

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

REGULAR AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Carolyn Gallaway, Clerk of the Board

DATE: July 8, 2024

SUBJECT: UPDATE re: Jefferson County Historical Society & Museum of Art + History

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Executive Director of the Jefferson County Historical Society (JCHS) Tara McCauley will provide the Commissioners with an update regarding the large-scale renovation project at the Museum of Art + History, one of three sites operated by JCHS. The renovation includes building modifications for ADA accessibility, new exhibits and exhibit infrastructure, and a new approach to annual county-wide research, collecting, and programs.

ANALYSIS:

The JCHS is reimagining the Museum of Art + History by transforming the space and visitor experience, with a focus on prioritizing the sharing of deeper, more diverse stories, enhancing accessibility, and integrating art and history.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

None.

REVIEWED BY:



Mark McCauley, County Administrator

Date 7/3/24

SUPPORT A REIMAGINED EXPERIENCE AT THE

MUSEUM OF ART + HISTORY

JCHS is reimagining the Museum of Art + History. We're transforming the space, our practice, and the visitor experience.

Inspired by community feedback, we're prioritizing:

SHARING DEEPER STORIES

ENHANCING ACCESSIBILITY

INTEGRATING ART + HISTORY

JOIN US IN REIMAGINING THE MUSEUM OF ART + HISTORY, DONATE TODAY

THE VISION

Every year, we will focus our exhibitions around one main topic, exploring that theme through new art exhibitions and installations, newly researched or curated archives and historic collections, and annual programming. We're starting with the concept of "Home", delving into what it means, how it varies, and how it connects us all.

In addition to this exciting new approach to our exhibitions, we are making our spaces accessible for everyone, designing interpretive text for the historic City Hall building, and deepening our connection with the community.

THE NEED

Our history exhibits have not been significantly refreshed in decades, and we want to share new objects, stories, understandings, and perspectives. For the past three years, we've gathered insight and ideas from partners, residents, and visitors.

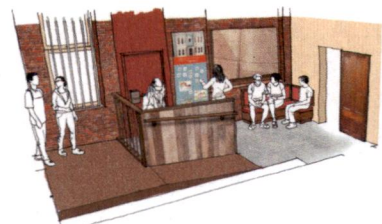
Now, as we bring these plans to life, it's clear: this museum is an important space for everyone.

Our Capital Campaign is Rooted in Change – we are embracing change in how we think about art and history, how we approach exhibitions, and how we work in our community.

WHY NOW

According to a 2023 study by the American Alliance of Museums:

- 56% are experiencing significant financial difficulties.
- 30% risk permanent closure within two years without innovation and new funding strategies.



JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our transformation is a necessary evolution to meet contemporary needs and expectations.

This moment calls for bold action and visionary support from donors like you, to ensure that we continue to preserve and celebrate Jefferson County's arts and heritage in a meaningful, enjoyable, and sustainable way.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Over the next few years, we will utilize the funds raised in the Rooted in Change campaign to achieve goals including:

- renovating our historic building to be fully ADA accessible
- installing updated, multisensory exhibition infrastructure
- refreshing exhibit spaces annually

BE THE CHANGE

Join us and become an integral part of this innovative project!

Your support helps us create dynamic exhibits, explore the intersections of art and history, make our spaces accessible, and ensure a sustainable community resource for years to come.

Visit jchsmuseum.org/rooted to learn more and donate today to help bring our vision to life.

DONATE HERE

We've already raised over \$1M of our \$2.3M goal! Help us cross the finish line this year by donating today.

DONATE HERE



JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
540 WATER ST. PORT TOWNSEND WA | JCHSMUSEUM.ORG | [@JCHSMUSEUM](https://www.instagram.com/JCHSMUSEUM)