What is Legacy Washington?

Legacy Washington is an education campaign for history. Its goal is to further the knowledge of the state’s past and its continuing story. This collaborative venture, spearheaded by Secretary of State Kim Wyman, recognizes the immeasurable value of our state’s history and our promise to preserve it.

Legacy Washington includes Secretary Wyman and a core group of staff members who promote Washington heritage, write and develop stories, and fundraise to benefit SOS historical programs. Every employee working in history at SOS contributes to its success. Legacy Washington regularly draws on the extensive knowledge of the state’s librarians, archivists and historians.

“I am dedicated to preserving our state’s history and recognize the value in many of the historical programs in our office. We have phased out the Heritage Center and have rebranded our heritage programs under the umbrella of Legacy Washington (or LegacyWA). You will be hearing more about Legacy Washington in the future as we move forward with our exhibits, Legacy Project books and e-books and collaborative efforts with Archives and Library staff.”

Embed Legacy Washington video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8KkDRipb9Q&feature=youtu.be

Check out our new website!
We recently launched the Legacy Washington website http://www.sos.wa.gov/legacy/ where you can view our exhibits, link to the Washington State Archives and Library’s digital collections, read Legacy Project oral histories and biographies or purchase one of our Legacy Project books. We will be adding more content in the coming months, focusing on our historical programs in the Archives and Library divisions. Stay tuned and join our network to keep informed on the latest of Legacy Washington.

Calling all Sponsors to support a new exhibit celebrating Washington Statehood
The Legacy Washington team is currently underway on a new exhibit for the Office of the Secretary of State. Washington 1889: Blazes, Rails & the Battle for Statehood marks the sixth exhibit of Legacy Washington, and will celebrate the biggest stories of Washington in 1889, the
year of Statehood. 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. All exhibits are funded privately and we’re currently seeking sponsorship for this special exhibit commemorating our state’s 125th anniversary. To learn more about the exhibit or to become a sponsor contact Laura Mott: laura.mott@sos.wa.gov or (360) 902-4171.

Grand Coulee to Grunge exhibit launches new tablets
Our current exhibit, Grand Coulee to Grunge, eight stories that changed the world, on display in the Office of the Secretary of State, recently made available three Microsoft Surface tablets to enhance the visitor experience. These tablets, available for checkout offer the exhibit in Spanish as well as additional photos from our State Archives and State Library pertaining to the subjects of the exhibit.

Legacy Project launches new oral history of Robert V. Graham
In seven terms as Washington State auditor, Robert V. Graham was the watchdog of public agency accountability. But the Legacy Project’s latest oral history focuses on his service as a flight engineer with the Army Air Transport Command in the South Pacific from 1942 to 1946. It’s the leadoff story in a series spotlighting World War II veterans to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of the war. One of Graham’s singular yet little-known accomplishments is also revealed: As student body president at Grays Harbor College in 1941, he helped push through landmark legislation that granted state aid to the fledgling community colleges.

Coming soon from the Legacy Project: Pressing On, Newspaper families of Washington
“Pressing On” will examine the colorful histories of two family-owned newspapers—The Seattle Times and The Wenatchee World—and tell how they are reinventing themselves to survive and thrive in a digital world. The Blethen family has owned The Times since 1896. Its “Fifth Edition” is now rising through the ranks. At Wenatchee, third-generation publisher Rufus Woods has a living link to his family’s stewardship—his 94-year-old father, Wilfred, who still gets one of the first papers off the press every day. Wilf’s father—the original Rufus—played a key role in the fight for Grand Coulee Dam. To receive notification when this e-book is available, join our network at: www.sos.wa.gov/legacy/
Remembering the Legacy of Billy Frank Jr.
Few catalysts in Washington State history rise to the level of Billy Frank Jr. Often called the Nelson Mandela of the Northwest, Mr. Frank died May 5, less than two years after Legacy Washington released his biography, Where the Salmon Run, the Life and Legacy of Billy Frank Jr. The world-renowned Nisqually Indian was called a renegade and roughed up on the riverbank by state game wardens during the fish wars. When the tribes secured their treaty fishing rights, Mr. Frank devoted his life to preserving the salmon and to restoring our environment. He united onetime foes to restore the Nisqually Watershed and became a friend of presidents. Despite his accomplishments, Mr. Frank said he hoped he’d be remembered as a fisherman. You can purchase a copy of his biography here: [www.sos.wa.gov/store/books.aspx](http://www.sos.wa.gov/store/books.aspx)

William Ruckelshaus book set for 2015 release
A forthcoming biography of William Ruckelshaus will chronicle his little known early life and fascinating moments in American history including the birth of the Environmental Protection Agency, the takeover of the FBI during the Watergate crisis and the downfall of the Nixon Administration. Known for his wit and his collaborative problem solving, Mr. Ruckelshaus is a proud Hoosier who makes his home in the Northwest and contributes to the cleanup of Puget Sound. A biography will be released in 2015. To receive notification when this book is available, join our network at: [www.sos.wa.gov/legacy/](http://www.sos.wa.gov/legacy/)

The publication and printing of all Legacy Project books are paid for with donated funds. To support the Legacy Project with a tax deductible gift, please visit the donate page on the Legacy Washington website: [www.sos.wa.gov/legacy/donate.aspx](http://www.sos.wa.gov/legacy/donate.aspx)

Legacy Washington enters into a partnership with the Karshner Center
We are excited to announce The Paul Karshner Museum, located in Puyallup, is being transformed into the Karshner Museum and Center for Culture & the Arts and will reopen in September and become a permanent partner with Legacy Washington. The purpose of the center will be to fulfill Dr. Karshner's vision of providing students an opportunity to learn about the world's diverse cultures through participatory education. Through the integration of the arts, and proven instructional strategies, students and teachers will experience history and culture through field trips, teacher work-shops, and special events. Legacy Washington's exhibits will travel onto the Karshner Center after being displayed on the Capitol Campus to be integrated into student's history, social studies and Pacific Northwest history class core curriculum.
[http://www.puyallup.k12.wa.us/pages/Puyallup_School_District/Activities___Resources/Museum](http://www.puyallup.k12.wa.us/pages/Puyallup_School_District/Activities___Resources/Museum)
Missed one of our exhibits? Come visit as they travel through Washington!

All of our exhibits travel once they are no longer on display in the Secretary of State’s Office. If you missed one of our exhibits in previous years, you have the chance to see them again. Currently our exhibits are on display at the following organizations:

Young Man In A Hurry: The Life of Isaac Stevens
Currently on display at the Lewis Army Museum, Joint Base Lewis-McChord
http://www.lewis-mcchord.army.mil/dptms/museum/museum.htm#exhibits

We’re Still Here: The Survival of Washington Indians
Currently on display at the Anacortes Museum & Maritime Heritage Center, Anacortes (Through May):
http://www.cityofanacortes.org/museum_department.php

Then will be on display at the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum, Ilwaco (July – October)
http://columbiapacificheritagemuseum.org/

Moving Forward Looking Back: Washington’s First Women in Government
Will be on display at the Karshner Museum and Center for Culture & Arts, Puyallup:
http://www.puyallup.k12.wa.us/pages/Puyallup_School_District/Activities___Resources/Museum

In Case You Missed It
C-SPAN’s American History TV tour brought them to Olympia where they interviewed Secretary Wyman on the Grand Coulee to Grunge exhibit along with Legacy Project Director Trova Heffernan on her Election of the Ages book. Check out the video links to both interviews under C-SPAN’s Book TV and American History TV section online: http://series.c-span.org/LocalContent/Olympia/

In January we honored farm-worker rights advocate Tomas Villaneuva at his place of residence in Seattle. Assistant Secretary of State Ken Raske presented Tomas with a certificate of Appreciation for his decades long efforts in activism and advocating for fair labor practices for farm workers. To read more about this event click here: http://blogs.sos.wa.gov/FromOurCorner/index.php/2014/01/secstate-honors-farm-labor-pioneer-tomas-villanueva/

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We also have a YouTube account: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzwmt-tZCYmXcPn0OuNbWzg
To support Legacy Washington programs please visit: https://www.sos.wa.gov/legacy/donate.aspx