



OLYMPIA TUMWATER FOUNDATION

Heritage | Legacy | Community

Happy New Year!

We had a nice and quiet December, but we spent it looking ahead to 2023.

We've got plenty to look forward to this year, including great speakers at our History Pubs, increased Riverwalk Tours, new history programming, and the projects highlighted below.

Foundation News

House Renovation Project

Those who have asked about Schmidt House tours in recent months know that we are currently closed. But for an exciting reason! We started a renovation this fall and expect to be fully open again by summertime.

We are expanding our basement archive space and upgrading the HVAC to protect our treasures. That means we moved the archives to the normally empty first floor, which is now jam-packed with archival boxes!

We are also making the house more accessible. Concrete work is done for a wheelchair lift providing access to the first floor, a sidewalk leading to the same, and the foundation to our new ADA restroom located inside the garage.

After the restroom is finished, FORMA Construction will move to the basement and water-seal foundation walls, remove unused pipes, and convert two rooms into the additional archive space.

Finally, in December we were awarded a Valerie Sivinski Fund grant from the [Washington Trust for Historic Preservation](#) to abate lead-based paint and spruce up our wraparound porch! The work will be completed before the house is reopened.





Rock Slide Update

Since the rock slide that happened in mid-November on the east side of the Brewery Park trail, we've had geologists and engineers take a look. We are awaiting a geotechnical report on next steps and that section of the trail will remain closed until we can stabilize the bank.

OTF Granted \$750k for New Building

Congresswoman Strickland secured federal money for 14 South Sound community projects in the final omnibus budget bill, including \$750,000 for our [History and Nature Center](#) at Brewery Park.

You can read about the other projects [here](#).



Upcoming Events



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History Pub at Heritage: A Journey Down the Deschutes

Take a trip from the headwaters of the Deschutes River to the mouth of Budd Inlet!

Tumwater Water Resources Specialist Grant Gilmore will highlight historical moments from the time of the receding Vashon Glacier, watershed functions and features, activities from human impacts, how we currently manage water resources, and possibilities for the future.

Join us Thursday, **January 19** in the cask library (downstairs) at Heritage Distilling Co. in Tumwater at 6:00 pm.

Registration is encouraged so we can get a headcount: [register here](#).

Fort Nisqually Virtual Program Wins Award

Up north in Tacoma, Fort Nisqually won the American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) 2022 Leadership in History Awards for its *Puget Sound Treaty War Panel*. From the AASLH announcement: "This free virtual program brought together a panel of five Native tribes and the museum to discuss the experiences and effects of the 1855-56 war between the U.S. military and local tribes. This program promoted a greater understanding of Tacoma history through engagement with the Indigenous people of the

region."

Included on the panel were representatives from the Nisqually and Squaxin Island Tribes. Watch the free program on [YouTube here](#).

From the Curator

Karen Johnson runs the Schmidt House archives—which contains the Olympia Brewing Company and Schmidt family papers—and showcases historical treasures from around the house or the house's grounds on social media.

One of those weekly stories is highlighted here.



The carpenter shop at the old Olympia Brewery is shown here around 1902-1910. The “It’s the Water” slogan is proudly displayed on a workbench.

(Click the image to see larger version.)

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