



CLARK COUNTY

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Public Service Center
1300 Franklin St., 6th Floor
Vancouver, WA
www.clark.wa.gov/planning/historic

December 5, 2019

Greg Griffith
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP)

Dear Mr. Griffith,

This year the Clark County Historic Preservation Commission (CCHPC) explored establishing an Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) register at the county level. Using the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) ICH model as a guide, we created an ICH nomination form, performed outreach efforts to local Native American communities, and began the first stages of planning a County ICH register. However, it was soon realized that the county does not have the staff resources to further develop this idea into action. Simultaneously, the CCHPC sub-committee working on this effort came to the conclusion that this initiative is a better fit at the state level. We encourage DAHP to explore establishing a separate and distinct Intangible Cultural Heritage Register, apart from the three historic registers currently maintained by the state. The existing heritage registers focus on the built environment. Using these registers as a means of indigenous representation is problematic. An ICH register would serve as a means of being more inclusive to under-represented communities.

UNESCO introduced the Convention for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2003. It now includes an inventory of the intangible culture heritage within their member countries and works with the people maintaining these traditions to ensure that they are recognized, protected, and preserved. It also provides funds to support the maintenance of these living cultures. 168 of the world's 198 countries signed the UNESCO Convention for Intangible Cultural Heritage. While the United States is not one of the signatories of the convention, UNESCO's ICH register, nomination forms, and community consent forms could serve as a model for DAHP to examine. The Clark County Historic Preservation Commission adapted UNESCO's nomination form to see what it could look like at the state or county level (attached).

According to the UNESCO definition, intangible cultural heritage (ICH) refers to the "practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artifacts, and cultural spaces and landscapes - which individuals, groups, and communities recognize as part of their cultural heritage and which are preserved and passed down from one generation to the other" (UNESCO, 2003). Intangible cultural heritage can manifest in the following domains: oral traditions and language; performing arts; social practices, rituals and festive events; knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe, and; traditional craftsmanship and cuisine.

Intangible cultural heritage is fragile because it is tied to the practitioners, or tradition-bearers, who produce it and pass it down from one generation to the next. The importance of intangible cultural heritage is not a physical manifestation, but rather the transmission of knowledge and skills from one generation to the next. Intangible cultural heritage can easily be lost when it is not recognized, valued, and documented, or when technology or economies change, or when lifeways are disrupted, or when the last tradition-bearers pass away with no one to carry on the knowledge and skills.

Recognizing, documenting, and preserving the intangible cultural heritage of different communities in the state is important because it maintains our unique identity and cultural diversity, promotes intercultural dialogue, encourages respect for other ways of life, and ensures that valuable knowledge and skills are not lost, or, in the event of a practice that is on the cusp of dying out, that it is recorded. A unique part of our cultural fabric risks extinction if we do not recognize and document the knowledge, skills, and practices maintained by a few remaining tradition-bearers.

Our research into this initiative has indicated an ICH Register at the Washington state level would be the first of its kind in the country. The Washington State Historic Preservation Plan 2019-2024 is already aligned with the values and principles that support the establishment of an ICH Register. DAHP's "Historic Preservation Plan: Inhabiting our History" already contains language such as "addressing the full range of historic and cultural resources-landscapes, traditional cultural properties, folk-life, language, music, dance, etc", "the Native American Perspective on Historic Preservation", "working to identify and honor a broader range of cultural resources and more engagement with underrepresented communities, not just buildings", and "research establishment of a state-wide Living Heritage Register" (DAHP presentation at the Oct 30, 2019 SW Washington Planners' Forum).

When the Clark County Historic Preservation Commission was exploring the feasibility of an ICH register, we received a positive response from the Cowlitz Tribe about the types of ICH that are present in the county. Clark County had one of the densest indigenous populations in the present-day United States during the pre-contact era. Numerous languages and dialects were spoken by the various groups and rich cultural traditions flourished here. For the most part, the descendants of these people are now affiliated with the Chinook, Cowlitz, and Grand Ronde Native American tribes. The Chinook were the largest non-agrarian population in the US, and possibly the world. They were a complex hunter-gatherer society.

The societies represented by these people's ancestors were unique in North America as one of the few examples worldwide of non-agrarian societies to attain high levels of social stratification, specialization and elaborate art. Present day tribal members have rich cultural traditions and possess cultural-specific skills and knowledge that may qualify as intangible cultural heritage. Examples of such practices include: land and forest management, smelt, salmon, and river ceremonies, canoe journeys, drumming, singing and pow wows, among many others. Other examples from Clark County include:

- ICH tied to a landscape: Camas prairie habitats are culturally and environmentally important to the Cowlitz, including their ability to harvest camas, cook it in a traditional way, and perform the ceremonial practices associated with harvesting it, and using it as a food resource. The practices they perform in the landscape are intangible cultural heritage. The prairies are also habitats for rare species and are identified as "habitats of concern" by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. These habitats are already in the county's zoning codes and management plans, but the ICH practices are not well documented or supported in ways that protect or help perpetuate them.
- ICH tied to a species: The Cowlitz tribe successfully petitioned to get smelt (eulachon) listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act because its population had drastically diminished. The tribal elders recognize that a cherished way

of life would die if the fish went extinct. Their ancestral fishing spot would no longer have meaning. The methods used to harvest vine maple to make the hoops on the fishing nets would have no meaning. The way to weave nettle fibers into the nets would have no meaning. In other words, if the fish goes extinct, the material and intangible culture heritage (e.g., preparing the nets and smoking the fish) that is tied to a species and reflected in a physical place disappears.

- ICH tied to a skill: Other examples of intangible cultural heritage in Clark County are weaving and woodcarving, and the use and repair of antique equipment and tools in the agricultural and logging industries, including blacksmith techniques.

We believe there is a wide-range of intangible cultural heritage full of valuable, rich historical resources across Washington State that would benefit from an ICH Register. This opportunity places the State of Washington in a strategic position to lead the way nationally in a heritage area currently unexplored. We have enclosed our draft ICH nomination form in an effort to share the work already started. Thank you for considering our request for DAHP to explore and prioritize the establishment of an Intangible Cultural Heritage Register.

Sincerely,



Alex Gall, Chair

Clark County Historic Preservation Commission

SAMPLE
Intangible Cultural Heritage Register
Nomination Form

I. ELEMENT IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

A. NAME OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ELEMENT:

B. OTHER NAMES OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE ELEMENT (IF APPLICABLE):

C. COMMUNITY(IES), GROUP(S) OR, IF APPLICABLE, INDIVIDUAL(S) CONCERNED:

D. OUTLINE THE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION AND RANGE OF THE NOMINATED ELEMENT:

II. ELEMENT DESCRIPTION

E. DESCRIBE THE NOMINATED ELEMENT:

F. DESCRIBE EACH DOMAIN(S) REPRESENTED BY THE ELEMENT:

- 1) Oral traditions, including language;
- 2) Performing arts;
- 3) Social practices, rituals, and festive events;
- 4) Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe;
- 5) Traditional craftsmanship;
- 6) Landscape

III. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

G. Eligibility Criteria for Designation in the Intangible Cultural Heritage Register. All five criteria must be met and the Community Consent Form must be signed:

- ___ a. It is recognized by the community, group or, if appropriate, the individuals concerned as part of their cultural heritage;
- ___ b. It provides the community or group involved with a sense of identity and continuity, based on shared experience and collective memory;
- ___ c. It is rooted in the community or group in which it is transmitted from generation to generation and is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history;
- ___ d. It is submitted with the free, prior and informed consent of the community, group or, if applicable, the individuals concerned;
- ___ e. It is submitted following the participation of the community, group or, if applicable, the individuals concerned, at all stages of identification, definition, documentation, and nomination.

H. Describe any plans for ensuring visibility and raising community awareness

I. Describe any planned Safeguarding Measures

J. Describe Community Involvement and Consent

K. Describe Community, Group and Individual Participation (as applicable)

IV. BIBLIOGRAPHY

L. Bibliographic Reference: Cite books, articles, and other sources in preparing this form, if relevant attach photographs, video, audio recordings, drawings, or maps

V. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

M. List of Additional Resources

VI. CONTACT INFORMATION

N. Contact Information for Correspondence

O. Concerned Community Organization(s) or Representative(s)

P. Signature on behalf of the Community(ies), Group(s) or Individual(s) Concerned giving consent to the nomination and designation of the above element to the Clark County Intangible Heritage Register. See also Community Consent Form.

Signature:
Printed name:
Date:
Street Address:
Email Address:
Telephone:

Signature:
Printed name:
Date:
Street Address:
Email Address:
Telephone:

Form Prepared by

Signature:
Printed name:
Date:
Street Address:
Email Address:
Telephone:

Jacqueline Kamp

From: Sharon Lumbantobing
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 4:28 PM
To: Jacqueline Kamp
Subject: RE: Unreinforced Masonry Symposium

Jacqui,

Julie says she is interested in this two-day DAHP conference in Seattle in May. Could you please ask if anyone else is interested? No one else replied. The HPC would need to agree to allocate funds for this: registration, hotel, per diem, transportation. I can figure out what this would cost per person and then the HPC could decide in January whether to allocate funds for this.

From: Bohn, Julie (FHWA) [julie.bohn@dot.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 12:47 PM
To: Sharon Lumbantobing
Subject: [Contains External Hyperlinks] RE: Unreinforced Masonry Symposium

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.

I would be interested.

Julie Bohn

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(360) 619-7846 (fax)
julie.bohn@dot.gov
<https://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/>

From: Lumbantobing, Sharon <Sharon.Lumbantobing@clark.wa.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2019 8:52 AM
To: Alex Gall (alex@archaeologicalservices.com) <alex@archaeologicalservices.com>; Andy Gregg <agregg3995@msn.com>; Donald Trost (dtrost@techsource-inc.com) <dtrost@techsource-inc.com>; Kamp, Jacqueline <Jacqueline.Kamp@clark.wa.gov>; Bader, Jan <Jan.Bader@cityofvancouver.us>; Bohn, Julie (FHWA) <julie.bohn@dot.gov>; julie bohn home <juliebohn@gmail.com>; Jones, Keith (CED) <Keith.Jones@cityofvancouver.us>; Person, Mark <mark.person@cityofvancouver.us>; michelle kapitanovich <michellekap@tds.net>; Roch Manley <rmanley@manleyarchitects.com>; Sean Denniston <sedenniston@yahoo.com>; Lumbantobing, Sharon <Sharon.Lumbantobing@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: Unreinforced Masonry Symposium

HPC Members,

Is anyone interested in learning more about how to deal with unreinforced masonry buildings? Please see info below about a symposium in May 2020 in Seattle.

Jacqueline Kamp

From: Sharon Lumbantobing
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 4:17 PM
To: Jacqueline Kamp
Subject: RE: Message from Trost Donald G (+17032166508)

ICH tied to a skill: Other examples of intangible cultural heritage in Clark County are weaving and woodcarving, and the use and repair of antique equipment and tools in the agricultural and logging industries, including blacksmith techniques.

can you just delete the ", and:

That will solve the problem. There was no more text, just text that got rearranged.

From: Jacqueline Kamp
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2019 1:35 PM
To: Sharon Lumbantobing
Subject: RE: Message from Trost Donald G (+17032166508)

Sharon,

The sentence seems to be missing something some text, but I don't know where any former drafts are:

- ICH tied to a skill: Other examples of intangible cultural heritage in Clark County are weaving and woodcarving, and the use and repair of antique equipment and tools in the agricultural and logging industries, including blacksmith techniques, and.

-----Original Message-----

From: Sharon Lumbantobing <Sharon.Lumbantobing@clark.wa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 11:21 AM
To: Jacqueline Kamp <Jacqueline.Kamp@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: FW: Message from Trost Donald G (+17032166508)

Jacqui

Can you listen to this message from Don? He is saying to check the ICH letter as there seems to be an error on the last bullet point on the last page? Can you please check it and fix it?

Thanks,
Sharon

From: Clark County Messaging System [unityconnection@esxvm254.clark.wa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2019 9:33 AM
To: lumbants@esxvm254.clark.wa.gov
Subject: Message from Trost Donald G (+17032166508)

