

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, Mar. 14, 2024

12 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall

Aspen Room

415 W. 6th Street

Vancouver, WA

Commissioners Present:

C.A. Richardson, Reid, Harrington, B. Richardson, Mercado, Rafferty, Percival, and Ford.

Commissioners Absent:

Gaspar

Staff Present:

Donovan, Hull, and Juettemeyer

Guests:

None

Item 1: Call to Order

The March 14, 2024, meeting of the Culture, Arts and Heritage Commission was called to order at 12:04 p.m. by President C. A. Richardson in Aspen Room at Vancouver City Hall and via Microsoft Teams.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

Motion by Reid, seconded by B. Richardson, and approved unanimously to adopt the minutes from February 8, 2024.

Item 3: Cultural Services Report

Stacey Donovan gave the following updates:

- C. A. Richardson and Rafferty were reappointed to the commission. Ricky Gaspar was appointed to Gall's seat. All three terms are effective immediately and will expire at the end of 2026. Donovan shared a message from Gall.

Members

Christine A. Richardson
President

Linda Reid
Vice President

Beth Harrington
Brad Richardson
Julie Mercado
Lee Rafferty
Rebekah Percival
Ricky Gaspar
Russell Ford, CCAC

**Parks, Recreation and
Cultural Services
Department**

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- Staff has given four Culture, Arts & Heritage Grant Application workshops and a recording is available online. Five applications have been submitted and an additional 10 are in draft. Of the 2023 round of grants, four projects are complete and half of the total pool for reimbursement has been distributed.
- Staff has put together an FAQ for nonprofits who are asked to serve as fiscal sponsors.
- Donovan gave an update on the Vancouver Arts and Music Festival. The call for artists and performers is out now. At a recent meeting with downtown gallery owners they decided to set aside part of the park for galleries to show their work.
- Staff did a walk through of the Arts Hub building to understand permitting requirements and repairs needed before the interim use phase. Donovan expects the activation to start in the next month or so. The roof needs to be replaced urgently and staff is requesting funding in the 2025-2026 budget.
- Staff confirmed that the idea to form a youth subcommittee of the commission is permitted in the bylaws. This may be more feasible than appointing a single youth member to the full commission. Reid asked about a lower age limit on the commission. The bylaws do not specify an age limit but any commissioner under 18 would be subject to the City's volunteer policy for minors. The commission discussed other ways to bring more diverse voices to the Commission and find roles for applicants who were not appointed.
- The Mother Camas Spirit Totem unveiling is scheduled for April 20. B. Richardson added that Fourth Plain Forward is hosting a meet and greet with artist Toma Villa at the Clark County History Museum (CCHM) for First Friday in April.
- The commission discussed the historically exclusive use and connotation of the phrase "fine arts."

Item 4: Cultural Access Update

Reid gave an update on Cultural Access. Various work groups have formed, and they will begin meeting with officials after the fall elections this year. The Creative Arts District project is on hold but will be revived to support Cultural Access. The first Creatives in the Couve gathering was a success.

Item 5: Clark County Arts Commission Update

Ford gave a reminder about his upcoming raku workshop. Donovan noted that if a quorum of the commission is present they should avoid discussing commission business. The Clark County Arts Commission met in Ridgefield this month and discussed coordination with public schools. They also discussed the City's Culture, Arts & Heritage Grant program and the need for a county-wide calendar of arts and culture events. B. Richardson added that CCHM has started a Facebook group to share history, arts, and culture events and that group has around 1000 members currently. Reid agreed that multiple sources of information is key. Ford also reported that the Passing of the Pen ceremony for Clark County's new poet laureate was a success and highlighted the need to bring literary arts into the greater arts, culture and heritage umbrella. He suggested reading a poem at the start of each meeting.

Item 6: Public Comment

None presented.

Item 7: Commissioner Update and New Business

C. A. Richardson thanked Gall for his service. Commissioners shared updates on their personal projects and current sources of inspiration.

Item 8: Network Webbing Activity

Hull facilitated an activity based on Social Network Webbing from Liberating Structures adapted to work in a hybrid meeting. The commissioners brainstormed groups that they have connections to (or want to connect with) and those were grouped and mapped onto a "web." The commission requested the results also be recorded into a spreadsheet so they could cross reference which commissioners had connections to various groups for future collaborations.

The commission discussed ideas for an initial introduction for these groups and how a diverse communication approach will be needed. Some groups may want to attend a meeting, but others might prefer a single commissioner meet with them instead. C. A. Richardson noted that some groups feel frustrated with the increase in communication but a lack of follow through on actions and to be sensitive to that and transparent about the Commission's capacity.

Adjourned

This meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Clark County Historic Preservation Program

City of Vancouver

Culture, Arts and Heritage Commission



Jeanette (Jan) Bader
Commission Member

April 11, 2024

Discussion items

- Program overview
- Preservation Commission
- Historic registers
- Advantages of listing property
- Tax Incentives
- Grants
- Outreach projects and other Initiatives



Yale Bridge, Battle Ground, Built 1932

Historic Preservation Program

Historic Preservation Act of 1966

- Established the National Register of Historic Places
- Mandates Sec 106 review process for federally funded projects
- State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO)
- Certified Local Government (CLG)



House of Providence, Built 1873

Historic Preservation Program

- Protect historic and prehistoric resources
- Preserve historic and/or cultural resources for future generations.
- Combined City/County Historic Preservation Commission- created in 1981
- County- Regulatory & Heritage Register
- City- Education & Outreach



Parkersville Landing, Washougal, Circa 1845

Clark County Historic Preservation Program

Commission and Staff Roles:

- Preservation Commission consists of seven members:
 - Five Clark County Appointees
 - Two City of Vancouver Appointees
- Commission has Chair and Vice- Chair
- Members serve three-year terms (two max)
- County Staff administers the program and processes project in unincorporated Clark County and cities other than Vancouver
- Vancouver Staff process COV projects



Venersborg School, Battle Ground, Built 1912



Historic Registers

- National Register of Historic Places
 - 43 properties
- Washington Heritage Register
 - 43 properties
- Washington Heritage Barn Register -26 total
- Clark County Heritage Register
 - 80 properties
- Commission reviews all nominations for the Clark County and National Registers
- National & State registers offer no protection against alteration or demolition
- County register does offer some protection



Nominating a structure, site, object or district



Clark County Courthouse, Built 1941

- Meet the register criteria
- Requires owner consent for listing
- City/County staff assist with nomination packet
- Approved by Commission
- Future changes to character defining features may require approval by Commission



Clark County Heritage Register

- Associated with history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or cultural heritage of community;
- Integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, association)
- At least 50-years old
- Falls in at least one of eleven more specific categories



Farrell House, Camas, Built 1915



Advantages of listing a property

More inviting and interesting for potential tenants and customers.

Free consulting advice may be provided by staff and the Historic Preservation Commission.

Pride in your property and its past history and/or craftsmanship.

Eligibility for certain tax incentives.



Kiggins Theatre, Vancouver, Built 1936



Environmental Benefits of Historic Preservation

Reuse of existing buildings preserves energy and resources invested in construction rather than producing new materials.

Historic buildings often designed to maximize natural light, air flow and natural heating.

10-80 years of operation for a “green” building to recoup negative impacts of construction.



Luepke Florist, Vancouver, Built 1937



Tax Incentives

- Current Use Tax (property valued at current use rather than market value)
- Special Valuation for rehab costs equal to at least 25% of value of structure (reduction on property tax for 10 years)
- Federal Historic Tax Credit for rehabilitation of income producing properties (20% income tax credit)



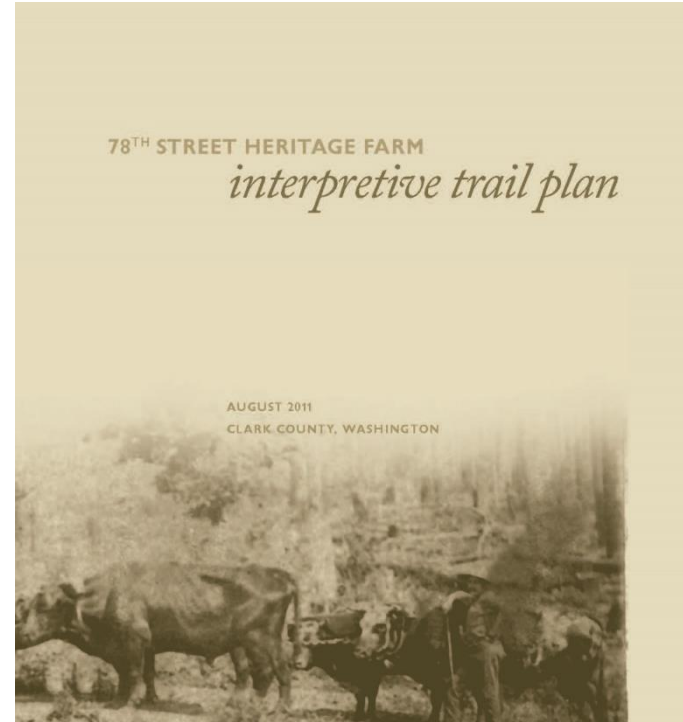
Propstra House, Vancouver, Built 1923



Certified Local Government Grants



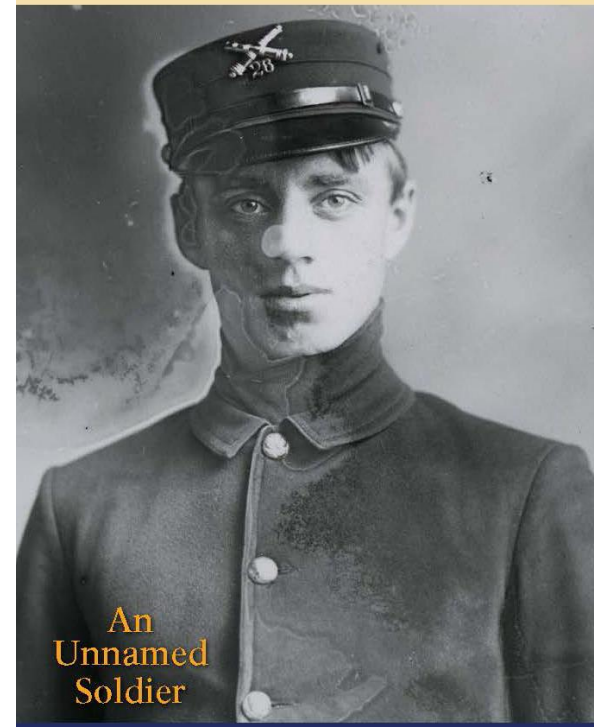
Clark County Poor Farm and Cemetery
Documentation and Remote Sensing
Report



78th Street Heritage Farm Interpretive
Trail Plan

Historical Promotion Grants

- Initiated in 2006
- RCW 36.22.170 - \$1 surcharge on filing fees
- Promote historical preservation or historical programs, including preservation of historical documents
- HPC reviews applications and makes recommendations to County Council



West Vancouver Barracks Interpretive Plan
2016 Historical Promotion Grant



Outreach – Interpretive Panels

Clark County Courthouse

The Clark County Courthouse opened Nov. 29, 1941. Although it was not the county's first courthouse, it has endured longer than the previous three.

Local architect Day Walter Hilborn designed the six-story building in the Art Deco/Art Moderne style popular for public construction projects at the time. The structure showcased the most modern developments in the building arts.

The courthouse was built of reinforced concrete to prevent fire from destroying thousands of irreplaceable documents and records, which is what happened when the county's second courthouse burned in 1890.

The courthouse originally housed all county departments, a Justice of the Peace, other agencies and a 70-inmate jail. The one windowless courtroom included separate rooms for male and female jurors.

The building now houses only Clark County Superior Court and District Court courtrooms and offices.

In 2014, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places for its significance as the headquarters of county-level government and politics, and, architecturally, as an excellent example of an Art Deco/Art Moderne-style public building.



Interpretive Panels

The First Three Courthouses



Clark County's first courthouse was a two-story, wood frame structure built in 1855 on West Reserve Street, near Fort Vancouver. Cost: \$1,000
CCHM Collection 01006



The second courthouse was a three-story brick building that stood in approximately the same location as today's courthouse. Built in late 1883, it went up in flames 7 1/2 years later, destroying a large number of public records. Cost: \$44,460
CCHM Collection 01023



The third courthouse was a Romanesque style, three-story brick building with a large clock tower. Built in 1892, it stood slightly to the south of today's courthouse. The county outgrew it by the late 1930s, and it was replaced by the current courthouse and demolished. Cost: \$65,000
CCHM Collection 01017

The Architect

Few people had a greater impact on southwest Washington's built environment than architect Day Walter Hilborn.

He designed many well-known downtown buildings, including the Kiggins Theatre on Main Street, the original building for *The Columbian* newspaper on Evergreen Boulevard and the homes of many of Vancouver's social, political and business elite.

The courthouse is perhaps Hilborn's greatest legacy. It assured his place in local history and brought him nationwide recognition.

Image courtesy of the State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation



The Buckskin Brigade

Architect Day Walter Hilborn also designed the original Buckskin Brigade sculpture above the front entrance of the courthouse.

Executed by architectural sculptor Vic Schneider, the bas-relief work was poured as part of the wall. It depicts an Iroquois man with two fur trappers and symbolizes the role the fur trade played establishing Clark County as a center of government and business.

In 1978, workers preparing to paint the building noticed the sculpture was damaged, and it was taken down. Local citizens raised money to recreate the sculpture in bronze, and it was installed on Sept. 13, 1990.

Discover the
history all



Outreach and Other Initiatives

Outreach

- Website Update
- Lending Library
- National History Day
- Sponsorships

Other Initiatives

- IBRP Mitigation Recommendations
- Demolition Procedures
- Design Guidelines
- Professional Training



Farrell Building, Camas, Built 1924



“It has been said that, at it’s best, preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future.”

William Murtagh, first keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

