

Agency Activity Inventory by Agency

Appropriation Period: 2003-05 Activity Version: 2004 Sup w/ Alloc & Activities

Agency: 390 - Washington State Historical Society

Acquire and Maintain Historic Collection

The Society is charged with preserving manuscripts, maps, photographs, and objects that illuminate Washington history. Ninety-five percent of its collections are acquired through donations from businesses, other historical agencies, and individuals. It provides research services and access to over 500,000 photographs, 7,500,000 manuscript items and other ephemeras.

Statewide Result Area: Improve cultural and recreational opportunities throughout the state

Category: Provide stewardship of cultural and recreational assets

FY 2004				FY 2005			
Total	GFS	Other	FTEs	Total	GFS	Other	FTEs
\$387,000	\$320,000	\$67,000	7.0	\$394,000	\$327,000	\$67,000	7.0

Agency Administration

Administrative functions include accounting, budgeting, personnel management, risk management, investment management, purchasing, records management, and information services. The agency is required to help plan for significant events in the state's history, such as the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. It must also adhere to organizational and membership requirements due to its non-profit status. (Local Museum Account-Washington State Historical Society)

Statewide Result Area: Improve cultural and recreational opportunities throughout the state

Category: Ensure access to cultural and recreational opportunities

FY 2004				FY 2005			
Total	GFS	Other	FTEs	Total	GFS	Other	FTEs
\$383,000	\$324,000	\$59,000	5.8	\$378,000	\$318,000	\$60,000	5.8

Community Outreach Activities

In administering the Heritage Capital Projects Fund, the society offers training on the grant application process; manages the ranking of submissions by an advisory panel; monitors performance; and processes requests for reimbursement. It collaborates with Washington State University-Vancouver and Portland State University in operating the Center for Columbia River History (CCRH) which provides public programs, historical information, teacher training, and curriculum materials. This activity also includes the Heritage Resource Center (HRC), which provides technical assistance to local heritage groups, and the Washington State Capital Museum (WSCM), which offers exhibits, public programs, curriculum support, and school tours. (Local Museum Account-Washington State Historical Society)

Statewide Result Area: Improve cultural and recreational opportunities throughout the state

Category: Develop cultural and recreational opportunities

FY 2004				FY 2005			
Total	GFS	Other	FTEs	Total	GFS	Other	FTEs
\$444,000	\$343,000	\$101,000	5.5	\$449,000	\$348,000	\$101,000	5.5

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Expected Results:

To date, 103 projects have been funded resulting in the investment of \$16.2 million of state funds and \$80.6 million in non-state funds and in-kind donations going into heritage projects statewide. Museums and cultural centers have been built or renovated, historic buildings and ships have been restored, and archives established. Support has gone to non-profit organizations, cities, counties, public development authorities, and tribes allowing them to share in the extensive work of preserving and interpreting Washington's rich history. To date, the CCRH has conducted public lectures, workshops, and conferences that have attracted well over 4,500 attendees to hear directly from some of the most noted scholars and eyewitnesses to the history of the Basin. It has provided community-level research findings and shared them on the CCRH.org website. The CCRH has successfully attracted other support, including the National Endowment for the Humanities. The HRC has provided services in all 39 counties of the state. It has offered 115 workshops on the key areas of concern for local heritage organizations, including governance, fund raising, and technical issues surrounding preserving and interpreting artifacts from the past. The HRC provides five on-site consultations per month, on average. The net effect is to establish a broader understanding of current standards in the museum and heritage fields and achieve their application in even the smallest institutions in the state. The primary focus of exhibits and education programs at the WSCM has been how our state and its capital came to be and subjects related to state government. On average about 20,000 people use the WSCM facilities each year

Historical Education

These funds facilitate coordination of school field trips; school outreach, including history boxes for classroom use and websites; preparation and distribution of curriculum materials; and teacher training programs. (Local Museum Account-Washington State Historical Society)

Statewide Result Area: Improve cultural and recreational opportunities throughout the state

Category: Develop cultural and recreational opportunities

FY 2004				FY 2005			
Total	GFS	Other	FTEs	Total	GFS	Other	FTEs
\$313,000	\$261,000	\$52,000	6.0	\$320,000	\$266,000	\$54,000	6.0

Expected Results:

Serve 29,000-31,000 school students each year; provide exposure to Washington State history and the purpose of museums. Information distribution to more than 3,000 teachers in the state; heightened teacher and student awareness of Washington State history and materials available to teach it. Creation of one to two curriculum units per year as well as four to five varied forms of supplemental materials for the teaching of Washington State and United States history. Summer Institute serves approximately 30 teachers over a period of four days; off-site workshops and presentations serve approximately 200 teachers each year; on-site presentations to pre-service teachers serve approximately 300 people per year.

Member, Donor and Public Relation

Washington State Historical Society seeks corporate sponsorships for all exhibits and educational programs. The sponsorships are especially important in advertising support and other promotional support. (Local Museum Account-Washington State Historical Society)

Statewide Result Area: Improve cultural and recreational opportunities throughout the state

Category: Develop cultural and recreational opportunities

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FY 2004				FY 2005			
Total	GFS	Other	FTEs	Total	GFS	Other	FTEs
\$232,000	\$77,000	\$155,000	8.0	\$937,000	\$78,000	\$859,000	8.0

Museum Operation and Facilities Maintenance

The society owns and operates three facilities: the Washington State History Museum, the Washington State Historical Society Research Center in Tacoma, and the State Capital Museum in Olympia. These combined facilities include 110,000 square feet of museum space; 51,000 square feet of collection storage and research space; and an historic house on the National Register near the Capitol Campus. Timely maintenance and repairs and trained security guards protect these state properties and the visiting public. (Local Museum Account-Washington State Historical Society)

Statewide Result Area: Improve cultural and recreational opportunities throughout the state

Category: Ensure access to cultural and recreational opportunities

FY 2004				FY 2005			
Total	GFS	Other	FTEs	Total	GFS	Other	FTEs
\$884,000	\$757,000	\$127,000	12.1	\$1,027,000	\$779,000	\$248,000	12.0

Expected Results:

The society aspires to an outstanding customer satisfaction goal. Since the opening of the new State History Museum in 1996, building cleanliness has greatly contributed to a high customer satisfaction rating, when compared with peer organizations across the country, such as Bay Area Discovery Museum, Oakland Museum of California, Pacific Science Center, Peabody Essex Museum, Space Center Houston, and San Diego Zoo. The average customer satisfaction rating for an excellent score in building cleanliness is 95 percent. Building cleanliness also contributes to a reduced need for repairs, and discourages vandalism, further preserving the state's assets.

State Historical Exhibits

The society's exhibits interpret objects, manuscripts, sites, photographs, and other materials illustrative of the cultural, artistic, and natural history of our state. Exhibits educate citizens and can be large and comprehensive, such as the 22,000-square-foot Great Hall of Washington History, or smaller and focused, such as exhibits about Mt. Rainier, the Klondike Gold Rush, treaties with Indians, or Lewis and Clark. (Local Museum Account-Washington State Historical Society)

Statewide Result Area: Improve cultural and recreational opportunities throughout the state

Category: Ensure quality cultural and recreational experiences

FY 2004				FY 2005			
Total	GFS	Other	FTEs	Total	GFS	Other	FTEs
\$658,000	\$329,000	\$329,000	7.0	\$892,000	\$391,000	\$501,000	7.0

Expected Results:

The agency monitors exhibit outcomes anecdotally and systematically. Staff listens to visitors' comments, responds to specific questions, read comment books, and watches visitors as they move through the galleries. Formal visitor surveys at least annually have shown visitors rating exhibits "excellent" at substantially higher rates than the benchmark of other museums. Between July 1, 2002, and June 30, 2004, we expect to present 15 temporary exhibits at the State History Museum, and three temporary exhibits at the State Capital Museum. We expect to retain all the long-term exhibits in both museums during that time.

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