Come learn with us!

Saving meaningful places to foster lively communities

Programs
Winter / Spring 2020
About Our Work

Our mission is saving meaningful places to foster lively communities. Historic Seattle believes that – through real estate ownership, advocacy work, and education programs – we can shape a city that values and protects its collective history.

Founded by the City of Seattle as a public development authority in 1974, Historic Seattle owns and stewards eight historic properties across the city, conducts dozens of public programs annually, and advocates for the protection of places that matter, most recently leading the successful landmarking effort for The Showbox. We ❤️ this place and want to share Seattle’s history and built environment with you!

How to Register

1. Online: historicseattle.org/events
2. Phone: (206) 622-6952

Your membership and registration fees help make these programs possible – thank you for your generosity and support! Member discounts are available for pre-registration only. Exact locations will be provided to registrants prior to events. Registration fees are non-refundable unless the program is canceled.

Questions? Contact info@historicseattle.org
Explore the re-opening of the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture in its brand new home. Learn how the building merges exhibits with traditional “back of house” spaces to engage visitors in the work of the Burke. Your ticket includes admission to the entire museum.

Gordon Walker: A Poetic Architecture

Join architect Gordon Walker for a discussion of his early career and work with renowned preservation architect Ralph Anderson. Walker worked on several historic buildings in Pioneer Square, including the Maynard Building and the Grand Central Arcade.

Heart Bomb

Our annual Heart Bomb is a public display of affection for places that matter. Stay tuned for an announcement of the date and location!
Ainsworth & Dunn: 
Adapting Architecture

Thursday, February 20, 5:30 – 7:30 PM
@ Ainsworth & Dunn (2815 Elliott Ave)
Talk, Tour & Reception
$30 Members / $35 General Public

Experience the award-winning adaptive reuse of the historic Ainsworth & Dunn Warehouse. Originally constructed in 1902 for the Seattle salmon packing firm Ainsworth & Dunn, the warehouse has served many tenants over the decades and is now home to a co-working company called Spaces.

On The Ave

Saturday, March 7, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Walking Tour
$20 Members / $25 General Public

Delve into the multilayered history of this stretch of University Way NE, better known as “The Ave,” by hearing the stories that contribute to the character of this dense community of home-grown small businesses. Learn about the U District Small Business Alliance’s efforts to preserve this iconic street.

Behind the Garden Wall

Saturday, April 11, 1:00 – 3:00 PM
@ Good Shepherd Center (4649 Sunnyside Ave N)
Talk & Tour
$15 Members / $20 General Public

Walk the Good Shepherd Center (GSC) grounds with Lead Gardener Tara Macdonald to learn about its 1900s origin as part of a refuge for young women in crisis, the 1970s community fight to preserve the GSC, and current efforts to maintain the historic gardens while embracing ecological awareness.

TOP TO BOTTOM: Exterior of Ainsworth & Dunn (photo by Lara Swimmer), University Way NE, and the Heart Garden at the Good Shepherd Center
From Ragtime to Jazz:
History Told Through Music

Wednesday, April 22, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
@ Washington Hall (153 14th Ave)
Lecture & Performance
$20 Members / $25 General Public
$50 VIP (Limited: Includes two drink tickets and special historic seating in the VIP-only balcony)

Enjoy an evening of music in the Central District. Learn about the history of jazz in Seattle from guest lecturer Ken Steiner and enjoy performances by Stephanie Trick, Paolo Alderighi, and Garfield Jazz.

The Burke-Gilman Trail:
A 50 Year Retrospective

Saturday, May 2, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
@ Ballard Elks Lodge (6411 Seaview Ave NW)
Lecture
$20 Members / $25 General Public

Celebrate Preservation Month and National Bike Month as we learn the history of the Burke-Gilman Trail. Merrill Hille, Sandy Wood, and Estell Berteig will speak about their roles in transforming the Burlington Northern Railway right-of-way into the Burke-Gilman Trail.

Seattle’s Maritime Heritage:
The Center for Wooden Boats

Wednesday, May 20, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
@ The Center for Wooden Boats (1010 Valley St)
Talk, Tour & Reception
$30 Members / $40 General Public

Join Historic Seattle and the Center for Wooden Boats for an evening on Lake Union to learn about the Center’s history and its continued focus on traditional boat education for people of all ages. Learn about the growing appreciation for Seattle’s maritime heritage and efforts to preserve this history.

TOP TO BOTTOM: Stephanie Trick and Paolo Alderighi performing together (photo by Cosimo Filippini), the Burke-Gilman Trail, and The Center for Wooden Boats
Brace Yourself: Responding to Earthquake Risk in Seattle’s Built Environment

Thursday, May 28, 6:00 - 7:30 PM
@ Seattle Central Public Library (1000 4th Ave)
Public Lecture
Free!

What is a “URM” and why should you care? Learn about how buildings respond to earthquakes, what the risks are for their occupants, and methods for proactively retrofitting them.

Presented in partnership with the Seattle Public Library, Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Association for Preservation Technology Northwest, and the University of Washington Center for Preservation and Adaptive Reuse

Whidbey Island: Tour of Ebey’s Landing National Historic Reserve and Historic Coupeville

Saturday, June 27, 9:00 AM – 7:30 PM
Tour
$100 Members / $125 General Public

Join Historic Seattle for a day-long tour of historic Whidbey Island. Explore Fort Casey, Ebey’s Landing National Historical Reserve, and learn about the ongoing restoration of historic Coupeville’s 19th century Haller House. We will finish the day with refreshments overlooking Penn Cove at the historic Captain Whidbey Inn before heading back to Seattle.
New year, new format:
2020 Members Meetings

Thursdays, March 5, June 4, September 3 & December 3
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
@ Dearborn House (1117 Minor Ave)
Free! Advance registration appreciated.

As a public development authority required to hold quarterly constituency meetings, Historic Seattle is changing the format of members meetings from education programs to business meetings held at the Dearborn House. In 2020, these meetings will occur on March 5, June 4, September 3, and December 3. The topics covered at each meeting will vary, but you can always expect substantial updates on emerging issues in preservation and the opportunity to enjoy social time with our leadership.
This winter and spring, Historic Seattle is excited to offer talks, tours, and more for people like you who love this city and are curious about its history. We hope you’ll join us to:

- Gain exclusive access to historic and cultural spaces like the Burke Museum, the Ainsworth & Dunn Building, and the Center for Wooden Boats;
- Learn about influential architect Gordon Walker;
- Celebrate the history of Seattle’s pioneering Burke-Gilman Trail; and
- Experience Seattle’s historic neighborhoods with renewed excitement!

Historic Seattle members receive exclusive discounts on event registration! Not a member? Learn more and join at historicseattle.org/support-us