

Washington

Blazes, Rails & the Year of Statehood

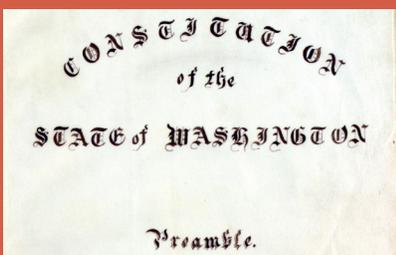
1889

A Legacy Washington Exhibit

Washington 1889: Blazes, Rails & the Year of Statehood marks the sixth exhibit of Legacy Washington, an educational program within the Office of Secretary of State. The public exhibition celebrates the biggest stories of Washington's seminal year, the year of Statehood. It will be on display in the Legislative Building November 1, 2014 through October 1, 2015. Washington 1889 will feature as many as 13 exhibit panels, an original 42-star flag, a replica of the Washington State Constitution, the original tools used to sculpt the Washington State Seal and a video montage of children with Secretary of State Kim reading excerpts from the constitution. The Office of Secretary of State joins the State Historical Society and other offices by marking the 125th anniversary of statehood in 2014.

The mission of **Washington 1889** is to celebrate the biggest stories in the year of statehood through unique storytelling and design. The exhibit is free to visitors year round who visit the Secretary of State's Office, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. or by appointment.

Washington 1889 will showcase the following stories on exhibit panels installed on the lobby walls of the Secretary of State's office. Panels are large in scale (generally 6'x 6.5') but will also include smaller sidebar stories and cutouts:



Native Americans of Washington: Includes personal reflections of Washington before and during the point of statehood.

The Fires of 1889: Focuses on Seattle, Ellensburg and Spokane in first-person, riveting recounts of the devastating blazes and possible causes.

Railroads: Explores the expansion of the railroads in Washington and the use of Chinese labor.

Washington State map: Pinpoints the cities vying to be Washington's capitol city, and ensuing debates over naming the state.

Washington State Constitution: Includes the Constitutional Convention and key players, women's suffrage movement, formation and history of the State Grange, and the making of the state seal. Video montage with lines from constitution read by children and Secretary Wyman.

Newspapers: The role of journalists in the battle for statehood including the top headlines of 1889.

The exhibit will officially open November 11, 2014, on Washington's 125th anniversary of statehood. A special program will feature Secretary of State Kim Wyman, and a reception and chance to view the exhibit will follow in her office. This special event will take place in conjunction with a larger celebration of the 125th anniversary in the Legislative Building that includes many organizations, tribes and local historians.

The Legislative Building and Secretary of State's office welcome tens of thousands of people annually. Visitors include student groups from across the state, many who are enrolled in social studies and state history classes. Legacy Washington exhibits offer a unique and interactive opportunity for students to learn about our state's history and the people who make it remarkable. Additionally, after the exhibits are taken down, they then travel statewide to museums, libraries and other venues at no charge.

Sponsors of the exhibit will be invited to participate in the opening ceremony as well as additional programs throughout the year as either guest speakers or discussion group participants. Sponsors will also have their names displayed on all printed materials and on the Secretary of State website. Additionally, sponsors will be invited to a special private reception with Secretary Wyman and exhibit staff after the exhibit launch.

Secretary of State Kim Wyman enthusiastically supports 1889 in her office and recognizes its importance in the celebration of our state's 125th anniversary. While this exhibit is presented under the auspices of the Office of the Secretary of State, no public funds are spent on any of the exhibits Legacy Washington offers, all are sponsored with private funds raised by the Washington State Heritage Center Trust, a 501(c)3 non-profit.

Take part in this exhibit!

To participate in our state's history and help sponsor the **Washington 1889: Blazes, Rails & the Year Statehood** exhibit, or for more information, please contact Laura Mott, Director of Development, at (360) 902-4171 or laura.mott@sos.wa.gov.



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