



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

2025 Exhibits

SEATTLE'S FOREST: THE WEST DUWAMISH GREENBELT



Photo by Don Brubeck

Seattle's Forest: The West Duwamish Greenbelt (Fall 2024 - Spring 2026) highlights the geologic, indigenous, industrial, and political history of the city's largest contiguous forest. The exhibit was developed in partnership with the **West Duwamish Greenbelt Trails Group** and the **Ridge 2 River Coalition**, with support from **Seattle Department of Neighborhoods** and features community sourced photographs. Since its opening in September of 2024, more than 3,880 visitors have experienced the exhibit.

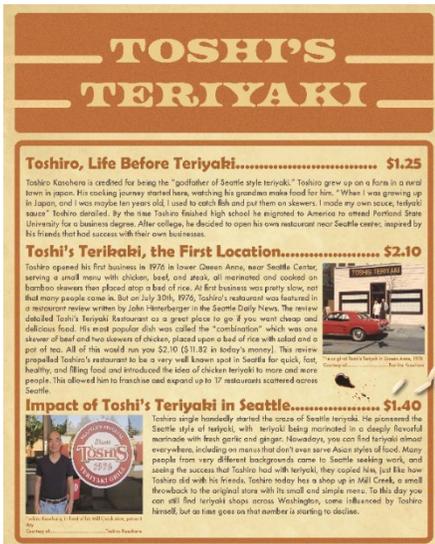
In September 2025, SWSHS partnered with WDG and Environmental Historian **Lisa Meoli**, Senior Environmental Historian at Floyd Snider. Meoli created a Story Map of the impacts of industrial pollution through the greenbelt and presented the project as part of SWSHS's Words, Writers Southwest Stories program. The map can be viewed online at loghousemuseum.org and wdgtrails.org.



Scan for Story
Map

SEATTLE TERIYAKI

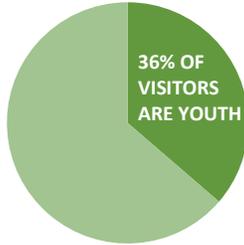
This pop-up exhibit on the history and future of Seattle's most famous dish was created and designed by SWSHS's intern, **Pedro Toledo Walls**, a sophomore at **Highline Big Picture High School**. Pedro conducted original research, including interviewing the creator of Seattle Teriyaki, Toshiro Kasahara, wrote and designed the original exhibit. Seattle Teriyaki ran through the summer of 2025 and was viewed by more than 450 visitors. Special guests included **4Culture's Executive Director and Heritage Team** who scheduled a tour with our curator to learn about how small museums can support young people interested in heritage work.



Left: Panel from Seattle Teriyaki. Above: 4Culture's Executive and Heritage Teams meet with Guest Curator, Pedro Toledo Walls.

Museum Admission and Programs

LOG HOUSE MUSEUM VISITORS:



MORE THAN HALF ARE VISITING FROM OUTSIDE OUR SERVICE AREA

43% LIVE ON THE DUWAMISH PENINSULA

60% ARE VISITING FOR THE FIRST TIME

YEAR TO DATE:

- Welcomed nearly **2,400 visitors** to the Log House Museum (2024: 2,727, 2023: 1,324)
- Provided tours to nearly **400 students and senior tour groups** (2024: 331, 2023: 269)
- Provided Drop-In **Family Day** programming for **317** neighbors
- Hosted 12, **Words, Writers, Southwest Stories** Speaker Programs for more than **800** registered attendees
- Guided **279** participants on **Public History Walking Tours**, in Alki and Admiral Neighborhoods
- Hosted **eight Art Walk** nights featuring regional artists and **Alki Elementary School** Student Art Work
- **Provided FREE admission and pay-what-you-want for all public programs!**



Admiral Walking Tour at Washington Black Legacy Institute

WHAT OUR PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS ARE SAYING:

The presenter was outstanding - very knowledgeable, engaging and fun!

I so appreciate your work

I've been going [to the Admiral] for years but had no idea that the community had to fight to keep it open & get the space landmarked!

I wish I'd taken more notes!

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

- SWSHS partnered with **Seattle Housing Authority** to support student participants of the **High Point Video Club** in capturing oral histories from their community to be preserved as part of SWSHS's permanent collection.
- SWSHS partnered with the **Washington Black Legacy Institute** and **Seattle Griot Project** for new Admiral History Walking Tours.
- SWSHS committed to **paying all program partners** and continued to offer **pay-what-you-can** public programming, investing in principles of equity and accessibility.
- Hosted a *One Seattle Comprehensive Plan* listening session with **Councilwoman Alexis Mercedes Rinck**



High Point Video Club



LOG HOUSE MUSEUM

The Facilities Committee advanced **maintenance projects** in 2025, including staining our fence and ADA ramp railing, caretaking Riverside Memorial Park, reviewing and revising the annual maintenance calendar, and advancing contracts to replace the handrailing alongside the basement stairwell. The committee extensively reviewed the **Building Condition Assessment Report** prepared by Richaven Architecture & Preservation, completed in 2020, to determine upcoming projects.

COLLECTIONS

SWSHS's Collections Committee was reestablished in 2025, allowing the organization to formally process incoming and backlogged donations, including photographs from the **Southgate Roller Rink** from the 1940s and 50s, negatives from the **West Seattle Herald** from the 1990s, and a **toolbox** (and tools) used at Pacific Coast Forge Company in the early 20th century.

Collections volunteers continue work on **inventory, scanning photographs and documents**, and organizing and increasing accessibility of SWSHS's **research library** and **archives**. Volunteers also supported research requests from **Sound Transit, Documentaries Seattle**, and community members.

SWSHS Community

SWSHS Volunteers

 48 Volunteers contributed more than 1,500 documented volunteer hours, including collections work, museum greeter shifts, programs and events, Native Plant Garden maintenance, and committee work. SWSHS welcomed three new regularly active volunteers in 2025.



*SWSHS Volunteers and Staff at Alki
Trick or Treat*

SWSHS MEMBERS

 As of November 1, SWSHS has **73 active members**, this number continues to **decline** from a recent height of 101 members in 2023 and 89 members in 2024.

SWSHS Committees

SWSHS Advisory Committees are made up of community members, SWSHS Board Members, and staff. They advise SWSHS in identifying and prioritizing projects, opportunities, and initiatives, and support staff and board members in achieving strategic goals. Our 2025 committees included:

- Collections Committee *
- DEAI Committee
- Events Committee
- Facilities Committee
- Finance Committee *
- Interpretive Planning (2024-2025)

** Reestablished in 2025*

IN MEMORIAM

The Southwest Seattle Historical Society has thrived on the support of countless, dedicated individuals from the Duwamish Peninsula and beyond. It is with deep gratitude that we remember SWSHS members and supporters who passed this year, including:



Bonnie Beerman, August 20
Sharon Best, April 5
Mike Dey, April 17
Edward Dupras, August 7
Jay Murray, March 7
Gary Richardson, March 6
Geraldine Sorensen, October 3
Marilyn Whittendale, March 3

LOOKING AHEAD

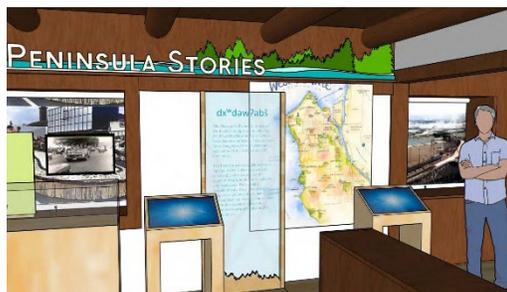
Major initiatives underway and planned for early 2026 include:

- Completion of an ongoing **marketing plan** which will roll out a new logo and new website to create greater awareness of SWSHS and the Log House Museum across our service area and region.
- **Communications and Fundraising planning** with consultation from Electric Butter Marketing and Andrea Arenas Fundraising
- An **IT assessment** to standardize museum accounts and files, migrate to a cloud platform, install purpose-built network and software tools, and enhance IT security
- Refresh the **Native Plant Garden** in Spring of 2026, timed with our exhibition opening
- A pop-up exhibition curated by **Schmitz Park Restore**
- Significant **anniversaries**, including America250 and the 175th anniversary of the 1851 Landing Party at Alki Beach



INTERPRETIVE PLANNING

As of October, SWSHS completed Interpretive Planning, funded by **Maritime Washington National Heritage Area**, to design a permanent, interactive exhibition at the Log House Museum that connects visitors to their own **waterfront experiences**, prioritizes the display of **artifacts**, and highlights stories of placemaking by **diverse communities** across the Duwamish Peninsula. The exhibit will open in July of 2026. This planning has been supported by more than 15 advisors, including historians, museum professionals, former and current board members, volunteers, SWSHS's DEAI committee members, the Duwamish Tribal Organization, the Suquamish Tribe, and Duwamish, Lummi, and Haida carvers.



A PARTNER OF



**MARITIME
WASHINGTON**
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Shaped by Sea & Story

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Highlights of strategic accomplishments in 2024 and 2025 include:

Strengthen financial position
Identify and apply for new grants
Re-establish Finance Committee

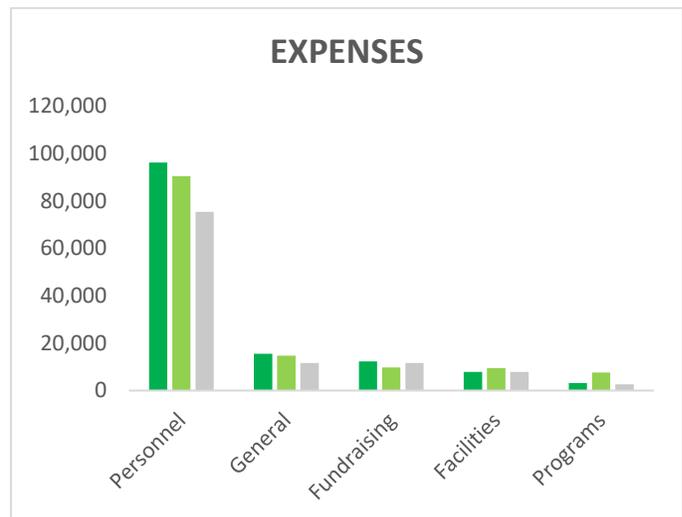
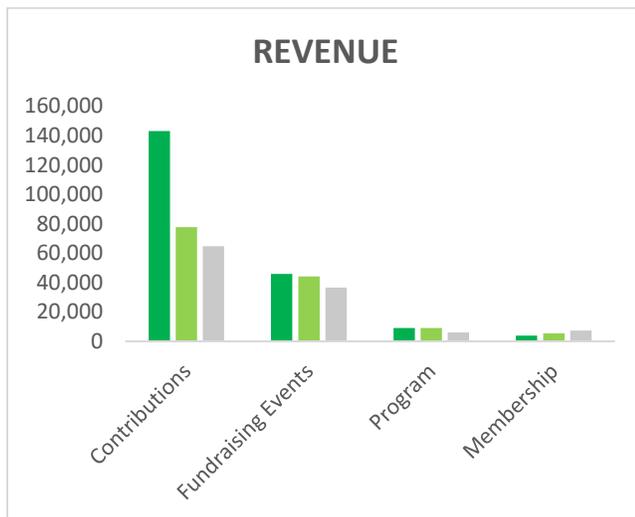
Develop exhibits and programs that are relevant and engaging to diverse audiences
Engage exhibit designer to develop a permanent exhibit

Grow capacity of staff and volunteers
Review and revise committee structure
Complete a board matrix
Hire ED and /or second staff

Strengthen collections care, management and interpretation
Create a Collections Committee and revise collections policy
Create online access for collections
Review revise and approve collections policy

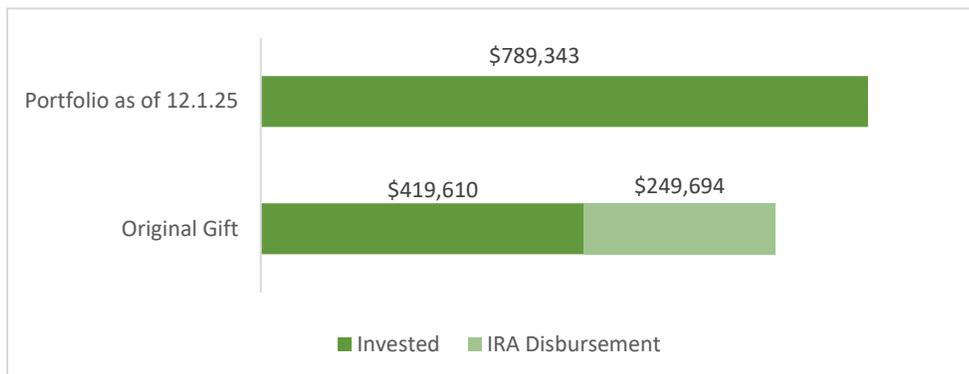
Increase visibility
Engage consultants to execute communication and fundraising plans

FINANCIALS 2025 (AS OF 12.1.25), 2024, 2023



A GIFT OF STABILITY

In 2025, SWSHS received a generous bequest from **Burke Dykes**, a former board member and longtime supporter. This gift, received as an investment portfolio, will provide operational income for years to come.



Your end of year contributions will propel SWSHS into 2026 and beyond. Make your year contribution today!