

PRESERVATION NEWS

Your gifts at work. Saving meaningful places. Fostering lively communities.



Meet Jeff, Historic Seattle's Very Own "Window Whisperer"

The five-story, 87,262 sq. ft. Good Shepherd Center (GSC) in Wallingford boasts 289 original wood windows protected under its historic landmark status. That's a lot of windows, and maintaining them is a labor of love.

Enter Jeff Hansel, the Good Shepherd Center's lead maintenance person for 35 years. He is also Historic Seattle's very own "window whisperer." Seven years ago, Jeff began a focused effort to restore all 289 windows at the GSC. So far, he has completed all the windows on the south and west side and most of the windows on the north side of the building, all while attending to other maintenance and repair needs at the large building.

This fall, Jeff turned his attention to the Garden House, where many of its historic, original windows have experienced years of deferred maintenance and have been stuck shut for decades. With care and craftsmanship, he's been releasing them and restoring them in his workshop at the GSC.



Jeff, your dedication and attention to detail are truly remarkable. Thank you for being our window whisperer.

NEWS FROM THE GARDEN HOUSE: Phase 2 Renovations Begin

In late 2021, we purchased the beloved, but neglected, Beacon Hill property with a clear goal: honor its legacy, restore its beauty, upgrade its infrastructure.

After stabilizing the building and renovating the grounds, the space is once again available to the community for arts and cultural gatherings, public events, and civic engagement. Thanks to your support, we're now in the midst of Phase 2 renovations.



Here's what Phase 2 includes:

- Installing a new HVAC system for year-round comfort
- Replacing old knob & tube electrical system, upgrading electrical capacity
- Restoring original wood floors in the large main room
- Returning original wood windows full operation
- Rebuilding exterior decks and stairs
- Repairing the cherished garden gazebo
- Installing a new roof, gutters, and siding
- Remodeling the kitchen
- Upgrading the plumbing to improve water service to the house

NEWS FROM THE CADILLAC HOTEL: A Year Of Surprises & Challenges

It began with a jolt: the Cadillac Hotel, home to the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park appeared on a list of federal leases slated for termination by President Trump. Thanks to swift action from our elected representatives in Washington, D.C., we were able to correct the record and preserve the lease. A close call and a reminder of how fragile arrangements can feel during these unusual times.

Now, we find ourselves in the midst of the longest government shutdown in history. Each year, over 70,000 visitors pass through The Cadillac's doors. We know many travelers and local schools had plans to visit. We share their disappointment.

But we're using this quiet time wisely. With the building closed to the public, we've accelerated much-needed upgrades to the HVAC system. When complete, the Cadillac Hotel will be a SMART building, equipped with integrated technology to optimize heating and cooling, and reduce energy use while improving year-round comfort for visitors and ensuring protection for the artifacts stored and displayed there.

Right now, it's quiet inside except for our staff and the skilled team from MacDonald Miller who are onsite, working hard to prepare for the day we reopen and welcome visitors back into a warm and cozy Cadillac Hotel.

NEWS FROM THE GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER: Fall Is All About Apples and Tulips

Thanks to our partners at City Fruit, apples from the GSC orchard were harvested and distributed to local food banks, meal programs, and schools. This year's harvest yielded over 1,600 lbs. of apples!



Our Horticulture Manager, Megan Stanek, also delivered crates to the Wallingford Community Senior Center and the Meridian School, both located on the GSC campus.

During their annual Fall Celebration, Meridian students used 150 lbs. of apples for cider pressing. Teachers report that the kids loved knowing apples from the trees on the parking lot medians were used to make the cider they were enjoying.

Planted in 1908 by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, the orchard continues to nourish the community today, just as it did over a century ago.

Help Us Plant 800 Bulbs for Spring Joy

Preservation isn't just about buildings. It's also about the gardens and grounds that surround them. After the Big Dark, tulips and spring flowers remind us that brighter days are ahead. Next spring, we hope to greet visitors to the GSC with a breathtaking display of 800 tulips, a vibrant celebration of renewal and pride of place.

Here's how you can help.

Each \$5 gift supports the planting and care of one tulip bulb. Whether you sponsor 1, 10, or 100 bulbs, your generosity will bloom every spring for years to come.

Your gift will bring joy to hundreds of daily visitors to the Good Shepherd Center, including those who simply come to enjoy the peace and beauty of the gardens and grounds around Historic Seattle Properties.



YES, I WANT TO HELP PLANT 800 BULBS!

Use the enclosed reply card or visit
historicseattle.org to make your gift today.
Together we'll plant joy, one tulip at a time.