



PRESERVATION NEWS

ADVOCACY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: *Black Heritage Society of Washington State & The People's Wall*

Community advocacy and preservation go hand in hand. We can't — and don't — do our work alone. By partnering with like-minded organizations, our community, and generous donors, we fight for important historic places that are or may become at-risk.

Partnership becomes even more important when we consider that *only about 2%* of designated Seattle landmarks have significant ties to Black history.

This disproportionate number is in part due to processes that often prioritize architectural integrity over the cultural significance of places important to communities of color. Often such places mark crucial moments in the fight for racial justice and civil rights or have housed prominent members of those communities.

Historic Seattle is fully committed to supporting an inclusive system that advocates for an equitable approach to saving places. This spring we are excited to further our partnership with the **Black Heritage Society (BHS) of Washington State** to help address the disproportionate nomination and designation of sites like these.

BHS has been preserving, collecting, and sharing the Black history of Washington State since 1977. They have stepped outside the archives to become advocates for saving places. Recently, BHS has turned their attention to landmarking The People's Wall.

The People's Wall is the last remnant of the second headquarters of the Seattle Chapter of the Black Panther Party (SCBPP), which was the first Black Panther chapter located outside of Oakland, CA. In 1969 they moved from their first location, which was plagued by police raids, to a duplex in the Squire Park neighborhood.

Their new location could be fortified against these attacks. It served not only as their headquarters, but also as an organizing point for a before-school breakfast program, busing to prisons so community members could visit friends

and family, a free medical clinic (that would become Carolyn Downs Family Medical Center), and more.

When the SCBPP moved again, just blocks away, the duplex was immediately destroyed. All that remains today is a portion of the wall's mural, The People's Wall.

Commissioned by the SCBPP in 1969, the mural was painted by Dion Henderson. His creation incorporates the names of fallen Black Panthers and represents a fight for equity and racial justice that persists today. Around 2008, local artist Eddie Ray Walker restored the wall, which needs restorative attention again today.

Through the hard work of BHS and uplifted by 4Culture's Beyond Integrity coalition, The People's Wall nomination will be presented to Seattle's Landmarks Preservation Board for designation as significant to the history of our city.

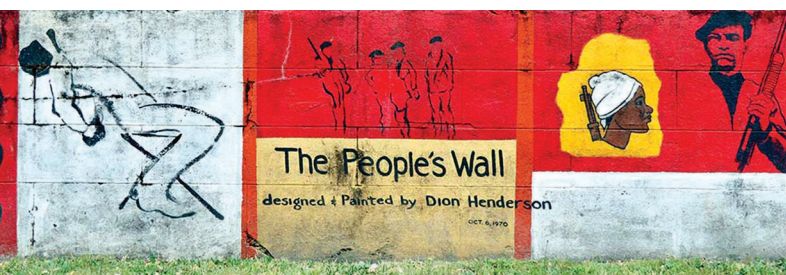
We look forward to partnering with BHS to help ensure the preservation of places like these that reflect Seattle's full story and elevate a more equitable standard in preservation and stewardship.

“BHS and Historic Seattle are firm believers in democratized preservation. Embraced by the preservation community, BHS feels empowered by our position to advance equity in saving places that document the soul, rich history, and legacy of our community.”

— Stephanie Johnson-Toliver

*President, Black Heritage Society of Washington State
Historic Seattle Councilmember*

Pictured below: The People's Wall in the Central District, courtesy of HistoryLink and David Koch



As part of our partnership, we are hosting a special virtual program featuring BHS and The People's Wall on May 12. *More information at historicseattle.org.*



A Letter from Kji

We ended 2021 on a high note with the purchase of Beacon Hill's **Garden House** in December. This is our first purchase in 12 years, and we're excited to see the fruition of a years-long effort that embodies our mission.

Plans are currently underway to determine the needs for rehabilitating the grounds and house. We will pursue funding to complete these projects, which will likely happen in several phases. We are also working with community partners to establish a vision for the space and reactivate it for community use.

This momentum will continue throughout 2022! We are working to purchase the majority stake in **The Good Arts Building**, an artist and small business hub in Pioneer Square.

We are deeply grateful to the generous donors who are making this work possible and look forward to seeing you at these places in the months ahead.

Pictured upper left: Historic photo of the Garden House, courtesy of the National Register of Historic Places

Pictured lower left: Historic photo of The Good Arts Building, courtesy of UW Special Collections

CALL FOR PRESERVATION AWARD NOMINATIONS

Each year Historic Seattle honors outstanding people and projects in preservation and we need your nominations!

Categories: Best Preservation Project, Preservation Champion, Community Investment, Preserving Neighborhood Character, Community Advocacy, and Outstanding Stewardship.

The deadline for nominations is May 2. Please visit historicseattle.org for more information about categories and nomination rules. The Community Advocacy Award includes a \$3,000 prize.

Celebrate the winners and our ongoing preservation work at our annual benefit, the Preservation Celebration, on September 21 at Washington Hall. Stay tuned for more details.

Pictured left: Neon sign courtesy of Mike's Chili Parlor, winner of the 2021 Preserving Neighborhood Character Award

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Advocacy Workshop Series | Free, Virtual

Our expert-led workshops are designed to build your grassroots preservation advocacy toolkit. Sign up for one, two, or the whole series!

Tools & Strategies | April 12

King County Landmark Nomination | April 19

Seattle Landmark Designation | April 26

Researching Historic Properties for Landmark Nominations | May 3

Can't make a workshop? Recordings will be available on our YouTube channel.

From Ragtime to Jazz: History Told Through Music

May 4 at Washington Hall

\$20 Members | \$25 General Public

Learn about the cultural legacy of Washington Hall - home of the first documented jazz performance in Washington State - from music historian Ken Steiner while enjoying an evening of performances by Stephanie Trick, Paolo Alderighi, and Garfield Jazz.

(More information on all programming is available at historicseattle.org)

MAY WE ASK...

DID YOU KNOW? May is Preservation Month! One of the best ways to honor this time is with a donation to Historic Seattle during **GiveBIG** on **May 3 & 4**, or by making a gift to our spring advocacy campaign. This year we are fundraising specifically to save Black historic places, which are critically underrepresented in Seattle's designated landmarks.

