

2021 Key Accomplishments & Noteworthy Achievements City of Lacey Historical Commission

Approved by the Historical Commission on December 15, 2021

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

New Lacey Museum Project

- KMB Architects completed the construction documents for the new Lacey Museum and Cultural Center. The Heritage Capital Projects Grant for the architecture and engineering was wrapped up June 30.
- The new museum exhibits were developed through schematic design with Pacific Studio. Funding was provided by Lacey Fire District 3.
- A sign with information on the new project was installed at the corner of Pacific Avenue and Lebanon Street.
- The new museum project was approved for Salmon-Safe certification.
- A request for proposal was sent out for a cultural resources survey. Cardno was awarded the bid for the project. Work began on November 10 and is expected to be completed no later than mid-February.
- A funding timeline for the project was developed.

Lacey Depot

- The Lacey Depot site opened a few days before January 1.
- A third interpretive panel about the Lacey Rotary Club (they funded the playground and the panel), was researched, written, designed and installed.
- The City launched a pilot Food Truck Plaza program at the Lacey Depot site. There are plans to continue this project into 2022 with improvements.
- The Commission reviewed and approved the Lacey Depot rental policy. There were 13 reservations for a total of \$1,100 in revenue.

Lacey Museum

COVID restrictions continued to be a major theme for the museum this year.

Fortunately, the museum was able to open July 1 with a new exhibit called “Who Are We? Washington”.

- The museum had 220 walk-ins and 588 participants in virtual programs for a total of 786 attendees. These levels are higher than what we were seeing in 2018, which is the most recent “normal” year for comparison.
- The 2021 History Talks! Speaker Series saw **588** participants. This compares to **276** participants in 2020. Going virtual allowed us to attract a loyal following, but many participants still miss the in-person gathering. Although the plan was to start with a hybrid program in the fall, due to a resurgence in the pandemic, they remained virtual throughout the year.
- **22** new acquisitions were reviewed and approved by the Commission. This represents approximately **343** new items.
- **10** volunteers gave **294.5** hours to the museum. Volunteers were allowed to return July 1, and although it was slow getting back up to speed, the museum is now nearing usual volunteer levels.

- Work continued on cataloguing the museum's collections into the database. **111** records were entered. This is a low number, mostly because only one volunteer was working on this and staff time was devoted to digitization of the Lacey Leader collection rather than entering new records. It continues to be challenging for staff to keep up with the cataloguing backlog.
- Staff spent **68** hours (or 8.5 days) filling **34** customer service requests. Service requests are picking back up, but the number continues to be lower than before. Some of this decline may be due to the online collections portal, allowing researchers in some cases to serve themselves.
- The Commission reviewed, updated and approved the 10-year strategic plan for the museum.
- City staff worked with a consultant to develop the new website.

Grants

- The City was awarded a \$5,000 Thurston County Heritage grant to continue work on cataloguing the Lacey Leader negative collection. To date **3,317** records (representing 12,469 strips and 53,846 images) have been entered for this project. Cataloguing is 95% complete. Digitization continues and so far **9,033** images have been scanned and **7,361** attached to the database. Digitization is 15% complete. The City applied for a \$5,000 grant to continue this project in 2022.
- The City was awarded a \$608,000 Heritage Capital Projects Grant from the Washington State Historical Society to fund a portion of preparing the new museum site for construction, including removal of the existing warehouse building.
- The City was awarded a Nisqually Tribe Charitable Funds request for \$7,500 to pay for LEED Commissioning/Salmon-Safe Certification for the new museum project.
- The City was awarded a \$5,616 Diversity in Local History grant to pay for an intern to work on the Jackson interpretive marker and to begin a collections audit on Black history in the Lacey area from 1950-1975.

Historic Properties

- Commissioners Black and Thirtyacre worked on writing a revised nomination form for the Jacob Smith House to make future design reviews clearer.

Other accomplishments not on the 2021 Work Plan

- Youth Representative Nathan Miller joined the Commission. The Commission said goodbye to Commissioner Seth Huff.
- The Thurston County Historical Commission approached the LHC with a proposal to develop an interpretive kiosk at the Regional Athletic Complex. The Commission will put this partnership project on their 2022 work plan.