

Kittitas County Proposed House Bill 1386 Grant Program

We, the undersigned non-profit groups involved in history, museums, and historic preservation, propose that Kittitas County develop a grant program to disperse funds collected by the County under HB1386. *Individual minimum and maximum grant awards would be \$1,000 and \$5,000, respectively, and the total amount dispersed each cycle (once a year) would be \$15,000.* Currently, we believe the county has collected roughly \$30,000 (since 2005, when the bill was signed into law), with the average annual income of \$15,000. \$15,000 per year should allow the program to remain solvent through the future. Applications would be due by the middle of October (November 2007) for awards the following January.

Criteria:

Recipients must be non-profit groups registered with the IRS as 501(C)3 corporations involved in historic preservation, historical programs, and/or historic document preservation (individuals and governmental agencies are not eligible). Projects without another source of funding will be prioritized, and organizations awarded a grant would become ineligible for funding the following year (but would be eligible thereafter).

Grant Categories:

1. Historic Collections Management
2. Preservation Planning
3. Historic Building Rehabilitation
4. Education & Outreach in History, Historic Preservation, or Museum Operations

Evaluation of applications:

Once a year, a call for grant applications will be announced. Each applicant must complete an application form and a brief description of their proposed project, including an itemized budget.

An **Evaluation Advisory Committee** would be appointed by County Commissioners, to include 5 members, of whom at least one must be:

- + 1 museum professional
- + 1 professional historian or historic preservationist
- + 1 professional educator

The committee would review applications and rank them numerically, providing funding recommendations to the BOCC.

The Board of County Commissioners would then make final decisions about grant funding for each application.

Submitted by the Cascade Rail Foundation, Clymer Museum of Art, Ellensburg Rodeo Hall of Fame, Historic Ellensburg, Kittitas County Genealogical Society, Kittitas County Heritage Center, Kittitas County Historical Museum, Northern Kittitas County Historical Society, Roslyn Museum, Thorp Mill

Reporting for each grant-funded project would be required.