

2022 Key Accomplishments & Noteworthy Achievements City of Lacey Historical Commission

Approved by the Historical Commission on December 21, 2022

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

New Lacey Museum Project

- Phase 3 of the project, which began in December 2021, was completed in June 2022. The warehouse building was removed and the site is now prepped and ready for construction.
- A No Further Action notice was received from the Department of Ecology.
- The cultural resources survey at the museum site was completed by Cardno. Their final report was carefully reviewed and edited by the LHC Archaeology Committee before submission to the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. Multiple artifacts were recorded that indicated historic-period resources but it was determined that the area does not retain historic integrity because the material was found in a highly disturbed context. The Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation agreed with this finding, which allowed work to proceed.

Lacey Depot

- The Lacey Depot and Playground Grand Opening took place on May 25.
- The Lacey Food Truck plaza continued to be hosted at the Depot site. Tensile structure shades were installed for picnic areas.
- Lacey Depot rentals provided \$3,800 in revenue this year, which is almost triple the amount from 2021.

Lacey History Month

- Lacey History Month was celebrated in May with a proclamation at the May 5th City Council Meeting.
- The Commission awarded former Commissioner Seth Huff the 2022 Historian of the Year award.

Lacey Museum

COVID finally began to recede this year and the museum was open all year. However, staffing challenges affected operations and created a situation where the museum had to be closed on occasion.

- The museum had 405 walk-ins, 50 people on tours, and 136 people at in-person programs or events, and 587 participants in virtual programs for a total of **1,178** attendees. This continues an upward trend in attendance since 2013. In addition, there were community events and presentations which reached another 130 people.
- The History Talks! Speaker Series had **433** participants in 2022. Programs remained virtual until October when the first hybrid program was presented. The museum also contracted with Pretty Gritty Tours for a virtual tour of the Ruddell Pioneer Cemetery. There were 185 live viewers and nearly 2,000 post-event views.

- **17** new acquisitions were reviewed and approved by the Commission. This represents approximately **200** new items.
- **4** volunteers gave **511.5** hours to the museum which is lower than pre-pandemic levels, partly because staffing challenges have made recruitment difficult and there continue to be exposures to staff and volunteers to illness.
- Work continued on cataloguing the museum's collections into the database. **135** records were entered. This is a low number, although higher than the previous two years, mostly because only one volunteer, Commissioner Jim Keogh, 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, particularly with only one person working on it.
- Staff spent **116** hours (or **14.5** days) filling **42** customer service requests. Service requests are picking back up, but the number of requests continues to be lower than pre-pandemic levels. Nonetheless, the time spent on requests continues to be comparable.
- The Commission reviewed, updated and approved the 10-year strategic plan for the museum.
- The new museum website was launched on April 1.

Grants

- The City was awarded a \$5,000 Thurston County Heritage grant to continue work on cataloguing the Lacey Leader negative collection. To date **3,439** records (representing 12,599 strips and 55,043 images) have been catalogued for this project. Cataloguing is 96% complete. Digitization continues and so far **11,666** images have been scanned and processed and of those **11,163** have been attached to their record in the database. Digitization is 20% complete. Due to staffing shortages, the project for 2022 has been extended, so the City will not be eligible to apply for 2023.
- The City completed work for the \$608,000 Heritage Capital Projects Grant from the Washington State Historical Society.

Historic Properties

- The Bowker House renovation was completed.

RAC Interpretive kiosk (in partnership with Thurston County Historic Commission)

- Commissioner Keogh represented the Historic Commission on the project. He wrote text for two panels.

Other accomplishments not on the 2021 Work Plan

- Commissioners Ed Holm, Tula'i Patane, Kevin Wyckoff, and Youth Representative Janine Bermudez joined the Commission. The Commission said goodbye to long-time Chair Erich Ebel and Commissioners David Black and Sarah Thirtyacre.
- Commissioner term expiration dates were updated so that expiration years would be appropriately staggered.

- The LHC reviewed the design and text for the Jackson – Goose Pond Historic Marker. The dedication for the marker was held October 4, with Commissioner Keogh representing the Commission.
- Commissioner Keogh represented the Commission and the Museum at Heritage Day hosted by the Thurston County Historical Commission on October 8.