



## From the Historic Preservation Officer



Summer is flying by and we've been busy here in the Historic Preservation Office, embarking on new initiatives and working to expand the opportunities for citizens to participate in Tacoma's history, as well as developing additional tools to encourage reuse and occupancy of historic structures.

Preservation Month in May was a great success, with many exciting and well attended events. Downtown On The Go's [Walk Tacoma](#) tours are extremely popular, and if you haven't been yet, there is still time! Historic Tacoma put on a wonderful and innovative community get together with their well-attended [Postcard Event](#). Tacoma Tweed Ride, an organized bicycle ride following the historic Pt. Defiance trolley route from the "Pagoda" to downtown, benefited from nearly perfect biking weather.

We are very excited to welcome our new Historic Preservation Coordinator, Lauren Hoogkamer, who came aboard this July and is already making strides to broaden our community partnerships, and to develop new and exciting programs.

We're also pleased to announce a new historic preservation rehabilitation loan program, for both owners and tenants of historic commercial property. This program will exist alongside our "emergency preservation fund" as an additional tool for the protection and enhancement of our historic resources. If you know of someone who might interested, send them our way!

August 2014

### Things To Do

#### **You Think You Know Tacoma?**

#### **History of Tacoma Free Trivia Night**

August 8

6pm

The Forum, 815 Pacific Ave,  
Tacoma

#### **Tacoma Hotel-themed tote bags will be available for sale!**

[More information](#)

#### **Metro Parks Brigade Encampment**

August 9 to August 10

Fort Nisqually Living History  
Museum

[More information](#)

#### **"Wow, look at that Truss!"**

Learn about the truss system in the historic Balfour Dock building.

August 20

Foss Waterway Seaport Museum

[More information](#)

#### **Maritime Fest**

September 20-21

Foss Waterway Seaport

[More information](#)

#### **Historic Tacoma**

**Commemorates the 5th**

Lastly, mark your calendars for Historic Trivia Night at The Forum, on August 8! Think you know Tacoma? Test your knowledge and win prizes! I hope to see you there.

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## Welcome to our new Historic Preservation Coordinator



It's been a little over a month since our new Historic Preservation Coordinator, Lauren Hoogkamer, started. Lauren is excited about living and working in Tacoma. In 2011, she interned for Historic Tacoma as part of its South Tacoma Way project and has always hoped to work in this city again. Most recently, Lauren was Bothell's Historic Preservation Consultant, as well as a private historic preservation consultant in both King and Snohomish Counties. She has an MS in Historic Preservation and an MS in Urban Planning from Columbia University, along with undergraduate degrees in journalism, history, and business from the University of Southern California. Lauren will be putting this knowledge to use by helping your Historic Preservation Officer, Reuben McKnight, manage Tacoma's preservation program, but the greater part of her job will be creating new programming, outreach, and events to promote Tacoma's unique history and culture.

Our goal is to strengthen partnerships with local businesses, institutions, and organizations—such as Earthwise Architectural Salvage, the Tacoma Historical Society, Historic Tacoma, and the Foss Waterway Seaport—so that we can find new ways to connect with Tacoma's heritage. To that end, we will be developing a calendar of events that will range from fun community functions to educational and professional development. All of our events will be posted on our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and new [Upcoming Events](#) pages. We'll be exploring topics such as maritime heritage, new media, diversity, trades workshops, and art. In order to provide engaging programming for the community, we hope that you will support our events by attending, collaborating, volunteering, or simply providing feedback on what you

### Anniversary of the Demise of the Luzon Building

September 26

For more information or to help out contact

[joriadkins@mac.com](mailto:joriadkins@mac.com)

### Earthwise Architectural Salvage Open House & Industrial Art Show

October 18

12pm

626 E. 60th St, Tacoma

[More information](#)

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### “Be Our Guest” Tacoma Hotel Exhibit Events

#### Opening Reception at the Tacoma Historical Society

August 7

6 - 8pm

#### Exhibit Opening (130th anniversary of Tacoma Hotel opening)

August 8

11am - 4pm

#### Totem Tales and Jack the Bear Stories with Deb Freedman

(suitable for children six and up)

August 16

1pm

#### Tacoma Hotel Neighborhood Walk

Led by Tacoma Public Library's Brian Kamens, in the footsteps of Jack the Bear

August 21

6:15pm

#### The Man Behind the Totem: W. F. Sheard, portrayed by Rich Repp

September 18

would like the preservation program to include. We hope to see many Past Forward readers at our first event, **You Think You Know Tacoma? History of Tacoma Free Trivia Night @ the Forum.**

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## Announcing Historic Preservation Loan Program



This month, the City of Tacoma announced a new loan program for the rehabilitation and improvement of historic commercial buildings. Called the Historic Rehabilitation/Repair Loan, property owners and tenants who qualify can borrow up to \$100,000 for repairs and upgrades to historic buildings, including both interior and exterior work.

The loan is intended to provide gap financing, and so cannot exceed 50% of the total project cost. The loan has a 10 year term, and the interest rate is set a 1% above the 10 year Treasury Note rate.

The loan is designed to provide a resource for property owners and tenants to maintain their historic properties and, in the case of commercial retail spaces, encourage new tenants. Basic requirements include:

- Building must be a commercial or mixed use building that is listed on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places
- Business tenants must have a lease term equal to the proposed loan term, and must have owner consent
- Work must be approved by the Historic Preservation Officer

The loan program is administered by the Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority and the Community and Economic Development Department. For more information, visit the [financial incentives](#) page at TacomaCulture.org.

6:15pm

### Open House to Honor Tacoma Firefighters Active and Retired

(Remembering the anniversary of the fire, October 17th, 1935)

October 16

11 am-8pm

For more information, contact Deb Freedman @ (253) 377-4157

[volunteer@tacomahistory.org](mailto:volunteer@tacomahistory.org)

Tacoma Historical Society (253) 472-3738

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## Doing substantial work on your historic building? Applications for the Special Valuation Tax incentive due October 1!



Have you recently remodeled your historic home or commercial property? You might qualify for the City's Special Tax Valuation Program (STV)! The STV program allows property owners to apply to have their property tax assessment reduced by the amount invested in their historic building over a two year period. The building must be on the [Tacoma Register of Historic Places](#) or be a contributing property within one of Tacoma's locally designated [historic districts](#). The work must be historically appropriate, and the expenses must be directly related to the rehabilitation of the building (costs related to acquisition, additions and items of personal property generally do not qualify for the program). The amount invested must also meet or exceed 25% of the assessed value of the building at the start of the project. Since 1985, Tacoma property owners have invested over \$160 million through the STV program. Applications are due to the Pierce County Assessor by October 1. For more information, visit our [financial incentives](#) page at [TacomaCulture.org](#).

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## Municipal Barn added to the Tacoma Register of Historic Places

On July 1, the City Council added the Tacoma Municipal Barn (2324 South C Street) to the Tacoma Register of Historic Places, following a



nomination submitted by  
Historic Tacoma.



Didn't know Tacoma has a barn? Well, since 1910, the Municipal Barn has housed city operations, including street maintenance. Originally constructed to house wagons, horses, and various carpentry shops, the barn is an artifact from a time before automobiles dominated Tacoma's streets and the majority of street cleaning was done with handheld brooms.

The Municipal Barn is located in an area of many historic industrial buildings, both listed on the [Tacoma Register](#), and eligible. The City of Tacoma has 160 individually listed buildings, as well as approximately 1,100 buildings within its five locally designated [historic districts](#).

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## Tips & Tricks: Locating Online Photographs of Tacoma



*This view of the buildings on the west side of Broadway in downtown Tacoma looking north from South 11th Street dates from October 1929--  
The Tacoma Public Library*

Whether you are researching an historic event, person, or site, old photographs can be a valuable resource. For the Historic Preservation Office, historic photographs are important elements of landmark nominations and documenting change over time. Below are some resources for locating online historic photographs of Tacoma:

[The Tacoma Public Library](#)

The library's Northwest Room & Special Collections online database includes an extensive, but easy to use, collection of historic photographs. You can search the collection using keywords to find photos on specific subjects; if you're looking for a specific address, you can use the [Tacoma-Pierce County Buildings Index](#) page to search by address. The Buildings Index will also provide records, newspaper, and directory entries.

### [TacomaCulture.org](#)

Our website has several resources for locating historic property information, including photographs. The [Historic Inventory Database](#) and the [Historic Register Property Search](#)--which are searchable by address and keyword--include nomination reports, maps, photographs, and historical descriptions. Tacomaculture.org will soon be merging with the City of Tacoma Historic Preservation [website](#), which will feature the same information once the transfer is complete.

### [The Tacoma Historical Society](#)

Most of the Tacoma Historical Society's material can be found at its physical location, 919 Pacific Avenue; however, it does have a handful of online exhibits with great images of Tacoma.

### [The Washington State Historical Society](#)

The state historical society also has an online collection with a variety of documents and images, which may include historic photographs of Tacoma or Tacoma-related subjects.

### [The University of Washington Digital Collections](#)

This resource includes documents, photographs, and architectural drawings related to the Pacific Northwest. Keyword searches reveal a wealth of material on Tacoma's history.

### [WISAARD](#)

WISAARD is the state cultural resource database. Searchable by keyword, address, city, county, architectural style, historical use, and register status, it includes property information, descriptions, photographs, and nomination reports. The site is continuously being updated, which means some entries are not complete.

### [The Library of Congress](#)

Both the [Digital Collections](#) and the [Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record \(HABS/HAER\)](#) collection are great resources for photographs, architectural records, and other materials for researching historic sites. Although this is a national archive, it includes many Tacoma-related resources.

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## Tacoma Historical Society: Old Tacoma Hotel Exhibit



"Tacoma Historical Society is recognizing one of Tacoma's lost landmarks," said Bill Baarsma, Tacoma Historical Society president. "Built in 1884 when Tacoma was booming, the great Tacoma Hotel announced that Tacoma had become a destination. Over its fifty-year history, the Tacoma Hotel provided lodging for an array of famous visitors – Mark Twain, Rudyard Kipling, Sarah Bernhardt, a succession of U.S. presidents, and athletes from Babe Ruth to the entire USC Trojan football team."

"The exhibit will include not only fascinating artifacts on loan from private collectors, but historic post cards and images from within our collection of Tacoma Historical Society," said curator Deb Freedman. "The exhibit will present a fitting tribute to the hotel's ill-fated pet bear, Jack, and the history of the neighboring totem pole."

The Tacoma Historical Society is also hosting a creative calendar of events in conjunction with the exhibit

Tacoma's past is deeply rooted. Carrying that history forward through restoration and adaptive reuse honors that legacy and supports vibrant, engaging neighborhoods. Connect with Historic Preservation and Tacoma via [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), the quarterly [PastForward e-newsletter](#) and [TacomaCulture.org](#). Also, check out our new [Events](#) page. Questions about what you've read? E-mail [landmarks@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:landmarks@cityoftacoma.org).

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