

# Cowlitz County Heritage Plan Community Summary

June 2018



The Cowlitz County Heritage Plan explains how historic preservation can strengthen the sense of place in Cowlitz County, and why that matters to the broader community. The Plan details the purpose, goals, and strategies for the Cowlitz County Historic Preservation Program, including ways that the Program can engage with community organizations and people in the County.

We hope the entirety of Cowlitz County will feel invited through this Heritage Plan, to share and see their stories reflected in County publications, events, and other programming. By incorporating the concepts of historic preservation into the broader definition of heritage, physical resources and cultural heritage can both be represented. There are many people and organizations in Cowlitz County that care very deeply about its heritage—heritage of the past, present, and future.



*Farmer's Co-operative Trading Company farmers  
outside Finn Hall near Woodland, 1917.  
Courtesy: Cowlitz County Historical Museum*



*Lawetlat'la.  
Credit: M. Raimann*

## ABOUT THE PLAN

***The Heritage Plan answers the following questions:***

- What is historic preservation and why should we care about historic preservation and heritage?
- How does the community decide what is important?
- What are the benefits and challenges of historic and heritage preservation?
- How is Cowlitz County working on historic preservation?
- What are the goals and strategies of the Cowlitz County Historic Preservation Program?
- Who should work with the Program? (Short answer: Everyone!)
- What are the immediate strategies that the Program will act on?

**The Cowlitz County Historic Preservation Program will create ways for all people to actively use, enjoy, and learn about Cowlitz County's heritage.**

### **Goals of the Cowlitz County Historic Preservation Program:**

1. Advance community priorities in heritage preservation whenever and wherever possible.
2. Protect and preserve physical sites and structures.
3. Pursue opportunities to combine history and identity with the physical environment of Cowlitz County.
4. Inspire sense of place-based pride in youth through educational initiatives on historical topics and at heritage sites.
5. Engage, and coordinate as needed, with other organizations in collaborative partnerships.
6. Expand understanding and recognition of the County's diverse past.
7. Widen general interest and participation in heritage programs throughout all areas of the County.
8. Include the heritage of all people in present work.
9. Identify heritage benefits that can be distributed County-wide, including to rural areas.
10. Assist the people of Cowlitz County, current and future, in identifying what is unique about Cowlitz County.

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For a copy of the plan and more information about how to be involved in the Historic Preservation Program contact:

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### **HOW TO GET INVOLVED**

***Do you know about or want to learn about historic places?***

***Do you want to learn more about your community or teach others?***

***Do you own a historic home or building or want to renovate one?***

The Cowlitz County Historic Preservation Program is always looking for community members who are interested or think they might be interested in history, heritage, and community to get involved. Feel free to attend a Commission meeting, seek more information on the Cowlitz County website about upcoming events, or contact County staff (contact below).

***Do you want to help your organization engage on heritage, community, and place?***

The Program is looking for organizational partners to assist in developing heritage tourism concepts, active trails and fishing opportunities, Main Street and rural business programs, as well as partners to co-develop and advise on educational initiatives, events for diverse communities, broadening the scope of involvement, and much, much more.