We would also like to thank the City of Tacoma's Historic Preservation Office for planning assistance and fundraising for this year's program.

Additional funding for YHP 2017 was generously provided by the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Pierce County Landmarks & Historic Preservation Commission, Tulalip Tribes, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, 4Culture, the Port Gamble S'klallam Tribe, Bassetti Architects, Pioneer Masonry Restoration Company, and the Suquamish Tribe.



# SCHEDULE

## TUESDAY, JULY 11

### WELCOME

- 1:00pm **Registration and check-in**
- 2:00pm **Welcome to YHP**
- 4:00pm **Group work**
- 5:00pm **Board vans**
- 5:30pm **Dinner & program with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians**
- 8:00pm **Board vans**
- 8:30pm **Free time**
- 10:00pm **Lights out**

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 12

### TACOMA

- 8:00am **Breakfast**
- 8:30am **Board vans**
- 9:00am **Foss Waterway Seaport**
- 11:30am **Foss Waterway on *My Girl***
- 12:15pm **Lunch**
- 1:00pm **Port of Tacoma on *My Girl***
- 3:00pm **Center for Urban Waters**
- 4:15pm **Waterway Park**
- 5:30pm **Board vans**
- 5:45pm **Dinner**
- 6:25pm **Board vans**
- 6:30pm **Fort Nisqually Living History Museum**
- 8:30pm **Board vans**
- 9:00pm **Free time**
- 10:00pm **Lights out**

## THURSDAY, JULY 13

### GIG HARBOR

- 8:00am **Breakfast**
- 8:30am **Board vans**
- 9:00am **F/V Commencement  
Harbor History Museum  
Eddon Boatshop  
Gig Harbor Netsheds**

- 12:30pm **Lunch**
- 1:30pm **Harbor History Museum  
Eddon Boatshop  
Gig Harbor Netsheds  
F/V Commencement**
- 5:00pm **Board vans**
- 5:30pm **Free time**
- 6:00pm **Dinner**
- 6:45pm **Board vans**
- 7:00pm ***Eyes of the Totem***
- 8:30pm **Board vans**
- 8:45pm **Free time**
- 10:00pm **Lights out**

## FRIDAY, JULY 14

### PROJECT WORK

- 8:00pm **Breakfast**
- 8:30am **Project work with Reel Grrls**
- 12:00pm **Lunch**
- 1:00pm **Continued project work**
- 3:00pm **Peer review of projects**
- 5:45pm **Board vans**
- 6:00pm **Dinner & bowling**
- 8:00pm **Board vans**
- 8:15pm **Free time**
- 10:00pm **Lights out**

## SATURDAY, JULY 15

### TOWN HALL

- 8:00am **Breakfast**
- 8:30am **Board vans**
- 9:00am **Set up and preparation for Town Hall**
- 10:00am **Town Hall**
- 12:00pm **Lunch**
- 1:00pm **Check out**

# THEMES

This year's program focused on Washington State's Maritime Heritage. Washington State's coastal areas have been defined by their relationship to saltwater, creating a shared maritime heritage. From Native American canoe cultures to the age of exploration to the continued growth and development of maritime industry, maritime heritage and culture have shaped western Washington and contributed to the story of our development as a nation. The Washington Trust has been a strong voice of support for the designation of Washington's saltwater coast as a National Maritime Heritage Area, a move which would bolster efforts to convey the region's historic and cultural significance.

In April of 2010, the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation released a National Maritime Heritage Area Feasibility Study, a required element for designation. The National Park Service approved the feasibility study, paving the way for Congress to consider legislation aimed at establishing Washington's saltwater coastline as a National Maritime Heritage Area. At present, bills are pending in both the Senate and the House of Representatives that would achieve this goal.

The National Maritime Heritage Area Feasibility Study outlined nine themes for the proposed National Maritime Heritage Area. These themes help provide a structure for visitors to understand the different aspects of the region's maritime heritage and understand it in the context of the diverse information and experiences available.





## 1. CANOE CULTURES

For thousands of years, Washington State's Native American tribes built their cultures on saltwater shores. Canoes, crafted from cedar trees for a wide range of uses and types of water, were vehicles for maintaining family connections, harvesting marine resources, and trade. This type of saltwater canoe culture is unique in the United States.

Like many practical items created for everyday use, canoes, paddles, fishing implements, and other items of maritime material culture had significant cultural importance. Today, renewed tribal participation in canoe journeys is revitalizing the Pacific Northwest canoe culture and strengthening bonds between generations and tribes.

## 2. VOYAGES OF DISCOVERY

Seeking to expand territories and trade, European ships of discovery visited the Washington Coast and alternately claimed Washington for Spain and England.

These voyages mapped what would become Washington's coasts—including the Pacific Ocean, Strait of Juan de Fuca, and Puget Sound—and formed the basis for establishing the nation's northwestern boundaries, and later, early settlement.

This era included stories of territorial conflict between European nations and the fledgling United States and the future relationship between Native American inhabitants of the region and non-native settlers.



### 3. TRADE AND COMMERCE

Trade has been central to the coastal way of life for thousands of years, and the goods that were traded were carried by boat. Native American inhabitants would routinely travel hundreds of miles by canoe to trade. As first European and then American mariners arrived, the fur trade with Asia would become the economic activity that attracted interest in the area. Non-native settlement was based on opportunities to ship timber, lumber, and seafood to the growing cities of Portland, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. As the region has grown so has marine trade, and today, the region's ports transfer millions of tons of cargo annually.

### 4. WATER HIGHWAYS

Western Washington's uplands are rugged and difficult to traverse. From the region's earliest inhabitation, the easiest and most direct travel routes were by boat. Beginning with canoe routes and continuing to today's ferry fleet, the waters of Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca were the region's first highways and remain critical transportation routes today.

### 5. PROTECTING OUR SHORES / BUILDING THE FLEET

Western Washington has been a strategic military location since the early days as an American territory. Ports and boat building facilities supported naval activities in the Pacific, and the region has also been considered a potential target of naval attack. Shipyards, navy bases, and coastal fortifications have been an integral part of Western Washington communities, and supported fleet activities throughout the world.

## 6. HARVEST FROM THE SEA

Western Washington's marine fisheries have been the basis for subsistence and market fishing. The local fisheries of the potential heritage area have built not just economies but communities, with commercial fishing an important way of life for coastal towns. Aspects of our marine fisheries, including the Pacific Salmon fishery, the relationship to Alaska, and Native American whaling traditions, are unique to the region and nationally distinctive.

## 7. COMMUNITIES SHAPED BY WATER

Most communities in the potential heritage area were founded around the water, and their community life was built around the docks. The impact of maritime activities in communities can be seen in their historic structures, urban fabric, and contemporary waterfronts. These communities are special places because they are places by the water, and their residents value the relationship with the community's waterfront.

## 8. NAVIGATION AND LIFESAVING

As maritime traffic in the region increased, so did the need for improved navigational aids and emergency assistance. Lighthouses, buoys, lifesaving stations, and Coast Guard vessels kept ships off the rocks and have saved thousands of lives from vessels in distress.

## 9. FOR THE LOVE OF THE WATER – RECREATIONAL BOATING

The saltwater isn't just for work. For as long as people have lived here, they've taken to the water for the sheer joy of it.

*Text from the Washington State National Maritime Heritage Area Feasibility Study, pages 37-41.*

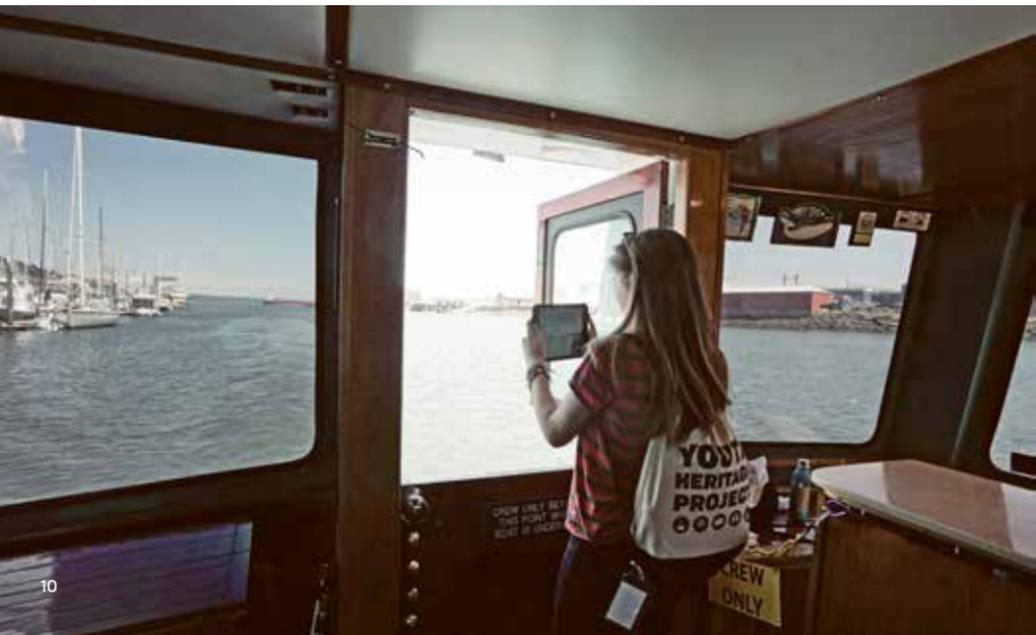


# PROJECTS

New this year, we added a video element to YHP. Students were tasked with creating video projects aimed at supporting the establishment of a National Maritime Heritage Area in Washington. In addition to learning about the history and heritage of Tacoma's Foss Waterway and Gig Harbor, students became cinematographers, collecting footage from each site we visited. On the final day, they switched gears to become directors and editors, spending time honing their vision and assembling their video narratives in support of a National Maritime Heritage Area in Washington.

The University of Puget Sound served as our home base for the week with the academic backdrop providing an appropriate context for exploring maritime heritage. Following a brief introduction, students were provided with an overview of the National Heritage Area (NHA) program. Linda Stonier, who oversees National Heritage Areas from the San Francisco office of the National Park Service (NPS), explained both the concept behind the program and the process for achieving designation. Linda outlined how heritage areas are truly distinct from other units of the NPS, providing examples (Silos and Smokestacks NHA in Iowa along with the MotorCities NHA in Michigan, for instance) and fielding questions from our students.

Armed with a new framework to experience and consider Washington's maritime heritage, we dove right in.





# PROGRAM

## PUYALLUP SPIRIT HOUSE

Our first site visit was the Puyallup Spirit House where our group was treated to a wonderful dinner and presentation by the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. Nicole Barandon, Outreach Specialist with the Puyallup Tribe Historic Preservation Department, gave an engaging presentation of Puyallup history and how their traditions are kept alive in the Puyallup Tribe today. After asking students to think of and sketch their own sacred places, Nicole drew a parallel with the students' places and the homeland of the Tribe, which stretches from the foothills of Mount Tacoma (Mount Rainier), along the rivers and creeks, to the shores of Puget Sound. Nicole challenged our students' understanding of the region's conventional historical narrative, noting that information we are given often comes from a single perspective (in this case, that of white settlers). She inspired a deeper introspection about why sacred places are important.









## FOSS WATERWAY SEAPORT

The Foss Waterway Seaport in downtown Tacoma is an interactive cultural institution with a wealth of maritime-related information and artifacts. Housed in the historic Balfour Dock Building, the Foss Waterway Seaport is part museum, part ecology center, part boat shop. The Seaport was in the process of installing an exhibit about the Puyallup Tribe, so we asked our students to brainstorm ideas for that exhibit based on the deeper understanding they gained from their visit to the Puyallup Spirit House.

Working in groups, students discussed five themes or topic areas they thought the exhibit should cover, as well as interpretative elements or artifacts that could represent those themes. We had them take it one step further and develop ideas on the best ways to communicate the information to the public and provide an engaging experience for visitors.

We then moved on to an overview of the Seaport's existing collections and exhibits, provided by former curator Joseph Govednik. Students explored the facility in a scavenger hunt to find artifacts related to the program themes. When the group reconvened, students provided feedback about which artifacts appealed to them and why, highlighting the various maritime themes represented. Throughout the visit, students captured video and performed interviews relevant for the final project.

## FOSS WATERWAY TOUR

Just outside the doors of the Foss Waterway Seaport, our group boarded the vessel *My Girl* for a tour of the Foss Waterway. Extending the scavenger hunt activity, students continued to identify examples of our maritime themes but this time with a focus on buildings and physical features instead of individual artifacts.





## PORT OF TACOMA

After the conclusion of our Foss Waterway tour and following a break for lunch, our group once again boarded *My Girl* for an excursion into the Port of Tacoma. Guided by Leslie Barstow, the Port of Tacoma's Communications Outreach Specialist, the tour focused on the evolution of shipping and maritime commerce in the Pacific Northwest. By participating in a water-based tour of the Port, students were able to experience the approach and entry to the Port from the same vantage point as crews aboard the massive container ships we witnessed unloading their cargo. The students enjoyed a true "seal's-eye" view of Port activities!

We disembarked at the Port of Tacoma headquarters, enabling students to visit the Operations Service Center. In this room, Port staff monitor all day-to-day operations, including waterway management, road and rail network efficiency, terminal operations, and business continuity in order to maximize the efficiency of the supply chain. This oversight is of both the Port of Tacoma, and its partner in the Northwest Seaport Alliance, the Port of Seattle. The Operations staff also identifies and implements ways to remain one of the easiest places at which to do business, to the tune of 3.6 million dollars in container cargo volumes last year.

## CENTER FOR URBAN WATERS

Leaving the Port, we returned to the Foss Waterway for a visit to the Center for Urban Waters. The Center monitors the health of the Foss Waterway, which has been determined a Superfund site. The Center's purview extends to Puget Sound, where they study water quality, conditions needed to support a variety of marine life, and the impact of climate change. Students toured the Center's state-of-the-art LEED-certified building while learning about the mitigation efforts tied directly to cleaning up the Foss Waterway. Ecological considerations are an important part of the proposed Maritime Heritage Area, as marine life plays a critical role in our region's history.





## WATERWAY PARK

The final challenge of the day had the students generating ideas for incorporating our maritime heritage themes into a design for Waterway Park, a recreation-based project the City of Tacoma is developing near the Foss Waterway. The students worked in groups, considering how maritime heritage themes could be represented on the site through art, landscaping, building form, and the creation of community assets. The site currently features an existing building located near the shoreline. Due to regulations, new construction would not be allowed in such close proximity to the water. This forced students to consider the pros and cons of re-purposing the existing building from the standpoint of public benefit and connection to the past.

## FORT NISQUALLY LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM

Following dinner at Owens Beach in Point Defiance Park, we ventured to the Fort Nisqually Living History Museum. Students immersed themselves in the history of early European settlement in the Puget Sound Region. In addition to donning period costumes (of course!), students learned how to felt wool, make rope, tie knots, and bake apples on an open fire – all under the tutelage of the generous and gracious Fort Nisqually volunteers who spent their evening with us. Much the way Fort residents might have done over a century ago, we wrapped up the evening with live music and dancing.







## F/V COMMENCEMENT

Friday's activities focused on commercial fishing and boatbuilding. Students began the day aboard the *Commencement*, a historic fishing vessel now used for educational purposes to teach heritage tourists about early commercial fishing practices and lore. While motoring from Tacoma to Gig Harbor, students explored the vessel, learning about specific modifications needed given the *Commencement's* transition from a fishing vessel to an educational charter boat. Adaptive use applies to more than just buildings!

Mike and Rick Vlahovich served as our guides while aboard the *Commencement*. The brothers, whose ancestors were Croatian immigrants who settled in Gig Harbor and became part of the local fishing industry, are passionate about passing on the knowledge of commercial fishing from the early 20th century to the next generation.





## HARBOR HISTORY MUSEUM

Once in Gig Harbor, we stopped at the Harbor History Museum to learn about maritime heritage from a local history context. Students browsed historic photographs of the Gig Harbor waterfront and had the opportunity to visit the permanent exhibits on display, discerning how the museum portrayed maritime heritage through its collections. A highlight of the visit was the special access tour of the *Shenandoah*, a historic fishing vessel currently undergoing restoration at the museum. Students reveled in seeing the work in progress and were treated to an explanation of how these ships were built by the project's lead boatwright.

## EDDON BOATYARD

The boat building theme continued as the group visited the Gig Harbor BoatShop at the Historic Eddon Boatyard. Students witnessed a master and apprentice at work building a smaller recreational boat and engaged in hands-on work of their own, assisting staff in assembling kits for the Family Boat Building events the BoatShop sponsors. The group also got a taste of the boating life as they enjoyed a smooth and quiet cruise of Gig Harbor aboard the BoatShop's two electric launches - one from the 1920s and one from 1941.



## GIG HARBOR NETSHEDS

No Gig Harbor experience would be complete without a tour of the historic netsheds scattered along the inner waterfront. With 17 remaining structures, Gig Harbor boasts the largest inventory of historic netsheds on Puget Sound. Many are privately owned, but the Skansie Netshed in the Skansie Brothers Park has been converted into a public space dedicated to documenting, promoting, and preserving local fishing family histories and Gig Harbor's maritime heritage.



## EYES OF THE TOTEM

With video production incorporated into this year's program, we felt it would be appropriate to screen an actual film for students to enjoy and glean experience from. The group watched *Eyes of the Totem*, a 1927 silent movie filmed in Tacoma, at the historic Blue Mouse Theatre. The film had been lost for decades but was recently rediscovered in a museum archive, restored, and reintroduced to the public. Students glimpsed scenes featuring Tacoma's historic streetscapes along with a few shots of the waterfront. Many had never seen a silent film, and *Eyes of the Totem* offered students a look at the past while learning about historic movie-making techniques in action.

## PROJECT WORK

Friday served as production day, with all student groups engaged in planning, editing, and completing their video projects. Reel Grrls, a non-profit educational group focused on empowering youth to tell stories through video, conducted a workshop on the power of visual storytelling and guided students as they created their projects. Each student group selected the footage and audio that best represented the sites and themes most meaningful to them in order to craft their message in support of establishing a maritime heritage area in Washington. Peer review screenings provided valuable feedback during the editing process.





## TOWN HALL

Presentation of the final video projects took place at the culminating Town Hall event held at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma. With the public in attendance, our students explained their creative approaches, screened their videos, and responded to questions from our invited panel. A huge thanks to our three panelists for joining us and offering great feedback to our students: Marilyn Strickland, City of Tacoma Mayor; Sarah Creachbaum, Acting Deputy Director of the National Park Service Pacific West Region; and Greg Griffith, Deputy Washington State Historic Preservation Officer with the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation.





# ROSTER

## STUDENTS

### Bellevue

Kirsten Chan  
Taeho Choe  
Elton Huang  
Felicity Huang  
Carleigh Rendon  
Eugene Song  
Maia Song  
Felix Ye

### Ellensburg

Henry Donahue  
James Kirkham  
Alice Miller

### Gig Harbor

Maddie Ortiz

### Mead

Sophie Madill

### Nine Mile Falls

Jessie Worley

### Olympia

Brenner Barclay

### Port Townsend

Phoebe Arthur  
Rosemary D'Andrea  
Brennan Labrie  
Gannon Short  
Chris Wing-Kovarik

### Poulsbo

Iona Larson

### Seattle

August Hurley  
Charlie Self  
Olivia Zilavy

### Snohomish

Violet Hopkins

### Spanaway

Andrew Vance  
Ryan Vance

### Vancouver

Talon Bigelow  
Cassy White

### University Place

Savannah Nagy

### Wenatchee

Brandi King  
Dallas Sink

### Anchorage, AK

Ava Martin  
Josie Martin





## STUDENT LIAISONS

**Karly Dammel**, Puyallup

**Dana Ringler**, Bellingham

## TEACHERS/MENTORS

**Logan Camporeale**, Eastern Washington University

**Jennifer Mortensen**, Washington Trust for Historic Preservation

**Tanner Dotzauer**, Wenatchee High School

**Anneka Olson**, City of Tacoma

**Laurel Lemke**, Western State Hospital

**Renee Phelps**, West Seattle High School

**Joshua Mitchell**, Todd Beamer High School

**Ashley Mocerro Powell**, University of Washington, Department of Biology

## PRESENTERS

**Camille Adams**, Reel Grrls

**Suzanne Regan**, Gig Harbor Boatshop at the Historic Eddon Boatyard

**Hannah Allender**, SHKS Architects

**Lane Sample**, Fort Nisqually Living History Museum

**Nicole Barandon**, Puyallup Tribe of Indians

**Taira Shimbashi**, Reel Grrls

**Leslie Barstow**, Communications Outreach Specialist, Port of Tacoma

**Lita Stanton**, Gig Harbor Netsheds

**James Coffman**, Center for Urban Waters

**Michael Sullivan**, Blue Mouse Theatre

**Joseph Govednik**, Foss Waterway Seaport

**Mike Vlahovich**, F/V *Commencement*

**Stephanie Lille**, Harbor History Museum

## TOWN HALL PANELISTS

**Sarah Creachbaum**, Acting Deputy Director, National Park Service Pacific West Region

**Greg Griffith**, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

**Marilyn Strickland**, Mayor, City of Tacoma

## WASHINGTON TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**Chris Moore**, Executive Director

**Jennifer Mortensen**, Preservation Services Coordinator

**Julianne Patterson**, Development & Events

**Cathy Wickwire**, Operations Manager

## CITY OF TACOMA

**Reuben McKnight**, Historic Preservation Officer

**Lauren Hoogkamer**, Assistant Historic Preservation Officer

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**Elaine Jackson-Retondo**, Preservation Partnerships and History Program Manager,  
Pacific West Region

**Linda Stonier**, National Heritage Area Program, Pacific West Region

## WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**Dr. Allyson Brooks**, State Historic Preservation Officer

**Greg Griffith**, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer





## 2018

We are delighted to announce that YHP 2018 will take place in North Cascades National Park where we will explore historic dams near Ross Lake and Diablo Lake while looking at preservation issues facing the company towns of Newhalem and Diablo.



# YOUTH HERITAGE PROJECT



[preservewa.org/yhp](http://preservewa.org/yhp)