



2019 Clark County Historic Preservation Grant Final Project Report

"Docent and Guided Walk Program"

Columbia Springs was excited to begin the Docent and Guided Walk program and see it grow over the last three years. Docents are site ambassadors, leading Guided Walks around site "hotspots". Docents assist guests and answer questions. Docents receive individual training covering:

- Columbia Springs organizational and natural history
- Vancouver Trout Hatchery history and operations
- Local flora and fauna
- Interpretation techniques for kids and adults
- Rules, safety procedures, and expectations
- Hands-on practice leading tours

Using resources from the 2019 Historic Preservation Grant, all docents received needed teaching materials and supplies for events and activities. They got t-shirts and name tags.

In all, Docents participated in 7 Family Nature Day events, 7 Guided Walks, and helped with the Visitor Center on weekends. Well over 1,000 guests interacted with Docents during these events in 2019.

The goals for the Docent and Guided Walk program are to make our site more user-friendly for guests, educate the community about the unique environmental aspects of our site, inform guests about the history of the location, and provide additional support to staff and lead volunteers. Your support empowered us to continue this program and get it the supplies and staff time it needed to thrive.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Maureen Montague

Executive Director

**FINAL REPORT ON THE TWO RIVERS HERITAGE MUSEUM AND VANCOUVER BARRACKS MILITARY
ASSOCIATION PHOTOGRAPH/NEGATIVE DIGITIZATION
SEPTEMBER 1, 2019**

The HPG proposal requested funding to digitize 1,000 photographs from the collection of the Two Rivers Heritage Museum (on behalf of the Camas-Washougal Historical Society) and 500 compound objects containing photographs and negatives from the Vancouver Barracks Military Association. The use of equipment and software to scan photographs and capture object metadata was generously provided in collaboration with the Clark County Historical Museum. The storage of digital objects for preservation and the hosting of the digitized images and metadata for online access was generously provided in collaboration with the Washington State University Vancouver Library, Archives and Special Collections. Additional grant funding was provided for archival enclosures to help continue the physical preservation of the original photographs and negatives housed at TRHM and VBMA.

The project began in May 2019 and concluded at the end of August 2019. At its conclusion, the project achieved the following:

1,009 photographs from the TRHM collections were digitized. Photographs were scanned at 600 ppi using CCHM's Epson Expression 1200000XL scanner. Metadata was captured reflecting the main subject areas described in the initial grant proposal.

Over 500 envelopes containing photographs and envelopes from the VBMA collection were digitized. As outlined in the initial proposal these include images of service members, their families and POWS station at the Vancouver Barracks during WWII. The envelopes provided metadata that was captured and were then scanned as documents at 300 ppi. Photographs and negatives were scanned at 600 ppi using CCHM's Epson Expression 1200000XL scanner.

The digital objects and metadata for TRHM and VBMA collections were then transferred to the WSU Vancouver Library where they were uploaded into the WSU system's CONTENTdm image database for online access. The objects are currently being processed and given quality control through in-kind funding. The availability of the digital collection is planned for mid-September.

Two external drives, one designated for TRHM and one for VBMA, were purchased using funds outlined in the grant proposal. These drives contain the full resolution images or scanned objects for each respective collection and are designated for preservation and local storage. Additionally, the WSU Vancouver Library, Archives and Special Collection will maintain a backup of the objects on behalf of the partners for preservation purposes.

Finally, archival enclosures were purchased through Gaylord archival supplies. We were able to receive a 20% discount and were therefore able to purchase higher quality supplies than we initially proposed. All photographs from the TRHM collection have been placed in mylar polyester sleeves. All envelopes, photograph and negatives from VBMA's collection have placed in high quality acid free paper enclosures.

The HPG funding for contract labor has been fully exhausted. WSU Vancouver Library Archives staff has agreed to continue to contribute quality control over the digital collections.

You Are Here Signs Project

2019

This grant generously funded the fabrication and installation of new *You Are Here* signs throughout Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. These signs are a key component of the park's wayfinding system, placed at strategic locations throughout the park to aid the public in moving from venue to venue during their visit. The signs were previously in very poor condition, and difficult to interpret due to weathering and vandalism. A part of this process was also to redesign the base map, to be easier to read and better meet National Park Service and universal accessibility standards. These new signs greatly benefit the public through more efficient wayfinding and an improved visitor experience. With separate funding, we were also able to add signs to new locations in response to upcoming circulation changes, and have a duplicate of each sign made. The signs will be 24 x 18 inch gel laminate, a newer panel type with a longer life span and more refined finish. We have already had a very positive response from the public!



North Clark Historical Museum

21416 NE 399th St.

P.O. Box 296

Amboy, WA 98601

360-247-5800

December 17, 2019

Clark County Historic Preservation Program

Attn: Community Planning

1300 Franklin Street

P O Box 9810

Vancouver, WA 98666-9810

RE: HPG 2019 Electrical Upgrades Final Project Report

The HPG 2019 Grant funded remote control quad plugs in the sanctuary and basement. This eliminated many extension cords which connected display cases to plugs. Now when we are opening the Museum for visitors, we merely push a button on the wall, and voila!, the displays light up! Docents no longer have to bend down to reach around or behind displays to turn on the lights. The building, volunteers, and public are much more safe.

The full scope of the project included adding the quad plugs, replacing old exit signs, improving connection to the interior sawmill exhibit, and replacing bulbs with LED throughout the building. Also, exterior lighting was added to illuminate the exterior Rashford Steam Donkey exhibit. Funding was provided by grants from other sources besides the HPG Program in order to complete most of the project.

NCHM is very pleased with the upgrades. Improved lighting enhances the exhibits. We have received positive comments from visitors. Volunteers are very happy to have an easier way to turn on the display cases.

Sincerely,

April K. Reichstein

Grant Committee Chairman



CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON
COMMUNITY PLANNING

clark.wa.gov

1300 Franklin Street
PO Box 9810
Vancouver, WA 98666-9810
360.397.2280

Brad Richardson
Clark County Historical Museum
1511 Main St
Vancouver, WA 98660

December 18, 2019

RE: Termination by County for Cause of the 2019 Clark County Historic Promotions Grant – Shuttle Bus

Dear Mr. Richardson,

This letter is to inform you that the County is terminating the 2019 Historic Promotions Grant with the Clark County Historical Museum. This is a termination by county for cause pursuant to 9a of the Grant Agreement between Clark County and the Clark County Historical Museum. The 2019 grant had been awarded in the amount of \$19,867 for the purchase of a shuttle bus. All funds were to be expended by December 10, 2019. You notified the county via email on December 6, 2019, that the Clark County Historical Museum would not be using the funds awarded. As this grant is being terminated, no grant funds will be disbursed.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at sharon.lumbantobing@clark.wa.gov or 564-397-4909.

Thank you,

Sharon Lumbantobing
Planner II
Clark County Community Planning

Clark County Historic Preservation Program
Attention: Community Planning
1300 Franklin St
PO Box 9810
Vancouver, WA 98666-9810

Project Name: Plankhouse and Objects Organization, Protection, and Storage

Organization

We have conducted a full inventory of all cultural and interpretive items associated with the Cathlapotle Plankhouse and Lifeways and Landscapes Program, including the identification of missing objects and the discovery of items not previously listed in our records. All items have been reassigned new Accession numbers and entered into the PastPerfect Collections Management Software. In addition to categorizing House objects by material (stone, antler, hide, wood, fiber, etc.) we are also creating cross references for items created by Indigenous artisans, interpretive objects created by non-Native volunteers, and materials from the natural environment. All photography is complete, with special attention paid to documenting existing damage, as well as recording locations where future degradation is likely to occur.

We were unable to move forward with engaging with grassroots project Mukurtu CMS, a collections management platform focused on empowering Indigenous communities, due to the platform's reliance on cloud-based information storage. The US Fish & Wildlife Service's information storage policies explicitly state that cloud-based storage is forbidden. As such, we were unable to take advantage of this innovative approach of recording and dissemination of Indigenous knowledge along with western information sharing practices regarding Collections.

Preservation

Due to the nature of our education program, our interpretive items and materials receive continual handling by the public for much of the year, and preventative conservation is a top priority. However, our fears about more proactively addressing Agents of Deterioration have been lessened through work with our Indigenous contractors, Greg Robinson with the Chinook Indian Nation, Greg Archuleta with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and Judy Bridges of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe. One of the greatest highlights of this project has been the ability to incorporate the Indigenous lens to objects in the Plankhouse, which will better inform our interpretation moving forward. Specifically, the fiber art work sessions that Mrs. Bridges led gave us extraordinary background on the gathering plants, construction of items such as baskets and mats, long-term storage of unused gathered materials, and estimates on how much to gather in order to replace mats in the Plankhouse as they complete their life cycle.

After reviewing our entire Collections we have been assured that visible use-wear is part of the life-history of the items in the House and that having the 'lived in' look is appropriate for the contexts in which our Collections are displayed and utilized. Additionally, we have received guidance on culturally appropriate care, handling, and storage of the artifacts and items for which we are responsible. Mr. Robinson, Mr. Archuleta, Mrs. Bridges have given us recommendations on possible future acquisitions for our Lifeways and Landscapes Program and provided additional support in repairing some items. Both Mr. Robinson and Mr. Archuleta have donated some small objects as part of their work with us to better highlight Plankhouse village life.

Security

While use-wear acknowledgements from our Indigenous partners are comforting, we still want to ensure the best overwinter storage and safety of objects during transportation to and from seasonal displays in Clark County. The purchase of the Weathertight totes from The Container Store has enabled us to mitigate our biggest concern for the storage of Plankhouse items - moisture. Additionally, the sealed bins will keep out pests/animals, dust, and other contaminants while in storage. Finally, the strength and durability of the bins ensure that we can stack, store, and transport items in our Collections in a secure manner - all of which were great concerns upon starting the Collections review.

Sharon Lumbantobing

From: CCHM Director <director@cchmuseum.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 10:24 AM
To: Sharon Lumbantobing
Subject: [Contains External Hyperlinks] RE: 2019 HPG grant outcome

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Clark County. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning Sharon,

Yes, I can.

Regarding the termination of the grant, when the initial conversations with the shuttle vendors took place it was indicated to us that these vehicles were street legal. However, when the group moved to license and insure the vehicle it was discovered that it did not have a VIN number. As a result, we would not be able to license and insure the vehicle for street use. Furthermore, outdated federal regulations regarding electric vehicles, of which we were unaware, prohibited any workarounds to make the vehicle street legal.

However, this process allowed the group to fully develop a plan for these tours and brought visibility to the project. As a result, we have the necessary programmatic infrastructure to implement these tours as soon as a vehicle is available.

Additionally, because of the visibility in the community, we have been able to start talks with a local business that owns a shuttle. We plan to work with this business and hopefully start tours in the Summer of 2020.

None of this would have been possible without the grant from the HPC. It was not an easy decision to forgo the funds, but the process and visibility brought to the project has allowed it to still a success in a different incarnation.

Cheers,



Bradley Richardson

Executive Director
Clark County Historical Society & Museum
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From: Sharon Lumbantobing [<mailto:Sharon.Lumbantobing@clark.wa.gov>]
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 3:34 PM
To: CCHM Director <director@cchmuseum.org>
Subject: 2019 HPG grant outcome

Brad,