



WASHINGTON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Pre-Conference Workshop • WMA Board Meeting • Opening Reception
JUNE 18, 2008

**TEAR DOWN THAT WALL!
BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS**

**WMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JUNE 18-20, 2008**

Co-hosted by the
CLARK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM
and the
WSU VANCOUVER HISTORY DEPARTMENT

FINAL PROGRAM

PROGRAM

Wednesday, June 18

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

PRESENTING THE RIGHT VOICE: REMOVING CULTURAL BARRIERS

8:30AM – 3:00PM

Pre-conference Workshop

Pre-registration required

Cathlapotle Plankhouse

Moderators: Becky Archibald, Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Member and Clark County Historical Society Board Member. USFWS personnel
In keeping with the theme of this year's conference, we have designed a pre-conference symposium that addresses myths, stereotypes and misinformation that create cultural barriers. Our pre-conference symposium will be held inside the US Fish & Wildlife Service's Cathlapotle Plankhouse located on the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, Ridgefield, WA. The site is a replica Chinookan-style Plankhouse situated along the banks of the Columbia River and located near the former Chinook village that was host to Lewis and Clark 202 years ago. This is a unique opportunity for museum professionals whose organizations hold and interpret Native American collections and/or produce related public programming.



Pre-conference Participants Please Note: Primitive conditions exist at the plankhouse site. A short hike from the gravel parking lot, along a dirt trail, is required to get to the site. If you are not able bodied please contact Susan Tissot at (360) 993-5679 so we can make arrangements. Please dress comfortably and in layers; the plankhouse is unheated. The restroom is located at the parking lot; a porta-potty unit will be brought in. Coffee, tea, water and boxed lunches will be provided. This is a fabulous interpretive site and well worth the effort!

8:30AM - 9:00AM

Registration & Coffee

9:00AM - 9:15AM

Opening Blessing and Welcome

Sam Robinson, Vice Chair, Chinook Tribe

9:15AM - 10:00AM

Sam Robinson, Vice Chair, Chinook Tribe and Anan Raymond, Archaeologist, U.S.F.W.S.

Discussion about the purpose of the Cathlapotle Plankhouse site/structure, the significance of the site, cultural resource stewardship and educational benefits.

10:00AM - 11:00AM

Bob Miller, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Associate Professor, Lewis & Clark Law School, Chief Justice, Court of Appeals, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde to discuss myths and misunderstanding about termination, treaties and sovereignty.

11:00AM - 12:00PM

Pat Courtney Gold, Wasco-Wishram, to discuss brief history of commerce and life along the river, material culture and misinterpretations about native cultures and associated artifacts in museum collections.

12:00PM - 12:45PM

Lunch Break

12:45PM - 1:45PM

Craig A. Bill, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Indian Affairs. Discussion about myths and misunderstandings that perpetuate stereotypes and create cultural barriers between non-Indians and Indians. Making contact: when and how to find a tribal partner or advisor.

1:45PM - 2:30PM

Melissa Parr, Tribal Liaison, Washington State Historical Society. Women of Boldt.

Looking at how oral history can add to the body of knowledge on Native American Sovereignty. An example of a museum/tribal partnership.

2:30PM - 3:00PM

Closing Prayer & Gifting Ceremony

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS PLEASE NOTE:

The 2008 conference is taking place in multiple locations in Clark County. The pre-conference symposium is in Ridgefield; tours and opening reception in downtown Vancouver; two days of concurrent sessions on WSU campus in Salmon Creek; banquet at English Estates Winery in east Vancouver. Maps will be provided.





WMA CONFERENCE 2008
TEAR DOWN THAT WALL!
BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

- | | | |
|------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 3:00PM – 6:00PM | Registration | Clark County Historical Museum |
| 4:00PM – 5:00PM | Washington Museum Association Board Meeting
WMA members are welcome | Clark County Historical Museum |
| 4:00PM – 5:00PM | Special Tours–Downtown Vancouver Sites
Advanced registration required (see Registration Form) | |

Visit Fort Vancouver on the Vancouver National Historic Reserve. National Park Service staff will give you a behind-the-scenes tour of the museum facility, presenting highlights from the park's collection of over two million objects. The artifacts represent the Native American, fur trade, and military periods of the site, providing a tangible timeline of the region's development from stone tool technology to 21st century modernity in just two centuries. The tour will meet at the front gate of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, 1001 East 5th Street, in Vancouver. (360) 816-6252

Get a Sneak Preview of the Washington State School for the Blind's, new **Tactile Museum of Natural History**. Safari Club International's Washington Chapter has been working with the School for the Blind in the Development of a Tactile Museum of Natural History - "Sensory Safari" which will provide blind and visually impaired persons an opportunity to see through the sense of touch, the wonders of nature. This new museum will be open to the public the fall of 2008. The museum has been designed for the blind/visually impaired, but the school believes this museum, which will feature blind/visually impaired student docents will also provide an opportunity for the public to connect with their other senses. Come and join in on this sensory experience! The tour will meet at the WSSB administrative office. (360) 696-6321

Do you appreciate great architecture? Join Mary Grgich from the Clark County Historical Museum for a special version of one of the museum's nine downtown **Vancouver Historic Walking Tours**. Mary has arranged a special treat just for WMA members on this tour. This version of the tour will include an inside look at the 1905 Kitterring House. Please dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes and clothing for the tour will go on rain or shine! The tour will start from the Clark County Historical Museum at 1511 Main St. (360) 993-5679.

 <p>Boomer! On Exhibit June 6, 2008 – April 30, 2009 1511 Main St Vancouver, WA 98660 993-5679 www.cchmuseum.org</p>	<p>5:30PM – 7:30PM Opening Reception</p> <p>Sponsored by Night & Day Studios and the Clark County Historical Society.</p> <p>Join your fellow museum professionals for an evening of heavy hors d'oeuvres, drink and great conversation! Do you have a favorite 1960's or 70's style outfit? Feel free to go in style and wear it because we will be viewing the museum's new Boomer! exhibit. There will be a prize given for the grooviest outfit.</p>	<p>Clark County Historical Museum</p>  <p>NIGHT & DAY STUDIOS</p>
---	--	---

Thursday, June 19

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 8:00AM – 2:00PM | Registration | Room: VADM129/130 |
| 8:00AM – 9:00PM | Wake up Call: Coffee, Tea & Cookies and Silent Auction | Room: VADM129/130 |
| 9:00AM – 10:15PM | Welcome and Awards | Room: VADM110 |
- Susan Tissot, Executive Director, Clark County Historical Society & Museum, WMA Local Arraignments Co-Chair; Welcome to WSU V by Dr. Bruce Romanish, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, WSU V and Dr. Laurie Mercier, Professor, History Department; Marsha Rooney, WMA President; and Mike Siebol, WMA Scholarship and Awards Committee Chair
- Hear what's happening in Washington's museums, as WMA honors award-winning exhibits, programs, institutions, volunteers, and staff.
- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| 10:30AM – 11:15AM | Keynote Address: Ron Chew | Room: VADM110 |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
- Ron Chew is a lifelong Seattle resident whose parents were Chinese immigrants who worked in Seattle's International District. Ron studied journalism at the University of Washington and then went to work for the International Examiner where he served as editor. In 1990 he organized the Chinese Oral History Project of Seattle and edited the Project's 1994 companion volume, Reflections of Seattle's Chinese Americans. In 1991 he was hired as Executive Director of the Wing Luke Asian Museum. As director he transformed the museum from a struggling artifact-based institution into an award-winning center based on collaborative projects with the regions diverse Asian/Pacific Islander communities.

11:30AM – 12:30PM Advocacy Lunch

Firstenberg Center

Join Clark County Policy Assistant Kelly Sills for a luncheon conversation about the 2005 HB 1386 funds and the Clark County grant program. Hear the latest update about statewide activity regarding the allocation of 2005 HB 1386 monies and the 2009 Museum Day Event. Susan Tissot, Janda Volkmer, and Susan Rohrer.

12:30PM – 2:00PM Breakout Sessions**Exhibit Development and Design for Small Museums (Part 1)**

Room: VMMC 6

Presenters: Chris Fiala Erlich, Independent Curator, chrisworks and Victoria Blackwell, Curator, Gig Harbor History Museum

Chris will demonstrate how to develop a storyline matrix. You'll learn to use the matrix to bring together in one document all the themes, topics, photographs, artifacts, archive, label copy, media, interactives, and other materials that will make up your exhibit. You'll receive a checklist to use when preparing for storyline and design development. Chris and Vicki will talk about the pros and cons of doing the storyline and design in-house (on a shoestring!), or using a contractor.

No Boundaries - Working With Tribal Museums

Room: VMMC 22

Presenters: John Chess, Development Officer, Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute and James Payne, Executive Director, Fort Walla Walla Museum

The session will focus on developing relationships between Tribal and non-Indian museums. Tamástslíkt and FWWM have worked together for a decade, providing a case study. The session will explore misconceptions preventing such relationships and benefits resulting from these collaborations.

Looking Beyond Your Walls – Available Resources for Collections Care

Room: VMMC 1

Presenter: Kara West, Assistant Director for Field Services, Balboa Art Conservation Center (BACC)

The need for collections care services throughout the United States has been long recognized and is well documented. A regional survey conducted by Balboa Art Conservation Center identified that the greatest obstacles for collections care activities are not enough people or time to do the work, and not enough funding to retain outside specialists. This session will demonstrate numerous ways to reach out for expert help and resources to save collections.

2:00PM – 3:00PM Dessert Break

Room: VADM129/130

Take a break and have a treat while talking with colleagues. Bid on your favorite Silent Auction item to support WMA scholarships. Visit with specialty vendors.

3:00PM – 4:15PM Breakout Sessions**Exhibit Development and Design for Small Museums (Part 2)**

Room: VMMC 6

Presenters: Chris Fiala Erlich, Independent Curator, chrisworks and Victoria Blackwell, Curator, Gig Harbor History Museum

Vicki will discuss basic design tips, including how to use your space (or lack of it!), using color and texture, creating focal points, and shopping "on a dime." Both Vicki and Chris will demonstrate and provide examples of exhibit designs and their components, both for temporary and permanent exhibits, including simple multi-media. If time permits, participants will be able to "install" exhibit panels as an exercise in design, label spacing, and panel layout.

Using Music and Readers Theatre To Present Washington Women's Suffrage History

Room: VMMC 22

Presenter: Susan Buttrille, Author

Leavenworth author Susan Buttrille will facilitate a workshop and audience-participation demonstration on incorporating music and readers theatre in presenting Washington Women's Suffrage history. Buttrille and Bellingham musician Linda Allen wrote script and music for the musical readers theatre "Recipe For Justice," featuring three generations of Washington women planning a celebration dinner as they share memories, songs, recipes, and contrary views over women's rights.

Breaking Down NAGPRA

Room: VMMC 1

Panelists: Rex Buck, Jr., Wanapum Band; Jackie Cook, Repatriation Specialist, Colville Confederated Tribes; Kate Valdez, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Confederated Tribes; and Bands of the Yakama Nation; Megon Noble, Assistant Archaeology Collections Manager/ NAGPRA; Coordinator, Burke Museum of Natural History; Mary Collins, Director, WSU Museum of Anthropology; Angela Neller, Curator, Wanapum Heritage Center

Museum and tribal NAGPRA specialists will come together to break down NAGPRA for audience participants. Panelist will be available to lead discussions regarding audience questions about the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the repatriation process, working with tribal entities, tribal perspectives, collaborative partnerships to accomplish the same goals, and the sensitivity in caring for and interpreting NAGPRA objects.

The Washington Museum Association would like to thank all those individuals and organizations who have made this conference possible. A special thank you to the Heritage Resource Center for their generous contribution toward the conference, Artech for their generous contribution towards scholarships, and NW Natural Gas Company for providing the canopies for the banquet.



6:00PM **WMA Banquet at English Estates Winery**

Pre-registration is required; guests of conference attendees are welcome to register

Visit with colleagues and Vancouver Mayor, Royce Pollard who will officially welcome you to America's Vancouver. The evening will take place in the Vineyard at English Estates Gravel Mine Vineyards in east Vancouver. English Estates Winery opened in 2002 but the English family roots at this property go back to 1903 when the family grew potatoes, prunes and operated a dairy before becoming a winery. Sample a selection of Pinot Noir wines and listen to wine vintor Carl English share his wine making knowledge. Dinner and desert will be provided as well as non-alcoholic drinks. Four wine tastings per person are included; glasses and bottles of wine will be available for purchase. For a limited time, the English family is also offering a special label bottle that feature and benefit the Clark County Historical Museum.

Friday, June 20

8:00AM – 12:00PM Registration Room: VADMI29/130

7:30AM – 8:45AM Education Breakfast Room: VADMI29/130

Continental Breakfast. Visit with representatives from the Washington State Department of Early Learning. Learn more about Washington's Children's museums with a presentation by Tanya Andrews, Executive Director of the Children's Museum of Tacoma.

9:00AM – 10:15AM Breakout Sessions

Breakthroughs without Breakdowns: How We Solved the Case of the Missing Curator! Room: VMMC 6

Presenters: Nat Sims, MA, Principal, Night and Day Studios and Mary Wheeler, MA, Project Manager, Night and Day Studios

Using a case study of a project with four museums, twenty acres, 4,000 years of history, many stakeholders and no curator, we'll demonstrate tools we use for collaborative content development in complex projects. Join us for a conversation about successful partnerships and how to break the walls between complex content and engaging meaning.

Removing the Language Barrier: Writing for Young Audiences Room: VMMC 1

Presenter: Stephanie Lile, Head of Education, Washington State History Museum

Once upon a time there was a wall that separated the big people from the small. The wall was made of words. Each word was made of letters, and each of those letters made a sound. When the letters spoke long and loud, the wall stood tall and proud.

When the letters sang short and sweet, the wall went tumbling to the street. Designed as a presentation and workshop for anyone who is faced with writing exhibit labels or educational materials that are intended to serve young audiences.

We'll explore style, length, vocabulary, and techniques for reaching young audiences without "dumbing down" ideas and concepts.

Art & Artifact: Can they work together to tell the story? Room: VMMC 22

Moderator: Leah Jackson, Public Program Coordinator, Clark County Historical Museum

Panel Members-Anna Strankman, Curator of Native American Art, Portland Art Museum; Richard Ray, Educator, Mountain View High School; and Bonnie Meltzer, Artist, Public Relations Coordinator, Portland Open Studios

This session will look at how the visual arts and history can interact in the Heritage/History museum setting. We will answer these questions: What role can the artists play in telling our story? How do we use art to add yet another layer to the story-telling process? Do we need or want art in our historical setting? What are some current examples of art being used to interpret the past and help engage the public in the story we wish to tell?

10:30AM – 11:45AM Breakout Sessions

Making Museums Real and Fun for Persons who are Blind/Visually Impaired Room: VMMC 6

Presenters: Ms. Catherine Golding, Coordinator of East side Regional Programs for Blind/Visually Impaired Students, Tri Cities area – Washington State School for the Blind (WSSB); Ms. Dee Amundsen, Director of Outreach Services – WSSB; Dr. Dean Stenehjelm, Supt. – WSSB; Jesse Minkert, Executive Director of Arts for Visually Impaired Audiences (AVIA); and Joan Rabinowitz, Executive Director, Jack Straw Productions

Imagine yourself as a visually impaired/blind person who desires a great experience in one of our national museums. How would limited or no vision affect this experience? Are there ways to help this individual have the type of experience that he/she desires and at the same time maybe design a process or system that might even make museums better for those who are not visually impaired or blind. Come with us on an interactive journey where we will experience this together.

Reaching Audiences through Social Networking and New Media

Room: VMMC 22

Panelists: Alyssa Rosso, Public Relations Coordinator, Tacoma Art Museum; Tania Kupczak, Operations Manager, On the Boards; and David Lynx, Curator of Information Design, Yakima Valley Museum

New media such as blogs, podcasts, and YouTube, and social networks like Facebook, MySpace, Flickr, and del.icio.us give museums opportunities to interact with users in their own neighborhoods and around the globe. What are the trends? What role does social networking play in museums? And what are the benefits and challenges related to exploring this new frontier?

Curators, Archaeologists, and Historians: Combining Forces!

Room: VMMC 1

Presenters: Dr. Douglas Wilson, National Park Service and Portland State University; Gregory Shine, National Park Service; and Theresa Langford, National Park Service. These disciplines have traditionally only had brief contact, but better coordination between curators, archaeologists, and historians can have huge advantages for museums. As we look at ways to alleviate the curation crisis, it is essential that museum managers and historians join with archaeologists in discussions about research design and methodology. In addition, more intense coordination between professionals allows more opportunity for existing collections to be utilized, as historical records surface and analysis techniques advance.

12:00PM – 1:15PM Lunch – WMA Annual Meeting

Firstenberg Center

Election of Officers and Trustees, Washington Museum Association News and Preview of the 2009 Annual Conference.

1:30PM – 2:45PM Breakout Sessions

Top Ten Tips for Developing Learning Spaces:

Breaking Down Barriers between Exhibits, Curatorial, and Education

Room: VMMC 1

Panelists: Stephanie Lile, Head of Education, Washington State History Museum; William Smith, Storyline Studio, Bothell, WA

The development of effective museum learning spaces requires coordination between various departments, particularly education, exhibits, and curatorial/collections. This session will focus on ways to work collaboratively with other departments, content providers, and contractors to develop engaging spaces for kids and adults.

Embracing the Museum Store Experience

Room: VADMI29/130

Presenters: Lori Bertis, Visitor Services Coordinator and Store Manager, Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture and Lilia Villasenor, Manager, The Rose Garden Store, (and nine years as Manager of the Oregon Historical Society Store)

This session will engage participants in a lively session meant to impart the basic concepts involved in museum store planning or enhancement which begins with an understanding of the Store's place and value in cultural organizations. Having a successful store element is all about breaking down departmental and ideological walls to extend the visitor experience. All staff from every department of your organization play a role in a successful store – all are welcome!

Bursting at the Seams ... with Visitors!?

Room: VMMC 22

Presenters: Connie Estep, Curator, The Columbia River Exhibition of History, Science, and Technology; Terry Andre, Education Coordinator, Columbia River Exhibition of History, Science and Technology; Kimberly Camp, CEO, The Reach (Hanford Reach Interpretive Center); Susan Rohrer, Manager of the State Capital Museum, Washington State Historical Society; Gwen Perkins, Curator of Education, Washington State Historical Society; and Heide Fernandez-Llamazares, Museum Educator and Docent Coordinator, Tacoma Art Museum. Do your programs always "round up the usual suspects"? Expand your base with programs and exhibits designed to attract different groups. Find out what programs/exhibits have drawn new groups to museums in Washington. One example is Night at the Museum events. They have been a big draw nationally, internationally, and even here in Washington State!

3:00PM – 4:15PM Breakout Sessions

Breaking the Barriers of Exhibit Style: Using Visitor Preconceptions To Your Advantage

Room: VMMC 22

Presenter: Andy Granitto, Curator of Exhibits, Yakima Valley Museum

This lecture will help you identify the essential characteristics of different exhibit styles, using variables such as color, light, floorplan, case design, panel design, and text itself. Examples will be presented of "pure," "hybrid," and "playful" applications of these styles, emphasizing successes and failures; and group discussion will explore the visual impact and communicative power of each style.

The Washington State Heritage Center: Partnerships and Opportunities

Room: VADMI29/130

Presenters: Sam Reed, Secretary of State, Washington State Heritage Center; Carleen Jackson, Director of Development, Washington State Heritage Center; and Dana Pethia, Director of Marketing, Washington State Heritage Center.

An update on the Washington State Heritage Center, scheduled to open in 2012, followed by a round table discussion with the museum community about the Heritage Center as a partner and an asset in advancing heritage interest in Washington State.

Material Identification and Collection Care

Room: VMMC 1

Presenter: Dana K. Senge, Objects Conservator, DKS Conservation Services, LLC

This session will focus on the general identification of materials (and layers of materials) that make up objects in historic and fine art collections. The session goal is to help collection managers and registrars think about the complex structures of the objects in their collections and to discuss collection care solutions for these materials. All museum staff are encouraged to attend to deepen their understanding of the objects in their collections and importance of supporting preservation within the museum setting.