



true north sustainable development solutions

## **KETCHIKAN HISTORIC COMMISSION HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN UPDATE: PHASE 1 COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

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***Ketchikan Historic Commission***

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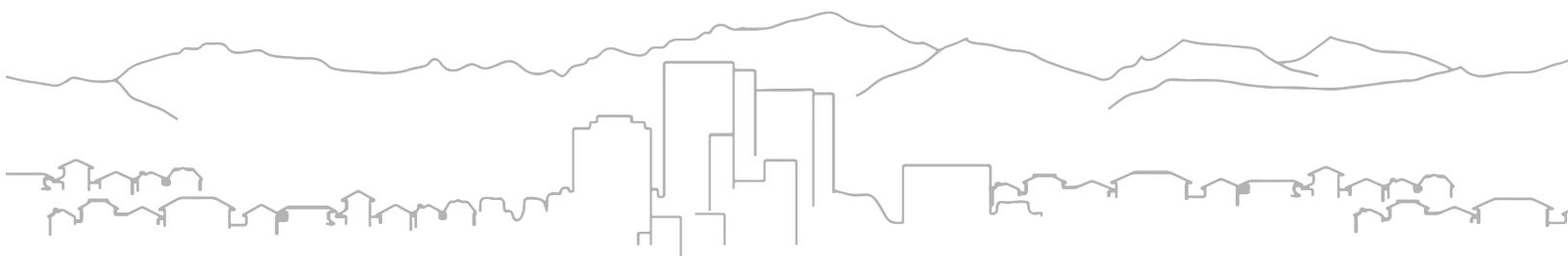
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**ACRONYMS / ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>ACHP</b>	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
<b>AHRS</b>	Alaska Heritage Resources Survey
<b>CCC</b>	Civilian Conservation Corps
<b>City</b>	City of Ketchikan
<b>CLG</b>	Certified Local Government
<b>DOE</b>	Determination of Eligibility
<b>HPP</b>	Historic Preservation Plan
<b>KGB</b>	Ketchikan Gateway Borough
<b>KHC</b>	Ketchikan Historic Commission
<b>KVB</b>	Ketchikan Visitors Bureau
<b>NAPC</b>	National Alliance of Historic Preservation Commissions
<b>NHPA</b>	National Historic Preservation Act
<b>NPS</b>	National Park Service
<b>NRHP</b>	National Register of Historic Places
<b>OHA</b>	Alaska Office of History and Archaeology
<b>PEP</b>	Public Engagement Program
<b>TNSDS</b>	True North Sustainable Development Solutions, LLC



## INTRODUCTION

*“Preservation planning is a process that organizes preservation activities (identification, evaluation, registration, and treatment of historic properties) in a logical sequence.”*

— *Preservation Planning Standards, The National Park Service (NPS)*  
(National Park Service, 2020)

Ketchikan is a community rich with history, from its Native heritage to its identity as Alaska’s First City to the large number of historically significant buildings. Although there have been many individuals and preservationist organizations who have worked to preserve the history of Ketchikan, to date the community has not had a formal historic preservation plan (HPP), as called for in the Ketchikan Municipal Code (Chapter 2.88 Section 2.88.010) as well as in the Alaska Certified Local Government (CLG) Historic Preservation Program State Guidelines which state:

*“The local government’s historical preservation commission will: 1) develop a local historic preservation*

*plan providing for identification, protection, and interpretation of the area’s significant cultural resources. This plan is to be compatible with the Alaska historic preservation plan (Alaska Department of Natural Resources Office of History and Archaeology, 2018, p. 4).”*

*“The Ketchikan Historic Commission realizes that, unless strong and active preservation programs are a collaborative effort, local historic properties will be lost, either through neglect, lack of community vision, inappropriate renovations, or demolition. Ultimately, a Historic Preservation Plan will serve as a unifying document to provide direction for future preservation of the community’s cultural and historic resources.”*

In 2021, the City of Ketchikan (City) began the process of gathering public input to create a HPP. The project was funded, in part, from a grant from the federal Historic Preservation Fund to carry out the programs identified in the NHPA of 1966 (NHPA). The program in Alaska is administered by the Office of History and Archaeology (OHA).



Figure 1. Historic Photo Postcard. Ketchikan Alaska, Looking South. Winter & Pond Co., Juneau, Alaska Publishers, c. 1912.

The first phase of the process was to complete a Historic Preservation Community Outreach project to gather input from the general public and government, interest groups, museums, and historical sites critical to the identification of goals and priorities that represent a shared vision and commitment to local historic preservation (Ketchikan Historic Commission 2022: 1). This report details the outcome of that effort.

While the Ketchikan Historic Commission (KHC) has done laudable and impressive work in the decades since its founding, a notable outcome of the public outreach process was that many people are unfamiliar with the work of the commission; 36% of the respondents to the Public Outreach Survey were not familiar with the work of the KHC and 5.33% were not at all familiar. This was also reflected in the stakeholder interviews in that some expressed confusion about the different organizations in the community and their roles.

This is not a problem unique to Ketchikan. The mechanics of how historic preservation “works” are complex and can be hard to understand, thus in preparing this report, part of the charge is to illuminate the considerable work of the commission, its history, its status as a CLG, and its role in the larger historic preservation process.

## Project Description



Figure 2. Bird's eye view of Ketchikan, Alaska (©TNSDS).

The City is undertaking a development of their Ketchikan Historic Commission Historic Preservation Plan. Using a CLG grant administered by OHA, the City of Ketchikan contracted True North Sustainable Development Solutions, LLC, (TNSDS) to develop, facilitate, and document a Historic Preservation Community Outreach project. Although Ketchikan is a

CLG, there is not currently a formal, comprehensive HPP in place for the community as stipulated in the Ketchikan Municipal Code. The Phase 1 Community Outreach Project funded through a grant from the CLG program takes the first steps towards developing such a plan for the future.

The goal of the project was to “develop, facilitate and document a Historic Preservation Community Outreach project” in order to “consider input from the general public and stakeholders representing tribal organizations, local government, interest groups, museums, and historical sites critical to the identification of goals and priorities that represent a shared vision and commitment to local historic preservation” so that the completed historic preservation plan “will serve as a unifying document to provide direction for future preservation of the community’s cultural and historic resources (City of Ketchikan Historic Commission, 2021, p. 1).

An internal project kick-off meeting among members of TNSDS, the City, and the KHC was conducted on January 20, 2022, to open dialogue and start the project planning process. In March and April 2022, TNSDS developed a background report titled *Desktop Review of Previously Historic Preservation Efforts in Ketchikan, Alaska* that included a complete literature review documenting all currently identified historic and cultural resources within the municipal boundaries of the City of Ketchikan. The literature review included existing studies and documents, an assessment of noted data deficits or insufficient historic contexts, and provided recommendations for the next steps of updating the HPP. The purpose of the literature review was to ensure that the most accurate and comprehensive data collection will be used to guide interviews, surveys, and public meetings throughout the Phase I update of the HPP.

TNSDS worked with the KHC to identify all the relevant stakeholders in the community who have a vested interest in historic preservation activities. Although the contract stipulated that a minimum of 12 one-on-one interviews be conducted to solicit input on the HPP development, it was only possible to garner nine interviews due to project time limits and public participation. A questionnaire survey was also distributed to

the general public to collect further input and to guide the project’s development of preservation goals for the community. The information gathered from both the individual interviews and the public survey is presented in this report to help the KHC develop a comprehensive HPP, identify key issues relating to historic preservation within the community, and provided a framework for agendas for all public meetings relevant to the project. The interviews were recorded and transcribed and are included in this report as Appendix D.

Public outreach and stakeholder meetings were held on April 25th and June 28th. The purpose of the meetings was to provide the general public with an opportunity to discuss historic preservation needs and to solicit input about community preservation goals and priorities. The meetings were conducted via Zoom due to ongoing concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Annotated transcripts from the first meeting are included as Appendix A.

### Project Location

Ketchikan is located on Revillagigedo Island in Southeast Alaska. The city sits approximately 235 miles south-southeast of Juneau, 775 miles southeast of Anchorage, and 680 miles northwest of Seattle. The area is accessible only by air or sea; a ferry connects Ketchikan to the rest of Southeast Alaska. It is not accessible by road unless the vehicle is loaded onto a ferry for the final leg of any trip into Ketchikan. It is surrounded by the Tongass National Forest, and the Tongass Narrows separate the city from the airport which is located on Gravina Island. The surrounding area includes the Misty Fjords National Monument, the Misty Fjords National Monument Wilderness, and the Inside Passage. Ketchikan has a marine climate characterized by mild winters and cool, rainy summers; the surrounding Tongass National Forest is part of the world’s largest temperate rainforest. The terrain is steep and mountainous, with flat land largely limited the immediate



Figure 3. Map showing the location and municipal boundaries of the City of Ketchikan (©TNSDS).

coastal areas. The city boasts a population of approximately 8,000 residents within the city limits; there are approximately 14,000 residents in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough (KGB) (Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development 2022). The primary industries within the city are related to commercial fishing and related activities, government agencies, and tourism. As the first port in the Inside Passage, Ketchikan is the first stop on most cruise ship itineraries in the Southeast. In years before the COVID-19 pandemic halted cruise ship operations, approximately 1 million visitors arrived in Ketchikan each year during the cruise ship season (Visit Ketchikan 2022).

### Desktop Review

Compilation of a literature review including existing studies and other documentation in order to document the currently identified historic and cultural resources within City limits. As part of this literature review, existing information from past community planning efforts was synthesized into one report to help guide future planning needs. The intent of the document was to provide an overview of previous community engagement projects and to identify, if possible, any areas of community involvement that are lacking in documentation and preservation (TNSDS 2022: 5). The resulting draft report titled *Desktop Review of Historic Preservation Efforts in Ketchikan Alaska* was shared with the KHC in April of 2022 for comment and finalized in May of 2022.

## PREVIOUS HISTORIC PRESERVATION EFFORTS IN KETCHIKAN



Figure 4. Saxman Tribal House, a tribal performance and gathering space outside Ketchikan. (©TNSDS).

The report begins with a short history of historic preservation efforts in Ketchikan. Although this history was detailed in the *Desktop Review of Historic Preservation Efforts in Ketchikan* (TNSDS 2022), this summary is included because it helps illuminate the work of the commission and the important role it played in stewardship of the cultural and historic resources of Ketchikan.

### Preservation Before the KHC

Ketchikan has a long history of historic preservation activities, dating as far back as the arrival of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in Ketchikan in 1933. While originally tasked with the clearing of forested land and the construction of recreational facilities within the Tongass National Forest, local Tlingit and Haida men were enlisted to help with the preservation of totem poles in the area. The result was the Saxman Totem Park. Totem restoration work on a larger regional scale, promoted by the federal Indian Arts and Crafts Board formed in 1936, spread across Southeast Alaska independent of CCC work and involved artisans from across the Southeast and even outside architects such as Linn A. Forrest. Although totem poles themselves were constructed from non-permanent materials and intended to be eroded over time, work was undertaken to preserve and restore the totem poles that could be saved with new totems carved to replace those that could not be salvaged. Totem preservation, restoration, and creation remains a thriving art form in Southeast Alaska (TNSDS 2022: 12).

The 1960s period saw the formation of a number of historic preservation groups. The most prominent is the Tongass Historical Society, established in 1961. The immediate goal of both groups was the establishment of a permanent location for collections of artifacts and photographs in possession of the city. The first museum was established in 1962 in a vacant space in the Ketchikan City Hall that had previously been used as a jail.

Ketchikan benefited directly from funding made available in the build-up to the Alaska Centennial Celebrations in 1967, celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867. Across the state, plans were being discussed for centennial celebrations as early as 1960 and were marketed as a means to promote the tourism industry in Alaska and as a method of gaining federal investment in the bur-

geoning state. That fall, Congress appropriated \$4.6 million in federal matching grants for centennial-related projects in Alaska, and the centennial projects enacted had far-reaching impacts across the state during the centennial year and into the future. Ketchikan was awarded a share of the Centennial funds for the creation of a city-supported museum and public library space, constructed along the west bank of Ketchikan Creek, and opened in 1967.

Following the passage of the NHPA in 1966 and the Alaska State Historic Preservation Act in 1971, a flurry of National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nominations were developed in the Ketchikan area, including the Totem Bight State Historic Site. The totem park was added to the NRHP in 1970 using the Criteria Consideration G for a property that achieved significance under the 50-years old mark.

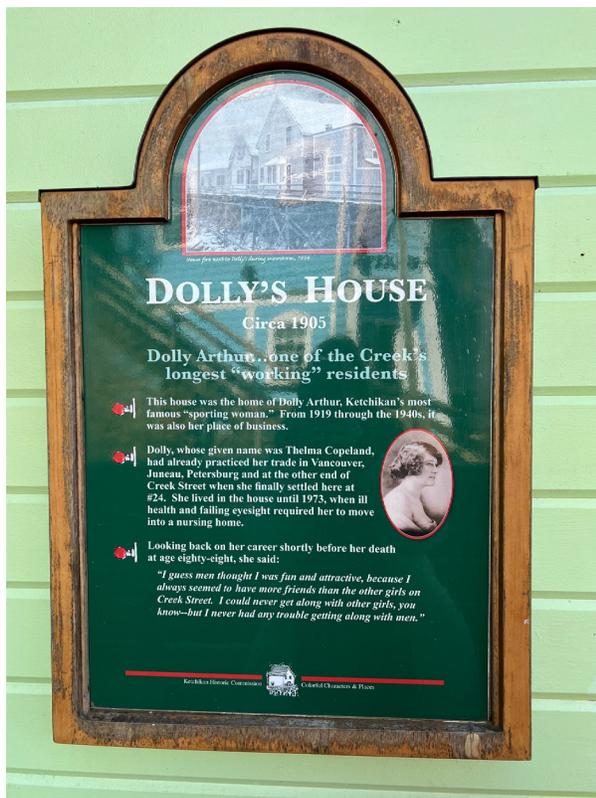


Figure 5. Informational plaque outside Dolly's House, Ketchikan Alaska (©TNSDS).

In 1976, the KGB recognized the importance of Creek Street and created Ketchikan's first and only local historic district. Rules were established to protect significant historic buildings and to guide new construction

in a manner that was consistent with Creek Street's special architecture. Considerable restoration of existing buildings as well as new construction followed (RAI Development Solutions 2011). Soon after, Dolly's House on Creek Street was transformed into a museum about its eponymous former owner (RAI Development Solutions 2011: 7).

Work on a city-wide survey began in 1979 when a city-wide historic properties survey was commissioned in 1979 by the KGB Planning Department. The survey was undertaken between 1979 and 1980 and the resulting two volume report, *Ketchikan: A City Historic Properties Survey*, prepared for the Ketchikan Historic Commission, was released in 1984.

The final section of Volume II includes recommendations for future preservation activities. The recommendations detailed in this section include the suggestion of changes to zoning ordinances to allow for greater protection of historic properties within designated historic districts; economic incentives for historic commercial property owners; design guidelines written up and distributed for each historic area; community and neighborhood groups formed to enforce such design guidelines; increased publicity for properties listed to the NRHP; and new NRHP listings for significant properties. The recommendations section also includes a table with eligibility recommendations for every property detailed in Volume II and lays out potential historic districts based on the survey findings (Mattheson & Tucker 1984).

### Ketchikan Historic Commission

The KHC was established in 1988, and Ketchikan became a CLG in 1991. The community was designated as a Preserve America Community in 2007 by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) in recognition of the community's efforts to preserve the community's history.

Since its inception, the KHC has participated in dozens of historic preservation projects including survey and evaluation, NRHP listing, redevelopment plans, and historic building assessments. Through the work of an active community, Ketchikan is estimated to boast the highest concentration of evaluated historic resources of any community in Alaska.

**Other Organizations in Ketchikan**



Figure 6. A view down Creek Street in Ketchikan, Alaska (©TNSDS).

In addition to the work of the KHC, historic preservation efforts in Ketchikan are made possible by a wide range of individuals and organizations that have a stated role in preservation. Because public outreach participants expressed a desire to know more about the roles and responsibilities of the various preservation and related groups in Ketchikan and because future planning efforts will require collaboration and consultation with multiple individuals and organizations, selected organizations include a more detailed description. The section begins with an overview of Historic Ketchikan, Inc., details some of the projects carried out by the KHC and Historic Ketchikan, Inc., and discusses other groups involved in historic preservation in Ketchikan.

**Historic Ketchikan, Inc.**

Historic Ketchikan, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization that promotes economic development through historic preservation and heritage tourism. Their programs are designed to instill community pride and interest in Ketchikan’s history.

**Joint KHC and Historic Ketchikan, Inc. Projects**

The KHC and Historic Ketchikan, Inc. have undertaken a number of historic preservation projects over the decades with the aid of historic preservation grants. At least one of these projects, the Downtown Ketchikan Survey of Historic Properties, resulted in a NRHP listing for the Downtown Ketchikan Historic District. The KHC has also worked with the community and property owners to develop design guidelines and a review process for at least one historic district, the Creek Street

Historic District. The Creek Street Historic District Review Board provides property owners guidance on appropriate measures to maintain and improve their historic properties to ensure that the historic integrity of the district remains intact. This type of action, a laudable measure, is not common in the State of Alaska (TNSDS 2022: 14). Other collaborative projects include:

<i>Survey &amp; Evaluation</i>	<i>Redevelopment/ Revitalization Plan or Masterplan</i>	<i>Historic Building Assessment</i>
Historic Properties Survey of Ketchikan	Central Business District/Waterfront Masterplan Update	Yates Memorial Hospital Historic Building Assessment
Hopkins Alley, Warren Street, & Harding Street Areas Survey and Inventory Project	Newtown Redevelopment Plan	Conceptual Plan for the Redevelopment of St. Johns Properties and the Creation of Mission Square
Downtown Survey of Historic Properties in Ketchikan	Revitalizing Ketchikan’s Neighborhoods	Pioneer Hall Historic Building Assessment
Creek Street Historic Properties Survey	Hopkins Alley Revitalization Project	
Creek Street Historic District Review Board	Downtown Ketchikan’s Waterfront Conceptual Master Plan Vision & Design Recommendations	
Newtown Commercial Area Survey of Historic Properties		
Stedman-Thomas Historic District, National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Registration Form		
Stedman-Thomas Historic District Design Guidelines		
Historical Survey of Ketchikan Canneries		

**Creek Street Historic District Board**

The Creek Street Historic District Board was established to provide advisory guidance to the Planning Commission or Zoning Administrator for all proposed development or improvement plans, policies, or programs referred to the chairman of the board by prospective applicants in order to determine their impact on properties or structures within the Historic District (HD) Zone, as it is defined within Borough Code Chapter 18.35. (Ketchikan Gateway Borough, n.d.).

### ***Ketchikan Visitors Bureau***

The Ketchikan Visitors Bureau (KVB) serves as a resource for travel and tourist information for Ketchikan, Alaska. The KVB is a non-profit organization founded by Ketchikan residents in 1976, one of the first visitor bureaus organized in Alaska. Originally established to provide a means for the community to cooperatively market the area as a cruise destination, KVB has helped Ketchikan emerge as a major port stop on the Alaskan cruise ship itinerary.

The KVB continues to provide support services to the cruise industry and its guests, while working to market and develop the independent as well as meetings, conventions, and special event markets in Ketchikan (Ketchikan Visitors Bureau, 2022).

### ***Tongass Historical Society***

The Tongass Historical Society is a private, non-profit corporation whose purpose is to discover, preserve, and disseminate knowledge of the history of Ketchikan and Southeast Alaska for present and future generations. Established in 1961, the Society brings together people of all ages who share an interest in Ketchikan's rich and colorful heritage (Tongass Historical Society Website 2022).

### ***Tongass Historical Museum***

The Tongass Historical Museum is a museum dedicated to the history of Ketchikan and the surrounding communities. Owned and operated by the City of Ketchikan, it was first established in 1962 inside the former jail section of City Hall. In the build up to the Alaska Purchase Centennial celebrations held in 1967, a new Centennial Building was constructed with dedicated museum space for the Tongass Historical Museum. The museum continues to operate in the Centennial Building.

### ***KGB Planning Department***

It is the mission of the KGB Department of Planning & Community Development to foster and maintain the equitable development of the Borough's natural and built environments as well as maintaining and developing a resilient economy. The Department of Planning & Community Development works towards improving the quality of life for Borough residents through the transparent, orderly, sustainable, and strategically paced development.

To achieve this mission, the Department of Planning & Community Development creates and implements long-term community growth & development strategies that will allow the Borough residents to thrive, while protecting its cultural, natural, and human resources through collaborative planning and development practices.

### ***Other Community Planning and Involvement Organizations***

Historic preservation activities are not limited to governmental entities. Within the community of Ketchikan, there are a number of organizations actively involved in community planning activities that include heritage, history, and preservation. Other groups, such as the business community of Ketchikan, benefit directly from heritage, history, and preservation activities. These groups include:

- Totem Heritage Center is one of two museums of the Ketchikan Museums (the City of Ketchikan Museum Dept)
- Ketchikan Indian Community
- Ketchikan Tlingit & Haida Community Council, est. 1935 (Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska)
- Ketchikan Community Foundation
- Ketchikan Wellness Coalition
- Sealaska Heritage Institute
- Haida Canoe Revitalization Group
- KRBD, local radio
- Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce
- Downtown Steering Committee
- Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council

### ***Statewide and National Historic Preservation Groups***

Statewide and national organizations are also involved in historic preservation activities in Ketchikan. These organizations usually operate on either government-owned land or in advisory roles. These groups include:

- Alaska Anthropological Association
- Alaska Association for Historic Preservation
- Alaska Historical Society
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
- National Park Service (NPS)
- National Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management

## OVERVIEW OF EXISTING HISTORIC RESOURCES

*“From the days of Tlingit Indian fish camps to the early settlers, and to a brief stint as Alaska’s largest city, Ketchikan has a rich history. Present-day Ketchikan draws much of its strength and visitor appeal from this history and the wealth of historic properties it boasts.”*

— *Newtown Commercial Area: A Survey of Historic Properties*  
(McLaughlin & Reeve, 2015)



Figure 7. Historic Photo Postcard—Newtown, Ketchikan, Alaska. Published by Edw. H. Mitchell, San Francisco for J. B. Caro & Co., Inc. Juneau, Alaska. n.d.

Ketchikan’s geographic location and its topography meant development occurred in unique and specific ways that contributed to the city’s distinctive visual character. Ketchikan originally began as a summer fish camp built by Tlingit who came to Ketchikan Creek each summer to harvest the stream’s bountiful run of salmon. Due to the rugged, mountainous terrain, Ketchikan originally developed by clinging to what little flat land was available along the shoreline. A tidal flat at the mouth of Ketchikan Creek provided the most hospitable place to build (Cole 1995: 5). In the early 1880s, an account of

Ketchikan noted that the only signs of habitation were four or five Native-occupied shacks situated around the mouth of the creek. That was soon to change. In 1888, a salmon saltery and dock were built in the area now known as “Downtown.” Several more buildings followed, including Clark & Martin’s mercantile store which served the small numbers of fishermen and miners in the area (McLaughlin & Reeve 2022: 1).

The area that would become Ketchikan, located on the southwest edge of Revillagigedo Island, was positioned by geography, resources, and timing to become the gateway to Alaska. There was relatively little, flat, easily developed land; however, it did have an abundance of accessible waterfront, thus it was favorably positioned for shipping when water transport was key. Cannery, mining, and timber booms continually brought people to and through the area. Ketchikan Creek with abundant salmon runs, fresh water and large watershed with hydropower potential drew generations of Tlingits and early settlers to the land.

The unique topography impacted where development occurred—the development of Ketchikan occurred in a linear pattern, with Downtown at the center and homes cannery and other uses extending to the north (Newtown) and to the south (Stedman-Thomas) (McLaughlin & Reeve 2015). This unique topography also impacted structures and what they looked like. As noted by Alison Hoagland in *Buildings of Alaska*, “The city’s architecture is dominated by the terrain. Because there is so little flat land, some buildings have been built on pilings over the water while others cling to the hillsides. Roads often dissolve into wooden stairways or boardwalks on trestles (Hoagland 1993: 202).” This also meant that, historically, in some areas, structures were often grouped closely together, and streets and sidewalks were narrow. In the Stedman-Thomas District, “only a four-foot-wide concrete sidewalk separates the buildings from the street. Because of the short supply of land in Ketchikan, the district’s buildings are closely spaced. Any commercial structures are only separated by inches or narrow alleyways (Cole 1995: 6).”

After the land along the shore was occupied, the hillsides of some areas, like the Stedman-Thomas district “were cleared of trees and brush and homes were built

on wooden platforms, hanging precariously on the steep slopes. Wooden stairways were constructed to reach the hillside residences and were given street names—Brown Way, Tatsuda Way, and Inman Street are examples of these stairway streets. The majority of the district’s residential buildings were built on the hillsides in this manner (Cole 1995: 5)”

In describing the general residential character of the buildings, Hoagland observes, “the houses, which are either wood framed or concrete, are in the forms of cottages and bungalows. Basements are often exposed, although left unornamented. The houses abound with porches and picture windows. Everyone gets a view of

the water. Yards are most likely to be multilevel rock gardens” (Hoagland 1993: 201).

Hoagland also notes that there are a number of totem poles around the town, including a fine collection at the Totem Heritage Center (Hoagland 1993: 201). She concludes, “Ketchikan’s steep terrain and irregular street pattern create distinct and sometimes tiny neighborhoods, often with identifiable characteristics” (Hoagland 1993:202).

Some of these “tiny neighborhoods with identifiable characteristics” have been surveyed and/or listed on the NRHP. These areas and their identifiable characteristics include:

Property or Area	Characteristics
Creek Street: A Survey of Historic Properties	<p>Relatively well-built one- and two-story houses. While they would be classified as “Pioneer” style, which was common in the Pacific Northwest during the latter half of the 19th century, they have some characteristics which make them unique; “Creek Street Pioneer” style might be a more appropriate name.</p> <p>The style is simple:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• little ornamentation; of wood frame construction.</li> <li>• Built on piling over tidal waters (backs of buildings built on rock where possible); of one to two stories in height; and without porches or additions (typically rectangular or square in plan).</li> <li>• The usually gabled roof would be covered with cedar shingles (initially many from the nearby shingle mill). Roofs were steep (8 to 12 inches in rise for every foot of horizontal length) to shed heavy snow.</li> <li>• The buildings always front onto the boardwalk, with the entry door having a small shed-style roof for some rain protection. Primary windows face towards the Creek.</li> <li>• Because of their use (prostitution and bootleg liquor sales during Prohibition), some houses had a number of special features (in addition to the tell-tale red light over the doorway). These included back entrances and stairways, secret compartments, trapdoors in the floor where liquor could be delivered by boat at night, and covered stoops and front windows where the women could be seen.</li> </ul> <p>(RAI Development Solutions 2011: 14)</p> <p>Within the Creek Street Pioneer style, historic buildings fall into four types.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 story</li> <li>• 1 ½ to 2 story</li> <li>• Storefront</li> <li>• Amalgamation</li> </ul> <p>Building Characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little ornamentation or decorative treatment</li> <li>• Utilitarian in nature</li> <li>• Wood as primary material</li> <li>• Steep pitched roofs</li> <li>• Wood pilings as means of building support</li> </ul> <p>(RAI Development Solutions 2011: 14)</p>

TABLE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

Property or Area	Characteristics
<p>Newtown 2015</p>	<p>During Ketchikan's first decade or so--its pioneer years--buildings were simple, functional wood structures. They consisted mostly of utilitarian cannery and wharf buildings, pioneer homes ranging from temporary shacks and cabins.</p> <p>"Today, Newtown is characterized by a predominance of historic buildings comprised of a mix of commercial and residential wood structures. While there are structures newer than 1967, they are the exception and have been built at a scale that complements the historic townscape" (Historic Ketchikan Inc., 2015: 19).</p> <p>Building types or styles present in Newtown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pioneer</li> <li>• Pioneer storefront</li> <li>• Flatiron</li> <li>• Industrial</li> <li>• And a variety of residential styles (Historic Ketchikan Inc. 2015: 19).</li> </ul> <p>Building Characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simple buildings with steep pitched gabled roofs with shed roof porches added on.</li> <li>• Most buildings built on pilings over water.</li> <li>• Nearly all buildings were on pilings, either out over the water for wharves and cannery buildings, or to place a level floor on the rocky, usually sloping land.</li> </ul> <p>(McLaughlin &amp; Reeve 2022)</p>
<p>Stedman-Thomas Historic District: NRHP Registration Form 1995</p>	<p>"Nearly all of the commercial buildings in the district line Stedman Street and are simple wood frame structures with false fronts, which were added to existing buildings in the 1920s. The residential buildings are mostly two-story houses with shed-roofed kitchen additions in the back." Today, the Stedman-Thomas Historic District is a thriving commercial and arts neighborhood that still evokes the feel of an early 20th century Alaskan fishing community.</p> <p>Building Characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simple wood frame structures with false fronts.</li> <li>• Residential buildings are mostly two-story with shed roofed kitchen additions in the back.</li> </ul> <p>(Cole 1995)</p>

## Existing Architectural Styles



Figure 8. Burkhardt-Dibrell House, an example of a Queen Anne-style residence in Ketchikan, Alaska (©TNSDS).

There are a range of architectural styles present in Ketchikan, from simple-utilitarian structures to more elaborately styled buildings, such as the Art Moderne Masonic Temple. The *Ketchikan: A City Historic Properties Survey* (Tucker 1984) completed in 1984 details the architectural styles present in Ketchikan, including:

- Stylistic or No Style
- Pioneer
- Decorated Pioneer
- Classic box
- Queen Anne
- Classical Revival
- Plain Early
- Commercial style
- Colonial revival
- Eclectic
- Shingle-style
- Craftsman Style
- Colonial bungalow
- Bungalowoid
- Tudor (Revival)
- Art Moderne
- Industrial

## Materials

As noted by Linda Cole in the NHRP Registration Form for the Stedman-Thomas Historic District, “the isolated location of Ketchikan made obtaining building materials a slow, difficult, and expensive process. Items which were not produced locally had to be shipped by steamer from the West Coast. Ketchikan carpenters often had to make-do with the limited resources at hand. Locally milled wood served as the main framing material with exteriors constructed of bevel or drop wood siding. Due to limited resources, most of the buildings in the [Stedman-Thomas] district are simple and utilitarian.” This situation was common in Ketchikan, as the most prevalent building materials were wood and, later, concrete (Cole 1995: 6). Despite the lack of access to an abundance of building materials, visual interest was added by the application of colorful paint, modest ornamentation, and signage.



Figure 9. Historic Photo Postcard. Ketchikan Alaska, Looking South. Winter & Pond Co., Juneau, Alaska Publishers, c. 1912.

## Period of Significance and Themes

As one participant in a public meeting noted, “Ketchikan is a city of many stories.” In terms of the preservation of built heritage, some of those stories, such as the early history of Ketchikan, is well represented in the NRHP-listed sites and the AHRs designated sites with positive Determinations of Eligibilities (DOEs). This history focuses on the canning and timber industries, the Gold Rush period, and the early Euro-American development of the area. Likewise, the Tlingit and Haida artistic traditions are represented in these sites, owing to a rich history in totem pole restoration work in the region dating back nearly 80 years (TNSDS 2022: 43).

However, analysis conducted as part of the desktop review indicates a lack of information surrounding several topics in the development of the region. These topics include:

- development of the tourism industry in Ketchikan;
- contributions to the development of Ketchikan by non-Euro-American populations and other minority groups, including Pan-Asian and African American groups who worked in the canning and fishing, and other industries;
- mid- to late-20th century development in Ketchikan, especially as pertains to the Cold War period; and
- military activity in Ketchikan aside from Coast Guard activities.

Other themes or areas of significance identified during the public meetings, survey, and stakeholder interviews include Alaska Native Heritage, women's history, and Filipino history. These will be discussed in more detail later in the report.

## CURRENT HISTORIC PRESERVATION CHALLENGES AND THREATS

One of the principles of preservation planning is that, "important historic properties cannot be replaced if they are destroyed. Preservation planning provides for conservative use of these properties, preserving them in place and avoiding harm when possible and altering or destroying properties only when necessary" (NPS 2020). Identifying past threats, current threats, and future threats is an important part of the process of creating a preservation plan when one applies this principal.

### Natural Threats

Since humans have been constructing structures, natural threats have conspired to alter, damage, or destroy them. These threats include weather conditions, fire, flood, earthquake, pests and vermin, and in recent years, climate change. As noted in the NRHP nomination for the Stedman-Thomas Historic District, "many of the buildings have also been impacted by the harsh, damp climate of the region. With an average rainfall

of 168 inches per year, avoiding deterioration in the largely wooden buildings requires much attention" (Stedman-Thomas: 7).

### Flooding and Fires



Figure 10. A view of Creek Street with the proximity to the creek evident (@TNSDS).



Figure 11. Screen Image of KTOO News, "Flooding, high tide caused evacuations in Ketchikan" January 24, 2015.

Flooding events, like that in the fall of 1930 resulted in the destruction of structures in and around Creek Street (Tucker 1984: 10). Most recently, in 2015, and 2020, rainfall caused localized flooding along Ketchikan Creek that initially prompted voluntary evacuation because of concerns over the potential failure of the dam (Anchorage Daily News 2020). Fires, like those in 1924, 1926, 1956 and 1960 resulted in the loss of buildings and the significant alteration of some areas (Tucker 1984: 10). It is important to note such fires may have occurred through human activities, rather than through natural causes. Regardless, fires are an imminent threat to historic and cultural resources in Ketchikan.



Figure 12. "Alaska Loss Heavy: Ketchikan Hotel and Stores Burn—Damage \$150,000," *The Bellingham Herald*, Bellingham Washington, April 5, 1924.

## Climate Change

Threats like climate change pose profound threats to viability of communities across the globe including Ketchikan. The threats of climate change could be sys-

temic and devastating and will directly and indirectly impact historic and cultural resources. For example, in 2019, Ketchikan had to run on backup diesel generators for months. By one estimate, it cost more than a million dollars (Stemple 2022). As noted in the Southeast Alaska Environmental Conference Report on the Climate Change Adaptation Summit, "in Southeast Alaska climate change impacts are unique and are longer-term impacts such as heavy rains causing flooding, ocean acidification, warmer waters, snowfall variations, warm springs followed by frost affecting wild berry production, invasive species, and toxins in the marine environment. These factors impact food security and access and abundance of culturally important resources (Holden 2017: 4)."

## Human-Made Threats

In addition to these natural threats, other human-made threats like absentee landlords, deferred maintenance, changes in use, access to available materials and skilled craftsmanship, economic trends, and changes in popular taste resulted in the alteration and demolition of the built environment.

## Absentee Landlords and Deferred Maintenance



Figure 13. Example of a Ketchikan house destroyed by human activities, photographed in 2022. (©TNSDS).

Other threats included absentee landlords and years of neglect and deferred maintenance. Neighborhoods like Hopkins Alley fell into profound states of disrepair by the mid-20th century. The Ketchikan Daily News featured a front-page exposé about the condition of the area. Along with the article was a prominent photo of children playing in abhorrent conditions: an apartment that had no toilet, only a hole in the floor. In the community outrage that followed, Hopkins Alley be-

came the object of small-scale urban renewal. According to longtime resident Edwin Shelton, several successive City Managers vowed to “clean up” the alley. The apartment building in the news article burned in 1954 and many of the smaller houses were condemned and demolished (Historic Ketchikan, Inc. 2015: 14).

As noted by one respondent to the Public Outreach Survey:

*“I would really like to see more interest in preventing the further deterioration of historic structures. As the owner of a couple of older properties I realize the challenges of maintaining a property in this climate, but it is sad to see older buildings, especially in the core, falling apart for lack of repair.” (Public Outreach Survey, Question 10).*

### Parking and Infrastructure Improvements

In the post-World War II period, the increased need for parking and infrastructure improvements in the

early 1950s, such as the widening of Water Street and the boring of the tunnel, resulted in the demolition of dozens of buildings. Other buildings were moved. In the Stedman-Thomas District, a “handful of commercial buildings and residences were destroyed on the southwestern or water side of Stedman Street when the harbor was dredged in the 1930s, and later, when the road was widened in the 1970s” (Cole 1995: 7). Other interventions, like infill construction in some neighborhoods in the 1930s, did not result in the destruction of historic fabric but did alter the larger context in which it is located.

### Accessibility

Another challenge is access. The unique geography and method of construction means that not every building is accessible by a street or even sidewalk (Tucker 1984: 37). This means that building projects can be difficult and costly. It can also hamper the ability of public and tourists to access to some areas.

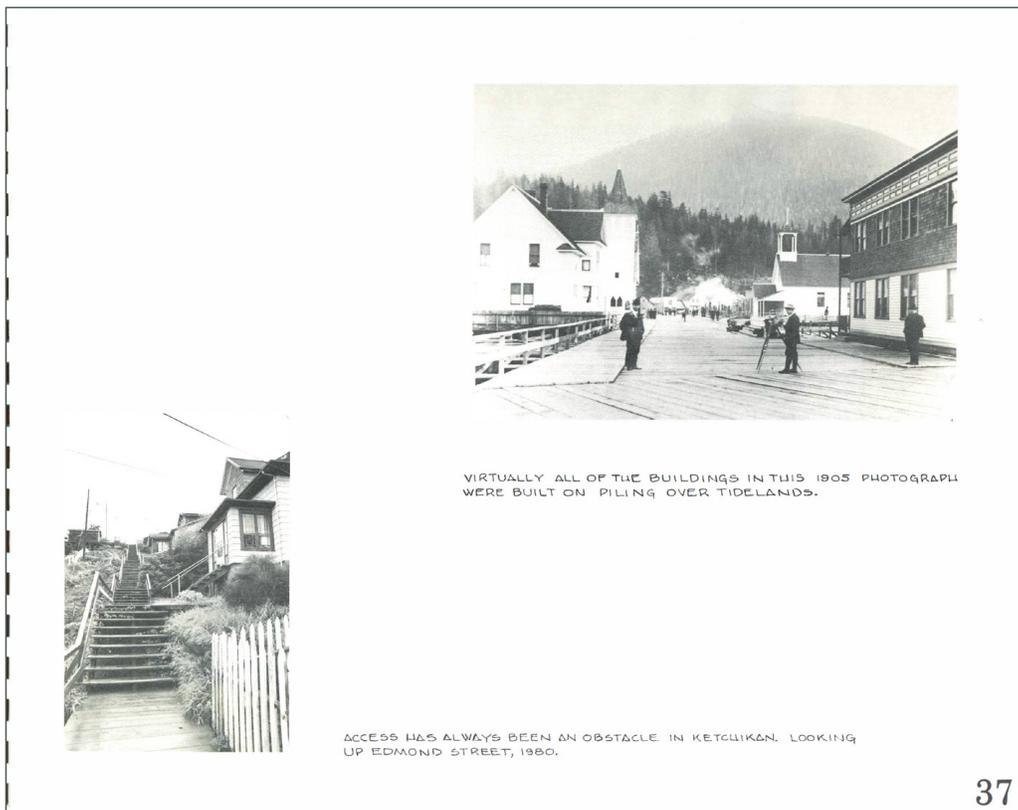


Figure 14. As noted in the Ketchikan Historic Properties Survey, “access has always been an obstacle.” Ketchikan: A City Historic Properties Survey, 1984, p. 37.

## Affordable Housing and Seasonal/Transient Residents

There is a nationwide affordable housing-crisis, and Ketchikan is no exception. As noted in a recent news article, “Officials in Ketchikan are taking notice of the housing crunch... Borough Planning Director Richard Harney told the assembly... that affordable housing in Ketchikan is disappearing. ‘As these properties are becoming valuable, that means the price goes up. It also means that demand is going up for them and the supply goes down. That’s where we’re at. We went from having a housing problem to a housing crisis in just a matter of a few years.’ (Stone 2022). According to the 2020 census, only 52.4% of the housing units in Ketchikan are owner occupied (US Census 2020). The median gross rent between 2016 and 2020 was \$1,148 and the median household income during that same time period was \$55,809.

Like many other places in Alaska, Ketchikan also has a number of seasonal residents who are there for leisure, work, or a combination thereof. A 2017 study by the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation noted that in 2017, there were 6,260 housing units in the KGB. Of those, 5,305 were occupied, 320 are for sale or rent, and the remaining 574 are seasonal or otherwise vacant units (Alaska Housing Finance Corporation 2017: 3). In that same study, comparison of the growth rates in the senior age (65+) segment of the population to the dependent age (0 to 15) population indicate that in the KGB region the primary pressure for new housing over the next 15 years will come from households with elderly people (Alaska Housing Finance Corporation 2017: 6). Thus, one of the potential challenges is the retrofitting of extant structures to make them suitable for an aging population and also adding new units in an area with limited developable land.

## Tourism



Figure 15. The current “Welcome to Ketchikan” sign that greets cruise ship visitors (©TNSDS).

As noted by the KVB, “each year thousands of people from around the world visit Ketchikan, arriving by air and sea. The majority of visitors arrive aboard the magnificent ships that cruise the Inside Passage from April through September. Ketchikan also welcomes independent travelers and sportfish enthusiasts, as well as visitors arriving to attend meetings, conferences, and special events (Ketchikan Visitors Bureau 2022). In 2019, the number of visitors to Ketchikan almost reached 1.2 million. That is a considerable influx of people for a city whose population, according to the last census, was just over 8,000. While tourism can bring economic benefits, it can also present many challenges, as was evidenced by the global collapse of the cruise ship industry because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Tourism can also provide many opportunities especially when it is centered on benefiting the local community. Whatever the future plans for Ketchikan, tourism will likely play an important part. In responding to the survey question, “what is your hope for the future of Ketchikan and its heritage,” one participant observed that:

*“It would be great to see Ketchikan as a whole (City, Borough, Saxman) develop a vision for the future with tourism. There needs to be a balance so that locals are not pushed out for summer tourist activities” (Public Outreach Survey, Question 10).*

In finding that balance for locals, one of the stakeholder interviewees identified the need for a community cultural center that could be a place for locals to celebrate culture and for visitors to learn more (Ketchikan Visitors Bureau, 2022).

## Erasure, Overlooked, and Undervalued Histories

And finally, shifting notions of history and heritage have meant that the resources and stories of many people who helped to shape Ketchikan’s history have been erased, undervalued or overlooked. As noted by one participant in the first public meeting, when asked about their favorite places in Ketchikan observed:

*“Not a specific place, but rather: Identifying, elevating, and honoring the under explored/celebrated stories that are tied to the places here in Ketchikan. There are so many people and groups that have changed and*

*impacted our community. Preserve the places but also tell a more complete story where all people see themselves reflected in a more truthful and inclusive collective history of Ketchikan” (Public Meeting, No. 1).*

The desire to tell a more complete story was also echoed in the public outreach survey. As observed by one participant:

*“In general the historic markers downtown do an excellent job but I think it would be good to have a few more that are focused on individuals of historic interest from across a diversity of cultural and economic background” (Public Outreach Survey, Question 6).*

## PUBLIC OUTREACH AND STAKEHOLDER SURVEYS

As part of the public outreach program multiple opportunities for public input were created including the creation and distribution of a survey. The goal of the survey was to use the information gathered from the public questionnaire to “help refine the agenda for the public meeting and serve as a key resource in the project’s development of preservation goals” (Ketchikan Historic Commission 2021: 2).

### Survey Research and Design

As part of the survey design process the team looked at examples of other surveys. Specifically, the team looked for surveys that were being done in connection with a historic preservation plan either at the state, regional, or local level. In addition, the team looked at other surveys were examined to assess:

- Questions asked
- Length of survey
- Completion rates
- Survey instrument
- Survey introduction and context setting

Surveys examined included but were not limited to those from: OHA, the Illinois Historic Preservation Division, the City of Casper, Wyoming, Connecticut SHPO, and Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preser-

vation Office. As part of this review process the team also looked at examples of stakeholder interviews.

After the review of surveys, stakeholder interview questions, and best practices was completed. From these surveys a master list of possible questions was created. This list included questions for the public survey, the stakeholder survey, and stakeholder interviews. In addition, a framework for the introductory text was established. This text detailed why it was being done, how the information would be used, and how long it would take to complete.

The project called for the creation of two surveys and interviews. A streamlined and coherent process to complete both surveys and to schedule stakeholder interviews was established by dividing a single survey into three parts:

- the public outreach survey,
- the stakeholder survey and,
- instructions for scheduling stakeholder interviews.

The segmentation of the survey also had the following benefits:

- Aid in distribution – there was a single link to the survey so the sharing of the link on social networks, via email, and on websites.
- Single Source for Data Collection – the segmentation of the survey (rather than two separate surveys) meant that all the data from both surveys would be consolidated into one report, making analysis and comparison easier.
- Identify additional stakeholders – because stakeholders had the opportunity to self-identify, it meant that additional stakeholders could be found.

### Online Survey Best Practices

Because the survey was going to be distributed electronically a range of online platforms/tools were considered. These tools ranged from paid tools like Survey Monkey and freemium tools like Google Forms. In the end, Survey Monkey was selected because it had the most robust set of analytical tools. The team also looked at best practices for online surveys and not-

ed that shorter ones tend to have higher completion rates, thus the goal was to keep the entire survey to twenty-five questions or fewer. The final list of draft questions was shared with the KHC for feedback. The final survey was created in Survey Monkey and shared and tested prior to public distribution.

The final survey was 26 questions long (the entire list of questions and responses is included in Appendix C) and was a mix of closed and open-ended questions. It was estimated that it would take a participant 15 minutes to complete the entire survey. To make the survey widely accessible, links to the survey were shared on:

- Facebook;
- the home pages of the Ketchikan Museums website and
- shared at public meetings and sent directly by email to registrants of both public meetings.

### Stakeholder Survey and Interviews

Development of the questions asked during the stakeholder interviews involved reviewing public involvement plans for other preservation organizations, including research for the current state historic preservation plan, *Saving Our Past: Planning for Our Future* available on the OHA website. The questions were intended to get interviewees thinking critically about historic preservation in the community and offer suggestions for areas that they felt needed more focus by preservation groups moving forward.

#### 1. *How do you define preservation?*

This question was asked in order to gain an understanding of what each interviewee thought about historic preservation.

#### 2. *Tell us about your involvement with historic preservation efforts in Ketchikan.*

Asking about individual involvement allowed TNSDS to gain an understanding of why the individual identified as a stakeholder and how familiar they were with previous historic preservation efforts.

#### 3. *Why does preservation matter to you?*

This question served to gain an understanding

of why the interviewee was passionate about the topics being discussed.

#### 4. *Why does it matter to Ketchikan?*

This question was asked in order to turn the focus of the interview from the individual being interviewed to the community of Ketchikan at large. It also asked the interviewees to consider what impact their previous activities may have had on the local community.

#### 5. *What is one of the biggest challenges to preservation in Ketchikan?*

Asking an interviewee to identify challenges to preservation can produce differing results, depending on the areas of historic preservation and history and cultural activities they are interested in. It helps to generate a broader discussion of the challenges faced by Ketchikan overall.

#### 6. *What are the strengths/weaknesses of your community?*

This question was asked to help move the conversation from challenges and weaknesses within the community to more positive attributes, such as strengths. Such strengths can be used in the future to further preservation efforts.

#### 7. *Do you see a place for historic preservation in your community?*

This question was asked in order to better understand how participants think historic preservation activities can impact their community.

#### 8. *What is the largest public misunderstanding of preservation?*

Preservation is often misunderstood, especially from a property owner standpoint. This question allows the interviewers to gain an understanding of what misconceptions were prevalent in the community.

#### 9. *What stories or histories remain untold or under-represented?*

Often, the published history of a given place can gloss over less savory aspects of a community's

- past. This question allowed for input from individuals who may have knowledge on these aspects.
10. *Tell a story or give an example of a preservation success story. What elements contributed to the success?*  
This question asked for input on what residents feel is a good example of a preservation success; such answers are not always the most obvious and can span the gap between the built environment and cultural heritage activities.
  11. *If money were no object, what would you do to improve your community?*  
Removing financial issues from the equation allowed the interviewee to imagine projects and activities that might otherwise not be considered for fear of financial inadequacies.
  12. *What would need to happen to make that possible?*  
Again, taking money out of the equation forced the interviewees to think more critically about dream projects and activities.
  13. *What is the most effective preservation training program/medium?*  
This question was asked to gain an understanding of what work/study has been undertaken by the interviewees, and what was found to be the most effective.
  14. *What is the most effective way of communicating preservation information?*  
Each community is different when it comes to the dissemination of information. Asking the interviewee to suggest communication methods ensures that the more effective communications strategies are implemented in the future.
  15. *What is your hope for the future of Ketchikan?*  
This question asked the interviewees to elaborate on what they think should happen to make their community the best it possibly can be.
  16. *What do you feel is the role of the local preservation commission in improving your community?*  
This question forced the interviewee to consider the role of historic preservation in the creation of the best community Ketchikan can be.
  17. *What role do you see for the State Historic Preservation Office in your community?*  
This question was asked to find out what, if anything, the interviewees knew about the SHPO and its role at the national, state, and local levels.
  18. *What role does preservation plan in shaping that future?*  
The interviewees were asked to rethink the discussion and apply it to the KHC preservation plan, and how it can help build the ideal Ketchikan community.
  19. *What are your hopes for the historic preservation plan? What issues do you want to be sure are addressed?*  
This question asked the interviewees to think about what they would want to see in a historic preservation plan and what challenges such a plan could face in the future.
  20. *What role, if any, would you like to play or do you see your organization playing in future preservation efforts?*  
Asking interviewees what activities they would be interested in can provide a baseline for community enthusiasm for different activities.
  21. *What if anything else would you like to discuss or would you like us to know?*  
This open ended question was intended to further the discussion to any particular topic the interviewee felt was relevant.

## **PUBLIC MEETINGS, APRIL AND JUNE 2022**

Two public outreach meetings were held. The data collected from the meetings included polls, surveys, chat and meeting transcripts. The data from the first meeting was used to shape the content of the second public outreach meeting and fine tune the design of the public outreach and stakeholder surveys.

The second meeting helped illuminate the role of the KHC, previous historic preservation efforts in Ketchikan and how the current public outreach process fits into the larger preservation planning effort. All the data collected from the meetings was used to help identify, shape, and refine the preservation goals and objectives.

### Meeting Purpose

The purpose of the public meetings was to provide an opportunity for stakeholders and the general public to discuss historic preservation needs and to solicit input about community preservation goals and priorities (Ketchikan Historic Commission 2021: 2).

### Meeting Structure and Promotion

The public meetings were held via Zoom, an online meeting platform, owing to concerns surrounding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Utilizing the online platform also allowed for more participation as it did not require a physical presence in Ketchikan at the time of the meeting; Ketchikan residents were able to participate even if they were traveling or otherwise unable to physically arrive at a meeting location.

A meeting link and QR code were created for the meeting, with registration required to access the link to the Zoom meeting. The link was shared across a variety of platforms, including direct email, social media, websites for all interested organizations such as the KHC, the KGB, Historic Ketchikan, Inc., and the Ketchikan Museums. Robert Meinhardt, MA, President and Principal Consultant of TNSDS, created a video on-site in Ketchikan that was also shared widely throughout the community. Advertisements were also placed in the local newspaper and aired on the local radio station.

A professional facilitator, Mallory Penney, was brought in for the two meetings to ensure smooth, uninterrupted flow of the meeting. Penney was instrumental in the proper use of such Zoom features as breakout discussion rooms, polls, and chats. Penney also made herself available to the participants in the event that anyone had technical difficulties using the Zoom platform.

### Meeting Themes and Design

Since its inception, the historic preservation movement has been dependent upon the involvement of and engagement with the public. Public involvement in the

preservation process takes multiple forms: from advocating for the preservation of historic properties or legislation to projecting them to participating in the actual physical “work” of preservation by purchasing and revitalizing historic properties. These are but a few of the myriad ways the public plays an active role in historic preservation efforts. The City of Ketchikan has a long and impressive history of people involved in historic preservation efforts and that continued involvement is a necessary component of for the successful stewardship of the city’s heritage, as noted by the Commission:

*“Present historic preservation efforts depend upon the involvement and commitment of local citizens, government and preservationists. The Ketchikan Historic Commission realizes that, unless strong and active preservation programs are a collaborative effort, local historic properties will be lost, either through neglect, lack of community vision, inappropriate renovations, or demolition. Ultimately, a Historic Preservation Plan will serve as a unifying document to provide direction for future preservation of the community’s cultural and historic resources” (Ketchikan Historic Commission 2021: 1).*

This notion, that preservation efforts depend on the involvement and commitment of local citizens and that the preservation plan will serve as a “unifying document to provide direction for future preservation” (Ketchikan Historic Commission 2021: 1) helped shape the agenda for, and structure of, both meetings. Specifically, because a historic preservation plan is a future-oriented document, that looks at bringing the past to the future and because people are an integral part of that process, those two ideas became the underlying theme for the first meeting.

### Meeting No. 1

#### Meeting Themes

There were two underlying themes to the first meeting: the first was the lens of time—past, present, future. The second is people, place, purpose, and preservation or the four “Ps” of preservation. These four related to the goals of the KHC and the idea that people with a purpose are integral in the preservation of place and inherent in that process is connected to a larger purpose.

The first part of the meeting focused on the past and present in Ketchikan. What is present and why does it matter? The latter half of the meeting focused on the future of Ketchikan in a way meant to inspire and encourage people to see themselves as active participants in shaping the future and using preservation as one of the means to do that.

**People:** During the meeting there were multiple opportunities for community members to converse with others and talk about historic preservation, why it matters and what their concerns, hopes, and questions were.

**Place:** During the meeting, people had the opportunity to share stories of places that are important to them and why they are important.

**Purpose:** The public had an opportunity during the meeting to discuss what they feel is the purpose of historic preservation in improving the Ketchikan community.

**Preservation:** During the meeting, the public outreach process and preservation plan was clearly delineated.

### Meeting Structure

The meeting lasted approximately one-and-one-half hours. The meeting structure leveraged some of the features of Zoom including pre-meeting surveys, in-meeting polling and breakout rooms for small group interaction and conversation. The team utilized chat prompts or questions to guide the breakout room discussions.

Participants were asked to respond to or discuss the following questions. The answers were shared in the results section of this report and to help visualize the information shared, images of word clouds, a method of data visualization, were created. A word cloud is a collection, or cluster, of words depicted in different sizes. The bigger and bolder the word appears, the more often it's mentioned within a given text (Boost Labs 2014).

### Discussion Questions and Prompts

During the meeting, a series of questions were posed to the participants, relating to historic preservation. The questions were delivered as prompts, after which the participants were placed into individual discussion groups of no more than three or four

participants. The questions were intended to help foster thoughtful discussions with the small size of each group encouraging everyone to participate. The questions posed are as follows:

1. *What brings you to this meeting? What do you hope to share, learn, or discover?*

This question was intended to jump start discussions about historic preservation and the KHC, offering participants an opportunity to introduce themselves to one another and get familiar with the format of the meeting.

2. *What questions do you have about the work of the KHC, how historic preservation works, or about the heritage of Ketchikan?*

The participants were asked to be forthcoming with their curiosity and concerns about historic preservation and the KHC. The goal was to identify gaps in participants' knowledge so that it can be better addressed by the Commission.

3. *What are some of your favorite places in Ketchikan? Why are they important to you?*

This question asked the participants to think about their community and discuss the places that they feel are most important both to themselves individually and the community as a whole. Its intention was to foster dialogue about places that may be of concern to the greatest number of people as well as bring attention to lesser-known places in the community.

4. *What are some of the challenges or barriers to historic preservation?*

The participants were asked to think critically about historic preservation in their community, and to discuss what they feel are challenges or barriers. The challenges or barriers could be things either observed in existing or past preservation projects or be theoretical in nature.

5. *What is the challenge? What are some ideas that you have for solutions?*

This question asked the participants to think about the challenges or barriers identified in

the previous question and brainstorm solutions. Collective brainstorming has been proven to produce effective results and asking the people who live in the community to help come up with solutions was deemed a worthwhile endeavor.

6. Please share your headline from the future in the chat.

This question asked the meeting participants to imagine themselves in the future and describe newspaper headlines they would hope to see relating to historic preservation. The goal of the question was to get the participants to think about what they hoped could be accomplished by both the meeting being held, the updated HPP, and the KHC overall.

### Meeting No. 2



Figure 16. Undated postcard showing the prow of a cruise ship juxtaposed against a drawing of Ketchikan, Alaska.

### Meeting Themes

Tourism is an important part of the history of Ketchikan. One of the benefits of this is that over the decades thousands of postcards of Ketchikan have been produced. While many of the structures pictured in historic postcards of Ketchikan, others are no longer extant or have been dramatically and sometimes unsympathetically altered. These tiny windows to the past are an important testament to the need for preservation. Historic postcards could also be viewed as a metaphor for historic preservation, just as the creation of a postcard the act of documenting something valuable or important is a complex process, so too is the act of preserving and protecting the object itself.

The second meeting began with a short video showing many historic postcards from Ketchikan, interspersed with contemporary images. This was followed by a review of the findings from the desktop review and stakeholder interview and also a short history of the history of the KHC and the role and responsibilities of a CLG. The structure and content of the meeting was based directly on feedback from interviews, surveys and the first public meeting.

### Meeting Structure

The second meeting was held on June 28, 2022, and lasted two hours. Twenty-four people registered for the meeting, and nine participated. Because the number of registrants for the second meeting was smaller and because some features like in-meeting polling did not work for all participants during the first meeting, those features were not utilized. The team made use of the video and slide sharing functions, however, and as with the first meeting, the team utilized chat prompts or questions to guide the discussions.

The meeting was also an opportunity to drive people to the survey and to detail stakeholder interviews, how that process works, and how to participate if someone was so inclined.

### KEY PROJECT FINDINGS

Historic preservation, is described by the KHC as “an essential strategy to promote a community’s unique identity and is a vital component of economic, envi-

ronmental, and social sustainability” (Ketchikan Museums 2022). Preserving a community’s unique identity and positioning it as an integral part of economic, environmental, and social sustainability faces many challenges. Many of these forces that altered or destroyed the historic fabric of Ketchikan, are still at play.

In the public outreach survey, respondents were asked to identify “the biggest challenges or threats to Ketchikan’s historic and cultural resources? (check all that apply).” These threats included: insufficient funding, demolition, neglect, and abandonment, vandalism and looting, lack of interest, growth and development pressure, negative perceptions of historic preservation, climate change, and lack of disaster preparedness. Other threats identified by respondents to the survey included tourism, changing popular tastes, inaccurate representations of history, a lack of contractor expertise, as well as a lack of buildable or developable areas, and a lack of political investment.

During the stakeholder interviews participants also reflected on the impact of tourism, climate change, development pressure, the lack of affordable housing, and a need to be more inclusive of the many histories of Ketchikan, specifically the Filipino and Alaska Native History.

Most respondents identified insufficient funding, demolition, and neglect due to abandonment and a lack of interest as the top three threats to historic and cultural resources. These will be addressed in the Recommendations and Next Steps.

While these challenges represent distinct issues, they and their solutions are intricately interwoven. For example, a lack of available funding to invest in an older or historic property can result in neglect and demolition and can compound access to affordable properties. This can be exacerbated by growth and development pressure with which often prioritizes new development over reinvestment, resulting in further disinvestment in existing resources. It is not a viable sustainable pattern. As noted by Donovan Rypkema, Principal and CEO of Place Economics, a real estate and economic development consulting firm, “for a community to be viable there needs to be a link between environmental responsibility and economic responsibility; for a community to be livable there needs to be

a link between environmental responsibility and social responsibility; and for a community to be equitable there needs to be a link between economic responsibility and social responsibility” (Rypkema 2005).

### Literature and Desktop Review

The completion of the literature and desktop review in May 2022 indicated that it may be necessary for the KHC to undertake a comprehensive survey of all known cultural resources within its purview. This includes resources already in existence in the AHRS database as well as all those not in the database. The desktop review revealed that many of the entries in the state’s database are out of date, some by several decades. The KHC should also undertake the task of updating the existing AHRS cards so that the information in the database reflects the actual conditions on the ground in Ketchikan.

Data analysis of NRHP entries and positive DOEs on file with the state revealed there are research and historic context development opportunities within Ketchikan. These topics include, but are not limited to, the following areas:

- Development of the tourism industry in Ketchikan
- Contributions to the development of Ketchikan by non-Euro-American populations and other minority groups, including Pan-Asian and African American groups who worked in the canning and fishing, and other industries
- Mid- to late-20th century development in Ketchikan, especially as pertains to the Cold War period
- Military activity in Ketchikan aside from Coast Guard activities

### Public Outreach Survey Results

The public outreach survey was conducted via the online platform Survey Monkey. The responses were then amalgamated for analysis. A total of 77 people completed the survey; approximately 62% of respondents identified themselves as stakeholders. Respondents spent a median time of 16 minutes, 21 seconds completing the survey.

They key demographics gathered for the survey revealed that the majority of respondents were over the age of 65 (37.33%) and had lived in Ketchikan for more than 20 years (65.33%). Interestingly, nearly 70% of respondents identified themselves as interested individuals, even though approximately 41% were either not very familiar or not at all familiar with the work that the KHC undertakes. Almost every respon-

dent identified funding as a major barrier to historic preservation work in the community. In terms of future volunteerism, over 60% of the respondents indicated that they would be willing to participate in historic preservation activities.

The complete public outreach survey results are included in Appendix C.

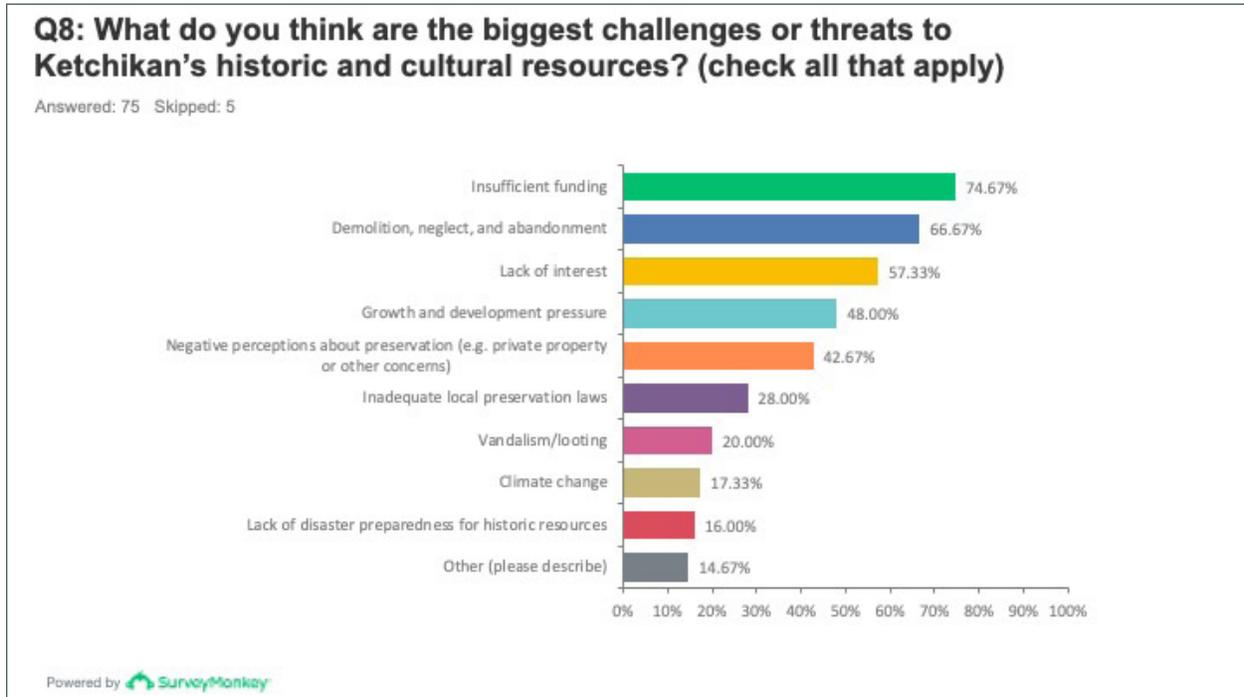


Figure 17. Chart graph showing that the majority of respondents identified lack of funding and demolition, neglect, and abandonment as the leading challenges facing historic preservation in Ketchikan.

### What do you think are the best ways to address the above-mentioned challenges and threats?

Answered: 28 Skipped: 50

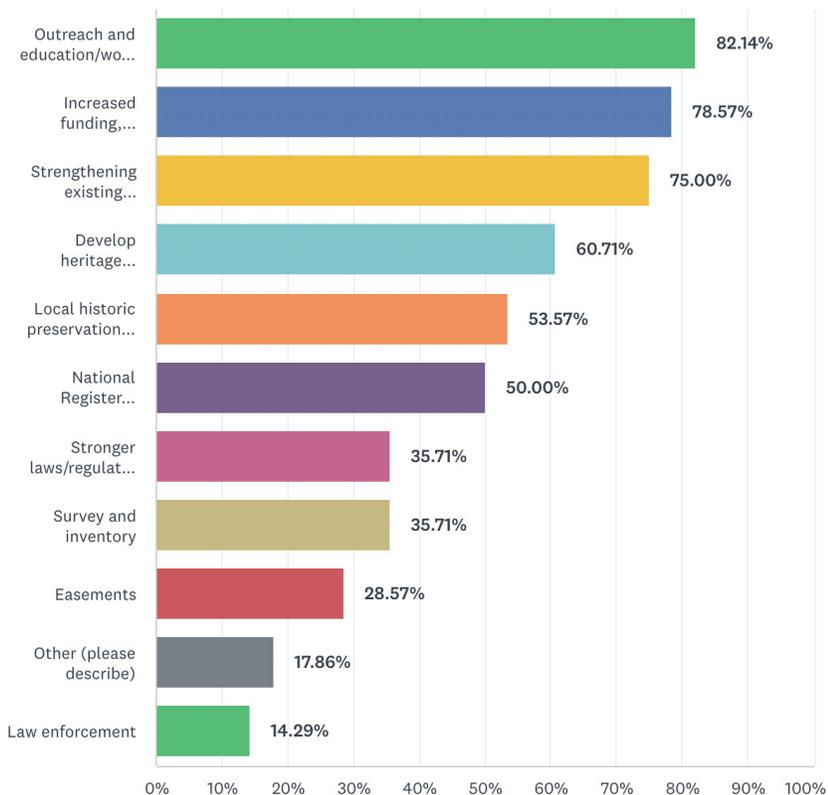


Figure 18. Chart graph indicating that the best methods for dealing with challenges and threats to historic preservation are education and funding.

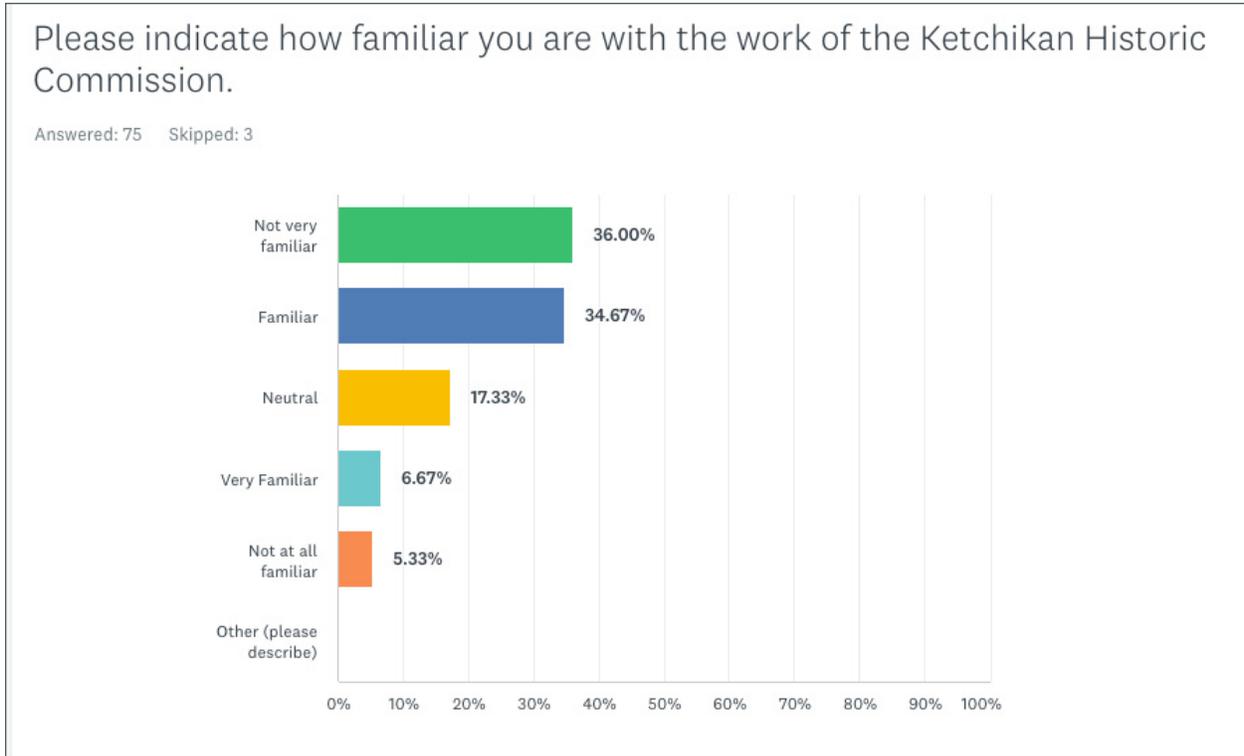


Figure 19. Graph chart indicating that most of the survey respondents were either familiar or not very familiar with the work of the KHC.

### Results from the Stakeholder Interviews

Interview No.	Interview Date & Time	Interviewee	Job Title/Stakeholder Information
#1	June 16, 2022 at 12pm	Michelle O'Brien	Director of Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce
#2	June 16, 2022 at 4pm	Alma Manabat Parker	Health Equity Program Coordinator
#3	June 16, 2022 at 5pm	Peter Stanton	High School History Teacher
#4	June 23, 2022 at 11am	Karen Pitcher	Former KHC member
#5	June 24, 2022 at 4pm	Dave Kiffer	Mayor of Ketchikan
#6	July 22, 2022 at 4pm	Richard Jackson	President of Tongass Tlingit Cultural Heritage Institute
#7	July 29, 2022 at 11am	Amanda Welsh and Stephen Reeve	Historic Architects in Ketchikan
#8	August 1, 2022 at 1pm	Janalee Gage	Long time resident

The stakeholder interviews garnered unexpected information. Each individual interviewed has a vested interest in activities that touch on work done by the KHC, such as heritage activities, museum work, and business. Nine individuals were interviewed during eight sessions that took place across two months. The information gained from the interviews is of vital importance for future KHC planning activities.

### *The Role of the Ketchikan Historic Commission*

The most important information gleaned from the stakeholder interviews was that there is a general lack of understanding of the role of the KHC in the community. Several interviewees admitted that they were unaware that the KHC even existed; several more knew of the existence of the commission but not that it was

still active. These answers speak to a general lack of visibility of the KHC in the Ketchikan community at large. While professionals involved in historic preservation work know of and understand the role of the KHC, it is important to note that even government officials with the City of Ketchikan did not know much, if anything, about the commission.

A lack of visibility in the community will hamper historic preservation efforts on projects undertaken with the commission's cooperation. It also means that people interested in preserving historic properties are unaware of a valuable local resources within their own community. This lack of visibility of the KHC can be addressed through a comprehensive marketing strategy created specifically for the commission. The interviewees suggested that the KHC participate in local community events such as fairs and festivals. Having a booth at a local street fair or community festival can bring awareness of the commission's existence to the community at large. By doing so, the interviewees pointed out, the KHC can capture the attention of those members of the community with interests in historic preservation activities who may not know of the existence of the commission. This attention can lead to increased volunteerism, thereby increasing the output of work accomplished by the commission. It will also serve to better help the KHC understand the concerns of the Ketchikan community at large.

### ***Preservation Partnerships***

Another strategy for increased awareness suggested by the interviewees was the need for the KHC to work cooperatively and collaboratively with other historic and cultural groups. Such activities were suggested as local history potlucks, where different groups can come together to socialize, strategize preservation priorities, and even use the events for history recordation purposes. Collective brainstorming activities at such events can even result in increased participation in sponsored programs, lead to the creation of new programs, and stoke enthusiasm for historic preservation.

### ***A Need for Educational Programs***

In addition to increased marketing events, several interviewees mentioned the need for educational programs aimed at school-aged youth. While Alaska his-

tory has been incorporated into high school history classes, local history and culture is often ignored across all school levels. This can be addressed by incorporating school-aged children in preservation activities such as community clean up events, relating cultural lessons learned at the local museum to the existing built environment, and even by engaging children in survey activities. There have been successes in other small communities, such as in central New York state in providing children with disposable cameras and having them photograph their neighborhoods. Activities like this can provide the KHC with photographic documentation of the existing built environment while also encouraging school-aged kids to think critically about their surroundings.

### ***Inclusion and Diversity***

Another take away from the stakeholder interviews is a misconception by several of the interviewees that the KHC was made up of intellectuals who are out of touch with the actual make-up of the Ketchikan community. Several interviewees also stated that there is a lack of diversity on the commission, across many demographics. More than one interviewee indicated that the KHC would be better served if it reached out to the different racial communities to include them in the make-up of the commission. The interviewees specifically mentioned the Filipino community which encompasses approximately ten percent of the population of the city; also mentioned were the Alaska Native communities encompassing more than ten percent of the population of Ketchikan. While the current ordinance calls for the representation of certain professions on the KHC, the interviewees felt that a better method of achieving the commission's goals would be to work towards equal racial representation on the KHC in addition to focusing on professional qualifications to meet CLG requirements.

Efforts made to include a broader cross-section of the Ketchikan community in the make-up of the KHC will also result in a greater effort to develop historic contexts and record histories of groups that have been previously marginalized in Ketchikan. Almost all of the interviewees mentioned the need for a greater understanding of the Asian American contribution to the history of Ketchikan specifically and the Southeast

in general. The interviewees who mentioned Asian Americans always called out the Filipino community in particular as having a robust history in the area that has gone largely unrecorded or noticed. Although there is a general understanding that many of the cannery workers in the Southeast were Asian immigrants, little has been done to record their histories outside of the fisheries and canning industries. All of the interviewees suggested that these stories need to be recorded whenever possible and culturally appropriate.

In conjunction with recording these histories of marginalized racial and ethnic groups, several interviewees also mentioned that Ketchikan, like many communities, has a practice of glossing over the less savory aspects of its history. Several interviewees mentioned that Ketchikan has, historically, been a very segregated community, with many of the Asian cannery workers and their descendants banished to areas of the community where Alaska Native communities had been forced to settle. These areas were largely outside of the main downtown area of Ketchikan. Regardless of their segregation, or perhaps because of it, these areas developed into neighborhoods with distinctive character depending on the population in residence. Several interviewees noted that this history needs to be researched and documented and included in any discussion of the history of the community.

### ***Community Pride***

At one point or another in each of the interviews, all of the interviewees expressed pride in the community of Ketchikan. Some interviewees said the community operated like a large extended family, coming together to help one another in times of crisis. Interviewees who are life-long residents can trace their family roots back through several successive generations of Ketchikan residents and could speak to the history of the place through the lenses of their own family histories and experiences. All of the interviewees expressed the hope that historic preservation could help maintain the close-knit sense of community and history present in Ketchikan through not only physical historic preservation activities involving the built environment, but also through recordation activities of the stories and histories present in the different families and community groups. All of the

interviewees agreed that such activities could help draw temporary residents into the permanent community; it was also mentioned that the sense of community cultivated by historic preservation activities could serve to bring grown Ketchikan children back to the community after college.

### ***Tourism***

Tourism was mentioned by several of the interviewees as both an asset and a detriment to the Ketchikan community in general and historic preservation activities in particular. At present, the economy of Ketchikan is largely dependent on the tourism brought in by the large Alaska cruise ships that dock continually each summer. The interviewees, however, noted that this reliance on tourism had led to a proliferation of businesses in the community that were not sympathetic to historic preservation activities. The existence of a large number of jewelry shops was mentioned specifically. These types of businesses are not intended to draw local residents, and so large swaths of the Ketchikan downtown area are largely devoid of locals during the summer tour season. Several interviewees mentioned that tourists will sometimes complain that they do not see any actual Ketchikan residents during their short sojourns in the community. This type of economic segregation does not readily lend itself to historic preservation, as the people making decisions regarding these tourist-centric areas are generally interested only in making a profit from tourism and not interested in working to preserve the local character and community.

### ***Creating a Cultural Heritage Center***

In addition to easy access to the museums and other cultural institutions, more than one interviewee mentioned the need for some type of cultural heritage center in the community of Ketchikan. Interest was expressed in the creation of such a center that will not focus on only one culture but all of the cultures present in the community, from the Norwegian, Filipino, and Japanese communities to the Tlingit and Haida communities. Similar efforts have garnered success in areas like the predominantly Haida community of Hydaburg. A similar center in Ketchikan would help to highlight the diverse makeup and history of the Ketchikan community.

### ***Historic Preservation and Affordable Housing***

When asked how they thought historic preservation could improve their community, several of the interviewees mentioned the possible role of historic preservation in helping to solve the affordable housing crisis currently plaguing Ketchikan. While the cost of living has skyrocketed across the country since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the cost of real estate in Ketchikan has always been high. The current housing shortage has only exasperated the existing problem in Ketchikan. Several interviewees said they would be interested in purchasing dilapidated older homes and rehabbing them, turning them into affordable rental housing or flipping the houses for a profit. Doing so successfully could help to alleviate the current affordable housing crisis while also preserving the historic built environment of Ketchikan. Such activities are difficult to accomplish in general, however, and even more so in an economic climate where most historic buildings are allowed to deteriorate until demolition is the only option. Despite expressing interest in rehab activities, all of the interviewees who discussed such an option admitted that there were currently no financial avenues to make such activities possible.

### ***Economic Incentives***

All of the interviewees mentioned financial incentives and funding as the largest barrier to historic preservation activities in Ketchikan. With tourism operating as the driving force in the economy of Ketchikan, it can be difficult to convince tourism-related businesses to spend extra finances on historic preservation, especially when modern materials are often easier and cheaper to acquire. More than one interviewee mentioned the possibility of low-interest revolving loans for preservation use, available to individuals and companies interested in preserving or rehabilitating historic buildings for modern use. Such loans could appeal to those wanting to accomplish property improvement work; it could also provide the KHC with more input on the work being done as improvements made using such loans would need to be approved by the commission. Tax incentives offered at the local level were also mentioned as another financial incentive that could draw interest.

Such financial programs and incentives could ensure that work done on historic properties followed the Secretary of the Interior Standards, the accepted authority on historic preservation. Several of the interviewees mentioned the need for the KHC to develop design guidelines for the individual neighborhoods and historic districts in an attempt to preserve their historic character. While some of this work has previously been attempted, existing property owners do not always respond well to what they feel are restrictions placed on their properties. If a potential property owner is aware of the historic character of the neighborhood, property, and design guidelines before purchase, there will be a greater preservation of the characteristics of both the property individually and the neighborhood/district in general.

### ***Creating a Shared Understanding and Clarifying Roles***

Several interviewees mentioned that programs of education on historic preservation would benefit the Ketchikan community. Both the stakeholder interviewees and participants at the public meeting expressed confusion at what historic preservation actually is; others had questions on where to find information related to historic preservation. There was also confusion as to what history groups in Ketchikan do what activities, if any. While there is a large wealth of resources to answer all of the questions asked by both interviewees and meeting participants, these resources are not always easy to understand or even access. The KHC could operate as an important authority on the topics of historic preservation and history and cultural activities, serving as the community conduit for such information. Serving such a role would also ensure that the correct information is being disseminated through the community.

### ***Public Meeting Results***

Two public outreach meetings were held. The data collected from the meetings included polls, surveys, chat and meeting transcripts. The data from the first meeting was used to shape the content of the second public outreach meeting and fine tune the design of the public outreach and stakeholder surveys.

The second meeting helped illuminate the role of the KHC, previous historic preservation efforts in Ketchikan, and how the current public outreach process fits into the larger preservation planning effort.

All the data collected from the meetings was used to help identify, shape, and define future preservation goals and objectives.

**Key Findings from Public Meeting No. 1**

The first public meeting was held on April 25, 2022, at 6pm in the evening and lasted for approximately one-and-a-half hours. There were 38 registrants and 33 participants across the entire meeting; the meeting was led by TNSDS Project Architectural Historian Jeanne Lambin. Also in attendance were members of the TNSDS project team including Principal Consultant and President Robert Meinhardt, Project Architectural Historian and Historic Preservation Planner Casey Woster, and Cultural Resources Manager Joan Bayles

Burgett. As many current members of the KHC were present as possible. Other attendees included a broad mix of general public, former commission members, current Historic Ketchikan, Inc. members, members of the Alaska Native communities, and government officials. The attendees had a wide range of previous experience with the KHC, from former commission members to members of the general public who did not know that the commission existed.

The first major take-away from the first public meeting was a generally held opinion of the importance of historic preservation in the Ketchikan community. Every attendee was present because they had some level of interest in historic preservation and history and cultural heritage activities, and all of them were vocal in their belief in the importance of these activities in the community at large. Most of the attendees, however, expressed concern over the need to expand the practice of historic preservation and history and cultural heri-

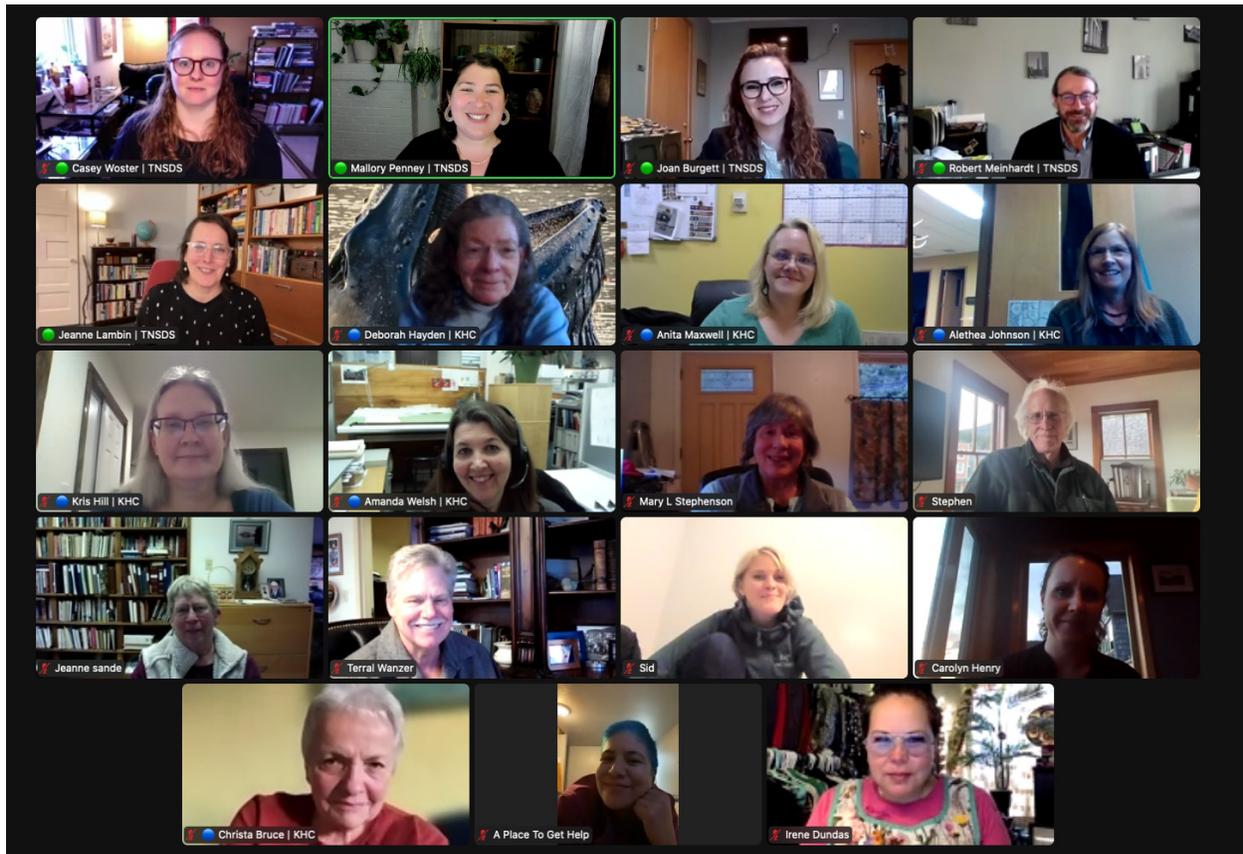


Figure 20. Photograph taken by the meeting facilitator of all meeting participants remaining at the end of the meeting on April 25, 2022. (©TNSDS 2022)

tage activities to include more racial and ethnic diversity. Specifically mentioned was the need to increase knowledge of Alaska Native heritage; the increased use of Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian placenames was also emphatically expressed by many attendees.

The attendees also demonstrated a wide range of understanding regarding the importance of different places within Ketchikan. Nearly every attendee had a different answer when asked what historic properties were important to them personally; the KHC can use their varied answers to build a large database of places that matter to the Ketchikan community. Such places are not always on the radar for preservation groups and bringing attention to them can help diversify the preserved built environment and ensure a broader diversity of resources.

The large list of places that matter to the attendees reflected a nuanced understanding of the places in Ketchikan that are important to the community, but also highlighted that previous efforts at NRHP nominations have been largely limited to those resources that reflect the Euro-American history of the community. Much of the work has also been in keeping with older understandings of historic preservation, with landscapes and urban green spaces largely excluded from preservation efforts. The attendees listed parks, landscapes, trails, and creeks as important places in addition to buildings and neighborhoods. These features have gained increased focus from the historic preservation community nationally in recent years; the answers of the attendees reflect the increased understanding of communities as more than just the built urban environment. The answers offered by the attendees could help the KHC focus on areas outside of the built environment.

Education surrounding historic preservation was offered by nearly all of the attendees as an area where the KHC could increase their presence. Specifically mentioned was the opportunity for the KHC to lead workshops and lecture series on the proper methods of historic preservation, be it a physical activity such as window replacement or the intangible activities such as history recordation. Activities categorized as historic preservation have guidelines published by the national governing authorities such as the NPS and the National Trust for Historic Preservation; this

information, however, can be difficult to locate. The meeting attendees had questions regarding different historic preservation procedures that were outside of the scope of the meeting and could be the foundation for the commission's future educational activities.

Finally, the meeting attendees expressed the opinion that the KHC could do a better job of marketing themselves and raising their visibility within the community of Ketchikan. Many were previously unaware of the commission's presence within the governance of Ketchikan; others did not know or understand the role of the commission within the community. All of this speaks to the need of the commission to raise their visibility in the community and work cooperatively and collaboratively with other history and cultural institutions.

All this information was used to identify additional stakeholders and shape the design of the next public outreach meeting and also refine the public outreach and stakeholder surveys.

#### **Participation Questions Results**

During the meeting, the attendees were asked a series of questions and then placed into breakout discussion groups of three or four. After discussing the questions amongst themselves, they were brought back into the main meeting to share the answers they had discussed. The purpose of these questions was to get the attendees thinking expansively about historic preservation and increase the participation in the meeting. The answers were then used to the following word clouds. The answers were collated and to help visualize the information shared, word clouds were created, a method of data visualization are included below. A word cloud is a collection, or cluster, of words depicted in different sizes. The bigger and bolder the word appears, the more often it's mentioned within a given text (Boost Labs 2014).







ervation plan would be sustainable given the lack of visibility of the KHC in the community. The attendees also expressed concern that project momentum could dissipate without further grant funding opportunities.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

For over two decades the KHC has played a vital role in preserving Ketchikan’s unique identity. The creation of a preservation plan will be an important next step towards continue to preserve, protect, and promote the community’s unique identity.

The public outreach process conducted as part of that planning process revealed that many participants in that process were not familiar with the work of the commission. One of the goals of the Public Outreach process, completed as the first phase of that planning process was to identify any areas of concern which appear to require immediate attention. Thus, this section will detail the role of preservation planning and public outreach specifically as it relates to the KHC in its role as a CLG. The reason for this is twofold: the first is that the public outreach process has identified an expressed need for the public to have a better understanding of the work of the commission and the preservation planning process and the second is, that in crafting a preservation plan, it is important that the practices of the KHC are in alignment with the state and federal goals.

**Responsibilities of a CLG**

Because Ketchikan is a CLG, there are goals or benchmarks that a CLG must meet at the federal level and additional requirements at the state level. These requirements are often not known to or by the public and even some stakeholders. As noted by one participant, in the pre-public meeting survey,

*“It might be helpful to do a brief explanation of what a CLG is and what the Commission is supposed to do” (Public Meeting No. 1: Pre-Meeting Survey).*

This section is intended to do that. It will detail the requirement for being a CLG and when needed make any relevant recommendations as they result to the preservation planning process.

**The CLG Program**

The CLG Program of the NPS was established in 1980. As noted on the NPS website, “the goal of the CLG Program is to facilitate State and local government cooperation with Federal partners to promote nationwide preservation initiatives. Through the certification process, local communities make a commitment to national historic preservation standards. This commitment is key to America’s ability to preserve, protect, and increase awareness of our unique cultural heritage found across the country” (CLG Benefits - Certified Local Governments, U.S. National Park Service, 2022).

In addition to the minimum goals established by NPS, there are additional requirements established by the Alaska OHA. The minimum goals include:

<b>Federal Goal</b>	<b>Additional Requirements for Alaska</b>
Establish a qualified historic preservation commission.	In addition, the state has specific requirements regarding the makeup of the commission.
Enforce appropriate State or local legislation for the designation and protection of historic properties. In most cases this is done in the form of a local ordinance.	In addition: the local government will enforce the Alaska Historic Preservation Act whenever appropriate.  b. The local government will adopt and enforce a local historic preservation ordinance.
Maintain a system for the survey and inventory of local historic resources.	The local government will establish and maintain a basic working inventory of cultural resources in the local area, compatible with the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS), and annually provide new data to the Office of History and Archaeology.
Facilitate public participation in local preservation, including participation in the National Register listing process.	In addition: The local government will provide for open meetings.  b. The local government will maintain minutes that are publicly available, publish and disseminate historic preservation commission procedures, as well as comply with local, state, and federal public participation regulations.  c. The local government will invite public comment in its review of nominations to the NRHP.  d. The local government will provide for public participation in development and review of the local historic preservation plan.

## Changes to the KHC

The KHC was established in 1988 and received CLG status in 1991. The make-up of the commission, as defined in the historic preservation ordinance, is as follows:

### *The Make-up of the Commission*

“There is hereby established the KHC which shall be composed of 10 members appointed by the mayor with approval of the city council and shall serve without compensation. Members of the commission shall, to the extent feasible, include an architect or historical architect, an archaeologist, and a historian. One member shall be a member of the city council or appointee; one shall be a member of the KGB planning commission or an appointee; one shall be a member of the Tongass Historical Society or an appointee.

The term of a member shall be for three years or until a successor is appointed; provided, however, the terms of the member of the board who is a member of the city council shall be for one year. The first members of the commission shall, upon appointment, determine by lot the length of the terms so that the terms of three members shall be for one year, the terms of three members shall be for two years and the terms of three members shall be for three years, resulting in staggered terms for members subsequently appointed. A vacancy on the commission shall be filled by appointment by the mayor with the approval of the council for the remainder of the unexpired term” (Ketchikan Historic Commission 2.88.010).

### **Assessment and Recommendations:**

The all-volunteer KHC currently has nine members including an archaeologist, architect, a museum director, and a borough planning commission appointee. There is currently one open seat on the Commission. Because participants in the public outreach process expressed an interest in recognizing more of the Filipino heritage and Alaska Native heritage, in recruiting new members, welcoming potential commissioners from those communities should be considered.

## ***Enforcement of Appropriate Legislation for the Designation and Protection of Historic Properties.***

In most cases this is done in the form of a local ordinance. In addition, the local government will enforce the Alaska Historic Preservation Act whenever appropriate, and the local government will adopt and enforce a local historic preservation ordinance

### **The Duties of the Commission**

The duties of the KHC as established by the ordinance are as follow:

- Review and make recommendations about local projects that might affect properties identified in the local historic preservation plan.
- Review and develop nominations to the NRHP for properties within the city of Ketchikan.
- Act in an advisory role to the Tongass Historical Society, the Ketchikan Museum department, KGB planning and zoning commission, and the Alaska Historic Sites Advisory Committee on all matters concerning historical districts and historic, prehistoric and archaeological preservation in the city of Ketchikan.
- Develop a local historic preservation plan to include provision for identification, protection and interpretation of the area’s significant resources. Such plan is to be compatible with the Alaska Historic Preservation Plan, and to produce information compatible with and for the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey.
- The historic preservation commission shall work toward the continuing education of citizens regarding historic preservation and the committee’s history.
- The commission shall support the enforcement of the Alaska Historic Preservation Act.
- Perform other activities which are necessary and proper to carry out the above duties and any other actions determined by the council to be beneficial to carry out the historic preservation goals of the city of Ketchikan (Ketchikan Historic Commission).

**Assessment and Recommendations:**

Although the duty of reviewing and making recommendations about local projects that might affect properties is identified as the first order of business in the duties of the commission, the commission does not yet have a preservation plan, thus the creation and adoption of a preservation plan, which will be completed in the second phase of this project is imperative.

While the commission had played an active and commendable job in the identification, survey, evaluation, documentation and recommendation for listing of properties for inclusion in the NRHP, feedback from the public meeting suggests that it might help to have short information sheet on how the process works and also, if an internal process does not exist, as system for the identification and prioritization of future nomination efforts that should be tied to a comprehensive survey and evaluation effort.

Because survey data and input from the public meeting suggests that the degree of public understanding of and familiarity with the work of the commission and its allied organizations is ambiguous, it would be

helpful to have a public facing description of how this process works.

Although, to date, the work of the commission is laudable and even without the existence of plan, they have done a tremendous job in the identification, protection, and identification of Ketchikan’s architectural and cultural heritage. That process will benefit tremendously from a cohesive and comprehensive effort as articulated in a historic preservation plan, which is also an essential component of maintaining GLG status.

A consistent element of feedback from the public outreach process is that the general public wants to better understand the role of the commission, the work that has been done thus far, and how to participate in current and future preservation efforts. As such, having a comprehensive education and outreach component is a critical component of the plan.

**Identification and Evaluation of Ketchikan’s Historic Resources**

Decisions about the identification, evaluation, registration, and treatment of historic properties are most

Legal Location	Street Address	AHRS #	Property Name	Property Type	Latitude/ Longitude	Property Owner	Build Date (MOA)	Present/ Absent	Current Function	Style	Plan	Stories	Roof Design	Remarks	DOE Status	NRHP Status	Image
US SURVEY 2043 LT 15 SE TOWN R2E SEC 18	101 Alyeska Hwy	SEW-0639		Residential	60.9530640, -149.162297	Christina Hendrickson and Joshua Cope	1958		Single Family Home	Minimal Traditional	Rectangular	1	Gable	Yellow door			
ALYESKA #1 BLK 5 LT 7	102 Innsbruck Rd	SEW-0697		Residential	60.9587248, -149.162232	Timothy and Betty Brady	1966		Single Family Home	Modern Chalet	Rectangular	2	Side Gable with side gabled arctic entry to lower level	Potentially Modern Chalet/Heavy alterations			
ALYESKA #1 BLK 13 LT 12A	1030 Alpine Meadows Ave	SEW-0687		Residential	60.962372, -149.168883	Sarah C. Smith and Timothy Glassett	1969		Single Family Home	Modern Chalet	Rectangular	2	Gabled				
ALYESKA NORTH ADDN #1 BLK 1 LT 13 SEC 28 4 R USS 3669 PTM & TOWN R2E SEC 18 PTM	104 Arlberg	SEW-01472	Alyeska Resort Day Lodge	Commercial	60.9592165, -149.167031	Alyeska Ski Corporation	1989		Day Lodge	Modern Chalet	Rectangular	Multi	Gable	MOA data lists a construction date of 1989 while AHRS documents say 1970s			
ELLIS-GREEN RESUB LT 4 OF 103	107 Lindy Ln	SEW-0672		Residential	60.9509885, -149.1688345	Paul Forward	1965		Single Family Home	Prow Front	Rectangular	1	Gable	Cool drift wood fence			
ALYESKA #1 BLK 14 LT 7	110 Cortina Rd	SEW-01471		Residential	60.961804, -149.162613	Scott H. and Gail E. Pattison	1966		Single Family Home	Prow Front	Rectangular	2	Gable				
ALYESKA #1 BLK 11 LT 7	110 Daves Rd	SEW-01470		Residential	60.9609132, -149.1626681	Kelly Morris	1964		Single Family Home	Vernacular	Rectangular	1	Multi-gable				

Figure 26. Example of a Historic Properties Roster created by TNSDS for the community of Girdwood, Alaska. (©TNSDS 2021)

reliably made when the relationship of individual properties to other similar properties is understood. Information about historic properties representing aspects of history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture must be collected and organized to define these relationships. This organizational framework is called a “historic context.” The historic context organizes information based on a cultural theme and its geographical and chronological limits. Contexts describe the significant broad patterns of development in an area that may be represented by historic properties. The development of historic contexts is the foundation for decisions about identification, evaluation, registration, and treatment of historic properties.

### ***Establish a Program of Survey and Evaluation***

It is recommended that the KHC undertake a comprehensive survey of all known cultural resources within its purview outside of the AHRS IBS system. CLGs are required to maintain a system for the survey and inventory of local historic resources, something that the KHC has demonstrated in piecemeal form in decades past, including the Hopkins Alley, Warren Street, & Harding Street Areas Survey and Inventory Project in 1999; the 1984 historic properties survey and inventory within the City of Ketchikan; and the similar effort for the downtown area in 2011. However, there is no known database for historic and cultural resources within Ketchikan outside the statewide AHRS IBS system. It is highly recommended that KHC undertake a comprehensive survey of resources and create and maintain a database with all pertinent information. Such a database will not only keep KHC in compliance with the requirements of a CLG, but will also help facilitate Section 106 projects, historic tax credit projects, and can be used to garner interest from the tourism industry.

As part of this process, the Commission should:

- Establish a system and process for survey.
- As part of that process, identify areas, sites, or individual resources to be surveyed.
- In consultation with the public and stakeholders, establish a system of prioritizing which areas are to be surveyed first.
- Create a survey manual.
- Develop a process for updating existing AHRS cards for Ketchikan and creating new AHRS

cards for buildings, structures, objects, sites and districts not already in the AHRS database.

- Leverage public and stakeholder participation in this process. Survey and evaluation can be a powerful tool for engagement and participation.

Historic building and cultural resources surveys can be completed using a variety of documentation methods, depending on the material and technological resources available to the survey team. Accurate parcel maps and detailed, well-organized photographs are crucial to the process. Information can be gathered using hard-copy forms or electronic methods.

The Cordova Historic Buildings Survey Plan prepared by TNSDS in 2020 for the Cordova Historic Preservation Commission provides an excellent framework for completing a future historic buildings survey. Other historic preservation commissions have partnered with the local preservation organization, neighborhood groups, and the public to complete a survey. The Discover Dallas program was done in partnership with Preservation Dallas Program and resulted in a survey of 28 Dallas neighborhoods, documenting properties built before 1965. The goal was to leverage public interest and participation in the survey and evaluation of their neighborhood to provide residents with information that will enable them to restore and rehabilitate houses and to preserve each home’s distinctive characteristics (Preservation Dallas 2022).

### **Relevant Resources:**

The publication *Alaska Historic Buildings Survey and Style Guide* provides detailed information on how to conduct a historic building survey. <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/pdf/BuildingManualFinal.pdf>.

*The Historic Buildings Survey Plan Historic Properties Roster for the City of Cordova Historic Preservation Commission* can be found here: [https://www.cityofcordova.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Cordova\\_SurveyManual\\_Final\\_08072020-1.pdf](https://www.cityofcordova.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Cordova_SurveyManual_Final_08072020-1.pdf)

*National Register Bulletin No. 22 | Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning* is a detailed document on local survey provided by the NPS. [https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB24-Complete\\_Part1t.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB24-Complete_Part1t.pdf)

## Develop Historic Themes and Contexts

Decisions about the identification, evaluation, registration and treatment of historic properties are most reliably made when the relationship of individual properties to other similar properties is understood. Information about historic properties representing aspects of history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture must be collected and organized to define these relationships. This organizational framework is called a "historic context." The historic context organizes information based on a cultural theme and its geographical and chronological limits. Contexts describe the significant broad patterns of development in an area that may be represented by historic properties. The development of historic contexts is the foundation for decisions about identification, evaluation, registration and treatment of historic properties.

— Standard I, NPS, Guidelines for Preservation Planning

One way to identify and develop historic contexts is to conduct a theme study. Theme studies are an effective way of identifying and nominating properties because they allow for a comparative analysis of properties associated with a specific area to provide a larger context for particular topics in US, state, or local history or pre-history (NPS 2021).

A part of the National Historic Landmarks Program, the NPS has developed dozens of theme studies. These theme studies include a historic context and can be useful in preparing NRHP nominations. They provide assistance in the evaluation of historic properties at all levels and can be used to educate the public about the nation's heritage (NPS 2021). It could be said that themes identify the larger patterns of history, whereas historic contexts detail the more specific manifestations of it.

As noted on the OHA website,

*The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation, "the development of historic contexts is the foundation for decisions about the identification, evaluation, registration and treatment of historic properties, and surveys." A historic context provides the basis for evaluating significance and integrity. It groups information about historic properties that have common theme, place, or*

*time. Historic contexts are intended to provide a framework for identifying and evaluating resources by focusing on and explaining what aspects of geography, history and culture significantly shaped the physical development of a community or region's land use patterns and built environment over time, what important property types are associated with those development patterns, why they are important, and what characteristics they need to have to be considered an important representation of their type and context.*

Source: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/publications/publications>

Thus, identifying existing historic contexts and establishing a list of ones to be developed is an integral part of a cohesive program of survey and evaluation. This can also guide priorities for nomination to the NRHP.

### Identified Areas of Possibilities

During the Public Meetings, Public Outreach and Stakeholder Survey, and Stakeholder Interviews, participants were asked to reflect on which aspects of Ketchikan's history had been overlooked or underrepresented. From the Public Outreach survey, when asked "what stories or histories are overlooked or underrepresented?" (Public Survey, Question 6), many respondents recognized the importance of Filipino history (23.9%) and Alaska Native History (14.93%). Areas of possibility mentioned in the survey include:

- Filipino history
- Alaska Native History
- Aleut relocation/Internment at the Ward Lake Camp north of Ketchikan
- Black History
- The history of development, segregation and discriminatory practices
- The women of Creek Street
- Japanese Americans in WWII
- Logging company operations outside of the Pulp Mill
- Norwegian and Scandinavian immigration

These themes are often inter-related. As one participant noted:

*“The Filipino influence in Ketchikan over the past 50 years. The effect that the highly transient community has had on the challenges in determining a Ketchikan sense of place. Although certain industries have been historically covered well, I think the general sense of the basic economic life of Ketchikan (what was it like in the 10s, the 20s, the 30s etc.) has not been a part of the story that we tell about ourselves.”*

### Remember the Recent Past

In undertaking future survey and evaluation, remember the recent past. When the NRHP was established in 1966, it was generally held that properties should be fifty years old or older in order to be listed on the NRHP. While this is not a hard and fast rule, it is often interpreted as such. However, it was recognized that properties younger than fifty years old could be listed on the register if they could be considered “exceptionally significant” according to Criteria Consideration G. Properties can be considered exceptionally significant at the state, local or national level. Such is the case with the Saxman Totem Park started in 1939, completed in 1941, and listed on the National Register in 1979 at the “age” of 38.

It is also important to note that the fifty-year window keeps moving forward with the passage of time. When the register was established in 1966, any property built after 1916 would need to meet Criteria Consideration G. Today, that date is 1972. Ketchikan established significant periods of development in the post-war period due to logging, fishing, and mining activities, all of which were later usurped by tourism which is now the region’s dominant industry.

### Relevant Resources:

List of Theme Studies from the NPS: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalhistoriclandmarks/recent-theme-studies.htm>

In addition, the State of Alaska has also produced dozens of historic contexts. Those can be found here: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/publications/publications>.

A part of the National Historic Landmarks Program, the NPS has developed dozens of theme studies. These theme studies include a historic context and can be useful in preparing NRHP nominations. They provide

assistance in the evaluation of historic properties at all levels and can be used to educate the public about the nation’s heritage. (National Park Service, 2021). A complete list of theme studies can be found here: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalhistoriclandmarks/recent-theme-studies.htm>

In addition, the State of Alaska has also produced dozens of historic contexts. Those can be found here: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/publications/publications>.

Historic Preservation Plan for Anchorage’s Four Original Neighborhoods: <https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Publications/Historic%20Preservation%20Plan/05-HPP-HistoricContxtSurveys.pdf>

### Establish NRHP Nomination Priorities

The early history of Ketchikan is well represented in the NRHP-listed sites and the AHRs designated sites with positive DOEs. This history focuses on the fishing and timber industries, the Gold Rush period, and the early Euro-American development of the area. Likewise, the Tlingit and Haida artistic traditions are represented in these sites, owing to a rich history in totem pole restoration work in the region dating back nearly 80 years. However, analysis of the data presented above indicates a lack of information surrounding several topics in the development of the region. These topics include:

- Development of the tourism industry in Ketchikan
- Contributions to the development of Ketchikan by non-Euro-American populations and other minority groups, including Pan-Asian and African American groups who worked in the canning and fishing, and other industries
- Mid- to late-20th century development in Ketchikan, especially as pertains to the Cold War period
- Military activity in Ketchikan aside from Coast Guard activities

### Expanded Notions of Heritage

The development of themes, context statements, and NRHP nomination play an integral role in creating a more expansive and inclusive vision of our shared past.

Just as efforts have begun to turn to resources from the mid-century era, so too has emphasis been placed on “researching the movement of ethnic and national groups both to Alaska and within the state. Various historical societies and preservation groups across the state address regional concerns, such as the Fairbanks North Star Borough Historic Preservation Commission, the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation, and the KHC. The Organized Village of Kake also participate in historic preservation activities on a local level; the Organized Village of Kake now boasts the only THPO in the state. The growth of these groups is paramount to continued successful historic preservation activities within Alaska” (TNSDS 2022: 12).

### **Creation of Collaborative Signage**

In collaboration with preservation partners, create a comprehensive system of signage and that includes place names that reflect the Alaska Native History. Throughout the public outreach process, multiple participants identified the need to add to or change existing place names to more accurately reflect the diverse heritage of the region.

#### **Relevant Resources:**

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/designations/designations.htm>

### **Expand Protection of Historic Resources**

The protection of historic and cultural resources is a complex process. Marshalling the resources to effectively protect historic resources against myriad threats is a perennial problem. When asked “what do you think are the biggest challenges or threats to Ketchikan’s historic and cultural resources,” over 75% of respondents identified insufficient funding, closely followed by demolition/neglect, and a lack of interest. Because, for the most part, the KHC only acts in an advisory role, the legal remedies for the protection of historic properties outside of state and federal laws are limited. Thus, the challenge is how to preserve and protect the built environment when the legal means to do so are limited, funding for preservation activities insufficient, and there is a perceived lack of public interest and myriad of other threats.

### **Provide Information on Economic Benefits of Historic Preservation**

While it is true that the funding for historic preservation is insufficient, it is also true that there is also a lack of readily available information on what resources and incentives exist. In addition, many people are unaware of the excellent documentation on the benefits of historic preservation and innovative models of developing funding sources.

In the absence of the ability to allocate or creating funding sources, there is tremendous benefit to just making information easily accessible and understandable. This desire for more information was expressed at the first public meeting. One participant wanted information on “how to best access funding for historic preservation projects?” and another expressed a desire for “tax credits and workshops/information for property owners (or prospective owners) to take advantage of those funds that can make preservation a reality” (Appendix D).

- Develop an information sheet on available financial incentives for historic preservation efforts in Ketchikan. It should be available on the KHC website and could include:
  - The Historic Preservation Tax Credit
  - The Affordable Housing Tax Credit
  - Conservation Easements
- » As part of the recommended Public Engagement Program (PEP) and in collaboration with partner organizations, host a workshop or lecture series on the economics of historic preservation.
- » With partner organizations explore how the rehabilitation of historic properties could be used to provide much needed housing, as one participant wondered:

*“How to incentivize continued use and investment in historic structures? Living space in historic structures downtown has been turned into commercial/office/storage space over time (see Ingersoll Hotel). Habitation seems to be a good way to continue interest in the structures.”*

**Relevant Resources:**

<https://macrostiehistoric.com/articles/affordable-housing-and-historic-preservation>

**Internal List of Threatened and Endangered Properties**

Create and maintain a list of threatened properties. With the exception of natural and human made disasters, often threats to historic properties are present and observable. Maintaining a simple list of endangered properties, with the basic information for the property can make sure that the threatened resources remain in the collective imagination of the commission.

**Creation of a Procedures Manual for the Commission**

Historic preservation is a complex process that draws from many disciplines. Each member of the KHC brings their own unique knowledge, expertise, experience with and understanding of the process. In addition, there are varying degrees of institutional knowledge and no centralized source to go to for information.

Also, as part of the Public Outreach process, many of the respondents to survey, participants in the public meetings, and stakeholder interviewees, expressed a desire to have a better understanding of the preservation process and the roles that the various organizations play in carrying out that process. Hence, the manual could have the added benefit of helping the public better understand the work of the KHC and potentially help with the recruitment and onboarding of new commission members.

An excellent example of such a manual is provided by the State of Minnesota's Heritage Preservation Commission Training Manual. While created to guide the efforts of historic preservation commission members throughout the state, the manual is an excellent example of how such a manual could be structured. The introduction to the guide, explains its larger purpose:

*"This manual is a reference and training resource for Minnesota's Heritage Preservation Commissions, their staff elected officials and others who are interested in how historic preservation operates at the local government level.*

*It offers an overview of the key components of a preservation program that commissions use in executing their duties. It is published in the interest of enhancing the performance of preservation work of local governments and to help others understand how to support these programs. The manual introduces a foundation of basic preservation principles, operating procedures and practical advice that will help new commissioners understand the realm in which they will operate; at the same time, it will help experienced commissioners refine their skills regarding basic concepts, common terminology and core principles of preservation practice. It also provides an insight into local preservation systems for elected officials and members of other boards (such as planning commissions) who are interested in how HPCs operate. Zoning and building code officers, community development directors and Main Street managers will also benefit from the material, since their duties often bring them into contact with HPCs" (State of Minnesota, pp. 1-2).*

**Relevant Resources:**

The State of Minnesota Heritage Preservation Commission Training Manual. [https://mn.gov/admin/assets/00\\_Minnesota\\_StatewideTrainingProgram\\_Manual\\_BOOK\\_Final\\_web%281%29\\_tcm36-371994.pdf](https://mn.gov/admin/assets/00_Minnesota_StatewideTrainingProgram_Manual_BOOK_Final_web%281%29_tcm36-371994.pdf)

**Public Outreach and Education**

*"Preservation planning includes public participation. The planning process should provide a forum for open discussion of preservation issues. Public involvement is most meaningful when it is used to assist in defining values of properties and preservation planning issues, rather than when it is limited to review of decisions already made. Early and continuing public participation is essential to the broad acceptance of preservation planning decisions."*

— Preservation Planning Standards, The National Park Service

The historic preservation movement is dependent upon public participation. The affirmation of the importance of public outreach was evidenced in the public outreach survey. When asked, "what do you think are the best ways to address the aforementioned challenges and threats," the majority of participants (82.5 threats) identified "outreach and education."

While the KHC has done a tremendous job of maintaining a consistent program of preservation activities, many of the public are not aware of the work that the commission does or what their role is or where to go to find more information. As noted by one participant,

*"I don't know if there is a website for the Commission... and frankly, when I have tried to navigate the City's or Borough's web pages, I usually can't find what I am looking for. I do know that any communication will need to be done multiple times and ways to get people's attention."*

— Stakeholder Survey Respondent

Because present and future historic preservation efforts depend upon the involvement and commitment of local citizens, government, bringing awareness to those efforts is paramount. It is also important to provide additional resources, workshops, training and other opportunities for people to learn more about historic preservation which is one of the duties of the commission.

### **PEEPs: Public Engagement and Education Program**

When asked in the public outreach survey how they would like to participate in future preservation efforts, 56% of respondents said that they would attend public and cultural events and 45% of respondents said that they would attend storytelling events about local history.

Public events are, as the name suggests, a great way to engage the public, increase knowledge about local history and preservation processes and practice, connect to other members of the community, and create inclusive conversations. These events could also help identify new and strengthen current partnerships to preserve and protect, educate and advocate for Alaska's historic and cultural resources.

Also, creating a comprehensive program of public education and engagement to provide a centralized source for information could help to identify opportunities for public action and engagement.

### **Publish summary of historic preservation efforts by the KHC**

To help facilitate future planning efforts and raise public awareness of past preservation activities, it is the recommendation that KHC undertake a project to summarize as much previous public involvement efforts as possible. Synthesizing data from more than 30 years of KHC meetings was outside the possibility of the present study but would benefit the KHC by identifying individuals and groups that have been particularly vocal in previous projects and planning activities. Additionally, it would help to identify patterns in public input in regard to the evolution of areas of concern over time and any interest trends resulting from shifting economic concerns. It would also serve to increase knowledge and understanding of the work of the KHC, its allied organizations, as well as the work of the OHA and the federal historic preservation program.

### **Compile informational sources on preservation for public consumption**

Either use the existing Ketchikan Historic Commission website or create a new website that will be a central clearing house of information, data collection, for the public outreach. During the first public meeting, participants were asked what questions they had about historic preservation. These ranged from technical and specific to broad and more abstract or process oriented (Appendix A).

That website should be part of a larger communication strategy aimed at public engagement, promoting best practices and technical know-how and elevating the work of the commission. Other tools for engagement could include:

- Calendar of events. This should include the monthly KHC meetings.
- Because public attendance for the meetings is often low, it could be valuable to include a short description of "what happens at a KHC meeting" so that the public knows they are welcome to attend and have an idea of what will happen at a meeting.
- Newsletter featuring FAQ (frequently asked questions), community history, and how-to articles. This should also include a social media strategy.

### Create a locals' list of sites to visit

When asked how they would be willing to participate in historic preservation activities, 60.27% of respondents said that they would be willing to visit historic sites. Participants also reflected on the impact of tourism and the loss of local culture. As one participant noted,

*"The cruise industry and focus on jewelry stores have severely and perhaps irreparably eroded the historic character of our community."*

This list could be created in collaboration with preservation partners, stakeholders, and local businesses, and could incorporate programs already in place by local organizations such as the scavenger hunt created by the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center. It could also take the form of a bingo card, a passport to be stamped, special visitor days, social media campaign, or just a list on the aforementioned website. This could also include QR codes or #hashtags and could be a part of the larger/communications social media strategy.



Figure 27. The Southeast Alaska Discovery Center in Ketchikan, Alaska. (©TNSDS 2022)

### Preservation Potluck

Because multiple agencies are involved in historic preservation efforts in Ketchikan and because the survey, public meetings, and stakeholder interviews suggest that more coordination would be beneficial, it is suggested that regularly scheduled meetings take place. Such meetings should be separate from the commission meetings and organized around a theme or subject.

### Workshop or Lecture Series

As part of working towards "the continuing education of citizens regarding historic preservation and the committee's history" (Ketchikan Historic Commission), both workshops and lectures could address both the practical aspects of historical preservation, the history of the KHC and preservation efforts in Ketchikan, and the history of the community with a special focus on lesser-known histories, resources, and stories.

### Storytelling Events

Storytelling is a powerful way to build community, connection, and to learn more about heritage. There are many different forms that these events could take, but one powerful format is the Story Circle. A Story Circle creates a comfortable space for people to share stories in a group or community setting.

### Relevant Resources:

The Story Circle Toolkit from the National Building Museum Provides a Comprehensive Guide: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5356a3bfe4b04b5c0a1d-ca51/t/5fd7981121747156cf02f035/1607964690317/Story-CircleToolkit112420.pdf>

### Create Citizens Guide to Preservation

In order to better help constituents know what resources are available and how they can play a role in the stewardship of Ketchikan's built heritage, the Citizen's guide could be a go-to source of information. It need not be exhaustive or completely comprehensive. For example, the Citizens Guide to Historic Preservation from Preservation New Jersey, lives up to its name and provides a very straightforward and accessible guide to the basics of historic preservation.

### Relevant Resources:

Citizens Guide to Historic Preservation: <https://rucore.libraries.rutgers.edu/rutgers-lib/28228/PDF/1/play/>

**NEXT STEPS**

The recommendations detailed above incorporate information gathered from the literature review, and also reflect feedback, input, and comments from the public outreach process. The next phase of this project will entail refinement and expansion of these recommendations, development of the actual historic preservation plan (HPP) and continued public outreach and stakeholder engagement.

This plan for the identification, protection, and interpretation of Ketchikan’s historic and cultural resources should be developed with input from KHCs partners, stakeholders, and the public. The plan should also be compatible with the Alaska Historic Preservation Plan and the Preservation Planning Standards put forth by the NPS. There is an abundance of information available to assist with this process and this section of the report will provide some additional guidance (these steps are also outlined in the flowchart at right).

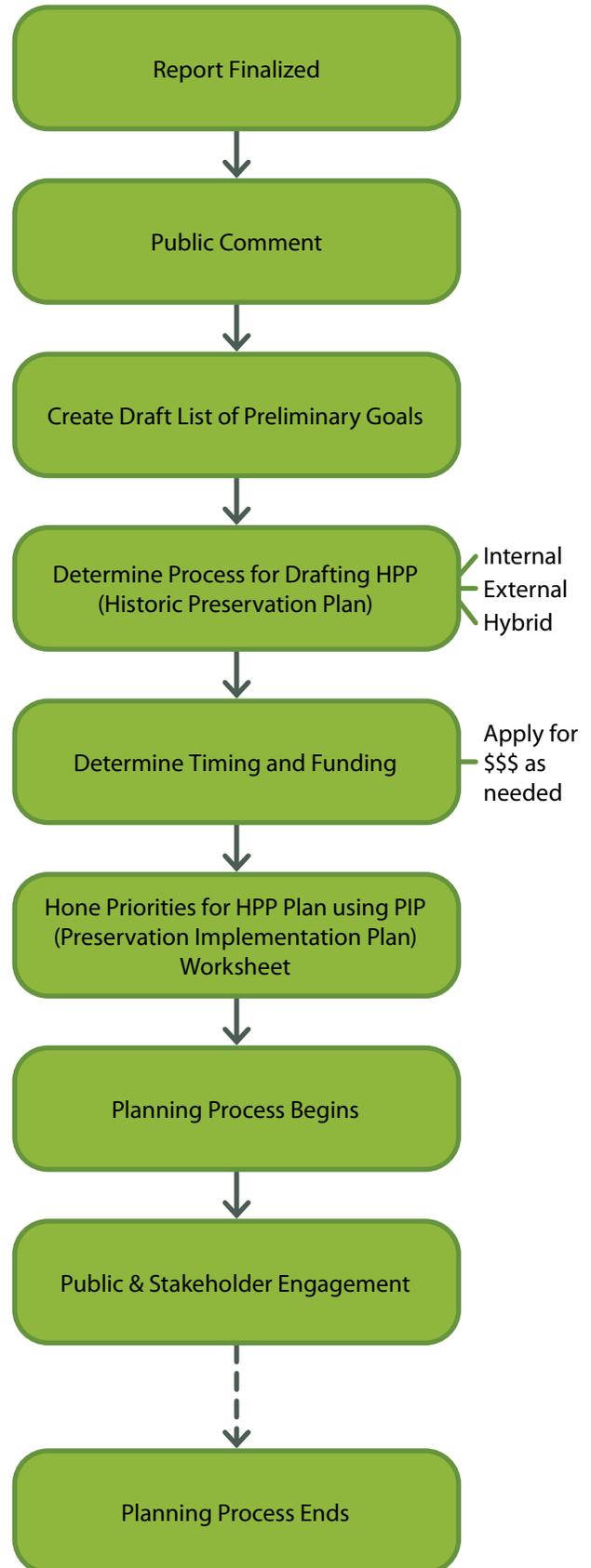
**Relevant Resources:**

The National Alliance of Historic Preservation Commissions (NAPC) has examples of city-wide preservation plans on their website: <https://www.napcommissions.org/preservation-plans>

The Historic Preservation Planning Program of the National Park Service also helpful information on their website about the historic preservation planning program, specifically as it relates to Certified Local Governments: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservationfund/preservation-planning-program.htm>

**Public Comment and List of Preliminary Goals**

There are many possible paths forward to complete the preservation planning process. However that process takes shape, it is recommended that the commission should share this report with the public and have a period for comment and feedback. After the public comment period has commenced and the commission should establish a list of preliminary goals and strategic priorities.



### Determine the Process for Completing the Historic Preservation Plan

The KHC should determine if the plan will be completed by the Commission, external consultants, or a combination thereof. Then, based on the feedback and in collaboration with preservation partners, stakeholders, and the public, the commission should create a workplan, draft a scope of work for the Phase II, establish criteria for evaluation of proposals, and apply for grants and funding as needed.

### Hone Priorities for HPP by Completing PIP Worksheets

Once the preliminary list of priorities had been established, the KHC, in collaboration with stakeholders should complete Project Implementation Plan or PIP worksheets for each of the goals identified. The PIP worksheet is intended to leverage that interim time by providing a template to further refine and evaluate the feasibility of possible goals and priorities to be included in the plan. The PIP forms are explained in more detail in Appendix E.

The PIP worksheet also provides a framework that could be used to evaluate new initiatives or projects undertaken while the preservation planning process is still unfolding.

### Planning Process Begins

As the Phase II of the preservation planning process commences and the public outreach and stakeholder engagement process continues, the goals will be finalized, and an implementation plan created. This phase of the process will conclude with the adoption and then implementation of the historic preservation plan.

### Planning Process Ends

When completed, the preservation plan will be an important step in ensuring the future stewardship of Ketchikan's heritage. It will also mark an important milestone for the commission and will be an extension of the considerable work they have done thus far to preserve and protect Ketchikan's cultural heritage. It will also be a great benefit to the community. As noted by one participant in the public outreach process:

*"There is great opportunity in our community -- probably the best opportunity in the entire state in this regard. Interests can be easily aligned across many stakeholders with a strong communication of vision, provision of expertise and resources when needed, intelligent planning, and appropriate regulation. The community as a whole would clearly benefit in the long run."*



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**APPENDIX A: ANNOTATED TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING NO. 1**

**Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Meeting No. 1**  
**Edited Chat Transcript-Preliminary Draft, Current as of 7/15/2022**  
**Meeting Date: April 25, 2022**

Note: This document is an edited transcript of the in-meeting “chat” from the first Public Outreach Meeting. The questions or prompts are indicated in green text. It has been edited and condensed for clarity. The responses have been anonymized. In addition, special characters or text were sometimes altered when exporting the chat; those alterations are indicated [sic].

### Agenda

- Welcome
- Land Acknowledgement
- Introductions and Overview
- Breakout Discussions
- Break
- Breakout Discussions Continue
- Next Steps
- Closing

### What brings you to this meeting? What do you hope to share, learn, or discover?

- Local Government Professional, Interested Individual
- Interested individual, local organizations, grad of AK Native Languages & Studies.
- Wondering about preserving easements.
- In the next steps forward, what efforts will be put forth in the way of preserving traditional place names of this region? Currently, our neighboring communities in the southeast are working toward implementing traditional place names, & I think that it would be a foundational step in this endeavor.
- I am interested in preserving the character of our local businesses, and aiding new and emerging businesses in having and preserving the historic look. In addition, aiding our Native Community, as Irene said in our breakout, in honoring our Native community.
- Also about the cost of maintaining historic structures.
- St John’s Episcopal Church. :-)
- I am interested in helping to bring attention to historic preservation through public outreach, programing and advocating for our historic past through our shared sense of place
- Just reiterating how expensive it is to maintain an historic building.
- Wasn’t the downtown historic survey the first step in the preservation plan, by recognizing contributing structures?
- There were three historic surveys, Downtown, Stedman, and Newtown that were the basis for establishing historic districts. Stephen Reeve can explain this further.

- Information from those surveys will certainly be part of the preservation plan.
- If anyone wants to bookmark and deep dive into those surveys that Morgan and Deborah mentioned they are available on the Historic Ketchikan Inc site here: <https://www.historicketchikan.org/publications/>

### What questions do you have about the work of the Historic Commission, how historic preservation works, or about the heritage of Ketchikan?

- How to best access funding for historic preservation projects?
- Tax credits and workshops/information for property owners (or prospective owners) to take advantage of those funds that can make preservation a reality
- Process for placing buildings on the historic registry.
- Knickerbocker Hotel is the most recent 'event' that I recall as a building that could/should have been preserved. Was there effort and why was it lost and torn down?
- I think the big thing is to let the public know what exactly the purpose of such a thing is, why it's a value to our future. Perhaps use other communities as examples, and illustrate how it has benefited those places.
- Question -- can the Historic Commission assist with obtaining proscriptive easements from the State DOT? I am asking specifically with regard to awnings (which are historic and very helpful to pedestrians) but which awnings encroach into the State Right of Way for Tongass Avenue.
- The Commission's role in building/park naming recognition in our community.
- What tools/approaches are used to ensure inclusivity? Are tribal organizations consulted? University departments?
- How to incentivize continued use and investment in historic structures? Living space in historic structures downtown has been turned into commercial/office/storage space over time (see: Ingersoll Hotel). Habitation seems to be a good way to continue interest in the structures.
- Is the Commission serving in an advisory capacity to the City Council only?
- Also can the Historic Commission assist with requirements from the City / Borough with regard to electrical upgrades to historic buildings? Specifically -- when you want to upgrade something, it seems to trigger cost-prohibitive requirements -- understandable, yet not within the budget of many. Thanks for answering these kinds of questions.
- What is the plan to encourage as much involvement as possible from the community in developing this plan? Can the information gleaned from this meeting and other meetings be shared in some way so people can see the process and be given the opportunity to participate?
- How can the commission assist property owners with grant funding
- Maintenance. There are several other buildings in pretty bad shape. This climate is hard on the old wood structures.
- Or getting groups like Historicorp involved in active restoration efforts especially for those buildings run/used by nonprofits
- How can the Historic Commission and the plan being developed protect the historic look of downtown? Sign ordinances? Building height restrictions? Etc.

### What are some of your favorite places in Ketchikan? Why are they important to you?

- Along with preserving place names, I would also encourage recognizing/honoring original Indigenous deed holders, in the area indicated by the original Ketchikan Townsite plat.
- Historic Creek Street - it has all the elements: the beginning, its settlements, its political influence to move forward with change - yet preserved for a conversational point.
- In general, it seems like the community does not have much messaging in the way of the people of the community (historical building plaques notwithstanding), whether native or otherwise, place names or buildings, etc. The museum does yeoman's work in telling the story of the community, but it seems like there are opportunities to look outside that structure to tell the story.
- Knob Hill, Creek Street, Thomas Basin
- Not a specific place, but rather: Identifying, elevating and honoring the under explored/celebrated stories that are tied to the places here in Ketchikan. There are so many people and groups that have changed and impacted our community. Preserve the places but also tell a more complete story where all people see themselves reflected in a more truthful and inclusive collective history of Ketchikan
- Pocket parks
- Identify pocket parks and find community efforts to clean up, preserve, and reinstate its purpose with use of grants.

### What are some of the challenges or barriers to historic preservation?

- Deer Mountain Trail was discussed in our chat... built by CCC - needs some work and facilities to handle the greater number of uses.
- Cost, very, very wet weather and awareness of what should be done
- Need for funding!
- Property owners that lack knowledge or resources or have interest that don't include historic preservation
- Understanding/educating about why it (historic preservation) is important
- Lack of funding, lack of understanding, lack of interest
- The financial aspects of historical preservation are significant for historical property owners.
- Disconnect from the city manager's office, council/assembly, municipal codes/regulations and lack of general budget for infrastructure projects done on a timely basis, i.e. less than 10 years.
- Native Representation on the Board or Commission
- Renovation is sometimes more expensive than new build.
- People think that it is overregulated and expensive. Coming off of lack of tourism, many folks don't have money
- Trying to preserve or maintain a structure in a manner sensitive to its historic qualities can be extremely expensive. Wood siding, appropriate detailing, wood windows, etc.
- And electrical improvements are extremely costly and complicated.
- Cost

- Knowledge of building techniques, available contractors
- People and gov'ts hire architects who design dismally modern buildings.
- I think one barrier of preserving place names is that many folks are intimidated by the concept of not understanding or mispronouncing. I've heard comments about how will people know how to say that? But language learning happens everyday & it is so possible.

#### **What is the challenge? What are some ideas that you have for solutions?**

- Hiring a new city manager, not from Ketchikan, who has the ability to connect community involvement and transparency for solutions and knows where / how to obtain grant funding to resolve budget woes.
- We need Elon Musk to fall in love with the historic character of Ketchikan and shower money on us.
- Education on what the process is, how to do it, and what it really costs; Outreach to promote understanding and interest; promotion of cultural tourism to secure funding both at the local and state levels to fund preservation projects.
- Interactive signage like they have on the trails (the updated ones like out at Lunch Creek). Buttons that sound off a speaker of the pronunciation. Even whole stories (that are allowed to be shared per permission of the clan).
- Amend policies for inclusion and diversity, adopt place based cultural guiding principles. Consult the native community
- Web based resource center that is updated with information about consultants, grants, material, summaries of most applicable codes
- Large scale community grant that can support historic preservation coordinator
- Involve non profits for needy personal properties, our Rotary Club in Portsmouth Virginia had an annual event where we painted 26 homes for those in need in the historic district--there were qualifications for the applications of course
- Pooling connections to bring in an architect and/or contractors with historic knowledge and know-how that could be tapped by private property owners.
- Create an historic preservation endowment fund.
- Technical training program to teach people about construction, grow the skills here, and empower locals. Fantasy land is working with barge lines to help reduce the cost of shipping materials.
- Ketchikan residents become good ambassadors of our own community

#### **Please share your headline from the future in the chat.**

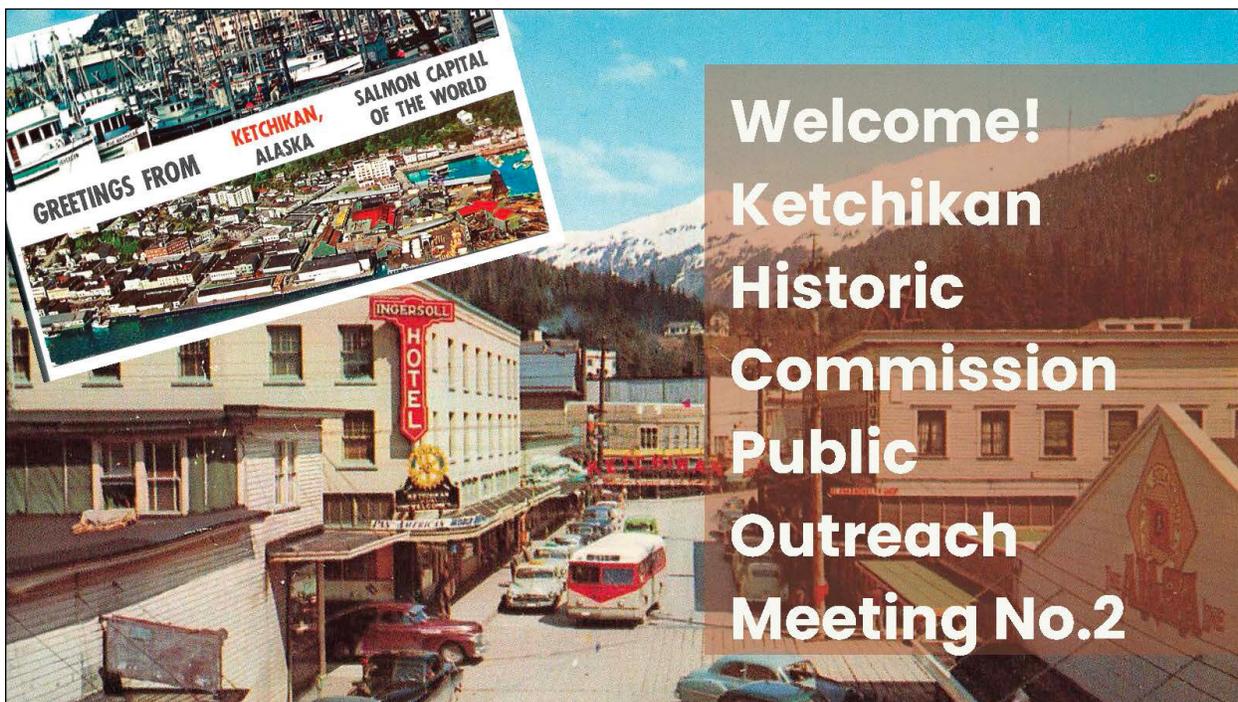
- City of Ketchikan Awarded \$50 Million, 5 year Grant to Fund Historic Preservation Efforts
- Historic signs in the downtown describe contributions of long-time Ketchikan Families
- Ketchikan: Your Destination of Choice for Enjoying History and Culture
- I'm excited to see people from the Alaska native community here and want to figure out how to recognize that part of our history and culture more effectively.

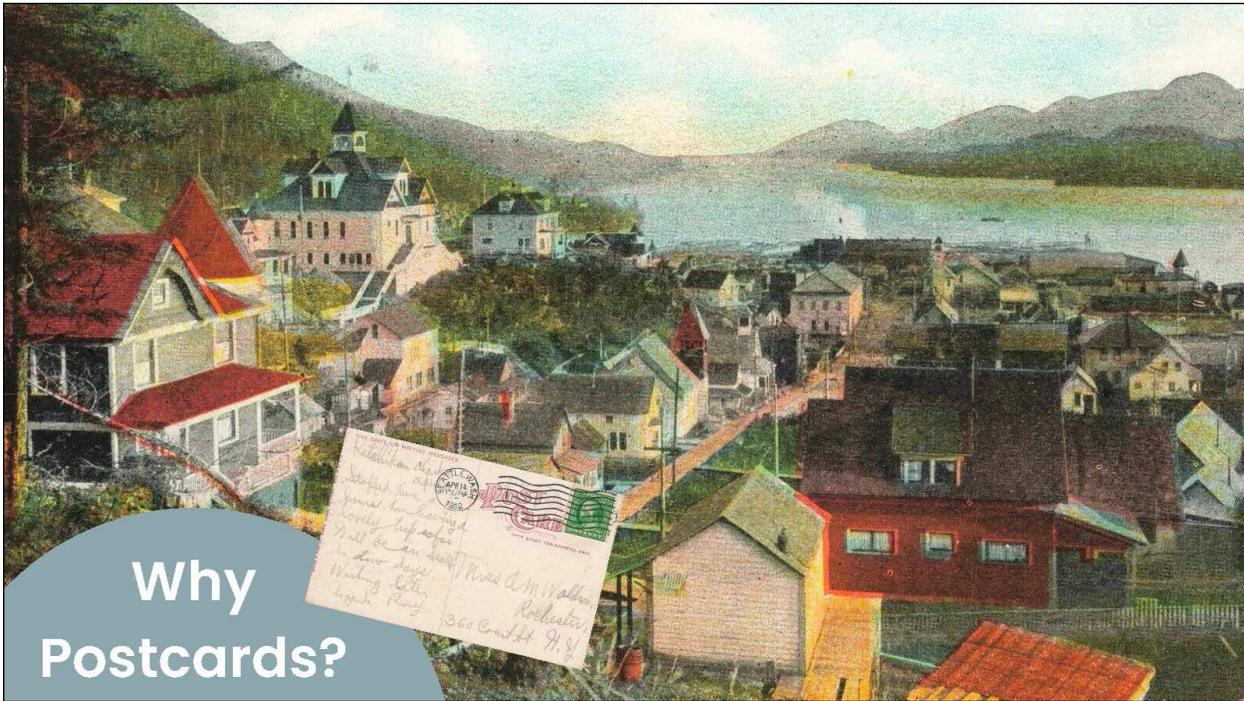
- In 2022 the community came together, identified the neighborhoods, projects, and funding and today, a success story highlighting preservation dating back (since forever) 1900. A Legacy that is preserving buildings built in 2000 - 30 years ago.
- K'áchxaan City Planners Implement Saanya and Taanta Kwaan Place Names

#### **What insights have you had? What are you taking away from this meeting?**

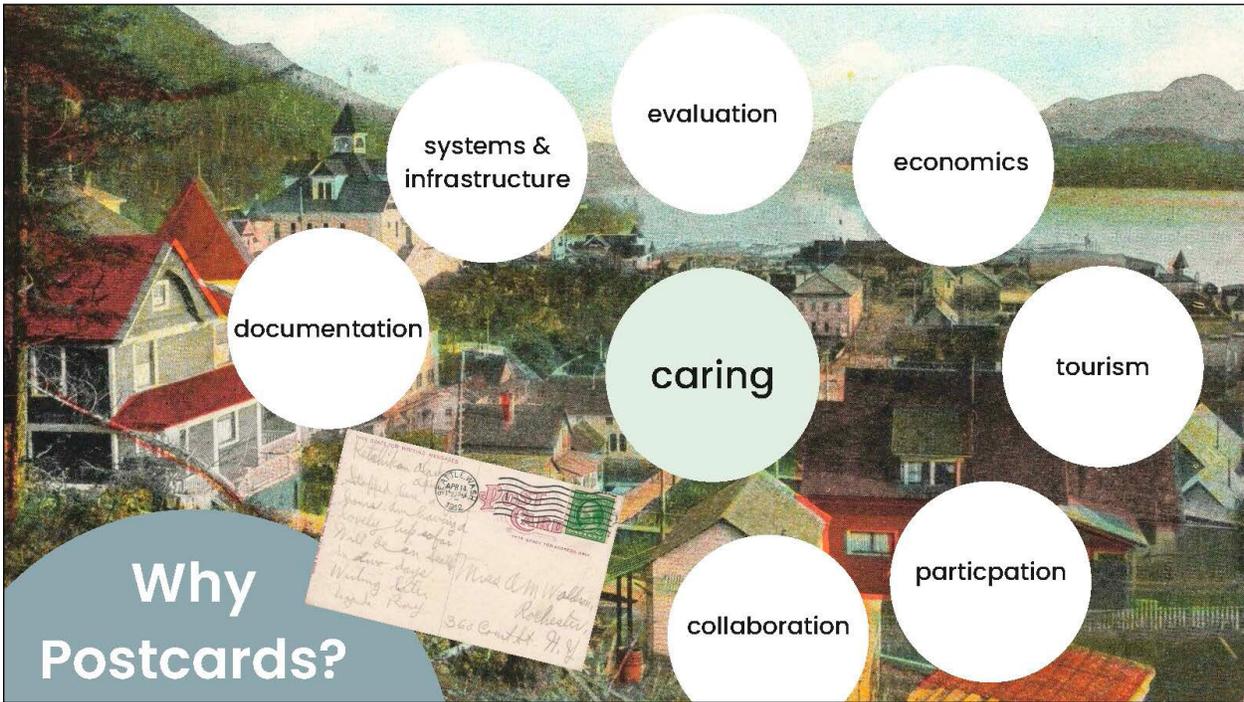
- Interest in deserving places outside of the city
- A lot of ideas and voices to gather!
- Hope! I'm happy to see so many who care about the historic preservation of our community with similar thoughts and ideas
- Our group talked about the stories we tell or need to be told and how we might amplify them.
- How to develop community pride in historic preservation.
- We talked about the unique infrastructure (boardwalks, stair streets, back alleys) in several of the chats. Also the importance of signage and recognition of the stories and place names of native culture
- I would like to participate in future conversations & meetings, however I can.
- Love the idea that a gathering is organized and walk a district with history and suggestions on the next phase.
- Attending the meetings, sharing history of cultural knowledge of the land, help with research
- Attending cultural events; sharing stories; learning how historic preservation works; advocating/consulting on a legislative level perhaps. Whatever is needed.
- Invite other communities to Ketchikan that have the common historic care to share in a public venue
- Thank you everyone; how can you know where you are going if you don't know where you have been? We love Ketchikan and Alaska.
- Thank you! Definitely want to get to know my roots more considering Tsimshian / Tlingit [sic]

**APPENDIX B: MEETING NO. 2 SLIDESHOW PRESENTATION**

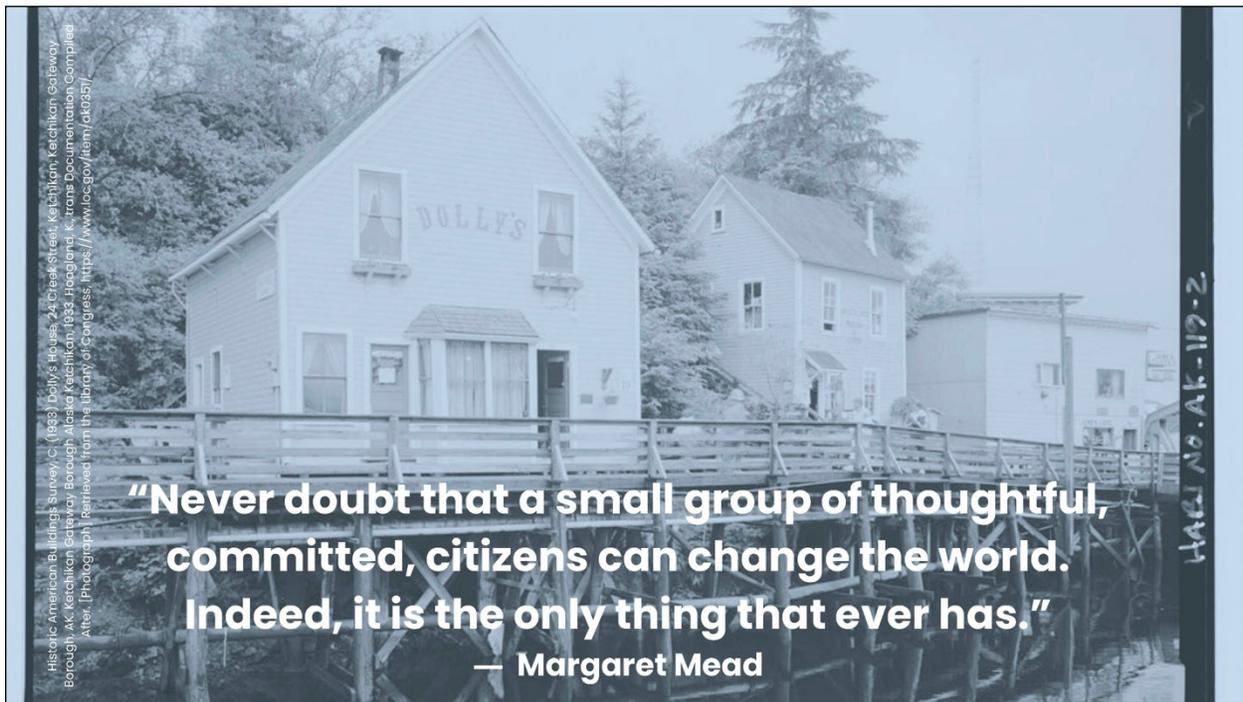
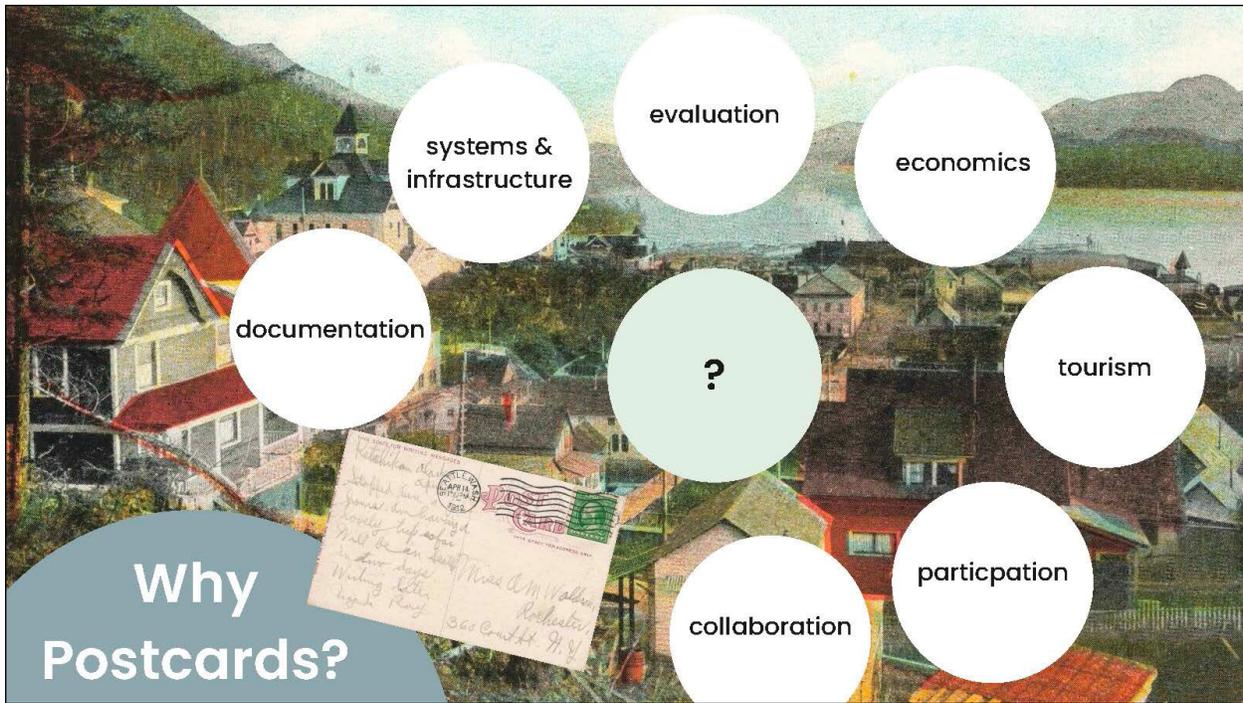




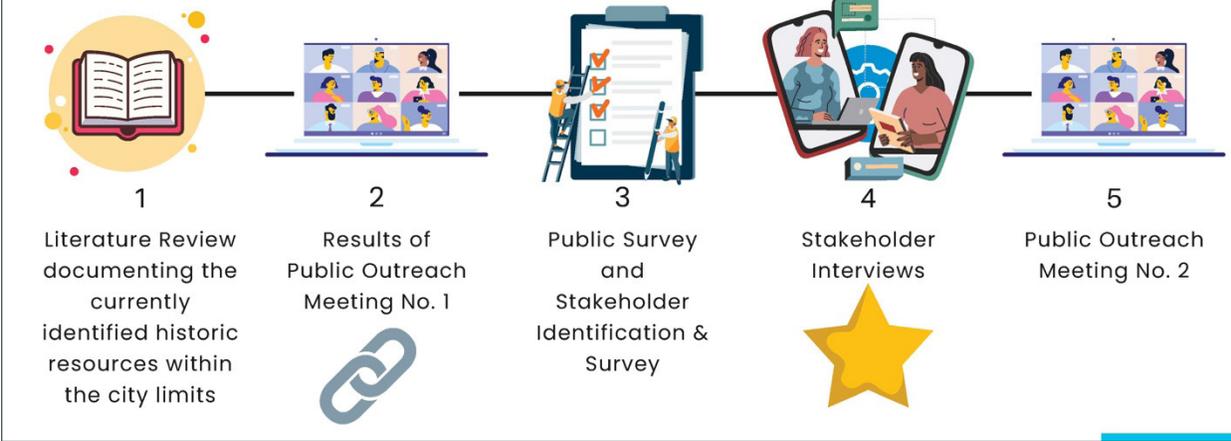
# Why Postcards?



# Why Postcards?

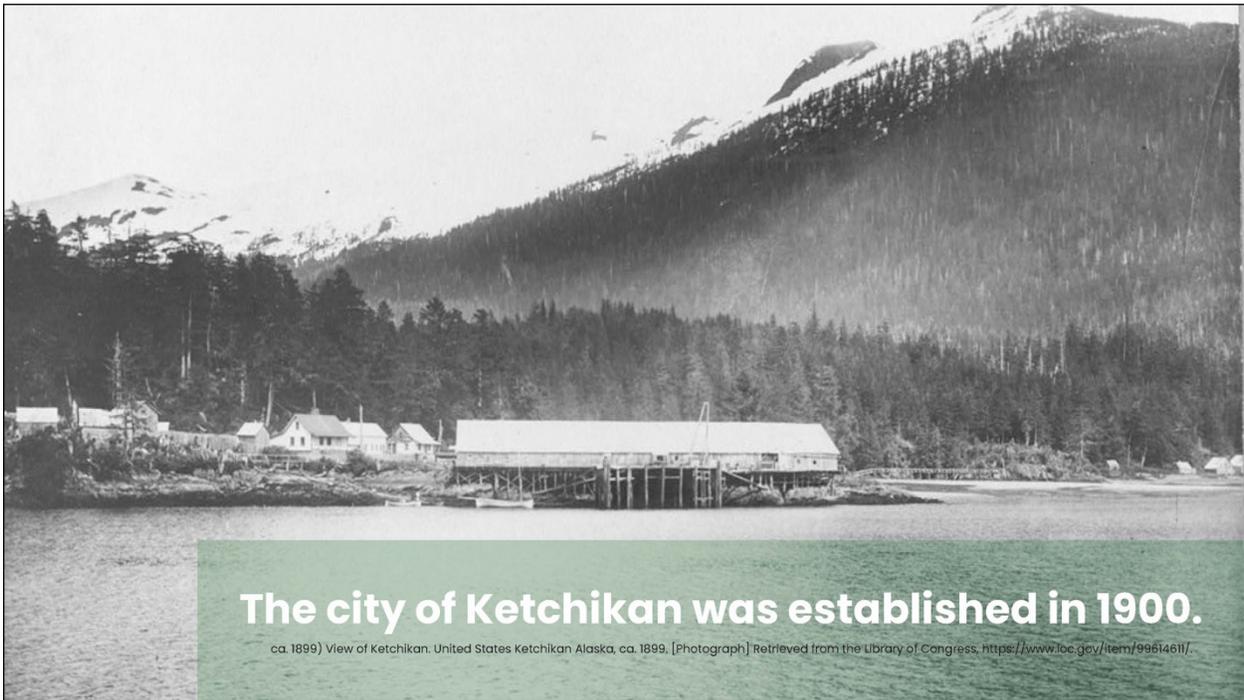
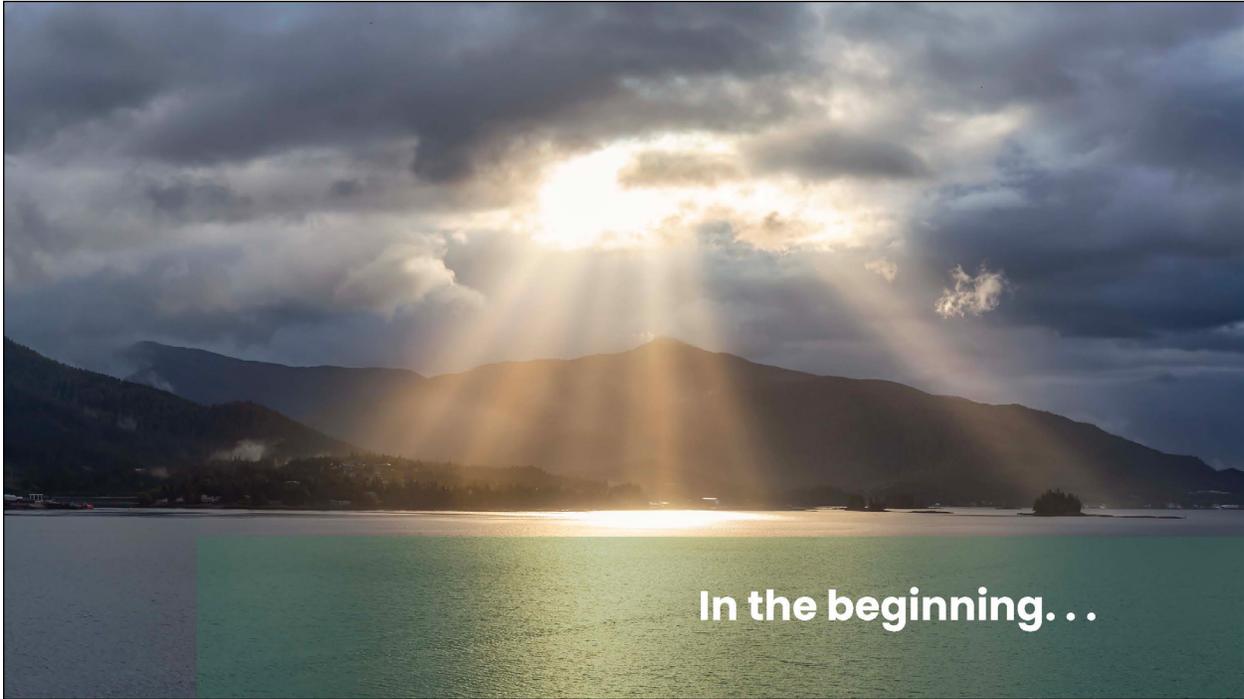


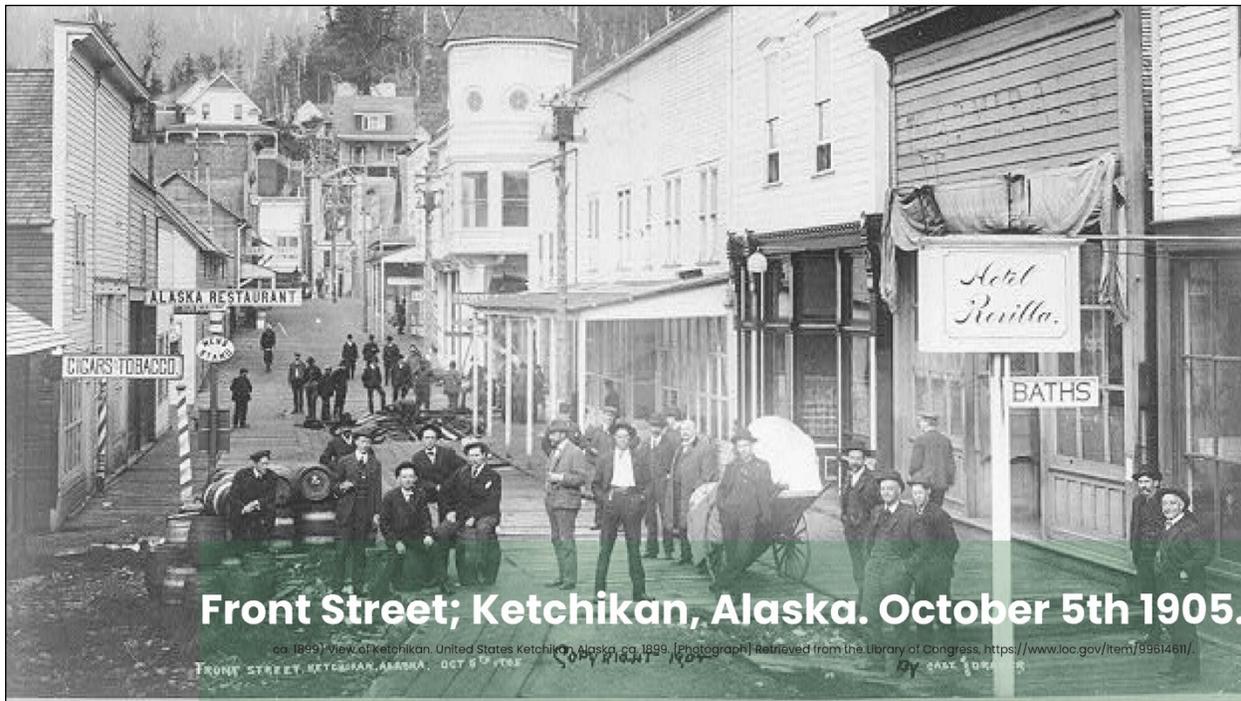
### Ketchikan Historic Preservation Plan: Phase 1, Community Outreach-The Process



### Ketchikan Historic Preservation Plan: Phase 1, Community Outreach--Next Steps







**Front Street; Ketchikan, Alaska. October 5th 1905.**

ca. 1899. View of Ketchikan, United States Ketchikan, Alaska, ca. 1899. [photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/9951461/>.  
FRONT STREET, KETCHIKAN, ALASKA, OCT 5 1905. S. O. P. PHOTO. 1905. D. W. CASE. 1071

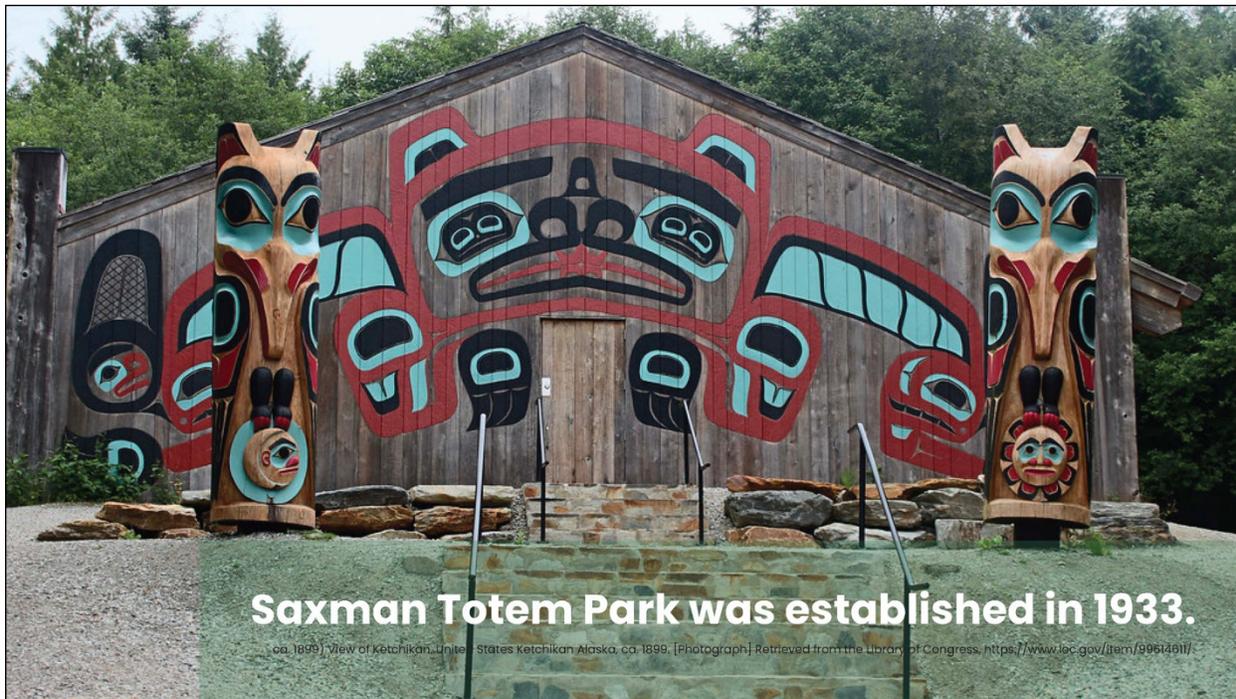


<https://content.lib.washington.edu/portals/law/cannery.html>

*Ward's Cove Crew of 1940*  
Ketchikan, Alaska

University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Division

**Cannery crew, Wards Cove Packaging Co., Ketchikan, Alaska, 1940**



**Saxman Totem Park was established in 1933.**

ca. 1899, View of Ketchikan, United States Ketchikan Alaska, ca. 1899. [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/9961491/>



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## City of Ketchikan

**Home Rule City**  
**2015 Population: 8,314**  
**Size: 4 Square Miles**

**Ketchikan Historic Commission:** 10 members, to the extent feasible, include an architect or historical architect, an archaeologist, and a historian. One member shall be a member of the city council or appointee; one shall be a member of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough planning commission or an appointee; one shall be a member of the Tongass Historical Society or an appointee.

**Meets:** Every-other month/as needed  
**Date certified:** January 31, 1991

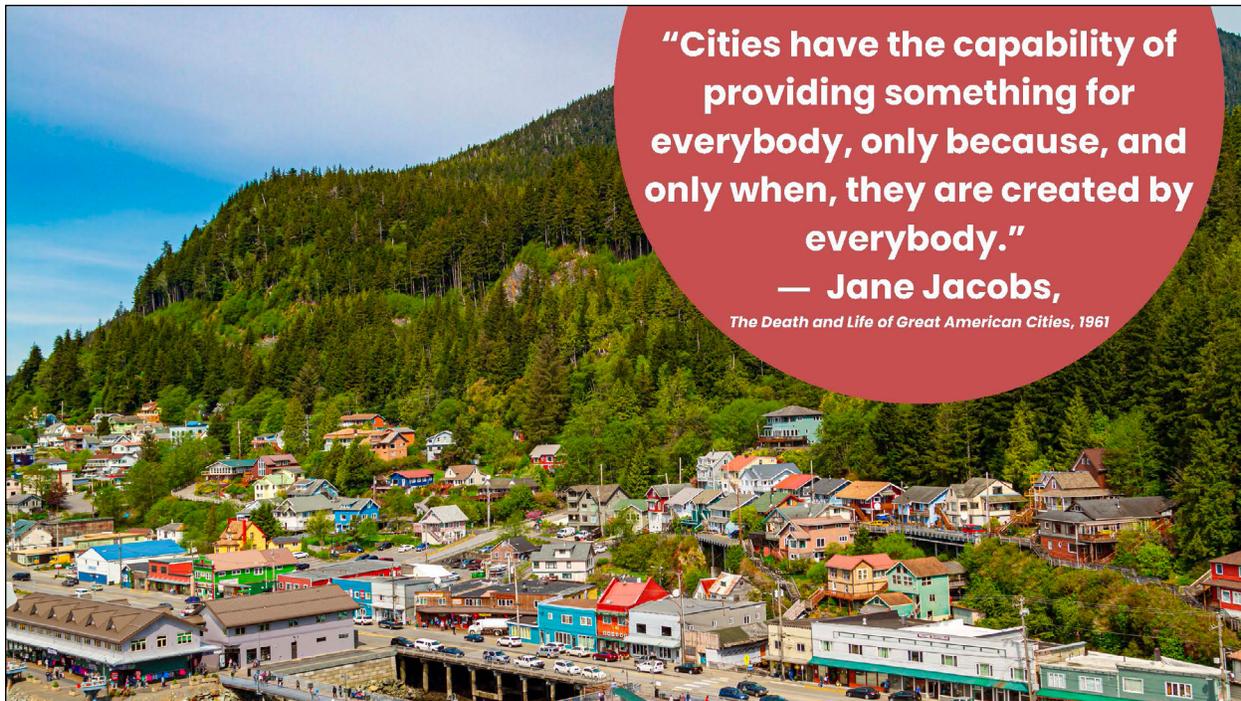


[Commission Website](#)

[Ordinances](#)

[Alaskan Community Profile](#)

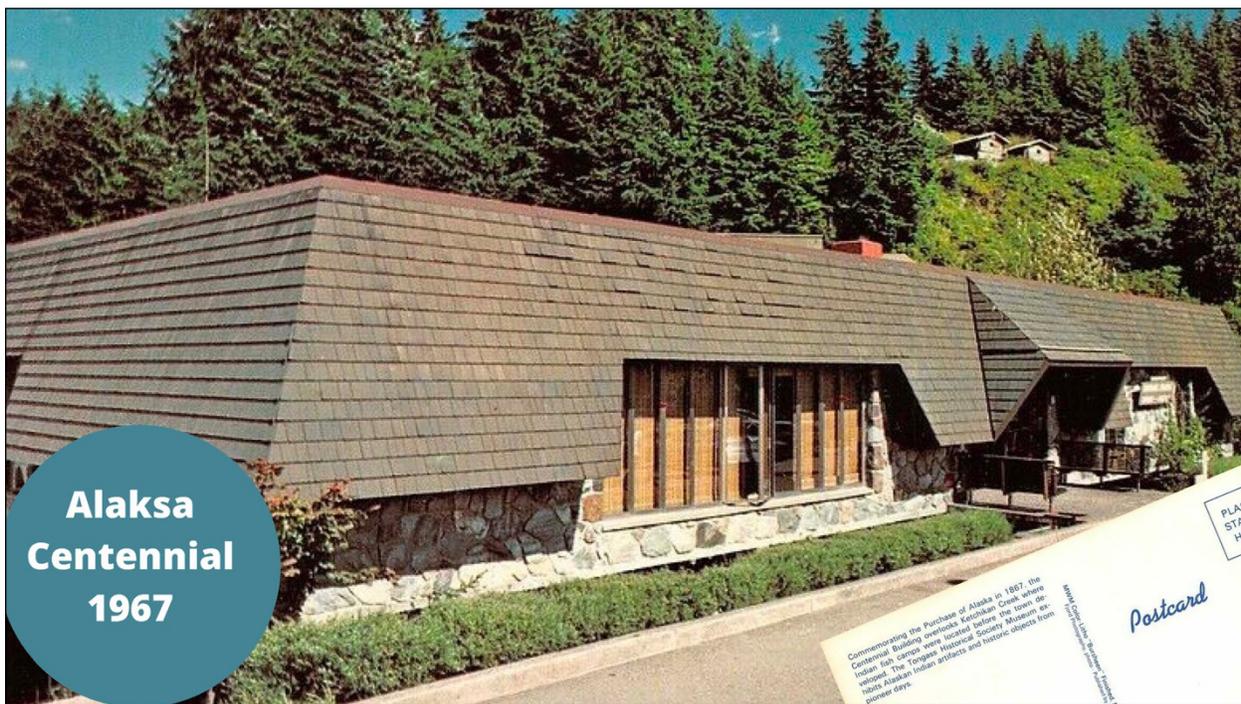
**In 1991, the city of  
Ketchikan  
became a  
Certified Local  
Government**



**“Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.”**

**— Jane Jacobs,**

*The Death and Life of Great American Cities, 1961*



**Alaksa  
Centennial  
1967**

Commemorating the Purchase of Alaska in 1867, the Centennial Building overlooks Ketchikan Creek along the waterfront. The building was designed by the firm of the late architect and interior designer, and is a fine example of Alaskan modern architecture and historic design.

Postcard

PLAC  
STAY  
HE

**National Park Service** SEARCH MENU

## What are the Requirements to Be a Certified Local Government?

CLGs must meet the following minimum goals:

- Establish a qualified historic preservation commission.
- Enforce appropriate State or local legislation for the designation and protection of historic properties. In most cases this is done in the form of a local ordinance.
- Maintain a system for the survey and inventory of local historic resources.
- Facilitate public participation in the local preservation, including participation in the National Register listing process.
- Follow additional requirements outlined in the State's CLG Procedures. Each state has Procedures for Certification that may establish additional requirements for becoming a CLG in that State.

**Certified Local Governments**

Home CLG Benefits About Partners Events Publications

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## Preservation Through Partnership

Commit to Saving the Past for Future Generations

**Ketchikan became a CLG in 1991**

## Ketchikan Historic Commission

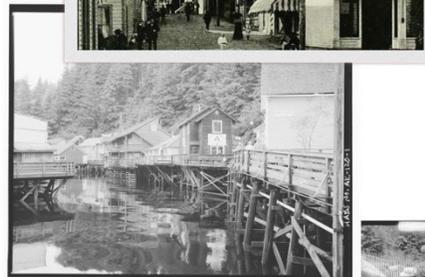
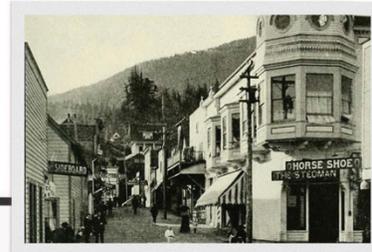
Support Materials for Public Meeting No. 2  
Jun 28, 2022

Duties of the Commission  
Source: <http://www.ketchikanmuseums.org/about/historic-commission>

- Review and make recommendations about local projects that might affect properties identified in the local historic preservation plan.
- Review and develop nominations to the National Register of Historic Places for properties within the City of Ketchikan.
- Act in an advisory role to the Tongass Historical Society, the Ketchikan museum department, Ketchikan Gateway Borough planning and zoning commission, and the Alaska Historic Sites Advisory Committee on all matters concerning historical districts and historic, prehistoric and archaeological preservation in the city of Ketchikan.
- Develop a local historic preservation plan to include provision for identification, protection and interpretation of the area's significant resources. Such plan is to be compatible with the Alaska Historic Preservation Plan, and to produce information compatible with and for the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey.
- The historic preservation commission shall work toward the continuing education of citizens regarding historic preservation and the committee's history.
- The commission shall support the enforcement of the Alaska Historic Preservation Act.

## Historic and Cultural Resources in Ketchikan

- Ketchikan has the highest density of historic and cultural resources per capita in Alaska.
- Ketchikan was designated nationally as a Preserve America community in 2007
- There are over 400 resources on the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey database
- Ketchikan boasts 13 properties on the National Register of Historic Places, including...
- Three are historic districts - the Downtown Ketchikan Historic District, Steadman-Thomas Historic District, and the world famous Creek Street Historic District.
- In addition, there are 23 resources determined eligible that are just waiting for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.



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## Ketchikan Historic Commission

FROM THEN TO NOW

Historic preservation is an essential strategy to promote our community's unique identity and is a vital component of economic, environmental, and social sustainability.

**thank you**

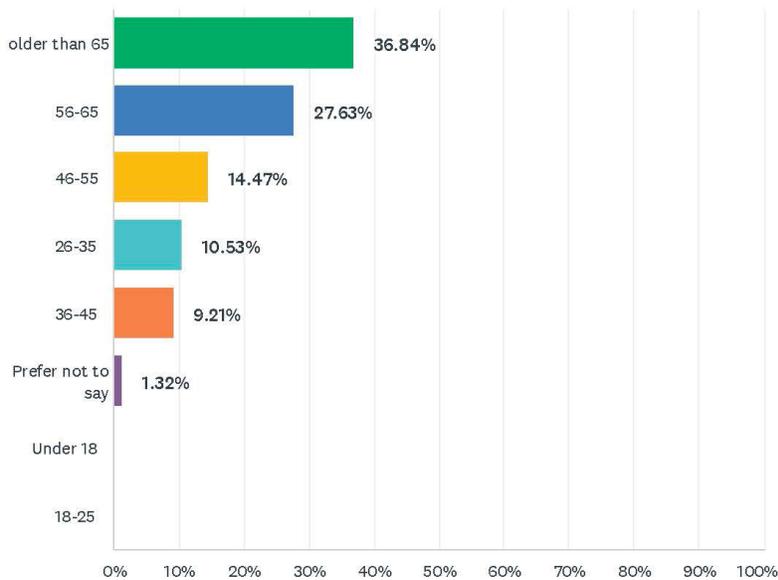
## **APPENDIX C: SURVEY RESULTS**

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

Q1 So the KHC can better understand its constituency, please give your age range

Answered: 76 Skipped: 3



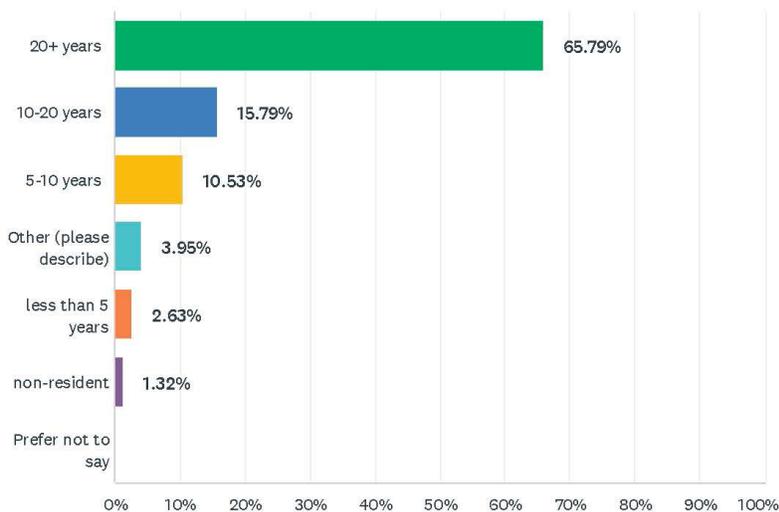
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
older than 65	36.84%	28
56-65	27.63%	21
46-55	14.47%	11
26-35	10.53%	8
36-45	9.21%	7
Prefer not to say	1.32%	1
Under 18	0.00%	0
18-25	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>76</b>

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

Q2 So the KHC can better understand its constituency, please indicate how long you have lived in Ketchikan.

Answered: 76 Skipped: 3



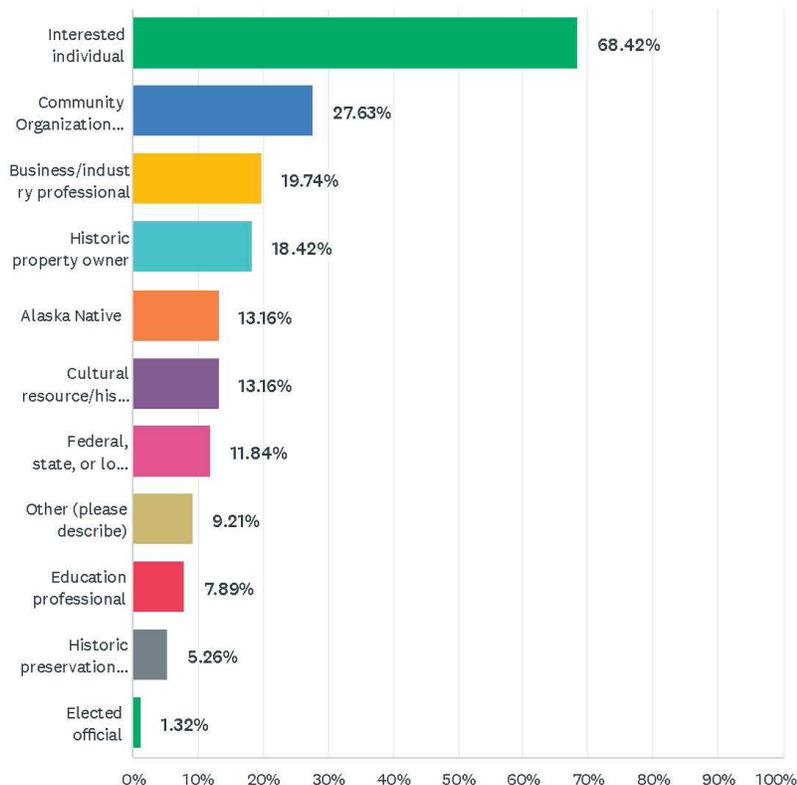
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
20+ years	65.79%	50
10-20 years	15.79%	12
5-10 years	10.53%	8
Other (please describe)	3.95%	3
less than 5 years	2.63%	2
non-resident	1.32%	1
Prefer not to say	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>76</b>

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

Q3 Which of the following best describes your role or interest in historic preservation? (check all that apply)

Answered: 76 Skipped: 3



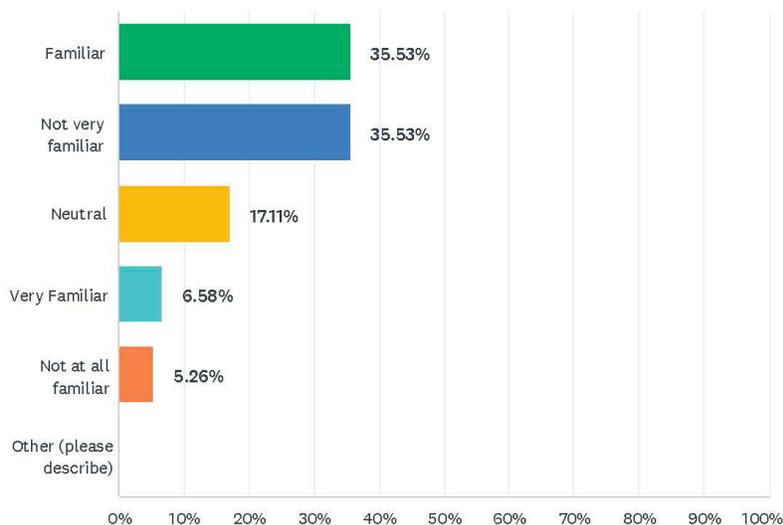
Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey		SurveyMonkey	
ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Interested individual		68.42%	52
Community Organization (museum, historical society, preservation group)		27.63%	21
Business/industry professional		19.74%	15
Historic property owner		18.42%	14
Alaska Native		13.16%	10
Cultural resource/historic preservation professional		13.16%	10
Federal, state, or local government professional		11.84%	9
Other (please describe)		9.21%	7
Education professional		7.89%	6
Historic preservation commissioner (past or present)		5.26%	4
Elected official		1.32%	1
Total Respondents: 76			

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

Q4 Please indicate how familiar you are with the work of the Ketchikan Historic Commission.

Answered: 76 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Familiar	35.53%	27
Not very familiar	35.53%	27
Neutral	17.11%	13
Very Familiar	6.58%	5
Not at all familiar	5.26%	4
Other (please describe)	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>76</b>

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

**Q5 What places matter most to you in Ketchikan and the surrounding area?**

Answered: 74 Skipped: 5

See Insert for Question 5

## Ketchikan Public Outreach and Stakeholder Survey

### Question 5: What places matter most to you in Ketchikan and the surrounding area?

- Newtown and Hopkins Alley
- Downtown
- Ceremonial locations, etc.
- Historic districts- downtown, Creek St., Stedman/Thomas; waterfront, traditional Native AK sites- villages, ceremonial locations, etc.
- Historic Downtown, Logging communities, Maritime Industry
- downtown, stedman street, harbors, hiking trails, extending urban walking opportunities (promenade) stair streets, hillside neighborhoods
- Downtown, Newtown, West End, any other historic properties/areas
- Waterfront
- Museums, diaz, pulp mill site
- Museum, Totem Heritage Center, the Totem Parks, -- I know there are historic properties as well - the only one I can think of in particular is the Monrean house at the corner of Main and ??
- The downtown area and outlying areas where logging camps, forest services activities, and fishing canneries were most prevalent, are so iconic SE Alaska, that they are of most interest to me.
- Old public buildings
- Totem Heritage Center
- "Creek Street, historic waterfront, Thomas Basin / Stedman Street, downtown business district, historic housing above downtown, Newtown, and the residential neighborhood bounded by Deermount St containing City Park and the Totem Heritage Center. I think it would also be good if more resources were available to preserve historic properties in Saxman but direction of those should be at the discretion of Saxman community members.
- Not sure what you mean, but I would say the Revilla, and the other older homes and buildings in the surrounding area that have been purchased by outside individuals that don't seem to care about taking care of the buildings, including several up above the tunnel
- Natural areas or subsistence harvesting areas
- Downtown
- All areas
- Deer Mountain, Ward Lake, Creek Street, Ketchikan Creek

- The competing interests and interests of multiple cultures present. The continued strife between things that are important. Learning from the depravity of lower income, no matter their culture, to the average and higher income levels. Indigenous cultures is welcome as long as it's entertaining, but a challenge when it comes to equal rights. Values for all
- Downtown, Creek Street, Indian Town, historic canneries, sawmills, buildings, etc.
- Anything to do with history of fishing community, early pioneers, schools, pre-50's buildings, Native community
- Culturally appropriate architecture and preservation of historical areas. Creative park spaces for outdoor recreation. Neighborhood green spaces with activity equipment
- Downtown, Creek St and Stedman St., Thomas Basin, and the area up on the hill behind downtown
- Library; Totem Bight and Settler's Cove; Museum; Discovery Center; Main Street Gallery
- Creekstreet
- local places - ward lake, hole in the wall, north tongass community center, naha
- Not sure if you are looking for specific places...I think our historic buildings are of great importance, including the buildings in already designated historic districts. I also value the physical landscape and special locations around town. Specifically, I really like the older residential homes depicting various styles...The Dibrell Queen Anne, the concrete Revilla and federal building, the art deco look of the old fire hall, the Lutheran Church, the homes along Water Street, etc. Our downtown business core is also important, altho the 'new' addition where the Spruce Mill was leaves a lot to be desired. Landscape-wise, I think of sites that allow me to enjoy a bit of nature...Whale Park, the City Park, Totem Bight, etc.
- Our historic downtown buildings and our maritime history
- Local year-round businesses
- Not sure what you mean by 'places'...but, there are buildings in the community that matter
- Downtown and its historic features, Newtown, Saxman
- anything that represents the REAL Ketchikan, not the tourist perception
- Ketchikan, Saxman & Prince of Whales
- The urban development originally adapted to the geography...mountains & water, and how the building characteristics of western culture associated with the prominent industries, adapted to the place.
- Downtown and neighborhoods above the tunnel.
- The 3 present national historic districts and adjacent residential areas
- Library, museums, Native artwork (totem poles, etc.) Parks, historical buildings
- The residential neighborhoods above Downtown through the baseball fields; Creek Street; Downtown from Deermount to the Lutheran Church.
- Ketchikan's downtown area and adjacent historic neighborhoods, our totems throughout the community and the historic totem parks at Saxman and Totem Bight.
- Historic downtown core, Creek Street, and pre-1940s structures in residential neighborhoods especially above the tunnel, the creek, and Water Street areas.

- St. John's and Arthur Yates Hospital
- Ketchikan Creek corridor, Creek Street, Pennock and Gravina, nature areas like Ward Cove
- St John's Episcopal Church and near buildings
- Creek Street, totem parks, harbors, canneries, downtown area, newtown area
- Yates Memorial Hospital, St. Johns Lutheran Church, Knob Hill homes, Historic Creek Street, Newtown-Hopkins Water Street, Stedman-Thomas, preserving heart of downtown around Discovery Center,
- I don't have a special area that matters more than others.
- All of Ketchikan
- First Lutheran church
- "Local trails like Deer Mtn.
- Downtown, Stedman Street, Herring Cove, Hopkins Alley and Warren, G, Harding streets. Deermount and the park."
- Knob (or Nob) Hill Neighborhood and the tunnel area, Our 3 Historic Districts, Overall beautification and maintenance of our downtown
- Historic Structures both existing and previously existing, This includes totem poles and other markers as well as buildings
- Downtown, Ward Lake, Mud Bight
- Downtown
- I think the historic sites that matter to me most in the Ketchikan area would be archaeological sites and historical Indigenous village sites. After that, the historic city of Ketchikan dating from the early 20th century matters to me as well.
- Parks, Youth Outdoor Spaces (playgrounds, athletic spaces), places that promote cultural diversity reflective of the ENTIRE population
- Any place in Ketchikan that can be used to tell the history of our community. This also includes the region of Southern Southeast because it is all interconnected historically.
- Creek Street, Downtown Core, West End corridor
- Downtown - Creek Street, Stedman. The village islands. Ward Lake area. Waterfront
- Downtown - Creek Street, Stedman. The village islands. Ward Lake area. Waterfront
- Ward Lake hiking area, 3rd avenue by-pass, downtown streets and stores.
- Historic structures downtown
- The obvious places downtown matter, but as the community grows and ages, I believe there are places outside of the city that are starting to become important. Places such as Totem Candy out south or the North Tongass Community Center.
- I would have to say the Thomas Basin section of town is my favorite.
- Water fronts, rivers, lakes, streams, trails. The forest at large. Not a fan of the town population growth.
- It's all important from a historical perspective; because of my work I'm interested in areas surrounding town -- Ward Lake / CCCs campground (Aleut intern camp), cabins; totem poles
- The forest, trails, and beaches.

- Original architecture including businesses which if renovated need to retain their original design and features; old classic homes (1900-1930s era).
- Totem parks, Ward lake, Settlers Cove, all Trails and USFS Cabins, totem heritage center, City of Saxman, City of Metlakatla, S.E. Alaska Discovery Center, Creek Street, Eddystone Rock and the Punchbowl.
- Its industrial and associated history.
- Downtown - the docks and waterfront, Creek street and Stedman. Local hiking trails, Wilderness areas
- I'm interested in most of Ketchikan's areas/neighborhoods and their history; and as far as surrounding area - the Naha area - Loring is fascinating due to its history. (So, can't really pick one place...)
- At one time the State of Alaska stated that Ketchikan had more historic properties than any other city in Alaska. Many have since been destroyed. I would like to see as many historic properties preserved and/or restored as possible.
- Abuse of drug and alcohol.
- Tongass Supply building, Seaman's center, St. John's, stop filling in the Narrows.

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

**Q6 In Ketchikan, what stories or histories are overlooked or under-represented?**

Answered: 68 Skipped: 11

See Insert for Question 6

## Ketchikan Public Outreach and Stakeholder Survey

### Question 6: In Ketchikan, what stories or histories are overlooked or under-represented?

- Filipino
- Filipino and Norwegian (Scandinavian) immigrants, Native only facilities such as the school on Deermount, the former St. Elizabeth's. Would like to see more about the Sisters of St Joseph and their amazing story
- None
- \*Aleut relocation/Internment Camp
- Ketchikan Filipino history
- Ethnic groups, Creek Street women, logging companies/operations outside of the Pulp Mill
- Can't name any
- Filipino contributions, native history
- I have been trying for some time to get the Forest Service retirees to start recording their memories. Unfortunately, many of the good story-tellers are gone, but it is still a resource that should be explored.
- None that I am aware of.
- ?
- The Tongass Tlingit people
- In general the historic markers downtown do an excellent job but I think it would be good to have a few more that are focused on individuals of historic interest from across a diversity of cultural and economic backgrounds.
- The History of the 4th of July queen and the history of the young ladies who participated. The history of the High school newspaper, and yearbook. The Local Black history and individuals Like the Dudley's who made investments in our community and gave to our community. The history of local Native heroes, who fought for equality, and their allies.
- It would be nice to have more stories of individual experiences in work, play, community activities.
- Early business
- Maritime
- Original residents of this area, the Filipino population.
- The positive history religious groups brought, the brothels bars and loggers are well told. But what of The Salvation Army, the bands teaching of young, activities long before internet and TV distraction.
- Native tribes, clans, villages, property, culture, artifacts, history the average person, non-business owners, non-politicians, non-criminals

- The incredible old timers and current fisherfolk
- I'm not sure
- I'd like to more about the Filipino history in Ketchikan
- Historic creek street
- how Ketchikan came to be, natural resource history
- Missing stories include: the Aleut evacuees, Japanese Americans in WWII, and the Filipino Community
- Women, and minorities
- unknown
- The Filipino community and contributions to Ketchikan's history.
- The history of individual tribal leaders and members and their contributions
- The maritime history
- EVERYTHING historical. Logging, airlines, rescue operations, bar history, red light district history
- Some Native & Ministry in the area.
- Not sure
- Sites of very early businesses. Views from the waterfront. Asian population who developed Stedman Street.
- Maritime history, historic residential areas
- I don't know
- The story of its development: which areas developed in which sequence, discriminatory practices that led to "Indian Town" and the Mahoney Heights neighborhoods, and really anything outside of Downtown has been underserved. How and why the West End and Carlanna developed as they did, the story of the Mountain Point neighborhood (including South Tongass Community Club and telecommunications towers which are now only remnants), Homestead Dairy, Wacker City, and other areas.
- Stories about Native Alaskans' experiences during the time period when the City of Ketchikan formed and as it grew into what it is today.
- Information on the people
- Stories of challenging topics- Aleut internment, Japanese internment, racism, LGBTQ+. White stories and Alaska Native stories are also privileged over other cultures- Filipinos and other Asians, Norwegian, etc. We often go to the same people and also privilege certain stories over others because they are accessible. Stories of the average, working-class person are also not well represented.
- Can't think of any. Our museums and newspaper does really well.
- women, the builders who were part of the major construction and changes that happened in the 40s-60s, Filipino people's experience
- Articles in Sitnews, Daily News weekend edition, and Facebook Ketchikan The Early Days - fill the void.
- People of Filipino and/or Japanese descent; Alaska Natives as well.
- Alaska native history
- Minorities and WWII
- Filipino and newer immigrants.

- I think overall, Ketchikan has done a good job representing stories from different groups as well as different industries. I think we could more prominently feature some of stories and history of our Filipino community.
- Definitely better than when I was growing up in Ketchikan
- It's difficult to judge in absolute terms what stories are overlooked or under-represented at this point, since different generations, groups, and individuals all have varying levels of knowledge of different parts of Ketchikan's history. There have also been admirable efforts made in the last several years by different institutions and individuals to highlight stories that were widely recognized as overlooked or populations seen as under-represented. However, I would say there continues to be a lack of information shared and a story that remains to be told when it comes to the processes that created Ketchikan: How exactly did Ketchikan become individuals' private property and much of the island the federal government's national forest land? How was wealth built by newcomers and transferred away from Indigenous peoples as their land and ocean resources were taken? What groups and interests have had the most influence in the directions Ketchikan has taken as it developed and changed as a community? As is often the case when studying local history, many people in Ketchikan tend to focus on anecdotal and biographical history, rather than the very serious, larger processes that would explain why our community is the way it is.
- Filipino History and their contributions to Ketchikan
- The Filipino influence in Ketchikan over the past 50 years. The effect that the highly transient community has had on the challenges in determining a Ketchikan sense of place. Although certain industries have been historically covered well, I think the general sense of the basic economic life of Ketchikan (what was it like in the 10s, the 20s, the 30s etc.) has not been a part of the story that we tell about ourselves.
- I feel as if all are well represented, but it's the "look" of the community that could be improved.
- Native women. Filipino women. (Non-business owners/non-industry workers) community members who helped shaped Ketchikan. We know all about the rich white men who helped build downtown. Dig deeper into the common stories of life in Ketchikan.
- Native women. Filipino women. (Non-business owners/non-industry workers) community members who helped shaped Ketchikan. We know all about the rich white men who helped build downtown. Dig deeper into the common stories of life in Ketchikan.
- Native women. Filipino women. (Non-business owners/non-industry workers) community members who helped shaped Ketchikan. We know all about the rich white men who helped build downtown. Dig deeper into the common stories of life in Ketchikan.
- Old rivalry between fisher folk and loggers, miners. Old rules on drinking at bars (until 5 AM) Live music in downtown bars and restaurants. Strip joints - Marine and Shamrock.
- Don't know
- I can't think of any specific stories that are overlooked.
- Woodland/Deermount
- Native and "white" or non-native American, settlement.
- interaction / dependence on natural environment and resource uses

- Veterans, fishing, logging. The historic society does a good job honestly but the cruise industry and focus on jewelry stores have severely and perhaps irreparably eroded the historic character of our community.
- Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian cultural stories. Origins of Revillagigado. History of reservations in Alaska-Metlakatla. The POW camp at Ward Lake.
- The role canneries played in the development of Ketchikan and the city's function as a regional entrepot.
- Asian American, especially Philippines. Women's history.
- Because I'm an avid hiker, I'm often interested when I see stumps obviously from a man-made cut, I'm curious as to when the areas were cleared (especially if it seems a bit out of the Ward Cove pulp mill pipeline area). That is not to say that logging, development is overlooked.
- In the past 50 years Ketchikan has increased awareness of the importance of the Native culture. However, I think the history and contributions of early white, often Scandinavian, residents have been under-represented. This includes the importance of the fishing industry.
- Ohashi's
- Filipino stories

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

### Q7 What does preservation mean to you and why is it important?

Answered: 68 Skipped: 11

See Insert for Question 7

## Ketchikan Public Outreach and Stakeholder Survey

### Question 7: What does preservation mean to you and why is it important?

- Preservation of historic buildings means maintaining or restoring their original character with appropriate building materials, paint and windows.
- Preservation of culture means honoring those elements of a cultural group that are meaningful and useful to them and regularly including them in educational settings, whether it is in public institutions and projects or in the tourism industry"
- Tangible evidence of our history and culture, are valuable to residents and the visitor industry
- maintaining history and preventing the perception of it
- Quality, authenticity, integration with the environment
- important to preserve a sense of our unique place for ourselves and visitors.
- Remembering the past
- Keeping the information and objects for future generations
- To me preservation means saving our historic places and stories for the next generations. We need these to anchor ourselves and to know how our ancestors lived and worked. We also need them to stretch our own selves and try to live up to their examples. I have favorite stories from both my and Louie's families that I try to remember to tell the grandchildren in order to promote a sense of connection to these blurry relations.
- Preservation to me means keeping the buildings or sites authentic and accessible for future generations. The stories hold the most meaningful insight and interest when they can truly be experienced.
- Keeping historic buildings in their original lovely condition
- Keeping history accurately correct and stories alive.
- it means to acknowledge all the history of the past, good and bad, preserve it, and learn from it, and preserve our beautiful homes downtown and on the westside, and appreciate how hard people worked to build on top of those hills prior to any cars and roads. Someone climbed and carried all that material up our beloved street stairs and boardwalks. protecting and preserving many of our oldest homes and apartment buildings. making it a requirement that they are taken care of. a program that assists local residents, in managing the maintenance on these homes
- Stories to get a feel for what it was like for individuals or events. Examples of tools, recreation items sound or video of music and dance
- Next generation needs to know what those before them did and lived through
- To see what life was like in the past.

- That not all the older buildings be torn down. Stop increasing things for the tourists, especially when it alters the existing area.
- Historical pictures and community profiles, the good and the bad, and where we are now.
- Preserving the history, artifacts, buildings, maps, people information
- our memories are short, we need help remembering things from the past, either preserve actual buildings or at minimum document them before they disappear. I would like to see grants for local photographers to take on task of photographing old, buildings, old boats, old planes, old machinery (canneries, boat houses, sawmills, mines etc...) Spread this out among many photographers, not just a small group.
- The historic preservation of property appearance, clapboard, walkways. Means community to me, it's welcoming
- The history of areas and buildings are important to preserve
- We cannot understand how we came to be today without knowing what came before
- Our history
- keeping historic places alive and well cared for. Not letting history fall apart, history, not new trendy things
- Preservation means protecting, restoring and documenting what we have....and valuing it. Knowing our past connects us; it reminds us about the others who came before us; to respect what they built, literally and figuratively and we can build from that foundation.
- Preservation keeps the stories of those long since gone alive. As long as we tell their stories, they are still with us.
- Preservation of historic residential and commercial homes; artful updates to preserve the old architecture.
- It means keeping our heritage, not just catering to tourists. Teaching our youth about our history and what made/makes Ketchikan great
- Preservation is supporting history, culture, music, theatre, all that Ketchikan is and needs to be.
- It informs the world about a place, & the human who occupied the place over time.
- Allows us to develop a sense of place, a sense of belonging.
- Preserving our history, telling our story and supporting heritage tourism
- Preserve means to keep anything as ORIGINAL as possible. It's important because we all need to have a clear vision of our past. In Ketchikan that means the history of the Native tribes here in Ketchikan (regalia, artifacts, etc.) The pulp mills history is also so very important, as is logging. So is aviation, and maritime. Fishing history is also very important. These all made Ketchikan what it is today.
- Preservation means maintaining the built environment in such a fashion that it continues to contribute to the community into the future. Building design, detailing, and construction informs a sense of place in a community.
- Preservation allows us to keep the unique and special historic feeling of our community.
- The maintenance of our built heritage to be continued for future generations to experience, telling the story of the community and maintaining strong aesthetics. Unique to Alaska, the built environment has strong historical significance, but also represents a

VERY valuable community asset in support of our tourism-based economy that without greater direction and investment will be lost.

- We need to understand our history in order to know who we are. History can inspire positive contributions by people today. My family has always been interested in it and taught me to be.
- Preservation is not tearing down and rebuilding. It's retaining what is there and amplifying it through appropriate repairs, education, etc. If we don't honor the past, we lose ourselves, lose pride in the community, and we have no aim for the future.
- Learning about the past, history, and nature. Important to make plans to preserve and honor the past and the natural world.
- protecting objects and stories for future generations
- Elders who inherited, built and/or bought into existing buildings may or may not be interested in retaining the infrastructure. Temperate rain forest climate requires constant upkeep i.e., time, energy and funds. Whether a resident or absentee owner - buildings are now changing hands into a new generation inheriting a financial mess and would sooner tear down then restore. They need to pay for high cost of real estate/mortgage/interest and to pay for new structure will need 2++floors to pay for itself. Height limits is now being challenged in Newtown with waterfront parcel and demolishing First City Saloon. Preservation did not work for FCS however the community must set guidelines in rebuild and height while existing historic buildings retain the charm and what people come to KTN for.
- I think the strength of any community is rooted in its history--shared stories and experiences bring people together. Historic preservation provides a tangible experience of a community's past.
- Preservation and perpetuation are extremely important to me. As a native person the past, the present and the future is a tribal value that is taken serious as our native people heal from colonial trauma brought on by outsiders wanting to change our way of life.
- Information on our history helps us grow our future.
- Maintaining a town's character through its architecture and style. Preservation includes cultural and geographic representation. Important for hometown pride which hopefully leads to respect for the people and the land/water.
- I want us to live vibrant and modern lives while appreciating where we've come from."
- Preservation allows us to share stories and understanding of the past with future generations. It also 'honors' the history of our community and helps create a sense of connection to the past.
- Where possible maintain the existence, otherwise document. Place markers where possible when a structure is not currently existing.
- It would be unfortunate to lose the flavor of Ketchikan and have it look like just another tourist town. I like the color downtown, the historic buildings and overall unique and inviting atmosphere. Preserving older buildings is very important.
- Important to keep older buildings and not just tear them down

- To me, preservation means that Ketchikan retains as much of its historic character as is practical. Preservation should help residents and visitors alike think about how the community was built through the historical art, architecture, aesthetics, design, traditions, and knowledge we retain.
- Not only the ability to document the original story but to continue and watch the story evolve to what is today. It is important to value the contributions and tell the story of those who made Ketchikan what it is today
- Without preservation, there is no history, without history a community has no soul.
- "This is from an interesting article that I read: ""Cities must consider what people value. Existing residents can leave for greener pastures and if your city isn't providing them with value, they should. Does your city make them proud? Does it make them feel good when they walk the streets? Can they show their city off to their friends from out of town on Insta? Can they take pretty pics downtown and show off all the cool places to eat and drink? Does it provide them with fun places to walk and funky public places to hang out? If the answer is no, your city and all of those institutions are failing the people that call it home.
- Aesthetics are the new economic development. Pretty matters. It means everything because function follows form. Humans gravitate towards beauty and do what they can to surround themselves with it. The single simplest way to make your city desirable is to make it pretty. Who doesn't like cute, who doesn't want to live somewhere lovely? """"
- To preserve is to retain and uphold the essence of something while allowing it to still remain useful. It is important to remember our past and honor it, but we cannot become a non-functional shrine to the past.
- To preserve is to retain and uphold the essence of something while allowing it to still remain useful. It is important to remember our past and honor it, but we cannot become a non-functional shrine to the past.
- Since things rust, rot, and sink at such a fast pace in SE Alaska, the stories of the past need to be preserved. There are so many stories of the native people and their past being brought into white society. Children being sent to Sitka for school, being forced into sharing a town with a different tribe such as Hydaburg was.
- Keeps me a in touch with our history, provides for common experiences to bring the community together, adds value for tourism
- Preservation means bringing back the vibrancy to a historic building/area. This means stabilizing the property and restoring it to presentable condition. It's important because it maintains the history, but it also adds to the beauty of the area.
- I respect the simple construction and natural materials like wood not plastic siding. Preserving the old structures is costly but I feel it is important to all of us including future generations.
- Conservation. Conservation to me means holding onto the nature of KTN and the Tongass. Preserving the heritage of those natives that forged the land originally and any of their descendants now. It's important for historical evaluation and also to teach...plus look at the plus, it's amazing. Preserve it!
- Maintaining integrity in order to share history and culture with current and future generations

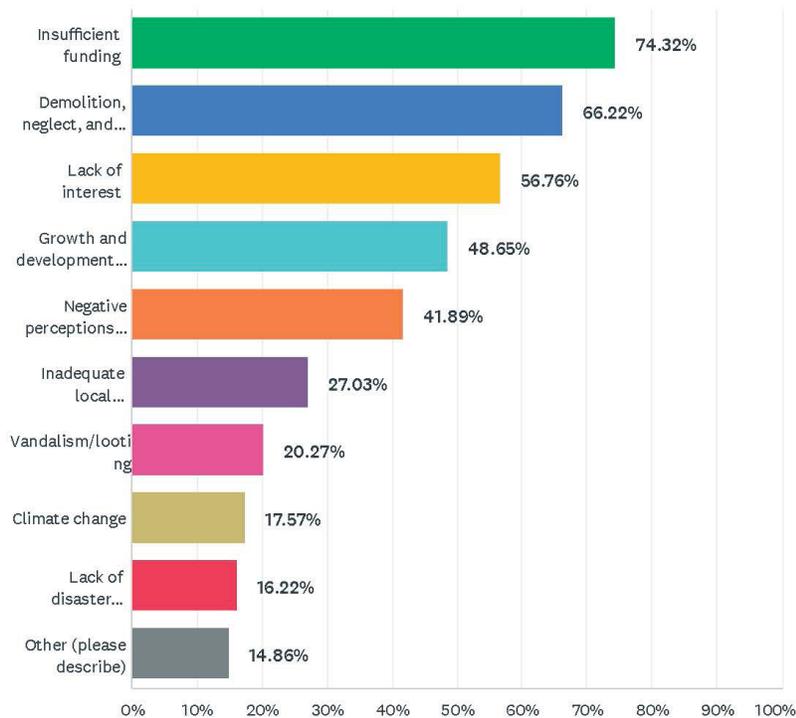
- Preservation improves intergenerational cohesiveness and contributes to a sense of security and quality of life, pride in the accomplishments of the community, and respect for the hard work and artistic accomplishments of those who went before. Family is the small circle, but a stable community is the larger one.
- Preservation, to me, means: Conservation, protection, maintaining, and upholding. It's important to share information and understanding of the many facets of our cultural and historic past to future generations. "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." – George Santayana, *The Life of Reason*, 1905.
- Interpretation of historic resources.
- It means recognition of local history, culture and identity. It helps glue community together. Pride in community.
- To me, it's not necessarily just preserving an object, but in the case of a particular area, preserving the history of what made that area special. (Such as the historical photos and signs posted around the downtown - great idea.) I just feel it's important to know how Ketchikan developed and what was in certain places over the years.
- We learn from history; historic properties and places are an important resource to understand and appreciate our community as we go forward.
- Place in natural state and in climate-controlled environment
- Keeping existing structures sound. I don't want this city to become just another strip mall

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

Q8 What do you think are the biggest challenges or threats to Ketchikan's historic and cultural resources? (check all that apply)

Answered: 74 Skipped: 5



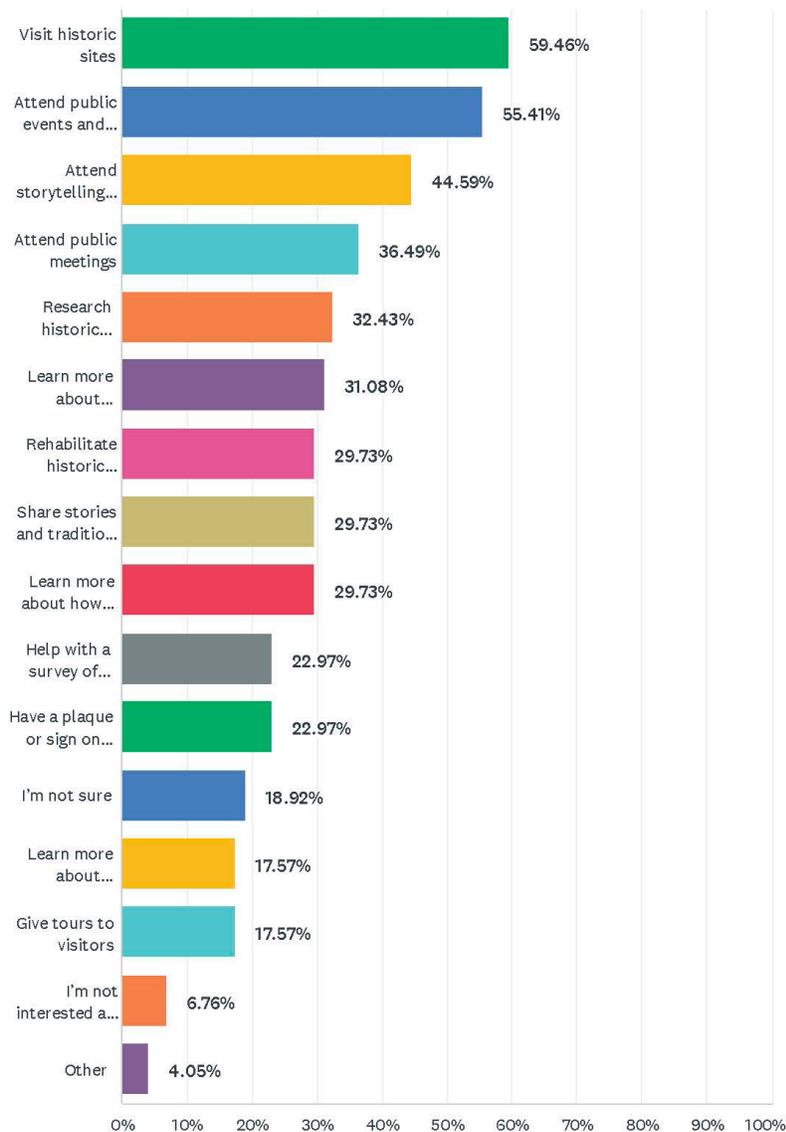
Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey		SurveyMonkey	
ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Insufficient funding		74.32%	55
Demolition, neglect, and abandonment		66.22%	49
Lack of interest		56.76%	42
Growth and development pressure		48.65%	36
Negative perceptions about preservation (e.g. private property or other concerns)		41.89%	31
Inadequate local preservation laws		27.03%	20
Vandalism/looting		20.27%	15
Climate change		17.57%	13
Lack of disaster preparedness for historic resources		16.22%	12
Other (please describe)		14.86%	11
Total Respondents: 74			

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

Q9 How might you be interested in participating in future preservation efforts (check all that apply)

Answered: 74 Skipped: 5



Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey		SurveyMonkey	
ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Visit historic sites		59.46%	44
Attend public events and cultural events		55.41%	41
Attend storytelling events about local history		44.59%	33
Attend public meetings		36.49%	27
Research historic properties		32.43%	24
Learn more about traditional cultural properties		31.08%	23
Rehabilitate historic properties/learn more about how to care for historic properties		29.73%	22
Share stories and traditional knowledge		29.73%	22
Learn more about how historic preservation works		29.73%	22
Help with a survey of historic properties		22.97%	17
Have a plaque or sign on property		22.97%	17
I'm not sure		18.92%	14
Learn more about archaeology		17.57%	13
Give tours to visitors		17.57%	13
I'm not interested at this time		6.76%	5
Other		4.05%	3
Total Respondents: 74			

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

Q10 What is your hope for the future of Ketchikan and its heritage? What goals and priorities do you have for local historic preservation?

Answered: 66 Skipped: 13

See Insert for Question 8

## Ketchikan Public Outreach and Stakeholder Survey

### Question 10: What is your hope for the future of Ketchikan and its heritage? What goals and priorities do you have for local historic preservation?

- Preservation of buildings and historical resources from the early 20th Century because that is when the town was built and the cultures that were around then, Native, Norwegian and Filipino (I think) are still present today. The historic character of the town is being altered by investors in the tourism industry without regard for the past.
- Having the means to share our story, whether it's positive or negative, and having facilities and tools to illustrate (buildings, signage)
- Historical signboards placed around town. aka a statue of Baseball players and fans near the low tide field in Thomas Basin
- protecting/maintaining an authentic AK island community and environs
- Attractive/simple signage that integrates with community (REPLACE unattractive current block of signage (and color scheme) doesn't feel like Ketchikan)
- Keeping downtown alive in the winter.
- To maintain the pride & history of our area
- Would move to restore Ohashi's
- That we identify and maintain properties that have been deemed to be of historic importance after rigorous investigation of their history. I have heard stories of a lot of money being spent before someone realized the property wasn't nearly as historic as other ones.
- Ketchikan could easily lose its authentic logging and fishing charm, because those industries are waning. Preservation goals should stay focused on keeping the sites, stories, and innovations of those eras alive.
- To be a part of it.
- I would really like to see more interest in preventing the further deterioration of historic structures. As the owner of a couple of older properties I realize the challenges of maintaining a property in this climate, but it is sad to see older buildings, especially in the core, falling apart for lack of repair.
- My hope would be to give community members assistance to hold on to their family property and protect the history, and or create mechanisms that protect these properties from outside purchase who care nothing for our community
- I hope the population does not increase further and our natural resources are not abused.
- Nothing off hand

- Well, I'm old, so I don't want anything changed. Maybe fix up some of the decrepit older structures.
- Balanced approach including the gritty stuff we might like to avoid.
- That there will be more effort to research and document people and places.
- see questions / answer to #7
- Hopefully funding will continue, and public awareness will improve
- Not sure
- I would like to see more presentations on the various aspects of Ketchikan history
- To preserve our history and share it with the world
- Preserving all of Ketchikan's history, the native stories, how businesses developed and grew, history of sports in Ketchikan,
- I hope that those doing the planning will learn from our past and build on it. I would like to see more of our history incorporated into the essence of the town. I would like our older buildings and special sites saved rather than torn down or paved over. And, where we can, to bring some things back...even if modified. I would like to see way more support given to encourage historic preservation in this community...starting at the top with local government.
- I would really like to see a maritime museum, similar to the one in Astoria, but on a smaller scale. I think history talks and an accessible online archive of articles, artifacts etc. could also be an incredible resource. It can be hard to find accurate historical information about certain things. Also continuing with in person interviews is so critical. When my grandfather passed, I realized I didn't have any recordings of his voice, but someone who had interviewed him years ago was able to share that interview with our family and it is such a treasure.
- More clarity on which properties are historic and should be preserved. If a new prospective home purchaser decides to purchase a historic home, will there be anything in place for them to upkeep said home? Any specific requirements that they must maintain? Do they get any funding to help with continuing "preservation"?
- I believe there is a need for more public awareness about the value of historic properties to the core of Ketchikan's identity and the urgency of preventing the loss or deterioration of any historic properties.
- Make heritage and history as important as making a profit off of visitors
- My hope is that Ketchikan will thrive in its history, culture, and that organizations will unite to preserve more of its history, etc. (Service Clubs such as P of A Igloo; Rotary-if it's still there; Native organizations such as The Alaska Native Brotherhood & Alaska Native Sisterhood. Some goals may be similar, you never know.
- That the basic scale & character of the community remains & remaining historic structures are preserved
- Need to convince property owners historic preservation is good for more than tourism.
- Achieving a greater commitment from both the private and public sectors
- That the stories continue to be told. That future generations can view the traditional sites. That we preserve Ketchikan heritage. Sharing the history with the next generation.

- My hope is that Ketchikan can retain its built environment into the future: past instances of structure loss and replacement resulted in buildings that lack the character of the prior structure. My goal for historic preservation is that there be a funding stream for repairs to historic structures. The cost to conduct repairs on a historic building - particularly one mounted on aging wooden piling - far outweighs the Owner's financial benefit.
- I would love to see an increase in public awareness and understanding of historic preservation.
- The historic structures are maintained and restored in a manner that expresses the architecture of their period. That neighborhoods and the downtown core proceed down a path of greater restoration of a higher quality, improving the perceptions of the town by visitors and building momentum for Ketchikan as a desirable community to visit and live in.
- I want us to look like an interesting Alaska town, not a plastic modern interpretation.
- It would be great to see Ketchikan as a whole (City, Borough, Saxman) develop a vision for the future with tourism. There needs to be a balance so that locals are not pushed out for summer tourist activities. It would also be great to see an organization like Historic Ketchikan become a true resource to the community. Grow the knowledge base here, train local contractors to be able to work with historic properties, etc.
- Continue to preserve the native art. Have signs made for historic homes and buildings.
- I would hope that Ketchikan embraces and preserves its identity as a community and not just a cruise ship port.
- "#9 Other (above)... All of the above has been done with meetings, surveys, etc. Nothing came of it. In the meantime, elders are passing, homes/buildings changing ownership who, without guidelines from #9 are modernizing exterior. Salvage it and implement.
- #10 repeat #9"
- I hope that Ketchikan's past can become an essential part of the experience of residents and visitors and enhance the experience of living in and visiting Ketchikan.
- Truth is told, good bad and the ugly.
- I would love Ketchikan to be a cultural hub for native peoples. You want to know about totem poles, native arts and history? Ketchikan is where you go. I love old buildings that are well looked after.
- "1) Recognition and restoration of our historic properties
- 2) Beautification and maintenance of downtown Ketchikan
- 3) Shore-up local preservation laws and have resource/program in place for those that want to restore and maintain their historic property"
- My hope is for continued historic preservation.
- To keep and revive the old buildings that have been part of Ketchikan's downtown
- I hope Ketchikan will continue to preserve and promote its heritage, and that community members will keep delving deeper to find and share untold stories and call attention to overlooked treasures. I have no specific goals for the community at this time, but I would like to learn more about what I could and should do to preserve and promote my house, which was built in 1924.

- More Filipino representation
- Ketchikan has done a decent job of preserving the physical aspects of its history (historic buildings, traditional art) and I suspect that will continue. There is always pressured to tear down and build new, but there are also always preservationists afoot.
- I would like to see a motivational program put together that enables and encourages property owners to improve their property and maintain it.
- "It would be beautiful to preserve and maintain all the old buildings downtown while still allowing LOCAL business owners to use them for shops. Creating a functioning and bustling downtown full of locally own shops all nestled among the history of this town. Infuse the history into what is currently operating.
- It would be beautiful to preserve and maintain all the old buildings downtown while still allowing LOCAL business owners to use them for shops. Creating a functioning and bustling downtown full of locally own shops all nestled among the history of this town. Infuse the history into what is currently operating.
- I would hope we would limit the amount of cruise ships to one or two a day. It feels like this town has become prostituted to money from that industry with no other ideas for keeping it real. I'd like to see downtown come back with more local stores.
- Not sure
- I hope that the town realizes how much history is around them and begins to value that enough to invest in revitalizing it.
- I hope that with public outreach and getting local residents involved maybe we can obtain grants and funding to help some of the owners of the historic buildings help maintain them in their original state.
- My hope is that it maintains its natural beauty and doesn't become too overpopulated to the point that the govt agrees to encroach upon the forest. That would NOT be ideal. If there isn't room for people, they need to leave or stay away until others leave and make room for them.
- Stay small but with a wide variety of activities available year-round
- I don't know if we can regain what we've lost. Obviously economic drivers have changed. But until city and borough management starts regulating and limiting the cruise industry's veritable monopoly on our town, we'll continue to become a Disney-world slum.
- That it is preserved. I would have to think about that second question.
- Ensure that the historic building stock is preserved and utilized and install more interpretation signs.
- Hope Ketchikan can maintain an authentic community (as opposed to a theme park facade. Hope work continues with native recognition, both historic and present. We should be a world center for native people's studies. I want to see more oral histories of women and immigrants.
- See #7. I'm just interested - don't have goals or priorities until I learn more.
- I think it's important to preserve and maintain the history that showcases Ketchikan's interesting character for both residents and visitors.
- Educate the community on what should be done!
- Please stop accommodating tourists to the point that existing things are altered.

## Ketchikan Public Outreach and Stakeholder Survey

### Question 12: Is there anything else that you would like us to know?

- People need a "why". Broad support for historic preservation will follow a perceived need or clear benefit to the long-term health of the community.
- Maintaining cultural assets is very important to Ketchikan's success as a tourism destination as well as pride in community for residents.
- Good Luck, you have a very important Job.
- Maintain the goals of your mission 🙏
- No.
- no
- Our past could influence our future in positive ways
- not that I can think of
- Not at this moment
- No
- no
- Challenges ahead..hopefully the memories of older folks can be captured before they are lost
- No
- No
- I hope that the Commission is successful in this undertaking...and that they get the community more involved in the preservation plan process.
- I'm always looking for ways to be involved, and I do find it hard to know when there are meetings or events (besides at the museum). It's also difficult to know what can be done to support preservation efforts as a community member.
- Is there any specific city/borough code requirements for some of these historic structures?
- we should be more concerned about the historical part of Ketchikan than the \$\$ from selling out
- No thanks
- No
- Will save for an interview
- No
- There is great opportunity in our community -- probably the best opportunity in the entire state in this regard. Interests can be easily aligned across many stakeholders with a strong communication of vision, provision of expertise and resources when needed,

intelligent planning, and appropriate regulation. The community as a whole would clearly benefit in the long run.

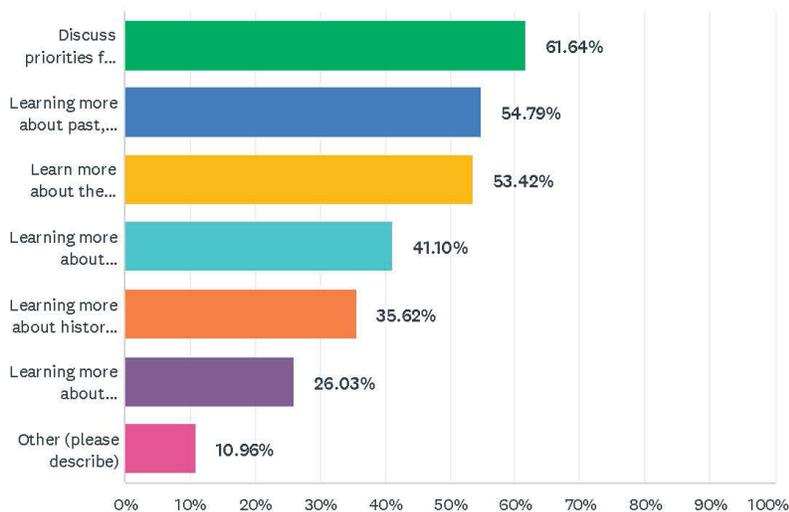
- No thank you
- Not sure where this fits in but the cost of building materials is astronomical and in many instances it's cheaper to tear down and rebuild new. How do we as a community advocate for shipping services or help provide financial support or tax incentives?
- Thank you for all you're doing!
- thanks for your work!
- no
- No
- Thank you for your work.
- none
- Ketchikan is fortunate in that unlike some communities in Alaska, the rapid turnover in population has not necessarily led to a rapid turnover in historic structures. That is a good thing.
- N/A
- Keep up the good work.
- Keep up the good work.
- No
- Thank you for the work that you do and for caring about our community!
- Nope, keep doing what you're doing.
- Nothing comes to mind at the moment.
- I was a member of the Ketchikan Historical Commission and lived in a house that I had placed on the National Register.
- Educate!

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

### Q11 What topics would you like to see addressed at a future public meeting?

Answered: 73 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Discuss priorities for the historic preservation plan	61.64%	45
Learning more about past, present, and future historic preservation efforts in Ketchikan	54.79%	40
Learn more about the economic benefits of historic preservation	53.42%	39
Learning more about traditional history and the preservation of Alaska Native heritage	41.10%	30
Learning more about historic preservation laws, regulations, and policies	35.62%	26
Learning more about archaeology	26.03%	19
Other (please describe)	10.96%	8
Total Respondents: 73		

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

### Q12 Is there anything else that you would like us to know?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 38

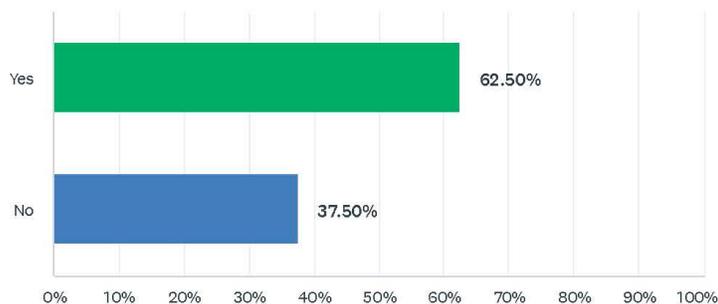
See Insert for Question 12

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

Q13 Thank you for participating in the Public Outreach Survey. The next portion of the survey is the Stakeholder Survey. Would you like to learn more about the Stakeholder Survey.

Answered: 72 Skipped: 7



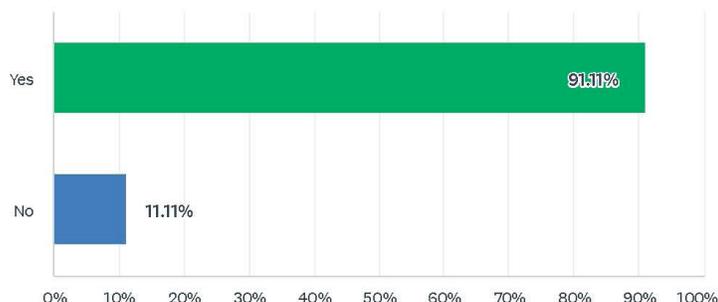
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	62.50%	45
No	37.50%	27
TOTAL		72

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

Q14 A preservation stakeholder is someone with a demonstrated interest in historic preservation. Examples of stakeholders include (but are not limited to):  
 • Non-profit organizations  
 • Alaska Native or Member of Tribal Organization  
 • Representative for or employee of government agency or organization  
 • Historic property owner  
 • Business owner  
 • Historic preservation professional  
 • Interested party  
 If you identify as a stakeholder, you will be directed to the next section of the survey, if you do not identify as a stakeholder the survey will end. We anticipate that it will take approximately ten minutes to complete. Do you identify as a historic preservation stakeholder?

Answered: 45 Skipped: 34



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	91.11% 41
No	11.11% 5
Total Respondents: 45	

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

Q15 Please share your first and last name. If you would prefer to remain anonymous, please type N/A in the box below.

Answered: 28 Skipped: 51

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

Q15 Please share your first and last name. If you would prefer to remain anonymous, please type N/A in the box below.

Answered: 28 Skipped: 51

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Alethea Johnson	7/28/2022 2:51 PM
2	Patti Mackey	7/12/2022 11:47 AM
3	Dinah Pearson	7/7/2022 7:32 PM
4	Richard Jackson	7/7/2022 4:02 PM
5	Janalee Gage, Minnich, Church, Talbot, Snartamo, Hunt, Frost	7/7/2022 3:53 PM
6	Kim Kirby	7/7/2022 1:32 PM
7	Michele Zerbetz Scott	7/1/2022 7:11 PM
8	Delaney Murphy	6/30/2022 6:22 PM
9	Laura Plenert	6/28/2022 1:20 AM
10	Florence Murray	6/25/2022 3:10 PM
11	CB Bettisworth	6/25/2022 1:16 AM
12	Stephen Reeve	6/24/2022 4:40 PM
13	N/A	6/24/2022 8:27 AM
14	Amanda Welsh	6/21/2022 3:00 PM
15	Michael Cron	6/19/2022 3:11 PM
16	n/a	6/16/2022 3:45 AM
17	Patricia Tully	6/15/2022 6:57 PM
18	Irene Dundas	6/14/2022 2:01 PM
19	Jeanne sande	6/13/2022 11:34 PM
20	Peter Stanton	6/11/2022 4:10 AM
21	Alma Manabat Parker	6/10/2022 7:36 PM
22	Dave Kiffer	6/10/2022 6:39 PM
23	Michelle O'Brien	6/10/2022 5:38 PM
24	NA	6/10/2022 12:02 PM
25	Kyle Wallace	6/9/2022 12:55 PM
26	Rozie Berry	6/9/2022 12:53 PM
27	Cathy Tighe	6/8/2022 7:33 PM
28	Karen Pitcher	6/7/2022 4:15 PM

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

Q16 Role and/or Organizational affiliation: What is the role do you and/or the group you are affiliated with have in historic preservation activities in Ketchikan, if any? These activities could include, but are not limited to, activities such as cultural celebrations, oral history recordation, genealogical research, building restoration/preservation, and cultural activism.

Answered: 26 Skipped: 53

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

**Q16 Role and/or Organizational affiliation: What is the role do you and/or the group you are affiliated with have in historic preservation activities in Ketchikan, if any? These activities could include, but are not limited to, activities such as cultural celebrations, oral history recordation, genealogical research, building restoration/preservation, and cultural activism.**

Answered: 26 Skipped: 53

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Ketchikan Gateway Borough Planning Department	7/28/2022 2:51 PM
2	Destination marketing and promotion; personal interest- I am a 5th generation Alaskan and of Native Alaskan descent.	7/12/2022 11:47 AM
3	My participation thus far has just been that of an interested person, visiting the different historical sights Ktn has to offer and attending events at the museums. In my off time, I live in and am renovating a 1920's home that I'm doing my best to keep era authentic.	7/7/2022 7:32 PM
4	My non-profit organization, the Tongass Tlingit Cultural Heritage Institute, aims to preserve and perpetuate the Tongass Tlingit heritage, including Language, Arts and Tlingit way of life.	7/7/2022 4:02 PM
5	Museum advisory board & Ketchikan City Council	7/7/2022 3:53 PM
6	Na	7/7/2022 1:32 PM
7	Currently working to restore an historic building.	7/1/2022 7:11 PM
8	My business resides in a historic building, my family owns a property with generations of history, and my family is involved in the fishing history of Ketchikan.	6/30/2022 6:22 PM
9	not part of any group, but would like to see the "real" Ketchikan represented	6/28/2022 1:20 AM
10	Igloo Member; Alaska Native Sisterhood Member	6/25/2022 3:10 PM
11	Architect planner	6/25/2022 1:16 AM
12	Executive Director, Historic Ketchikan; actively restoring historic properties; business owner in historic district	6/24/2022 4:40 PM
13	I'm on the City of Ketchikan Historic Commission and a past board member of Historic Ketchikan and the Tongass Historical Society. I also own two historic properties in the downtown area, and am a practicing architect and historic architect.	6/21/2022 3:00 PM
14	Owner of historic property.	6/19/2022 3:11 PM
15	Individual, resident, renter, retired interested in history and cultural activism.	6/16/2022 3:45 AM
16	Historic Ketchikan; Ketchikan Historic Commission	6/15/2022 6:57 PM
17	Ketchikan Indian Community, Tlingit, family once owned all of the Ketchikan area.	6/14/2022 2:01 PM
18	I am a member and former board member of the Tongass Historical Society, a former board member of the City of Ketchikan Museum Advisory Board, and a former employee at historic sites including Totem Bight State Historical Park, the City of Saxman Totem Park, the Totem Heritage Center, and the Tongass Historical Museum. I am also a history teacher at Ketchikan High School, I am conducting research and currently writing a book on 19th-century Tlingit history, and I also own a historic house in the Newtown neighborhood that was built in 1924.	6/11/2022 4:10 AM
19	Organizer of Fil-Am Fest 2021, participant in Filipino Community Center fundraisers	6/10/2022 7:36 PM
20	I was the executive director of Historic Ketchikan for 13 years. Currently I am the Mayor of the	6/10/2022 6:39 PM

## Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

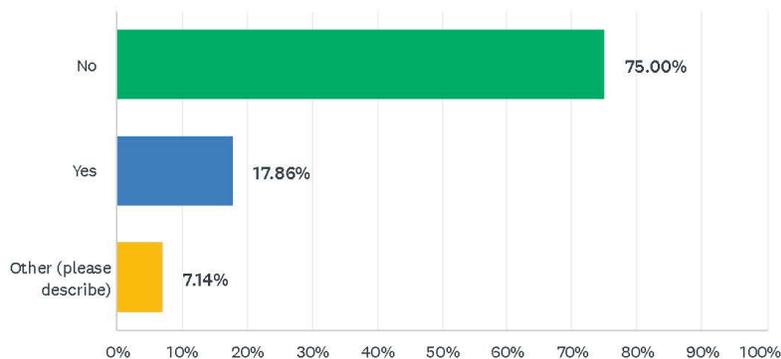
	City of KETchikan. I am also a local historian and have been for many years.	
21	Community promotion via the Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce	6/10/2022 5:38 PM
22	We are interested in clean water and pollution caused by cruise ships docking in Ward Cove. We thought once it was "capped" that it would not be disturbed.	6/10/2022 12:02 PM
23	I have no role. I'm an interested party.	6/9/2022 12:55 PM
24	building restoration/preservation	6/9/2022 12:53 PM
25	District Ranger for USDA Forest Service Ketchikan Misty Fjords Ranger District	6/8/2022 7:33 PM
26	I was appointed to the Ketchikan Historical Commission by Mayor Ted Ferry and lived for 30 years in a house which I had listed on the National Register. I also was a member of a Downtown Revitalization Committee.	6/7/2022 4:15 PM

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

### Q17 Have you read or used Alaska's current historic preservation plan, Saving Our Past?

Answered: 28 Skipped: 51



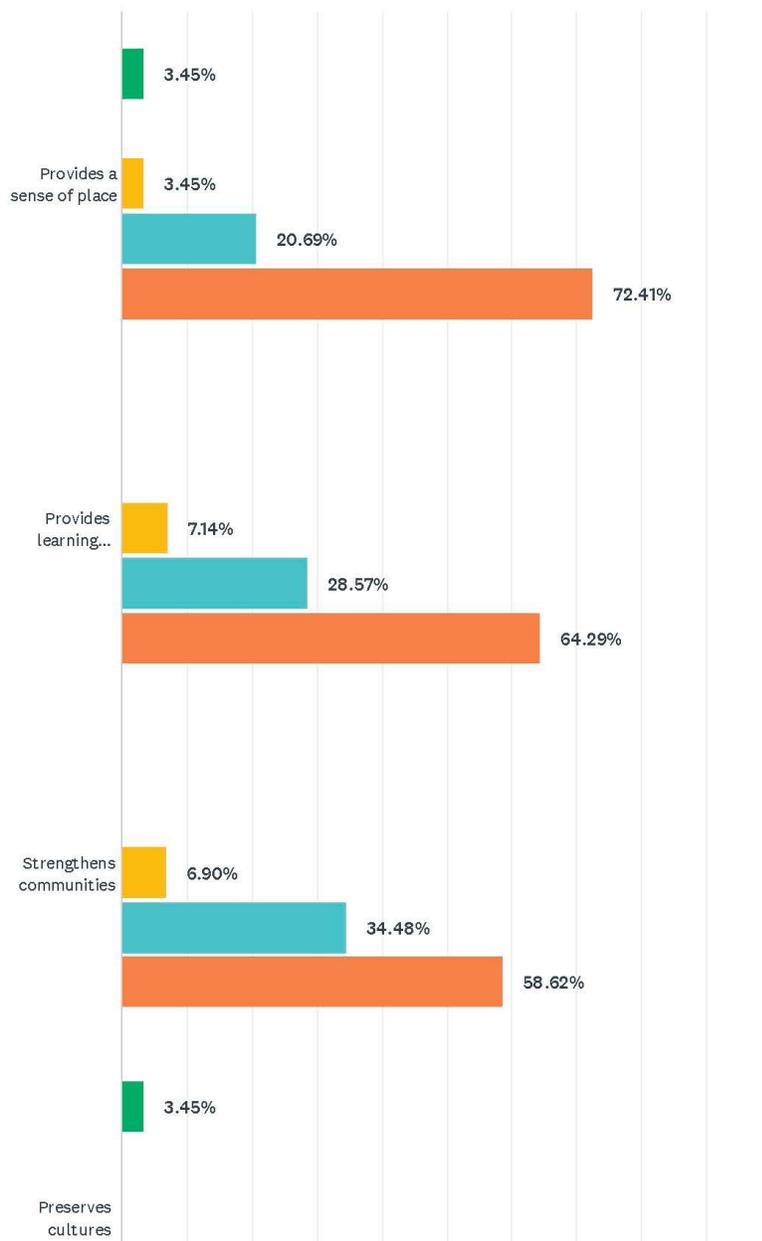
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	75.00%	21
Yes	17.86%	5
Other (please describe)	7.14%	2
Total Respondents: 28		

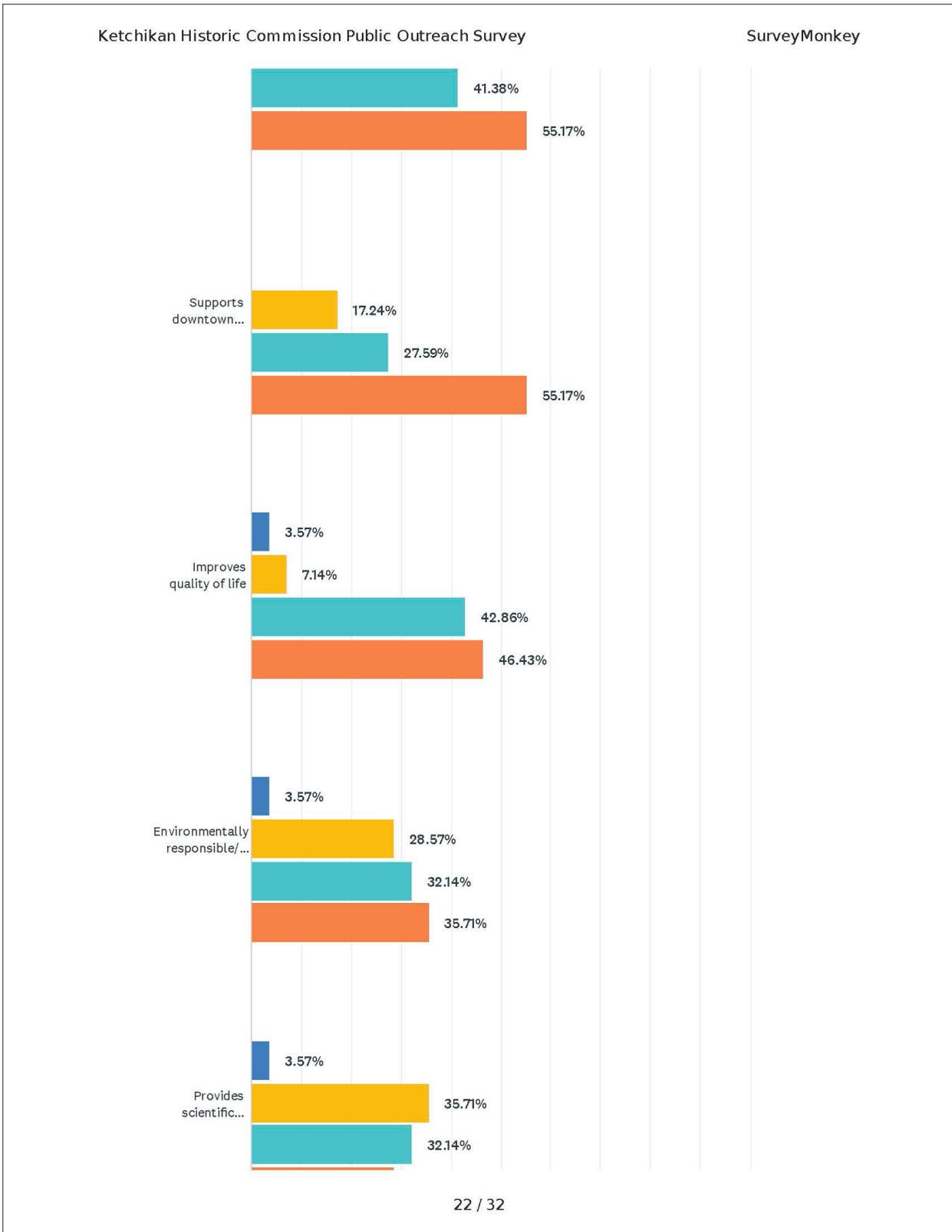
Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

Q18 Why is preservation important? Please rate (Very important, somewhat important, not important)

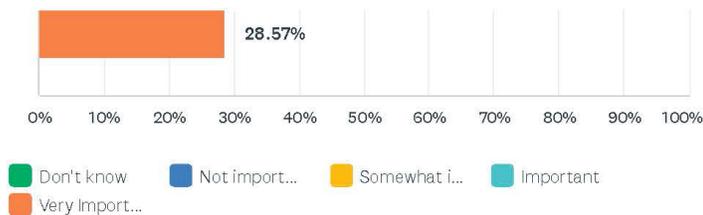
Answered: 29 Skipped: 50





Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey



	DON'T KNOW	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Provides a sense of place	3.45% 1	0.00% 0	3.45% 1	20.69% 6	72.41% 21	29	4.59
Provides learning opportunities	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	7.14% 2	28.57% 8	64.29% 18	28	4.57
Strengthens communities	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	6.90% 2	34.48% 10	58.62% 17	29	4.52
Preserves cultures	3.45% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	41.38% 12	55.17% 16	29	4.45
Supports downtown revitalization	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	17.24% 5	27.59% 8	55.17% 16	29	4.38
Improves quality of life	0.00% 0	3.57% 1	7.14% 2	42.86% 12	46.43% 13	28	4.32
Environmentally responsible/sustainable	0.00% 0	3.57% 1	28.57% 8	32.14% 9	35.71% 10	28	4.00
Provides scientific information	0.00% 0	3.57% 1	35.71% 10	32.14% 9	28.57% 8	28	3.86

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

**Q19 Have you and/or your group participated in any previous history and/or historic preservation activities within the community?**

Answered: 26 Skipped: 53

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

### Q19 Have you and/or your group participated in any previous history and/or historic preservation activities within the community?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 53

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Yes	7/28/2022 2:51 PM
2	Hosted cultural tourism conference to educate community and visitor industry. Produced Ketchikan Story Project film series.	7/12/2022 11:47 AM
3	I have been watching and trying to be involved with the demise of Wolf Creek Boatworks outside Hollis. What a loss that will be to our community.	7/7/2022 7:32 PM
4	We produced a theatrical reading of Esther Shea's Fish Camp story in collaboration with the First City Players at Ward Lake. We also offer cultural classes for youth each summer.	7/7/2022 4:02 PM
5	yes	7/7/2022 3:53 PM
6	No	7/7/2022 1:32 PM
7	Yes	7/1/2022 7:11 PM
8	My grandfather was involved in a few projects, I have not personally participated	6/30/2022 6:22 PM
9	no	6/28/2022 1:20 AM
10	In ministry for now serving Prince of Whales. Was looking for a home in Ketchikan, with no success.	6/25/2022 3:10 PM
11	Yes	6/25/2022 1:16 AM
12	Yes, numerous	6/24/2022 4:40 PM
13	I was on the State Parks board several years ago	6/24/2022 8:27 AM
14	Yes	6/21/2022 3:00 PM
15	no	6/19/2022 3:11 PM
16	no	6/16/2022 3:45 AM
17	Absolutely! Family and Tribe looking to co-manage sacred sites, repatriated artifacts to sacred sites, researched sacred sites, worked with federal agencies to trouble shoot sacred site management	6/14/2022 2:01 PM
18	Yes	6/13/2022 11:34 PM
19	Yes, I have conducted or participated in a number of activities over the years that contribute to historic preservation in one way or another.	6/11/2022 4:10 AM
20	No	6/10/2022 7:36 PM
21	Yes, way too many to count.	6/10/2022 6:39 PM
22	Yes.	6/10/2022 5:38 PM
23	Yes, in regards to Ward Cove pollution from pulp mill and clean up decisions.	6/10/2022 12:02 PM
24	No. I'm not native here. My native "roots" are Maumee, Midwestern US, OHIO River Valley near Tippecanoe and Eel river/Logansport. Peru, Miami (Maumee) county Indiana.	6/9/2022 12:55 PM
25	no	6/9/2022 12:53 PM
26	Yes, in the past but not recently.	6/7/2022 4:15 PM

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

Q20 In the future, are there any history and/or preservation activities you and/or your group are interested in participating in?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 52

## Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

## Q20 In the future, are there any history and/or preservation activities you and/or your group are interested in participating in?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 52

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	New activities have not been identified. However, with a City of Ketchikan Historic Preservation Plan in place, the need for Borough involvement in preservation activities may become apparent.	7/28/2022 2:51 PM
2	Developing a manual that can be used for training visitor industry employees	7/12/2022 11:47 AM
3	I'm not aware of any pending.	7/7/2022 7:32 PM
4	yes	7/7/2022 4:02 PM
5	If I can help, I am willing. depending on my schedule	7/7/2022 3:53 PM
6	Awareness meeting	7/7/2022 1:32 PM
7	I'm not sure what is meant by this. As an individual, I am willing to assist in aspects of the preservation plan the Commission is working once the plan is developed. As a representative of the organization, I think we would like to participate in activities that will assist in telling our building's story to the public and will ensure its survival...like making sure there is funding to see it continue.	7/1/2022 7:11 PM
8	Maritime, fishing, and our general neighborhood	6/30/2022 6:22 PM
9	anything sharing the history/heritage of Ketchikan. Not many jewelry stores or Chatchkies	6/28/2022 1:20 AM
10	When possible, again, I'll be in and out of Ketchikan.	6/25/2022 3:10 PM
11	Na	6/25/2022 1:16 AM
12	Yes, continued restoration of historic properties and producing signs and other information that tells our stories	6/24/2022 4:40 PM
13	Sharing information about the past to future generations	6/24/2022 8:27 AM
14	I plan to continue serving on the Historic Commission; participation in other activities depends on what the activities are and how busy my work and home life are at the time the activities come up.	6/21/2022 3:00 PM
15	Workshops on building restoration	6/19/2022 3:11 PM
16	partaking in workshop to identify, set priorities, break-out groups to begin/finish neighborhood small/big projects.	6/16/2022 3:45 AM
17	All of the above	6/14/2022 2:01 PM
18	Revitalizing the Lutheran church	6/13/2022 11:34 PM
19	Yes, I and the groups I am part of (including students I teach at Ketchikan High School) would be interested in participating in many different types of activities. Making oral history recordings and conducting research are two examples.	6/11/2022 4:10 AM
20	Finding a place to have a Filipino Cultural/Historical Center	6/10/2022 7:36 PM
21	I am always interested in collecting additional Ketchikan stories and preserving them. I also support just about any attempt to preserve historic properties in the community.	6/10/2022 6:39 PM
22	Re-establishing a Downtown Business Association that is actively engaged in the community.	6/10/2022 5:38 PM
23	Environmental impact of too many cruise ships.	6/10/2022 12:02 PM
24	No, just here to learn and hope people do the right thing.	6/9/2022 12:55 PM

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey		SurveyMonkey
25	maybe	6/9/2022 12:53 PM
26	Public education; preservation on federal lands; interest in obtaining / restoring an old CCC building located in Saxman	6/8/2022 7:33 PM
27	I continue to support the preservation and restoration of Ketchikan's historic properties and places.	6/7/2022 4:15 PM

2 / 2

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

Q21 What barriers do you and/or your group feel exist to participation in history and/or historic preservation activities?

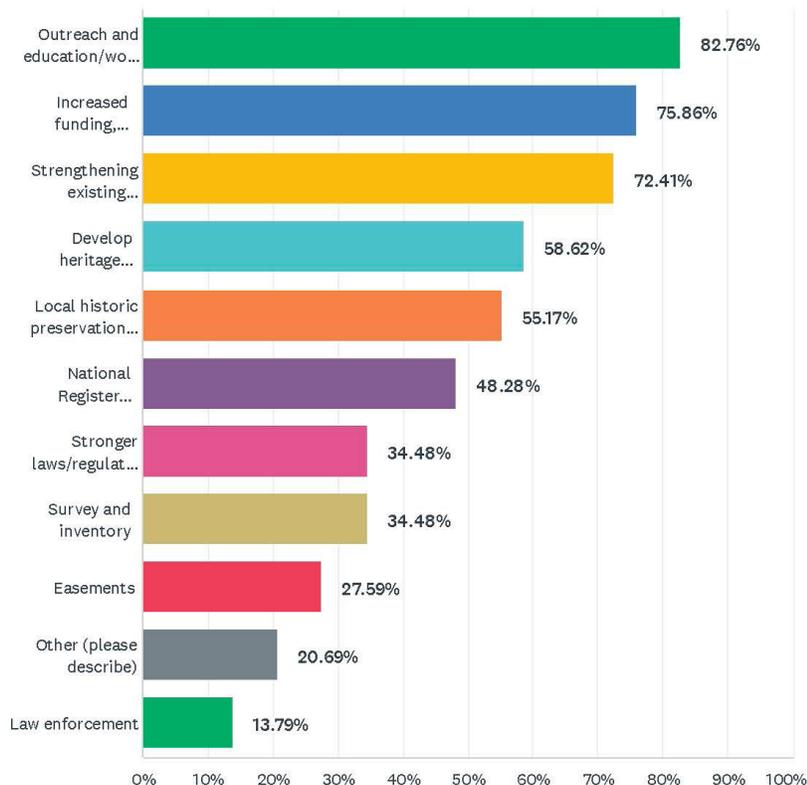
Answered: 28 Skipped: 51

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

### Q22 What do you think are the best ways to address the above-mentioned challenges and threats?

Answered: 29 Skipped: 50



Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey		SurveyMonkey	
ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Outreach and education/workshops and trainings		82.76%	24
Increased funding, grants, and tax incentives		75.86%	22
Strengthening existing partnerships/building new partnerships		72.41%	21
Develop heritage tourism programs		58.62%	17
Local historic preservation planning, ordinances, and design review		55.17%	16
National Register nominations		48.28%	14
Stronger laws/regulations		34.48%	10
Survey and inventory		34.48%	10
Easements		27.59%	8
Other (please describe)		20.69%	6
Law enforcement		13.79%	4
Total Respondents: 29			

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

Q23 What other concerns do you and/or your group hold in relation to history and/or historic preservation activities? Are there any specific areas that you and/or your group feel are being overlooked and/or threatened by neglect or development?

Answered: 21 Skipped: 58

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

**Q23 What other concerns do you and/or your group hold in relation to history and/or historic preservation activities? Are there any specific areas that you and/or your group feel are being overlooked and/or threatened by neglect or development?**

Answered: 21 Skipped: 58

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I think so many sites are being overlooked because of economic pressure coupled with lack of community interest.	7/7/2022 7:32 PM
2	Tourist inappropriate store fronts and colors	7/7/2022 1:32 PM
3	Again, personally, I think there are some big holes for historic preservation for specific things like our cemeteries, historic events that happened here, making cultural connections, showcasing aspects of the community that make us unique...putting some value to them so others will follow along.	7/1/2022 7:11 PM
4	We have a historic sign on our building and it makes a huge difference with visitors stopping to read, it would be great to integrate even more of our history into modern elements of our town, more signs with photos of what an area used to look like, who were the people, what was their story.	6/30/2022 6:22 PM
5	independent tourism	6/28/2022 1:20 AM
6	N/A	6/25/2022 3:10 PM
7	NA	6/25/2022 1:16 AM
8	Yes, our concerns are outlined above	6/24/2022 4:40 PM
9	Not at this time	6/24/2022 8:27 AM
10	There is a slow trickle of remodels and tear-downs that aren't that big of a deal one by one, but in the 26 years I've lived here there has been so much lost.	6/21/2022 3:00 PM
11	n/a	6/19/2022 3:11 PM
12	Newtown District -Water Street. State DOT highway goes right through their neighborhood while 2010 waterfront promenade created super pedestrian corridor from Berth 4 to 3 and into downtown. 90% come/go without ever venturing on Water Street sidewalks. The Tunnel is disgusting and DOT has consciously ignored it since it was built 1954 68 years ago. Better signage 'we're open', crosswalks, art work within Tunnel would be simple things. Preservation of Newtown-Hopkins Alley should be a priority.	6/16/2022 3:45 AM
13	Nobody asks or reaches out, have no clue what is going on regarding preservation, history, input, research or oral history	6/14/2022 2:01 PM
14	That is a good question, but I don't have a specific answer at this time.	6/11/2022 4:10 AM
15	?	6/10/2022 7:36 PM
16	I think that in terms of preservation people focus on larger buildings (schools, government buildings, etc) and don't focus on historically significant houses which go a long way in preserving the memory of how people lived in a place like Ketchikan.	6/10/2022 6:39 PM
17	It would be nice to see the government and organizations take an active role in determining which properties are neglected and abandoned and do something about that.	6/10/2022 5:38 PM
18	Laws and decisions were made in the past that were over looked or ignored. Greed and the desire for More and More prevailed.	6/10/2022 12:02 PM
19	Over development for outsiders/tourists. I understand it's necessary to a small degree...but	6/9/2022 12:55 PM

## Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

there needs to be more emphasis put on the natives here and those that are residence that share the limited land.

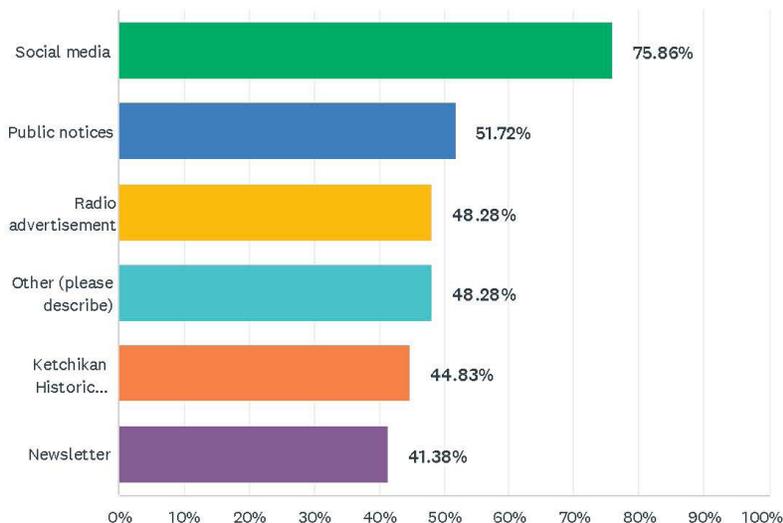
20	I am concerned that Ketchikan is becoming very transient with all the increased Coast Guard families, travelling nurses, and seasonal Californian's buying properties and not having deep roots in the community and maybe not as interested in preserving our history.	6/9/2022 12:53 PM
21	The historic qualities of most downtown building have been lost so it is all the more important to preserve business areas like Creek Street and Stedman Street and the neighborhoods above downtown.	6/7/2022 4:15 PM

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

Q24 What do you and/or your group feel is the most effective way of communicating history and/or historic preservation information within the community?

Answered: 29 Skipped: 50



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Social media	75.86%	22
Public notices	51.72%	15
Radio advertisement	48.28%	14
Other (please describe)	48.28%	14
Ketchikan Historic Commission Website	44.83%	13
Newsletter	41.38%	12
Total Respondents: 29		

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

**Q25 Are there any other concerns you and/or your group hold that have not been addressed here?**

Answered: 17 Skipped: 62

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

### Q25 Are there any other concerns you and/or your group hold that have not been addressed here?

Answered: 17 Skipped: 62

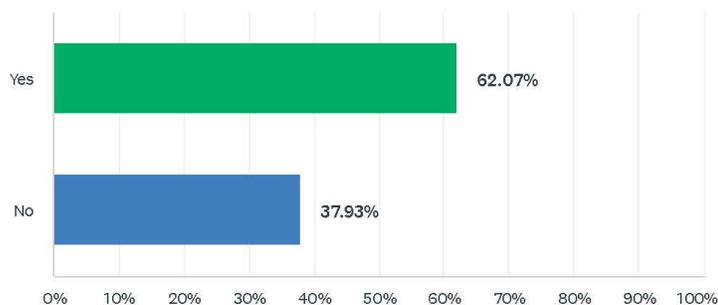
#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	none	7/7/2022 7:32 PM
2	not at this time.	7/7/2022 4:02 PM
3	No	7/7/2022 1:32 PM
4	Thanks for the opportunity.	7/1/2022 7:11 PM
5	N/A	6/25/2022 3:10 PM
6	BA	6/25/2022 1:16 AM
7	Yes, these can be described in subsequent interviews or workshop participation	6/24/2022 4:40 PM
8	No	6/24/2022 8:27 AM
9	n/a	6/19/2022 3:11 PM
10	no	6/16/2022 3:45 AM
11	I would like to see increased transparency or awareness in the community of what funds are currently being spent on historic preservation, how the funds are being used, and who is determining how to use them. (It may be that such information is freely available, but if it isn't widely known in the community then the result is the same as if there was an intentional lack of transparency.)	6/11/2022 4:10 AM
12	none	6/10/2022 7:36 PM
13	No, I think this has covered it.	6/10/2022 6:39 PM
14	N/A	6/10/2022 5:38 PM
15	Probably.	6/9/2022 12:55 PM
16	no	6/9/2022 12:53 PM
17	Not at this time.	6/7/2022 4:15 PM

Ketchikan Historic Commission Public Outreach Survey

SurveyMonkey

Q26 As part of the public outreach process, in addition to this survey, we will be conducting a series of stakeholder interviews. These will be conducted via Zoom or telephone. There will be both individual interviews and small group discussions. The conversation will be twenty to 60 minutes long. Would you like to sign-up for an interview.

Answered: 29 Skipped: 50



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	62.07% 18
No	37.93% 11
Total Respondents: 29	

**APPENDIX D: STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTS**

## Michelle O'Brien

The interview with Michelle O'Brien took place on June 16, 2022. The interview was conducted by TNSDS Principle Consultant Robert Meinhardt and TNSDS Cultural Resource Manager Joan Bayles Burgett.

Ketchikan Historic Preservation Community Outreach Project  
Stakeholder Interview #1  
June 16, 2022 : 12pm – 12:30pm  
True North Sustainable Development Solutions, LLC  
Robert Meinhardt, MA  
Joan Bayles Burgett, MA, RPA  
Interviewee: Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce

### Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (00:02):

We are going to record the interview for the purposes of transcriptions. So we're recording it via zoom. And we also a backup recorder in case the zoom fails on us.

### Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (00:16):

And you might be able to hear my dogs exerting their opinion as well.

### Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (00:21):

It's okay. We expect that in this day of age anyway. So I want to first just start off by thanking you for participating. We really do appreciate it, and it's definitely going to help us develop that phase one update of the historic preservation plan. So thank you very much for the purpose of the interview, though. I know in the questionnaire we said it was about 30 minutes to 60 minutes. Unfortunately, this particular zoom platform that we're doing, the interviews only gives us 40 minutes zoom time. So we're going to try to keep it pretty brief, if you will in terms of the questions, we have 20 questions that are specific, and then the 21st question is sort of an open ended question for some discussion. So the first question that we would like to ask you is just how do you define preservation? How do you define historic preservation?

### Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (01:17):

I would say that I would define historic preservation as something that becomes representative of what the community might have been years ago. So in other words, I would say I'm more in the moderate category in the sense that, you know, I don't require strict adherence to, you know, it has to look exactly like 1800, but it should be representative of that time period.

### Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (01:46):

Right.

### Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (01:48):

Hold on one second. I need to close my door. These guys are being really obnoxious.

### Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (01:52):

No worries

### Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (01:55):

There. Sorry about that.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (01:58):**

No, you're okay. And then the second question is, tell us a little bit about your involvement with historic preservation efforts in Ketchikan. Have you had any experience through any other organizations in terms of historic preservation projects?

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (02:14):**

You know, not so much other than working with our member businesses and working with them from a marketing aspect as well as having lived in historic homes in Ketchikan and currently living in what I would call, not necessarily an official historic district, but certainly an older neighborhood.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (02:36):**

Why does preservation matter to you? Does it matter to you? And if so, why does it matter?

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (02:41):**

Well, for me, it matters from both a personal and a professional level. I feel like the more a community is appealing, not only to visitors, as well as residents, it becomes a great place to live and to work. So the greater it looks and appears the more appealing it is to the masses and you know, Ketchikan's kind of weird when I moved here from Tallahassee, Florida, I lived in a gated community on a golf course, and you know, there were HOA this and that. And you know, here in Ketchikan, you can have a beautiful house right next to one that clearly needs some major help. And to me, I would like to see something that represents the entire community, you know, in my particular house right now, I live right around the corner from Creek Street and I can go on my porch. And literally there are hundreds of tourists right below my house, and I can look around the neighborhood and I can see them looking like, Ooh, these people live like this. The communities should be a shining example. And right now Ketchikan is not that.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (03:53):**

You say as kind of a beautification, or an avenue for beautification as well.

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (03:58):**

Well, yeah. And it also should be educational.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (04:06):**

So with that said, what is one of the biggest challenges to preservation in Ketchikan?

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (04:12):**

I think motivating the building owners and the private homeowners to actually do something. In fact, we talked about that at several meetings that I have this week, it would be great to be able to have a motivational incentive of some sort. So that businesses in the downtown corridor in particular, that's really where the historic area is as well as along Water Street and so on and so forth. And in my district, the Park Avenue neighborhood that there I'm going to have an incentive to want to keep my property upgraded, as opposed to just letting it go to shambles.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (04:53):**

And what do you think the strengths and weaknesses of your community are when it comes to historic preservation?

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (04:59):**

I dunno. Your sound is really fading out. The strengths and weaknesses in terms of historic preservation. If that was your question. I think there's several. I think it's a general apathy in terms of buildings having been in families and organizations for decades, if not longer. And they're just kind of happy with the status quo. They don't see

the value in future economic development. It almost translates exactly into individual homeowners. And then I think moving forward, we need to be very, very cognizant of the current economic situation in terms of inflation, interest rates, costs, and so on and so forth. You know, if you think about building costs and staff shortages and everything else, people who would like to do something are really burdened by the fact that they can't find the people and they can't find the materials.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (06:06):**

Right, right. We're definitely experiencing that across the board in terms of material shortages and labor shortages for that matter. So do you see a place for historic preservation in your community? I mean as an important role, obviously Ketchikan has a lot of properties. So do you see historic preservation being embedded in the community, moving forward into the future?

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (06:35):**

110% you're preaching into the choir.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (06:39):**

What do you think the largest public misunderstanding of preservation is in the community?

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (06:48):**

Lack of communication on the part of Historic Ketchikan. They're kind of a... I don't want to say a fringe group they're very respected, but they just don't do a great job of marketing themselves. I think that would be it because people don't understand. Literally I almost just bought a historic home in another state in the deep south, then the inspection didn't turn out. But if we were to think about anywhere else, some people have to get over that misnomer, like, "Oh, I don't want to have a historic property, because they're going to want to put a sign on my house. And then they're going to tell me how to paint my house. And I can't do interior improvements." You need to overcome that hurdle where people think that they're going to automatically become overregulated owning a historic property. And as we all know, Alaskans are not those kind of people.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (07:47):**

Right. So this kind goes more into the history of Ketchikan, are there particular stories or histories that remain maybe untold or underrepresented in terms of cultures that are underrepresented in the community that you are aware of?

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (08:09):**

Yeah, I would say the Filipino community. And if you were to ask the Native community, they will always say "We are under represented." But I personally do not believe that because I typically will walk Creek Street and through Married Man's Trail and through historic districts and I hear people talk. In fact to me, that is represented very well, but the Filipino community is 12% of Ketchikan's population. And the oldest grocery store, which was destroyed unfortunately a couple years ago by a landslide, was in business for over a hundred years, 103 years, I believe. And there's a vast history behind that family and they're Japanese. So I think so the Pacific Asian American history in Ketchikan needs to be better represented.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (09:13):**

Now, getting back to the successes of Ketchikan, do you have an example of a preservation success, you brought up Creek street and some of these historic districts. Do you have any other examples of a preservation success story and what elements contributed to the process of that success?

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (09:36):**

I can only think of neighborhoods. I would say that if you were to go on what would have been years ago called Knob Hill, where a bunch of the captains lived, and their wives, and they called it that because the wives would be able to look out their windows and see where the fishing boats were and then subsequently called it Knob Hill. That particular neighborhood and I lived there, is very well preserved. And there's many historic homes. There's some new homes up there, too. But that's a good example in terms of the care and nurturing of a particular neighborhood. I've seen some movement on Water Street and some of the other streets that kind of... But along Water Street, there seems to be kind of a movement of folks that are interested in kind of getting in there and renovating these historic homes and getting their character back to the way they were. But in terms of a real success story, I don't have one particular one and that's because it's so spotty here, as I mentioned before,

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (10:48):**

If money wasn't an object, what would you do to improve your community?

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (10:54):**

If money were not an object? I would go with what I said before, and that was to input an incentive program for folks to be able to in the highly traveled tourist areas, specifically in the downtown core, and there should be some requirements, you know, the property needs to be of this age. The property needs to have these particular needs, you know, paint this, that, and that, and that, and then there should be an incentive program where they'll be incentivized to actually make those improvements because you know, the biggest economic driver in Ketchikan right now is tourism. That's the fact of the matter. And so when people walk around, they need to be able to look and say, wow, this is just astounding.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (11:46):**

So if money is not an object, what would you think would need to happen in order to make that possible?

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (11:56):**

I think there needs to be an incentive program that's somehow funded by a grant. Now it's my understanding from our rotary meeting this morning that Historic Ketchikan actually had a grant for that a couple years ago, several years ago, and some businesses and homeowners did take advantage of that. I'd like to see that happen again.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (12:15):**

Would there be any type of ordinances or something that you feel would need to be embedded in the government in order to do so?

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (12:22):**

I think that there's motivational milestones. So for example, you're going to be painting your house. You're going to be doing this, doing that, doing that. And then as a property owner, whether it's a business or home reaches that milestone, then they get that level of funding kind of like the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation had a weatherization program. So the homeowner had to do the weatherization and bring it up to a certain level and then it was inspected. And then they said, okay, great. You spent \$9,520. Okay. This is reimbursable. So there also needs to be a limit on that because some people can go kind of crazy.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (13:11):**

And what do you think the most effective preservation training program slash median is at this time? It could be, I mean, what do you think about training? You had mentioned training earlier, some education at least. What do you think the most effective way of communicating or training folks in preservation would be in Ketchikan?

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (13:34):**

Well, I think the majority of people have no knowledge whatsoever. They're just used to the status quo. So I think it's got to be twofold. I think that if I were the marketing person, what I would be doing is marketing Historic Ketchikan, and the value of the history of Ketchikan. And then what I would do is I would be rolling out a history of individual properties around town. Like, here's the story behind this property. You can literally walk down Stedman Street and Water Street. And you can see boarded up windows. I mean, there's some great opportunity here, but people don't know the history of the value of those buildings. So they just kind of stay as they are.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (14:20):**

This next question kind of overlaps with the previous question. We were talking about training and training programs, but the next question is communicating the preservation information. What avenue do you think would be the best way to communicate that to the public?

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (14:36):**

<laugh> Well, yeah, yeah. You're at my alley right now. You've got to know your market, right? So if you're going to talk about what I would do... What I would do is I would put together a social media campaign. So if you want to capture the younger people, that's going to be Instagram. This town is Facebook centric in a huge way. There's no local news. So Facebook is the local news. I've taught social media marketing around the world. And I always use my market as an example. Facebook is like, "Someone in a Ford Explorer wrecked off four miles south." "Oh, that's Joe." "Are they okay?" "I hear a broken arm. They were just taken to the hospital." "Do we need to take them a meal?" I mean, it's just like this long stream of consciousness and opinions and everything else on social media. For the current tourism sentiment survey, they actually exceeded what they were looking for in terms of feedback in a short two weeks using that exact method. I mean, you can have some in-person meetings if you want. The other cool thing that I would do is highlighting a historic property in Ketchikan. So currently the library features various local residents for "What's on your bookshelf?" I was actually featured a couple weeks ago and I got tons of comments from around the community like, "Oh, I didn't know that. That's interesting. I had no idea. I had no idea that was your background." Well, it would be really cool to have a photo and a history of a particular property, obviously with the owner's permission, and feature that monthly. I believe the library does it monthly. And do that because then people read that. So then you're going to also capture the older audience by using that print method.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (16:36):**

And what is your hope for the future at Ketchikan?

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (16:40):**

More people and more money <laugh> and more growth. I would say growth. It's such an astounding community as it is. I've lived all over the world, military background, and I don't think I've ever lived in a place with more interesting people per square foot. It's a very small town that feels like a really sophisticated big city and it's time for our appearance to grow into that. Not so much as being like this art kind of deal. But what I'm saying is, our appearance needs to grow up to what we've become as a population.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (17:24):**

What role could the local preservation commission be playing to improve your community in shaping that future?

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (17:31):**

I think I already told you that they need to market themselves better. They've got a lot of really great people on there, but they also have a lot of... God, I hope this quote isn't going to be attributed to me, but they've also got a lot of really nerdy intellectuals on the historic preservation committee. And they're not great communicators.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (17:54):**

Talking about the local commission, what do you think about the status of the preservation office and what do you see that they could do for your community? What role would they play in Ketchikan's future?

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (18:10):**

I don't know a whole lot about the organization. I think the first thing that comes to mind would be access to grants, access to funding, et cetera, et cetera.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (18:29):**

So in shaping the future of Ketchikan, and we're talking about it more along the lines of economic development, since that seems to be your expertise. What do you think the preservation plan can do to shape that future? The plan itself that we're working to update for the city?

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (18:51):**

Well, you know, I read an interesting article yesterday. No one wants to open a business in a shabby looking building and how right now in Ketchikan, which is absolutely astounding, in the last year and a half, the number of young entrepreneurs that have opened these amazing businesses. Case in point example, the old fire station has been around forever. They had a group of young people go in there and completely refurbished it. It's historically accurate. It is so cool. It's called the Uncharted Distillery, by the way, you can look them up and it's amazing, but they had to have a vision for that. But if you're talking about a small store owner, they're not going to want to go into one of the small storefronts that are just weather beaten and boarded up. They have this amazing history, but boy, the hurdle that they have to overcome to think, "Oh my gosh, I'm going to put my business in there. I'm going to invest this. I'm going to invest." That is really kind of prohibitive for a lot of people in their thinking.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (20:04):**

So do you think then that the preservation plan can help create that vision for people to maybe see more clearly?

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (20:12):**

Yeah, absolutely. And you know, that goes hand in hand with... The fact of the matter is, we are expecting in future years that the 1.5 million cruise passengers to only increase. Not only do we now have a dock out north, but we have the city port, and now they're going to open a small ship port out south. And so we have all of those cruise passengers, but now last year, because the cruises, a lot of people said, "Oh gosh, I can't take a cruise in 2021 because there just aren't a lot of them available." So what I'm going to do is, you know, the hell with them, I'm going to fly up there on my own. So now that can of worms for that individual traveler who actually stays longer in Ketchikan, that can's been opened. So, you know, there may have been a hundred thousand passengers last year. Alaska Airlines can hardly keep up. It's going to only grow my lodges. I have members who were sold out for the entire summer as of February. That's never happened before. And they have actually had to extend their shoulder months. I anticipate that demand from the independent traveler to only increase.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (21:26):**

That's impressive. What are your hopes for the historic preservation plan? What issues do you want to be sure are addressed in the plan moving forward?

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (21:39):**

Not to reiterate a dead point, but really let's address some of the business building aspects of this, the aesthetics of the downtown core, because I believe that's really what we're talking about here. I think the aesthetics are what it's going to be all about. Education is going to be a key part of it, but, you know, people want to grow into a place. Think about this. When you bought a house, as I was telling my friend the other day, like when you walk in the

door, when we walked in the door of our historic home when we were going to buy it, it just hits you like, this is it. You know, you're like, oh my gosh, this is it. And so you want people walking around your town, not only locals, because if your locals aren't happy, they're not going to be nice to the tourists. And if your locals aren't happy, they're not going to open new businesses. So we need to give them that love factor.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (22:40):**

And what role, if any, would you like to play, or do you see your organization playing in the future preservation of Ketchikan?

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (22:48):**

Oh, we're happy to help in any way. We partner with all of the organizations. I do as much as I can. I am actually, believe it or not, the single employee of the Ketchikan chamber. So I'm happy, but this actually is something I'm very, very passionate about. I've owned historical homes for years and years. In fact, we owned the original Woolworth home in Watertown, New York, back in 1994. So, yeah, this is something I'm passionate about. I'm happy to help in any way. They usually tab me for marketing by the way, just so you know.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (23:25):**

We have a few minutes left here. So the last question is if there's anything else you want to share with us in terms of what you think we should know moving forward for when we develop this phase one of the update.

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (23:40):**

I think I've said everything. I'm not going to say this as a caution, but I'm going to just tell you, you probably already know it. Everyone in Ketchikan has something to say and they all have an opinion about something. And that's one thing that makes it such a vibrant community. So I really can't wait to see the results because just people talk, talk, talk, talk, talk, talk all the time about everything.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (24:08):**

So what you're saying is, you really want to see everybody's opinions and what their perspectives are pulled into one report. And so you can kind of capture that diversity.

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (24:19):**

Well, yes, but I think we want to be careful of not going down the bureaucratic route in terms of, "Oh, we're going to have all these public meetings," because guess what? The same people always come to the public meetings, the same vociferous few and other people are still out there. Talk, talk, talking, but they're not coming to those meetings. I think the most important thing that needs to be generated is this groundswell of enthusiasm for what we're trying to achieve here. Because whether people are talking on social media or at a meeting or via letters to the editor, whatever it is, the one thing that brings it all even is the fact that I do believe in my heart of hearts that everyone wants Ketchikan to do better in a positive way. And they believe in the future, they're eternal optimists, regardless of what's going on, COVID or lack of lumber, this and that and that, but they all believe that Ketchikan is an amazing place. So capturing that enthusiasm to make this project go forward, that's going to be huge.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (25:28):**

Thank you for that. That's really all we have. So just wanted to touch upon some of these points. We've got six interviews scheduled right now. We're hoping to get six more. So if there's anybody else out there who consider themselves, or would consider themselves a stakeholder, let them know that we have some availability and that we'd love to hear from as many people as we can. And really, honestly, to capture that enthusiasm that you mentioned. We want to hear the enthusiasm, but also I think it's important to hear the criticism as well, and to figure

out what needs to be improved upon moving forward. What we're trying to achieve here is how can we reach those goals moving forward into the future. So thank you, so much. We really enjoyed this and your enthusiasm, it will definitely be contagious in any sort of room, I love it. And that's being a preservationist myself. I mean, that is what drives us: the enthusiasm to save those historic properties and adaptively reuse them for the benefit of the community, whether that's economic development, sustainability. So thank you so much. I appreciate it.

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (26:46):**

Here's one last thing that you should keep in mind and this is not only a sustainability and preservation thing, but also something that is key to our community right now, in fact, right down the street. For me, there's a couple of historic homes that are absolutely rebuilds, they're guts. I was going to buy one and it was just too much of a project. But this becomes a community thing because we have a housing crisis right now as many communities do. And if there was a way to weave in this notion of all right, you're going to take this dilapidated property and redo it. Then you're providing housing for potential people that want to move to Ketchikan. Backstory: the Ketchikan chamber launched a website, and you can write this down if you so desire, but it's called [www.chooseketchikan.com](http://www.chooseketchikan.com). We had lofty hopes of attracting maybe five or 10 remote workers to Ketchikan. You know, bring your job, come here, work remotely. And in the first month, we had over a hundred applications. I got nowhere for them to live. There's nowhere for them to live, but it looking at these dilapidated properties down the street that could be rehabbed, that's something that would not only fit the goal, but could also increase housing in the area.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (28:18):**

With that said, just so that you know, I also own a real estate brokerage as well as being a historic property consultant. I would love to hear from some of the real estate community in Ketchikan, and we haven't really captured any of that, any of the local brokers or real estate licensees, There are some avenues through lending programs that could definitely help housing shortages across the board. It's not just in Ketchikan, it's across the board: various different communities, even in Hawaii and Honolulu, they're doing away with short term rentals to help fill the void of housing shortage in the rental market. So with these properties that you have in the incentive programs that you would like to see, there could be some teaming with some of the real estate community in terms of looking at various different rehab loans for those residents that want to live in the property. Plus the low income housing, then you market tax credits, there's various different renovation loan programs for investors. So there are opportunities out there. We would like to hear from as many people as we possibly can, obviously in terms of stakeholders, but the real estate community, especially. I would like to personally hear from and see and hear their perspective and get it captured into this preservation plan.

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (29:40):**

Okay. Do me do me a favor and send me your information again to [info@ketchikanchamber.com](mailto:info@ketchikanchamber.com). I've got an incredibly creative and talented real estate broker of one of the largest firms in town on my board. And we'll just get her hooked up with you guys.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (29:57):**

Would be amazing. I would love to hear from that individual, so well, thank you.

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (30:06):**

I appreciate that. All right. Anyone else? And then if you send me any other messaging materials or whatever, then I can get that out and we can set up some more interviews for you. And if you want to add in that email, say, "Hey, we're looking for these kind of folks, these kind of folks, these kind of folks." I've just got a huge network of contacts.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (30:27):**

Yeah. We'll send you out an email. If not today, we'll send it out tomorrow.

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (30:31):**

Okay. Awesome. Thank you.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (30:32):**

I appreciate it. Well, that's all we have today. So if there's anything else, let me know.

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (30:37):**

We did it in 32 minutes.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (30:39):**

30 minutes. Yeah. I love it. Feel free to email us as well. If you think of something, just go ahead and shoot us an email. We'd love to hear from you.

**Michelle O'Brien, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce (30:47):**

Okay. Let me know how I can help guys. Thank you.

## Alma Manabat Parker

The interview with Michelle O'Brien took place on June 16, 2022. The interview was conducted by TNSDS Principle Consultant Robert Meinhardt and TNSDS Cultural Resource Manager Joan Bayles Burgett.

Ketchikan Historic Preservation Community Outreach Project  
Stakeholder Interview #2  
June 16, 2022  
True North Sustainable Development Solutions, LLC  
Robert Meinhardt, MA  
Joan Bayles Burgett, MA, RPA  
Interviewee: Alma Manabat Parker, Ketchikan Wellness Corporation

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (00:05):**

Hello?

**Alma Manabat Parker (00:09):**

Hi!

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (00:10):**

How you doing?

**Alma Manabat Parker (00:12):**

I'm good. Hi.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (00:15):**

Hi.

**Alma Manabat Parker (00:17):**

Hello.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (00:18):**

Hey, so thank you for participating. We really appreciate it. Your feedback is going to be definitely helpful as we move forward with this phase one update for the city. We are going to be recording the meeting, if that's okay with you.

**Joan Bayles Burgett, TNSDS (00:43):**

So zoom does, it does two different things. It records the video, but it also records the audio for the purposes of this project. We'll just be using the audio. I'm going to submit it through a transcription service so that we'll have like a text of our interview.

**Alma Manabat Parker (01:04):**

Sounds good.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (01:05):**

I'll start the introductions. My name is Robert, I'm the president and chief consultant for True North Sustain Development Solutions and we are contracted with the city to develop phase one of the public involvement component of the update of their historic preservation plan.

**Joan Bayles Burgett, TNSDS (01:22):**

And I'm Joan Bayles Burgett, I'm the cultural resources manager and also a project archeologist.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (01:30):**

And if you could do me a favor and just state your full name, your title, and what organization you work for?

**Alma Manabat Parker (01:37):**

Sure. My name is Alma Parker and I'm with the Ketchikan Wellness Coalition. My job there is I am the Director of Operations, as well as the Health Equity Program Coordinator for a project called Samma Samatha GaN, which is means "healthier together." And it targets the Filipino population here in Ketchikan.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (02:00):**

Excellent. So this interview is going to be about half an hour long. Unfortunately, the zoom platform we're using for the interviews is set up for only 45 minutes. So we're going to try to keep it pretty brief and won't take up too much of your time, but we have some pretty good questions to ask you that I think will help us out. So the first question I'm going to ask you is: how do you define preservation?

**Alma Manabat Parker (02:28):**

How do I define it? I feel that preservation is something that can be handed down for future use, something that can be referred to, to make futures better, something that can hold truth to many populations that speaks their truth versus the perception of truth from outsiders.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (03:00):**

And tell us a little bit about your involvement with historic preservation efforts in Ketchikan.

**Alma Manabat Parker (03:06):**

Well, um, I grew up in Ketchikan and as a child, we had a Ketchikan Filipino community center and this was our gathering space for us to not only celebrate our culture, but also to really hand down some cultural dances, some storytelling from our elders to us. The center is no longer available to us. I did find that that piece of Ketchikan history is missing. And last August, I got this position and it really was an opportunity to not only remember that we are missing this piece, this vital piece, but also from the research I've been doing with the project. Many people have said back in the day when we had a center or back in the day when we would gather together. So now one of my goals, personally, is to just hopefully find a space that we can reinvigorate our history and our culture, as well as just find a space to just provide, especially newly immigrated families, to have that first initial stop and learn about the history of Ketchikan, but also find people who are able to help and provide resources that would help them thrive in our community.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (04:46):**

So why does preservation matter to you? I think you've touched a little bit upon it, but what is, why does it really matter?

**Alma Manabat Parker (04:54):**

Well, as a Filipino who immigrated to the United States at a very, very young age, and now living back here, I chose to live here knowing that it was a community that I wanted to raise my children in, not having that historical preservation available for them to really see what contributions are of Filipinos to this community. We have a lot of focus, which is of course needed of our Alaska Native population, but being that Filipinos make up approximately 10% of this community... The absence is clear that we are not... People have reached out to me many, many times. It's like, what else can we do to incorporate, to include, to bring you to the table? And I think this project would

definitely have that opportunity to really show how important our voices are in history that made Ketchikan what it is today and continues to be.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (06:04):**

And why do you think it matters to Ketchikan as a whole historic preservation?

**Alma Manabat Parker (06:08):**

As a whole in general, not just for Filipinos, but I think when we are a thriving, we rely heavily on the tourist industry that when people come, they don't want to just spend their dollars on touristy things. They want to know what makes Ketchikan unique, what brings this community together and the diversity that we have here. I think that would be very important to just continue and to hand down. I also think as a community, knowing each other's neighbors, we really take pride upon being a family centered community, when one is hurting or one needs help. I can't believe how quickly our community stands up for a person who maybe has lost a loved one to somebody whose house maybe has just burned down, our community steps up. So we are truly an extended family of each other. And I think that's very important.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (07:15):**

What is one of the biggest challenges you think to preservation in Ketchikan?

**Alma Manabat Parker (07:23):**

I noted that in the survey, that I think people don't know the resources, or how to even start something that could lead to preservation. Lack of funding also as well, infrastructure here is really hard across the state, across the nation. We are all experiencing lack of housing or lack of space in general. So even if you had the funding to find a space to host this center or to host an area that would preserve history, it would be the trouble of trying to find the exact location because it was just nothing available at the time at this moment. Unless you build, it's just not available.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (08:14):**

What do you think the strengths and weaknesses are for the community?

**Alma Manabat Parker (08:19):**

I'm sorry. I can't hear you.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (08:21):**

Oh, I'm sorry. What do you think? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the community?

**Alma Manabat Parker (08:28):**

Oh, okay. Like I mentioned earlier, I touched upon that, that we are a community of family. I think that extends across cultures when people are in need. We do step up and help one another. That's a huge strength. I think we have people who really are innovative and go-getters, and trying to make the community a place that we want to call home and that's Ketchikan, the place we choose to live and not forced to live. I think a weakness that we may have is that the internal divisiveness I feel sometimes does cause some conflict as far as why would one group get something and not another? Or why is the focus only on certain aspects of preservation? I think that would be a weakness. Also, our remoteness is a weakness for logistics and that increases cost. The logistics and the infrastructure that could help sometimes is the detriment because we're so far. I mean you have to ship everything up here via air or boat and all those add up in the end. <laugh>

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (10:03):**

Do you see, do you see a place for historic preservation in your community?

**Alma Manabat Parker (10:08):**

Yes. And I do see that people are making great strides, trying to keep that alive. I don't know what capacity this specific project is doing, like small projects or are these massive endeavors, but I do know people are really trying to keep and pass down generational history that you can't find in books and whatnot. This is all passing down from one storyteller to another, one generation to another. So I hope that answers that question.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (10:53):**

Absolutely. What is the largest public misunderstanding of preservation in your perspective?

**Alma Manabat Parker (11:04):**

Hmm, could you gimme an example?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (11:07):**

One example would be... Let's say listing your property on the National Register would keep you from being able to make any changes to it. That would be a misunderstanding of historic preservation or one aspect of historic preservation. So is there any sort of biases that are based on wrong information and correct information or anything like that in your community?

**Alma Manabat Parker (11:42):**

I would not know. Sorry.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (11:46):**

It's okay. I think you've touched upon this, but what stories or histories remain untold or underrepresented? You said that the Filipino culture obviously isn't is a well represented or underrepresented culture, but are there any others that you can point out as well?

**Alma Manabat Parker (12:11):**

I know our Alaska Native brothers and sisters are really doing very well with their storytelling and trying to preserve their history. I know their language component; I believe there's only a couple more people who really speak the Tlingit and Haida languages and Han. So I know that has been really applied for them and trying to ensure their true Native language is handed down to generations. But really my perspective is from the Filipino lens. And so that's the story that I can share and that I can tell.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (13:09):**

Can you tell a story or give an example of a preservation success story and what elements contributed to that success? From your perspective, is there something within your lens that you've seen that was a success and what made it successful?

**Alma Manabat Parker (13:27):**

Well, I know that the local restaurant here, Diaz, it's a Filipino restaurant, Dias café. The actual building itself, I believe, has been deemed, or I don't know the proper words, as a historical site. And that is a Filipino business owner. The story of a young nurse coming over, meeting her husband, and they're running a family business as she's also a nurse at the local hospital back then. And she still is part of this community at 90 years old, she's still strong and still part of the restaurant, you can see her face there. Really one of our most honored and treasured elders in the Filipino community. She actually was one of my first Filipino dance teachers. So her role of not just preserving our

culture, Filipino culture in a time where it was maybe not as popular or frowned upon and then running a business at the same time. I think shows the hard work that people put in and it has become that block. I believe there's a bridge that only brown people could live and stay and have business on. And when you cross that bridge, that's where a lot of the minority or groups had to live and stay or work. And that was where the place was. And there was another business owner beside there that was of Japanese descent as well, which is another population. I think Asian population in general is very hard because it's such a broad category and there's so many different ethnic groups underneath the category itself, but there was such a large Japanese population here that we had an internment camp here as well at one of our parks out north. So I hope that's a good story.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (15:45):**

No, absolutely. That's a wonderful success story. You said Diaz Cafe is the name?

**Alma Manabat Parker (15:51):**

Yeah. D-I-A-Z cafe and I believe it is deemed a historical spot.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (16:00):**

I think it's right over there in the Stedman-Thomas Historic District, right? When you cross the bridge, right? Yeah. So if money were no object what would you do to improve your community? What would be something you do if there was all the money, you didn't have to worry about it? What would you do?

**Alma Manabat Parker (16:20):**

I would have a cultural center, a multicultural center, I should say that really reflects the history of Ketchikan and really, truly, represents what Ketchikan does look like. A reflection of the underrepresented represented. I think I would also fund a resource center. <laugh> My non-profit mind is thinking if money were no object, we do need a resource center that has the capability of helping those who do not necessarily speak English and then refer them and help them navigate through the systems of making, improving, and having a quality of life of living here in Ketchikan.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (17:14):**

What do you think would need to happen to make that possible?

**Alma Manabat Parker (17:20):**

Well, you said money, no object. You need money. <laugh>

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (17:26):**

Money set aside. What do you think would, would need to happen to make?

**Alma Manabat Parker (17:29):**

I think you really need the support of our community leaders, our local politicians. They need to value that as well. They're put into this position of power to represent the community. And I really feel that they've always asked, how can we help the Filipino community and, you know, come to our table? And I said, well, that's the first step you're missing is that you're asking us to come to your table. Why don't you come to our table? So putting on that different lens of you come to us and hear what we have to say versus us or me gathering information, and then presenting it as one unit. Why don't you really, truly listen to our needs? So our public officials need to be supportive of it. I think you do need to have a community buy-in and an ability to sustain it. That's important. Like we can build whatever we can, but without a sustainable plan to keep it open or to keep things, you know, any repairs or things to keep it preserved, then unfortunately your work would be damaged years down the line. So really making sure we have a plan for that too. And then, maybe also incorporating some of these histories within

our curriculum in school, so that you have children who really understand the importance of what we have here. We're really in a unique situation and a very great opportunity to make this a chance to learn more that's not under the regular history books.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (19:33):**

That's a really good point, and that goes to our next question. What is the most effective preservation training program slash medium? You touched upon education; what do you think is the most effective for preserving culture in the community of Ketchikan in terms of education and training?

**Alma Manabat Parker (19:56):**

Right. I think have to have people who are willing to do this and then train them properly on the logistics and the basics of how these things can really be handed down from generation to generation. Many of us have great ideas and big ideas and grandiose ideas that we would love to follow through on, but we don't really know all the layers of authority and approval and red tape and things. So I think for our historians, maybe they also need education as well. Having those training opportunities and the education. As for other platforms, I don't know, even if you say like have public forum meetings, it really is us coming to a place versus you coming to our place, wherever our place would be. It would be like me gathering my group of group community members that work under my project to come to you. Whereas I would see it more beneficial for the powers that be to come to us to offer these kind of trainings and information sessions and how we could do better and be better in our community.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (21:23):**

So it sounds like more collaboration, maybe?

**Alma Manabat Parker (21:26):**

More collaboration.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (21:27):**

More collaboration.

**Alma Manabat Parker (21:29):**

Yes, yes. More collaboration, you know, being at the table again. But it really is collaboration and listening and truly listening to what some of the needs are.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (21:47):**

So along the same lines, what do you think the most effective way of communicating preservation information would be? If you're going to try to communicate the information?

**Alma Manabat Parker (22:03):**

I think what we're finding with just this health equity project that I'm on is that we have some major language inequities. We're not providing information in languages that are representative of the community. So we have been really working hard on translating a lot of our materials ahead of time from promotional materials to informational packets and things like that. The hospital that we're working with is very much supportive of this and they're trying to work very fast, ensuring that all their languages of their materials represent the community as well, communicating it. Right. So language.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (23:01):**

So if I'm hearing you correctly, you're saying that more translation in the process of disseminating the information is what needs to happen.

**Alma Manabat Parker (23:11):**

Correct.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (23:14):**

Go ahead.

**Alma Manabat Parker (23:15):**

I honestly think when when under representative groups see that there's an effort to have people included in the conversation to go to the point of even sharing that we actually translated this so that we would have make sure everybody could understand you're going to have more buy in and you're going to have more people listening because you've made that extra effort to have it translated and whatnot. And then honestly, then you can't say, "Well you never got the information because it's actually in English and it's in your native language as well."

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (24:04):**

Yeah. I think you hit it pretty good, I think. Yeah, absolutely. And what is your hope for the future of Ketchikan?

**Alma Manabat Parker (24:18):**

Well, I really hope we have a community again, that we choose to live in that our children and their children continue to have a safe space that allows them to honor the past and and still remember things that were and how far we've come. I've always liked to see how far we've come and the progress we've made. It's still far from that. I mean, we still have a lot of inequities, but also tension and this political world we live in, I think it's right now it's harsh on even a small community as us that there are moments of divisiveness. But my hope is that we overcome that and we just really remember that Ketchikan is really the First City to mean we are considered the First City with the tourists and stuff, but just maybe to remember it's the First City for some, it could be the last, because we choose to live here. This is where we want to stay.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (25:44):**

And this is getting kind back to the political structure, if you will. What do you feel is the role of the local preservation commission? It is, you know, embedded in the city. What do you, what do you think the role of the commission is with, uh, improving your community?

**Alma Manabat Parker (26:05):**

Hmm. So the local commission, are you free to share who's on that? Or do you know who's on who?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (26:15):**

I would, I don't have to names off the top of my head, but Amanda Walsh is on that commission. Geez. We have a list, sorry, I don't have all the commissioners memorized.

**Alma Manabat Parker (26:35):**

But this is locally.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (26:38):**

So yeah, the local historic preservation commissions with the city. Okay. It's a commission made up of various different members of the community and the city has a staff that helps facilitate those meetings. So that commission is responsible for facilitating historic preservation in the community. And so I'm just curious of what your perspective of the role is with in improving the community.

**Alma Manabat Parker (27:13):**

Um, the commission's role or my role?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (27:15):**

The commission.

**Alma Manabat Parker (27:16):**

The commission's role. So the commission's role, I think, the members have to be reflective of the community. So the diversity on the commission itself should represent its community members. So that's one thing that I feel is its role; another is to be held accountable and hold the powers that be accountable for any things that are put forth, projects put forth to hold the people who make the final decisions accountable and whichever way the decisions were made to maybe pass or fund a project or whatnot, then to also be transparent in communicating that information out to the community members so that they understand the reasons why a project was approved or not approved. So ensuring that any type of commission, any group that represents the voice of one should really be a group that can communicate to the general public as well and represent the community.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (28:35):**

It's okay if you don't know this entity, a lot of people don't. But have you heard of the state historic preservation office in Alaska? The state?

**Alma Manabat Parker (28:47):**

Yeah.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (28:48):**

Okay. So this question may be mute because the state historic preservation office is the state office. That's at the Office of History and Archaeology, and there's a State Historic Preservation Officer. So the local historic preservation commission helps fund projects in the community through Certified Local Government grants through the state and that's money that's trickled down from the federal government. So the NHPA created State Historic Preservation Offices across the country. And then those states help communities like Ketchikan become certified with their office as a Certified Local Government per the NHPA to help those communities preserve its historical and cultural resources. And so of the questions we ask is what role do you see for the state with your community?

**Alma Manabat Parker (29:52):**

Hmm, well, I would think they would be partnering and assessing and reassessing as needed. I see their role as not questioning, but inquiring, if there are things that they might have missed or again, accountability, holding our local commission accountable. I don't know if it would be a hard ask for them to, you know, actually physically come to see the location that some of their funding might be supporting and provide input in that way. Again, also coming to the tables of the communities that it impacts as well. I would hope Ketchikan as though it is the largest state. Our communities are so small that I would hope it wouldn't be a waste of time per se, to really come and just spend some time really visiting and seeing and hearing stories. And everybody at the local levels hearing the importance of the projects that we are pursuing or whatnot. So I know sometimes money is a situation there, but I would hope if there is such a group that is empowered to do this, that they would take it as a responsibility to really visit with people who are trying to get their stories and projects saved and preserved.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (31:49):**

So essentially what I'm hearing is that it would be really, really important for the state to immerse themselves in the culture of Ketchikan to understand it a little bit more clearly.

**Alma Manabat Parker (32:00):**

Right. Cause what you're read in paper, you may not necessarily get the true story or whatever, however, they're receiving the information until you come to our community. Like where are you guys from?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (32:17):**

No, where we live in was Alaska you're...

**Alma Manabat Parker (32:21):**

Okay.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (32:22):**

Yeah. We've had an opportunity work with a lot of different commissions across the state. So we always find that these projects to be really rewarding, to be able get to the community. And even if traveling to a new community isn't part of the project, I usually go down anyways, just to be able to set my eyes on the community and the resources. And I always love it. We love working with the communities. Every community in Alaska has similar issues, but yet such diversity, its different.

**Alma Manabat Parker (32:55):**

Resources. Exactly.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (32:58):**

So my next question, I'm going to start out by just kind of under explain to you what this historic preservation plan is. So, as I was saying earlier, every Certified Local Government designated through the state through the National Historic Preservation Act... It's a national designation that's sort of delegated to the state to work with the communities, to get that status, to open themselves up the federal grants. Okay. And some of the roles of the preservation commission are to take some of those responsibilities away from the state. So this preservation plan that we're updating is a requirement for the Certified Local Government in Ketchikan. So the commissioners contracted our company to help them with this phase one update, which is the public involvement part of it. So that's what this interview is all about. And the public meetings are all to gather information from the public so that it can be integrated in a preservation plan, moving forward with goals and objectives, a vision for the city of Ketchikan, but it's involved. The public involvement is the key ingredient here, if you will, to the recipe, because it's the public that drives the plan. And unlike what a lot of people might think, it's not the commission that just creates it. It's actually the public that drives it. And so my question to you is, what role does the preservation plan have in shaping the future of Ketchikan? What's your perspective of what's going to happen? What is the outcome in shaping the future of Ketchikan with this preservation plan? What can you see happening?

**Alma Manabat Parker (34:44):**

By completing this plan? You're asking?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (34:49):**

What role does it have in shaping the future of Ketchikan?

**Alma Manabat Parker (34:59):**

Hmm. Well, I think I kind of touched upon that earlier. From a perspective of the business aspect, it allows expansion of our business world here, our economy, it know what role it would be.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (35:29):**

It could have a role in help telling those unrepresented feel...

**Alma Manabat Parker (35:35):**

Like I would be just repeating myself.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (35:37):**

Okay. I know you've kind of touched upon it.

**Alma Manabat Parker (35:40):**

I was like, couldn't that? I feel like I'm repeating, I'm trying to find a different answer.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (35:46):**

No, it's OK. Totally OK. I think you hit it earlier, like you said. I mean, ultimately I think what you're saying is that you're hoping to get more representation of the community out of this preservation plan, which is what the purpose of this plan really is, to get the community's voice, the public involvement to help direct the vision of the community and figure out what direction it wants to go in with its cultural and historical resources. So I do think you touched upon it.

**Alma Manabat Parker (36:18):**

OK. Yeah. I just don't wanna keep repeating it.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (36:21):**

Yeah, you're good.

**Alma Manabat Parker (36:22):**

Kind of the same answer.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (36:25):**

So this one, you may have touched upon this as well, but really it's what are your hopes for the historic preservation plan? What issues do you want to be sure are addressed? Maybe reiterate them, even if you've already touched upon them.

**Alma Manabat Parker (36:41):**

Okay. So for sure, the issue that needs to be addressed is having a true reflection of its community and the faces and the voices of the community. We are a missing piece in this big picture. There's many books and things that I see of people telling their stories from working in the fisheries and reasons they came to Alaska and the reason specifically they came to Ketchikan, and I think those are a lot of stories that we tend to forget, or there's no place to hold them all. You really have to dig and try to find where all this information is. Most recently the museum, our local museum, the Tonga Historical Museum, had a section and it really highlighted and focused on the Filipino community. And I was part of some of that. It was the first time a lot of Filipinos said, "I don't ever think we've ever been in the museum." And I go, "You know what? I don't know, either, if we have or not." And just seeing that and the pride that we have seeing like our culture, our attire, and pictures of us, black and white photos of us dancing back in the day. And just that pride we had in having people make an effort to really showcase some of the contributions we had was a huge success last year. I helped organize the first ever Fil-Am Fest in Ketchikan. I'm a Ketchikan resident for 40 plus years. This is the first time we've ever had an October Fil-Am Fest, where we honored and recognized the historical contributions of Filipino Americans to the United States specifically in Ketchikan. And we made nationwide news, like somebody from Washington DC called me and was like, "Hey, we're doing this story. We saw the story and came across it, is it really true? This is your first ever in Ketchikan." And I said, "Yes!" It's 2021, you know, so it shouldn't have never been that way, but you have people who are excited. We're having our next one this October. So we have our second one in the books ready to roll. It's those kind of things that you have to have that fire. I think through this grant that I work with and the outreach and really my motivation, selfishly and community wide, of just really getting our name and our voice and our stories out there is really my hope through this.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (39:51):**

The last question I have is, what role, if any, would you like to play, or do you see your organization playing, in future preservation efforts?

**Alma Manabat Parker (40:03):**

Well, I never want to take on too much, but this is very much an important issue and topic for me, it's really a love project, a compassion project of mine. So I do think I would love to be at the table, in the project and in ensuring that we can get our stories told and our history saved and whatnot. I think our local museums, they're really making an effort. They've reached out to me several times to see what other ways that they can be part of preserving Filipino culture. I don't know, I've been somehow tasked and placed as the voice of the Filipinos; I don't like to claim it, but I always get the phone calls. Like, "How can we do this? When can we do this? Can you help us?" And if I don't know the answer, I am definitely going to help you find who to talk to, but it does seem to be a great bridge for someone who grew up here and is really involved in our community, as well as representing the Filipino voice in some ways. I may not speak Tagalog fluently, but I totally understand it. So I have that bridge as well, and I can connect to the elders and the aunties and uncles and things like that. And I feel I would be a great person to be included. <laugh>

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (41:52):**

That is good news. It's clear you're obviously motivating, getting those stories told, and hopefully this preservation plan will send the message out to help get those stories told that's. That's what we're trying to do, is gather that information, figure out what needs to be preserved, and what that direction is going to look like moving forward. So, I appreciate your effort just participating in this interview, because it is going to be really helpful for us and moving forward. I do encourage you to participate in the meeting. I'm not sure, did you participate in the first meeting that we had?

**Alma Manabat Parker (42:33):**

No, I hadn't seen that one. I actually am on an advisory board. I might even be on this commission now that I'm like: "Wait, what's this called?" So if someone emailed it to me and I'm like, wait a second... <laugh> So, yeah, I missed the first meeting and I will look at it. I believe it's coming soon, right? I saw the 20th?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (43:01):**

Yeah, the 28th at six o'clock. And I think you could find the meeting invite on the social media site for the city. I think it's the museum's social media site, too.

**Alma Manabat Parker (43:13):**

Okay.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (43:14):**

And if you need us to email you directly, we can also email you to invite directly.

**Alma Manabat Parker (43:21):**

That would be..

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (43:23):**

Great?

**Alma Manabat Parker (43:34):**

You guys sending... are you guys sunny in was sunshine.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (43:39):**

Oh, it, so it's actually year, especially to have address before we, you, it might cut us out very quickly.

**Alma Manabat Parker (43:55):**

Yeah, I think we've got, um, I got something from you in my work email. So it's thealma@ktnkwc.org.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (44:13):**

(To Joan) What was that?

**Joan Bayles Burgett, TNSDS (44:15):**

Yep.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (44:16):**

Oh, we got it. Okay, perfect.

**Alma Manabat Parker (44:18):**

Yeah. Well,

**Joan Bayles Burgett, TNSDS (44:19):**

We will make sure to email you a follow up, um, for yes. That public meeting.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (44:25):**

Yes, please do. Please do join us.

**Joan Bayles Burgett, TNSDS (44:28):**

Yes.

## Peter Stanton

The interview with Peter Stanton took place on June 16, 2022. The interview was conducted by TNSDS Principle Consultant Robert Meinhardt and TNSDS Cultural Resource Manager Joan Bayles Burgett.

Ketchikan Historic Preservation Community Outreach Project

Stakeholder Interview #3

June 16, 2022

True North Sustainable Development Solutions, LLC

Robert Meinhardt, MA

Joan Bayles Burgett, MA, RPA

Interviewee: Peter Stanton, history teacher at Ketchikan High School, former member of the Museum Advisory Board, Tongass Historical Society Board, former employee of the Ketchikan Museum Department, current member of Tongass Historical Society

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (00:04):**

Hello?

**Peter Stanton (00:05):**

Hello. How's it going?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (00:07):**

Good. How are you?

**Peter Stanton (00:09):**

Good.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (00:10):**

Good, good, good. Well, thank you for participating.

**Peter Stanton (00:14):**

Yeah. Thanks for doing this work.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (00:16):**

No problem. So, Peter, I'm going to ask just a quick question. Is it okay if we record this?

**Peter Stanton (00:24):**

Yes, no problem.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (00:26):**

We're going to use the audio transcriptions, the video transcription won't be used. It's just going to be the audio. We'll put it through one of our systems. That'll transcribe everything into text, and then we'll integrate that into the final public involvement report. So you don't have to worry about your face being shown or anything; some people have asked that. So you're good there. Well, I'll start out. I'm Rob Meinhardt, I'm the principal president of the company that's doing the phase one update for the city of Ketchikan, and this is Joan Bayles Burgett, she's our cultural resource manager and archeologist with the company and is involved as well. And so can you do me a favor and just state your name and your job title and the organization you work with?

**Peter Stanton (01:17):**

I am Peter Stanton. I am a high school history teacher at Ketchikan High School, and I've done, you know, it's Ketchikan. So I've been involved with a lot of other things. I'm a former member of the museum advisory board, former member of the Tongass Historical Society board, part of the Tongass Historical Society. And then I've worked for the Ketchikan Museum department.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (01:45):**

So this isn't your first rodeo on these types of interviews is what you're saying? Perfect. Well, what we've got is we have a list of 20 questions. If we have time, the last one is just kind of an open discussion. So with the 20 questions, we are under a little bit of a time constraint. Unfortunately, this platform that we have, basically we've got 40 to 45 minutes and it'll shut off. So, I'm not going to try to rush you, but I just want to give you a heads up that we are kind of on a limited timeframe here. So the first question I have for you is, how do you define preservation?

**Peter Stanton (02:29):**

That's tough. And I feel like that was a question on the written survey?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (02:35):**

It was, but we're reiterating a few of these questions.

**Peter Stanton (02:39):**

Okay. Now I'm trying to remember what I wrote because I feel like I'm usually more eloquent in writing than on the spot, but yeah. I would just say that preservation, as I see it applying to the community of Ketchikan means that we're going to maintain a sense of the history of this community and all of the historical trends and important historical events and groups and community members who have contributed to making this community, that is going to stay within the public consciousness, through what we maintain in the community, you know, the physical structures and information and everything else.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (03:30):**

Excellent. And can you tell us a little bit about your involvement in historic preservation in Ketchikan?

**Peter Stanton (03:37):**

So I've the truth is, I want to be more involved than I am as a high school history teacher. I'm still looking for opportunities to get my students involved with projects around the community that are relevant, that show them that history is all around them. They can participate in that history. They can learn it in a hands on way. You know, we can't just let you know the science teachers and their labs take all the glory, that that there's no way to learn history in a hands on way. I don't want students to have the feeling that they live in a community without history or a community with boring history that isn't worth paying attention to and preserving. One of the courses that I teach is Alaska Studies, which is a required high school course in Alaska, of course. And you know, there are plenty of students who feel that being required to take an Alaska Studies course is not the most fun or exciting thing in the world. So I'm always working to convince them that it's worth their time. So finding relevant projects to get students involved in is something that I really want to keep working on in my career.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (05:08):**

So why does preservation matter to you? I mean, what really makes it important to you?

**Peter Stanton (05:20):**

I strongly believe in the value of knowing our history. And when I talk with friends and family and members of the public in Ketchikan, it's clear that there's plenty of knowledge about our community and where it's come from and

what still drives our community and makes it the way it is. There's a lot of history that most people are not aware of. Or they're not given enough opportunities to become more aware of those parts of Ketchikan. So I think in not just preserving, but then highlighting and promoting some aspects of our community, that's going to drive greater public education, public history education.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (06:14):**

And so why do you think it matters to Ketchikan?

**Peter Stanton (06:20):**

You know, we've got a relatively storied community. It is technically the oldest incorporated city in Alaska at this point because other municipalities have changed their charters. <laugh> The ones that were established before. I certainly notice and I talk with my grandparents, they moved to Ketchikan in the 1950s, and we talk about the ways that the community has changed, the ways it continues to change. And of course that is valuable in many ways, but I don't want to continue living in this community that I love so much and see it lose a sense of where it came from, if certain parts of history are ignored or allowed to disappear.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (07:27):**

So you don't see it lose its sense of place basically.

**Peter Stanton (07:30):**

Yeah.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (07:34):**

What is one of the biggest challenges you think to preservation in Ketchikan as a whole?

**Peter Stanton (07:43):**

You know, <laugh>, I guess I'll use the challenge and opportunity cliché. The biggest challenge, but also the opportunity I think, is that a lot of preservation interest and support for preservation would be coming through the tourism industry. So there's a challenge there. If the community wants to put forward the funds and the effort to preserve parts of the community, that aren't necessarily going to be tourist attractions or where we get in a situation like happened to Juneau where the cruise lines decide that they don't think it's appropriate use of passenger <laugh> head taxes to spend that money on something for the community, if it's not going to serve visitors. I think that would be a challenge if the cruise lines and tourism industry interests are driving the decisions that we make on what is most important for historical preservation. But then of course, it's also a great opportunity that we have, so many and the funds that come with it.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (09:13):**

Preservation is dependent heavily on tourism to the point that tourism is driving preservation as a whole, which is a good thing, but yet a bad thing.

**Peter Stanton (09:26):**

Because yeah, that may be the case. And, you know, I'm not so dialed in that. I wouldn't necessarily say that that's the case. I know that there are preservation projects going on in town right now that aren't; I don't know of a connection with the cruise lines or some future tourist venue, you know, and it is driven by community passion for that preservation project. So I wouldn't say that it's all driven by the cruise lines at this point or anything like that.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (10:03):**

I know some opportunity and challenges, but what are the strengths and weaknesses of your community when it comes within that preservation context?

**Peter Stanton (10:14):**

I think Ketchikan is a community with a high level of community involvement and active citizens. You know, I always wish that it could be higher, but I think when I look at, you know, local government meetings and different committees and different community organizations, the level of participation there, I think it does seem relatively high for community of our size. And there are people who are involved and who really care and who put a lot of time and effort into these sorts of projects. So I think that's a strength along with, of course, the attraction of this place for visitors and the million-plus people who are coming here every year that we get to share our community with.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (11:08):**

What do you think are some of the weaknesses?

**Peter Stanton (11:13):**

Well, again, you know, there could be the possibility that some aspects of the community may be paved over, or there may be a strong interest to change things for the sake of tourism or economic development. I don't know. I don't want to exaggerate that fear, because I can't even think of too many examples where that's the case, and different economic interests that have been contributing to preservation. Just in the last few years, there are projects where I don't necessarily love all the potential impacts, but they are contributing to preservation, including at Ward Cove with some of the buildings from the old pulp mill. And then even I guess it's the Ward Cove group that purchased the ... I think it's the Malaspina, one of the old state ferries that was being sold. And they want to, I guess, turn that into some sort of attraction. So at least that old Alaska state ferry is going to be preserved and put to use here in Alaska. So there are some positive examples and I wouldn't want to exaggerate that. I'm afraid of everything getting paved over.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (12:54):**

And do you see a place for preservation in Ketchikan? I mean, do you see that as being, you know, anchored in the community in essence?

**Peter Stanton (13:05):**

Yes. I think it is, there are people who care about it and are paying attention to it on a regular basis with ongoing projects. And it's not as if the community doesn't value its history at all, and we just want to change everything. That's definitely not the sense here.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (13:28):**

That's good. And from people you've spoken to, what do you think the largest public misunderstanding of preservation is in Ketchikan when you talk to people, those and misconceptions and misunderstandings of historic preservation?

**Peter Stanton (13:49):**

I'm not sure if it's exactly historic preservation, but maybe one of the biggest misconceptions that I might have even fed into a little bit, one of my earlier answers is just that Ketchikan's history is only encapsulated within the past 150 years. And the oldest building that we have standing on the island. So I would like more people to be aware of the archeological record and the indigenous heritage going back thousands of years, and the important sites around Ketchikan. Not that those sites should become tourist attractions <laugh>, but there are village sites just within 30, 50 miles, where there are still the remains of totem poles, where there are grave sites, where there were villages that may have been occupied, you know, for centuries or more. And, you know, I don't like seeing historical education that focuses just on settler history. Ketchikan was incorporated in as a city in 1900. And that's when Ketchikan's history begins.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (15:13):**

Right. Right. So like that focus on the gold rush becomes the history that everybody associates the community with. Right.

**Peter Stanton (15:22):**

Yeah. Yeah.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (15:24):**

And that leads into this next question: what stories or histories that you feel remain untold or underrepresented in the community that really warrant that, that really need to get out there for people?

**Peter Stanton (15:39):**

Yeah. So I think I wrote in the written survey that I have been noticing and appreciating some really great efforts within the past several years to bring to light a lot of different histories that had previously been relatively unknown. So I've been really happy to see that, but there are still certain things where there are some less pleasant stories, some harsher truths about the way that Ketchikan developed that people are still unaware of. I mean, at this point I thought I have had the sense, but I'm very biased because I care about history. And so I'm reading articles and teaching students all the time, but I thought it was pretty common knowledge at this point that Ketchikan was a segregated community almost from its inception. And then that those patterns have continued. And frankly, I mean, if you look at the demographics of different neighborhoods, those segregation patterns still have an influence on our community today. I was getting the impression that that story was out there and pretty well known, at least in the past several years. But usually whenever I mention it, not just around my students, but also around adults, people are still shocked and people still have no idea. So there's still examples like that of tough parts of Ketchikan's history where I think they should be common knowledge and we're probably not quite there yet.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (17:28):**

Do you know, off the top of your head, like a really good example of a preservation success story in Ketchikan, and if so, then what contributed to its success?

**Peter Stanton (17:41):**

That's a good question. I'm trying to think, I mean, there are buildings that I can actually see it from my living room right here. There are buildings that I really love and impressed by and how they've been taken care of. So what I'm looking at right now is the Lutheran church, and that has been so well maintained. I can't remember off the top of my head when the Lutheran church was constructed, but I think 1910s, 1920s, and it's been so well maintained. It's beautiful. I don't think that they necessarily opened it up to visitors and give tours or anything like that, and I don't know any details about what history or potential struggles that building has gone through, but I think that's just an example of a beautiful historic building. That's really well maintained here.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (18:44):**

Think contributed to its efforts to preserve it.

**Peter Stanton (18:48):**

I think it's maintained a really strong church community that's been involved in maintaining that building. Again, I don't really know much of the details about it, but another good one would be the Episcopal Church downtown, which is older. I'm pretty sure that's the oldest church on the island and maybe circa 1900 or just after 1900 when that was built. And that's been pretty well maintained.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (19:15):**

Well, what I found interesting about that is it's just like you were saying before, it was like tourism that has been driving a lot of the preservation efforts in Ketchikan. And the Lutheran Church, for example, was not driven by tourism at all. I mean, they're not even given tours as far as you know?

**Peter Stanton (19:28):**

So yeah. Maybe I'm just proving myself wrong, I guess. <laugh>

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (19:32):**

No, I mean, it's great though, that local effort to preserve that isn't just surrounded by economic development, if you will. Driven by economic development. So that's a great example. Thank you for that. This is a big question, I love asking this one: if money were no object, what would you do to improve your community?

**Peter Stanton (19:57):**

Yeah. I mean, I could just start listing off things. But if I'm trying to think of priorities or the biggest sound bite or tidbit, I don't know. That's a little difficult. If money were no object, I would want the Totem Heritage Center to be expanded into a museum. And again, of course, I'm extremely biased. I used to work there. But the Totem Heritage Center is just an amazing museum. And I think there are far too few people who go to it. I mean, I don't know the numbers off the top of my head, but we're talking a very, very small percentage of the million-plus people who come to Ketchikan make it up and visit the Totem Heritage Center when it probably holds the most significant historical artifacts on the island in terms of some of the oldest totem poles that are preserved anywhere in the world. And certainly in Alaska, probably our biggest competitor is in Vancouver, but I would think that the Totem Heritage Center should be expanded and that should really be a bigger destination for visitors.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (21:29):**

So what would need to happen to make that possible? I mean, if you know, you got the money, you're doing the expansion, but what could get that expansion going besides money?

**Peter Stanton (21:42):**

It's my impression having worked for the museum department and then afterwards served on the museum advisory board. My impression is that the Ketchikan museum department is still a net loss for the city budget. And I couldn't tell you why that is. And I don't necessarily think that everything should be for the money. <laugh> But again, I would love for our local museums to be bigger destinations for visitors, and I would love to see the city able to expand the work of the museum department.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (22:30):**

Great answer. Now, what is the most effective? I mean, you're a high school teacher. This probably applies a little bit more to you, but what is the most effective preservation training program slash medium for educating and training people on preservation? What do you think is a good training program? What do you think the most effective? What is there today and what do you think could be there?

**Peter Stanton (23:04):**

Honestly, I'm not sure. I mean, I'm not sure that I'd like to be more involved, but I'm not sure what there is to be more involved with. You know, I've thought about maybe getting onto the, the board of Historic Ketchikan so that I could learn more about what they're doing, but it, it took me a while, even as somebody who really loves this community, my hometown, and really loves history. It took me a while to figure out all these different organizations and non-profits and boards and how different people are involved in these decision making processes. And so now I've served on the boards of different organizations, and I still don't know very much about preservation because I haven't really been that involved with Historic Ketchikan.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (23:58):**

So it's safe to say then that preservation training is pretty much lacking in the community then?

**Peter Stanton (24:04):**

Yeah, I would think that there's not a lot of awareness, you know, even with a project, like Save the Goose, the guys who are working on preserving the Grumman Goose, that is done under the umbrella of the Tongass Historical Society. So I learned a lot more about it after I joined the historical society board. But I knew very little about it before I joined the board. And it's just a few really dedicated aviation history enthusiasts who keep working on that project. And they, you know, they do their utmost to give people tours and show people the work they're doing and make people aware of it. But, as I can tell you as an educator of teenagers, people need a lot of reminders and people forget things very quickly. And even when I can say, "Oh, I've taught all of these students, who've been in high school over the past several years, so I know I've taught them this, this and this." There's still so many more members of the general public who haven't gone through my Alaska Studies class and they're learning things here and there. And they're not forced to sit in a high school classroom and learn about Alaska history.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (25:31):**

What do you think the most effective way of communicating that information would be then? On preservation?

**Peter Stanton (25:38):**

Yeah, that's a good question. Honestly I think social media, and in particular Facebook, Facebook is probably the number one way to get to the most people in Ketchikan. You know, if you drew a six degrees of separation map network of people, there are certain Facebook influencers in Ketchikan who are friends with up to thousands of people. And if you get some of those people repeating something on Facebook, then it will spread around the community probably faster than anything else.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (26:32):**

What is your hope for the future at Ketchikan? I mean, you know, what do you see is really meant to happen? What do you really want to happen in Ketchikan?

**Peter Stanton (26:43):**

In terms of historic preservation or everything?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (26:46):**

I would say in terms of historic preservation, what would you like to see?

**Peter Stanton (26:49):**

See? Okay. Okay. I'd like to see historic neighborhoods retain their character and also offer the unique charms and advantages that seem to be lacking when it comes to housing in so much the rest of the United States. I mean, I think that a historic preservation in Ketchikan is both a good thing from the historical standpoint, but it's also good for people's way of life. I think that Ketchikan has a much higher rate of duplexes in multi-unit buildings than many other communities across the United States. And the community is much denser in spite of being on this huge island, because the lack of available land and the historical development of the community, we have these historical neighborhoods that are pretty compact and walkable and really great places to live. And I really want to see that preserved. I'm sitting in a 1924 house right now and it's in a great neighborhood. Everything is walkable for me downtown here. It's a little bit of a pain to drive my car and park it up a very narrow one lane street that was originally boardwalk and designed in a time when not everybody was driving cars and wanting to park them right in front of their house. We're actually lucky that we have a parking space and our neighbors do not have parking, so they have to park down below and then walk up. But you know, these kind of unique, special neighborhoods,

I really want to see Ketchikan preserve that. And then also, maybe it's not exactly preservation, but if there's new housing built inspired by Ketchikan's history, that would be pretty special too.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (29:20):**

So you're basically saying you would like to see some sensible development, those that take into account that historic character and doesn't detract from it.

**Peter Stanton (29:30):**

Yeah.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (29:31):**

Yeah.

**Peter Stanton (29:32):**

You know, just like the rest of the country, Ketchikan needs new housing for people. But I would much rather see Craftsman style inspired architecture rather than McMansions or whatever else. <laugh>

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (29:53):**

What do you feel... Changing gears a little bit, but what do you feel the role of the local historic preservation commission is improving your community? I mean, what do you see their role in improving your community as a whole?

**Peter Stanton (30:14):**

You know, I think that they have... My impression is that they have some power and some ability to maintain standards and set of vision so that our community does retain that character and that sense of history so that there is sensible development and that that development reflects our values and what we want to preserve. Yeah. I don't have big specifics.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (30:51):**

No, that's OK. That's perfect. What do you see for the State Historic Preservation Office, their role? Do you see the state's preservation office having a role in your community?

**Peter Stanton (31:04):**

Honestly, I do not know what the State Historic Preservation Office has done in Ketchikan. The only things, you know, a few of the reports and things that I've seen come up with particular projects or issues. I feel like I've seen that just coming out of the local organizations or local institutions. And I haven't seen examples of the state.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (31:37):**

What are your hopes for the historic preservation plan that the city plans on developing? This is the phase one update, which is to basically pull the public involvement together and share the ideas and interests of the public to help direct the development of a historic preservation plan. That's what this phase is. And so what are your hopes for the historic preservation plan as they develop this plan?

**Peter Stanton (32:07):**

Well, I mean, I know that the city council has been talking a lot about the housing issue recently and for most people in the community, realistically, affordable rent and affordable housing is probably more important than some abstract idea of preserving historic sites. So I think maybe one part of a historic preservation plan would be having the city send a clear message of how this is going to help Ketchikan develop in a way that helps everybody.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (32:54):**

So that was part of my question is what issues do you want to be sure are addressed? Would it be safe to say affordable housing would be an issue you'd want to see addressed in the preservation plan?

**Peter Stanton (33:03):**

Yeah. Yeah. And maintaining, or even enhancing, the positives and the advantages of historic urban design in Ketchikan. Maybe I've been watching too many urban planning YouTube videos recently, but <laugh>, I think Ketchikan is a pretty special place and we should use that to our advantage.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (33:30):**

Absolutely. I tell you what I want visiting Ketchikan. I can tell you it's one of the most amazing places in terms of historic properties that I've been to in the state of Alaska. I mean, there's pretty amazing places I've been to, I've been all over the state, but Ketchikan does take the cake on a lot of it. So it's a great spot. You live in a wonderful community. That said, what role, if any, would you like to play, or do you see your organization, which is the high school, playing in future preservation efforts?

**Peter Stanton (34:02):**

I would like to see Ketchikan high school students getting their hands dirty and involved in something in some way, you know, I've had classes participate in contributing to museum exhibits and things like that in the past, we've done some oral history recordings with elders and some things like that. But, you know, if I can get high school students to see that history is driving how their community is developing and how it's preserving things that are important to us, and they can be involved in that in some way, that would be wonderful. So that's what I'll be looking for.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (34:52):**

That's amazing. You know, there are towns like Cordova. We were working with the Cordova Historic Preservation Commission a year or two back ago, and we built a survey manual for them. It's really just elementary survey manual so that the high school teachers could use it for classroom purposes, but at the same time, keep their inventory of historic properties updated. So it kind of gave them direction on how to conduct an inventory. And at what point do they need to bring a professional consultant in or something like that. So there's a lot of different opportunities to bring these students in on everything from survey to brick and mortar. I think it's a great opportunity. And it sounds like you're in a wonderful position to try to make something like that happen. Is there anything else you'd like to discuss or like us to know in terms of your community historic preservation? Any issues in the urban, you know, affordable housing, for instance, anything you want to share with us?

**Peter Stanton (35:52):**

What can you share with me those resources for high school students and getting involved in surveying?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (35:59):**

Like the survey manual? Yeah, yeah, absolutely. I'll have Joan send you a copy of that. It was a couple years ago, I think was two years ago, during when COVID first happened. I think we just put this little survey manual together and divided up the Cordova community into survey areas and kind of provided them guidance, maybe where to start with the students. More easily tackleable, you know, those areas are a little bit less complicated, at least learn how to survey it. But yeah, we can share that with you, no problem. So thank you. Honestly, you might want to reach out to some of the Cordova folks and ask them if they've made any headway with that. We haven't followed up. They haven't reached out to us, but it might be worth contacting them.

**Peter Stanton (36:56):**

Yeah. Thank you.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (36:57):**

Also, have you heard of the Teachers Restoration Corps?

**Peter Stanton (37:02):**

No, I've never heard of that.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (37:09):**

I know we're going to be running out time here a bit, but they have the cannery, the Kake cannery is a National Historic Landmark, and they've been working with them for going on 20 years on turning that cannery into a tourist attraction kind of on a smaller scale than Hoonah. And it's been a long, long feat, because I mean, they're trying to piecemeal money. It's typical: get the money, try to do the work, get the money, try to do the work, versus bringing in private investors. Right. But anyways, they had the Teachers Restoration Corps come out. The National Park Service uses them quite a bit. In fact, they're the ones that referred the Teachers Restoration Corps to the Organized Village of Kake. And there are a group of teachers that work nationwide and they volunteer every summer on their summers off to go out and help restore historic properties across the country. And they came to Kake and they did stabilization for the community stop gap measures: a new roof, did some framing on some rotted trusses, and stuff like that. So it's another resource you might want to Google as the Teachers Restoration Corps. If you, as a teacher, want to get involved in something that you might be able to learn and share with your students down the road. So I highly recommend that.

**Peter Stanton (38:26):**

Yeah, that sounds great. Thank you

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (38:31):**

So well, anyways, this pretty much concludes the interview. We only have a minute or two left before this thing's going to cut off. So I want to thank you, Peter, for taking the time to answer these questions.

**Peter Stanton (38:44):**

Yeah, absolutely.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (38:45):**

Hope to see at our meeting, it's on the 28th, six o'clock. You could go in the social media site, if you need another invite, let us know. And Joan can send you an email with the invite to the meeting.

**Peter Stanton (39:00):**

Okay, great. Yeah, I did put that on my calendar. Have you guys been getting a good response so far?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (39:06):**

Actually we have... I don't know how many we have so far.

**Joan Bayles Burgett, TNSDS (39:12):**

In the meeting registration, but the survey has been going really well.

**Peter Stanton (39:17):**

Okay, great. That's good to hear.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (39:20):**

Yeah. You guys definitely have an active community. I've been quite impressed.

**Joan Bayles Burgett, TNSDS (39:25):**

And we do still have interview spots open. So if you know anybody who would be interested and yet is really involved, please let them know that we still have interview spots open.

**Peter Stanton (39:38):**

Okay, great. Yeah. I will pass it on to some people I'll pass it on to some fellow teachers and maybe a few other people.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (39:46):**

Excellent. Appreciate it.

**Peter Stanton (39:49):**

Yeah. Thank you very much.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (39:50):**

All right. Thanks Peter. Okay.

**Peter Stanton (39:52):**

Take care.

## Dave Kiffer

The interview with Dave Kiffer took place on June 24, 2022. The interview was conducted by TNSDS Principle Consultant Robert Meinhardt and TNSDS Cultural Resource Manager Joan Bayles Burgett.

Ketchikan Historic Preservation Community Outreach Project

Stakeholder Interview #4

June 24, 2022

True North Sustainable Development Solutions, LLC

Robert Meinhardt, MA

Joan Bayles Burgett, MA, RPA

Interviewee: Dave Kiffer, Mayor of the City of Ketchikan

**David Kiffer (00:00):**

Hello, can you hear me?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (00:02):**

Hey, how are you, David?

**David Kiffer (00:04):**

I'm doing well. How about you?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (00:06):**

Amazing. It's amazing weather up here and we're loving every bit of it.

**David Kiffer (00:10):**

Oh, good.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (00:11):**

Yeah. Well, I want to first start by just saying thank you for taking a few minutes out of your day. I know you're a busy guy and hopefully it won't take us too long. I think they're average in about 40, 45 minutes max. Our Zoom is set up for like a 45 minute scenario. So we're trying to keep them relatively short. So, if you don't mind, we are going to record it. We're not going to use the visual, we're just using the audio and then we'll put it to our transcription system. So we have it transcribed. So just for start, can you just please state your name and your stakeholder position?

**David Kiffer (00:52):**

My name is Dave Kiffer, K I F F E R. I'm the mayor of the City of Ketchikan. I'm also a more or less lifelong resident. My mother was born here. My grandmother would've been born here in 1898, but she was born on the boat coming up. I'm also a local historian. Currently I work as an education coordinator at the jail, but prior to that, for 13 years, I was the executive director of a group called Historic Ketchikan.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (01:21):**

All right, well, thank you for that. Got a pretty strong tie to the city, which is great. That's going to really help us out with these stakeholder engagement interviews. So I'm going to start out with the first question and that is, how do you define preservation?

**David Kiffer (01:39):**

Preservation is basically doing what we can to leave things for future generations. Whether it's physical things like buildings, which we were involved heavily with Historic Ketchikan, or it's in my case, writing a lot of stories about things we need to have stories about that will be available for future generations to be able to refer to and find things out about our history.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (02:05):**

And tell us a little bit about your involvement with historic preservation efforts in Ketchikan.

**David Kiffer (02:10):**

Okay. So my family, because it's more than a hundred years in this community has been always very interested in the history of the community. So growing up, I heard many stories about things. My mother was born in the twenties. I heard a lot about that. I've heard about the various histories of different industries. I've had relatives who work in the fishing industry all the way back to a great-grandfather. I knew a great-grandfather who was a miner. So I've heard a lot of the mining industry, timber history. I've had relatives in that. So certainly, my whole life has been absorbing these basic stories of Ketchikan's history. Also, when I was the executive director of Historic Ketchikan, you were involved in quite a few historic preservation efforts. The idea being not just to preserve buildings, but to find future uses for them. We saved a couple of historic schools. We saved some other historic buildings. The idea not just to basically save it, but to save it and have it be used for something in the future. So it would have a purpose because the worst thing in Ketchikan is for a building to be empty. Basically this cherry takes it out. So if you're going to save a property, and Ketchikan has a lot of historic buildings, you've got to find a use that will allow it to continue to survive.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (03:31):**

And why does preservation matter to you? Is it that adaptive reuse?

**David Kiffer (03:36):**

Partly, yeah, I mean, that's kind of an extra bonus to me. You know, Alaska is a place where we tend to overwrite previous history. We talk about history. We make it sound like as a state in general care a lot about history and we do on some levels, but we're also remarkably in a big rush to tear down old houses, to replace old streets, to put new things in, and prefers to admit it's always easier to build you than it is to preserve an older building.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (04:18):**

Right.

**David Kiffer (04:19):**

But part of my goal is that when I'm gone, you know, I will preserve history from my time, but also history from prior to me. Because I think it's really important for that history to still be there for future generations. Because without a history, a town doesn't have a soul, it just doesn't. And in a place like Alaska, where we've gone through so many different, you know, booms and bust and iterations and reiteration, it's important to know where we came from and how we got here.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (04:51):**

Absolutely. I'm going to make a note here. And why do you think it matters to Ketchikan?

**David Kiffer (05:01):**

I think it matters a lot to Ketchikan because our history here says a lot of who we are, or I'm sorry, whom we are, who always get to and who, and primarily because most towns, even in Alaska, when they go boom and bust

after the bust, they go away. I mean, traditionally that's just what's happened or they hang on like some towns do, you know, a shadow of their previous self. Ketchikan has already survived three booms and busts, you know, we're stubborn, we're still here. The weather isn't that great, we're isolated, but we're still here because you know, the first major industry is mining until World War One. And basically at that point, you know, the salmon canning industry developed and it boomed for, you know, 30 odd years. And then basically because of fish traps, we were fishing. It went away and we're lucky at timber, which dominated for roughly 40 years. Basically when timber shuts down, well, mill shut 25 years ago, we're still here. <laugh> And it's arguably, you know, the economy has certainly changed, but in a lot of ways it's as strong or stronger than it was 25 years ago in the shutdown.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (06:34):**

Interesting.

**David Kiffer (06:34):**

That history is important because it's not just like we're a timber town or we're a fishing town, or we're a mining town or we're tourism town, we've been, all those things. And once again, that's who we are.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (06:47):**

So what do you think one of the biggest challenges to preservation Ketchikan is?

**David Kiffer (06:52):**

I think because certainly the physical aspect is a challenge because the weather, you know, preserving old buildings is expensive and you know, it's complicated. And also the limited space around means that often, you know, there's pressure, we need to build blah, blah. We need to build this big, new building. We need take out these other 10 buildings or five buildings or six buildings or whatever. So there's always going to be limited amount of space to build new monuments to the modern world. You know, we had some real challenges preserving some of the older schools around here. Cause there were, you know, we to be a parking lot, we that to be this or that or the other thing. And so we had to really force the effort of, of, of preserving what was there. And so that's a major, um, I think another major issue for this community in this whole region is, um, people come and go. I, I think it's changed now since the timber industry went away. But at one point in eighties and nineties, the state determined that roughly half the people in Ketchikan had been here five years with us. Now it seemed like the other half have been here 16 years, but the reality was at highly transient community. Things like history don't seem to matter that much.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (08:09):**

Right. Right.

**David Kiffer (08:11):**

And fortunately we always had a good core group of old timers, like our family and other families history did matter. I think that's why it's been preserved. But when half the community's basically on their way to somewhere else, it's hard to generate that enthusiasm for history and preservation.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (08:30):**

And what do you think the strengths and weaknesses of the community are, generally speaking? What are your strengths and weaknesses as a community?

**David Kiffer (08:38):**

Well, I think I kind of mentioned one weakness and that certainly is the transient nature. Now that may have changed with the timber industry not being as major as it was. But yeah, even though you see a lot of like, the

federal employees, Ketchikan has a huge federal and state government, presence here. But I mean, you have groups like the Forest Service and the Coast Guard, they're here two or three years, they're gone here, gone here. God. And I think that that has also hurt our ability to keep families here really because you know, families move to elsewhere. And one thing that hasn't recovered, this worries me, the thing that hasn't recovered since the mill shutdown, the population dipped and came back, the school population dropped by 25 to 30% and really hasn't come back.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (09:33):**

Huh.

**David Kiffer (09:34):**

Interesting. And so there are fewer young people here than the new life. You know, the population is aging. Well, that's good for history preservation. Because old people love history. That's a good thing, but we're not going to be around it.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (09:50):**

Yeah. And we we've found that over 50% of the folks that responded to our survey were over 55 age, years of age.

**David Kiffer (09:57):**

Yep. Yeah. I mean we agree, we care about history because it's our lives, it's our history, you know?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (10:08):**

What do you think some of the strengths are in Ketchikan?

**David Kiffer (10:11):**

Well, I think actually the thing I just mentioned, that's also a strength too. You know, we have people who have lived in Ketchikan for decades, you know, 50, 60, 70, 80 years. And they truly care about history. They care about museums. They care about preservation. It's not just some concept to them. It's something they can reach out and touch, it's their history, it's their lives. And as a result, you know, they are very enthusiastic with the museum and vocal. Now part of me is always trying to find younger people to come in and replace the older people. Because one of the sad things I've had to do in a lot of recent years is a go to a lot of funerals. But I also write the stories for the newspaper and elsewhere about important people who are gone.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (11:02):**

Right.

**David Kiffer (11:03):**

And it's interesting because my mother was born here. She lived in town for 94 years and she also had a fairly photographic memory. So pretty much everything that happened from the mid-twenties on, she could tell you who lived where, what businesses was, where who had what kind of car, what and wow. And to this day she's been – she's passed, passed away seven years ago. There's not a day... And that's happened with a lot of people I knew and grew up with now some, my friends are at the stage where we're going to pass away and when every time someone like that dies a whole wealth of information about the history disappears. And so I'm kind of rushing to get as many of the old timers, you know, on tape and stories or are recorded as possible because that's, well, here's an example. About 10 years ago when I was with the Borough 15 years ago, we did a series of what we called Ketchikan story videos. And they covered things like just general history, the fishing industry and the timber industry, Native culture, virtually everything, you look back at those videos. Now they're roughly some that are 10 years old, some are 15 years old. Some are only less than that. So I mean, and it was good that we got it from them, but even today, I have questions for all those people.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (12:35):**

Right. So clearly, that pretty much answers my next question, which is, do you see a place for historic preservation in the community? Obviously you do just with those stories.

**David Kiffer (12:45):**

So yeah, exactly. Like I said before, you know, without those stories, that history, we really don't have, you know, there, there is no there.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (12:55):**

So what is one of the largest public misunderstandings of preservation in your community?

**David Kiffer (13:01):**

Well for my time working in preservation, there's two of them and one's not as a major one, but it was always kind of an irritating point when I was doing presentation that people had the impression that if they want to save the building, great, there's money for that, there's government grants, and the reality is there really isn't, you know, there are tax write-offs if they're enforced. And so that's one major misperception, which makes it hard. Because they come to you thinking they can get a lot of money to fix their old house, and the reality is, it isn't there. That's very restaurant. I think another one is, when I talk to a lot of the younger people in the community and people like my son, who's 21, and others, I really get the sense that they think history is someone else's story. It's not something that relates to them. I mean, on a small level, it does, you know, they talk about things that happened to them four or five years ago, but they don't think big picture about the history. You know, they'll say, "Why are we saving this building? Why are we spending our money? Why, why does that matter? Quit telling us those same old stories over and over and over and over." And that worries me because those are the people we're counting on to preserve things in the future and keep the history going. And I think it's a real challenge. Plus I think there's the misconception that I often get from the business community is that preserving history is an undue burden upon business. "You're telling me what I can't do with my property. You're telling me what I can't do with my building. You're telling me what I can't do. You know, you're not being business friendly." And I have heard that a lot over the years, even in government, we talk about preserving something. It's like, "Well, what are the opportunity costs to this? If you preserve that, if you put your rules on that neighborhood, that I can't come in and wipe it all out and make a bet or make more money of it." And so I think that's one of the major misperceptions. So it's somehow, you can't have both.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (15:19):**

So getting back to stories, which you clearly have interest in, what stories or histories do you think remain untold or underrepresented in Ketchikan?

**David Kiffer (15:33):**

Couple of ones seems obvious, maybe one doesn't so much. You know, obviously Ketchikan is a very multiracial team. You know, we have lots of Anglos. We have lots of Natives, but we also have Filipinos who have been here for 60 or 70 years. We have some Japanese families that have been even willing to do that. We have Hispanic families, we have African American families. And I think the Native history has been covered fairly well. And there's also a push for even more of that, which is good because the more history, the better, but the reality is I think the other ethnic groups, you know, the non-white groups have not been covered. And I think there's a huge holding because those groups have been part of the community for decades. And they're really part of the reason why we're still here. Can you...

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (16:28):**

Go –

**David Kiffer (16:28):**

Ahead? I was going to say the other one group that probably isn't covered. This might seem counterintuitive, but just the general kind of local business function of the community. And we do that whenever the museum wants to do like an exhibit based on some part of the business history of Ketchikan, they have a challenge finding, you know, artifacts and stories cause that really people just didn't write stuff down. They didn't save stuff. They just, you know, it's hard with rare exceptions to create like a workspace exhibit because the stuff's just, no one saved it. And that's frustrating.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (17:18):**

I was just going to see, you know, you're talking about some of maybe I should say deficiencies of trying to preserve some of this culture or some of these business developments, but what are some success stories that you know of in preservation and what do you think contributed to the success of those?

**David Kiffer (17:41):**

Efforts? Okay, sure. And this is just general preservation not focusing on. Okay. Well, so, I think the creation of historic districts, whether it was Creek Street, whether it was Stedman-Thomas before that, and actually the Stedman-Thomas district went a long way toward presuming some of that ethnic history, because frankly in the old days, that was, unfortunately, called Indian Town for several decades. But that was where, you know, the Natives, the African Americans, the Asians, that was where the Japanese community was so strong prior to World War II. So the creation of those districts has helped us in a lot of ways. I think the creation of specific high profile buildings has helped as well too. Probably the biggest one that I was certainly involved in was the preservation of the White Cliff School out in the kind of west end of Ketchikan. That was a school that was operating from the twenties to almost 80 years and was the longest operating school in a big old multi-story school, made of concrete, the whole thing you generations of people. My mother was actually in the first kindergarten class there in 1927. So a lot of Ketchikan residents had been, were from, you know, and plus it was one of the largest buildings in town, and yet when they closed the school and basically gave it back to Borough because the Borough controls school powers and well, let's just tear it down. Let's just make it apartment lots. Let's just build something else. So the reality is in 1927, they built schools like bomb shelters and it was going to cost us two to three million just to tear it down and make a parking lot. And I'm not sure anyone thought that was a good use of public funds, except for the neighbors who wanted to see parking for churches. There were a couple of churches right by that were lobbying after that parking lot, that flat parking lot there. And there was some pressure for that. And so we eventually worked with a private developer basically allowed the private developer to buy the building fairly cheap for the property. Then they basically took the shell of the building and built a new building inside it with some things from the past, like the wide stairways and it's a lovely building. And then of course the Borough then bought the building back and now, and now it's government offices and other things. That's where the Borough is based. People saying, whoa, why did you, you know, why did you solve it? Didn't spend 10 million buying it back. Well, because if we had done the renovation, we would've taken four times as long and cost maybe five times as much.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (20:31):**

Right. That makes -

**David Kiffer (20:32):**

Sense. And now no one felt that, but you know, at the time when this happened, you know, 15 years ago it was a real... As the borough mayor, I had to fight that one pretty hard. Wow. But it worked. And now, do they say successes and failures... There are many people on the project that I'm no, no. That wasn't you, you voted against.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (21:00):**

What do you think contributed to that success?

**David Kiffer (21:04):**

I think doing it right. Because now everyone kind of looks at this building and they go, well, it looks like the old school and the inside's really nice. And we've got all the offices are rented and yeah it worked out well, I've been involved in some projects that haven't worked out quite so. Well. We were taking longer, it had other issues and it's hard for anyone who's been in this town or any town to not drive by that old school and go, wow, that looks, that's nice. I'm glad they did that.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (21:39):**

That's awesome.

**David Kiffer (21:40):**

But it turned out well and we have, you know, we have some other schools, which to be honest, not the historic manner, where they've taken the old historic school and basically razed it and built something entirely new. Now that's good for modern education, but it's not good for historic preservation.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (21:58):**

So as mayor, if money wasn't an object, what would you do to improve your community?

**David Kiffer (22:07):**

You know, if money were no object and this was politically possible, I'm not sure it is. I would figure out ways to set up if not revolving loan things, then some sort of process where people could get grants to fix up their properties themselves. Ketchikan, because of its history, we have a lot of buildings that are now approaching a hundred years old. There's a lot of construction in the teens and twenties that was when Ketchikan went from basically a bunch of shacks to being its own city. And a lot of those building are still around. And I think a lot of them are falling apart because frankly people can't afford to keep them up. So what happens is either eventually it falls down, there's a fire, or they just tear it down and build something. And I get that because you know, it's not cheap. It's not inexpensive to rehabilitate and preserve a building in its historically correct manner. And like I said before, there's that sort of misconception people where would say, "Hey, we want to fix up our house. Our house was built in 1910. It's a great old house. Did you guys have any money for that?" And the answer would be? No, we didn't. And so I think if there was a real financial incentive and not just, "we're going to rebate your taxes for two years," I think you would see people making a greater effort to preserve those older buildings.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (23:39):**

What...

**David Kiffer (23:39):**

Do you think once again, that's part of Ketchikan's history.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (23:42):**

What do you think would need to happen in order to make that possible, like big loan fund, what would you need to happen on that to get that revolving loan fund started? Money, clearly.

**David Kiffer (23:56):**

Money. I mean money. I mean politically there will always be an issue in Ketchikan with people reacting saying, "You're trying to tell me what to do with my property." That will always, and where we've targeted specific historic

buildings, whether it's some of the downtown three and four story commercial buildings or others, we almost always run into that. You know, "I'm not going to do that. You can't tell me when to do that." Or if you want to create, you know, historic districts in certain areas, we probably have about 30 to 40% of property owners say you can't do that because you're going to, you know, require me to do X, Y, or Z and I have rights. And they do so politically. A, out some way enough to support it to itself and B, you would have to figure out ways to make the preservation of older buildings cooler than it's perceived right now.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (25:05):**

And that kind of leads into my next question. What do you think the most effective preservation training program or medium could be to kind of help alleviate some of these misconceptions? That is definitely a common theme in preservation across the country.

**David Kiffer (25:22):**

You know, one of the things that I hadn't really anticipated when I sat down with the Visitors Bureau and kind of sketched out the story was that those videos have now kind of made history cool, cooler than it was 20 years ago. And just about everyone's seen those videos, they show them on TV, on local cable channels here, all over lots of the businesses. Like for example, the Bush pilot one, the plane showed in their in their lobbies and stuff. A lot of people have seen these even here at the jail. I show them the video, and "Oh, I know that. I know that was my grandfather." And I think besides preserving history, besides giving a story that we can tell the visitors, those videos have also kind of made us appreciate our history more. And like I said, history is cooler now than before video. So part of somehow making historic preservation a cool thing, there are people in the community who think the only reason you restore or preserve is for the tourists and that reaching them is a challenge. Because you know, they perceive virtually anything government does or the government drives is somehow related to the tourism industry. And of course those same people have problems with the size of the tourism industry. It's almost got to be something that is not top down.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (27:01):**

So if you think it's just making it cool... what do you think the most effective way of communicating that is to the people, to your residents?

**David Kiffer (27:14):**

Depends on the age. Of course, the videos were very popular with, you know, people of my age and older but probably less popular with people in their twenties and thirties. I'm surprised and partly just because I'm not particularly technologically savvy and I have no time. I mean, I'm doing like five different jobs anyway. Personally, I should be doing a podcast, a history podcast. Yeah. No one in Ketchikan is as far as I know. Some are doing personal podcasts that touch on history, but no one's doing a Ketchikan podcast. I guess if I could have someone come and film me talking and make a podcast of it that would work. But all the rest of it is either beyond me or I ain't got time. So I don't have time to sit around editing and I've worked in video production before, I've worked in TV, I've done all that, but that's too much time. I don't have enough hours there. I can barely sit down to research and write, crank out stories, right? Yeah. There should be a history podcast.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (28:23):**

I like it.

**David Kiffer (28:24):**

Whoever does it. I know, but there could be multiples. There could be a Native history podcast. There could be, you know, an industry history, there could be podcast score and at least hopefully get a lot more people, you know, younger people, more interested in the idea of local history.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (28:41):**

I like it. I like it a lot. And is your hope for the future at Ketchikan? I mean, really, you've kind of touched upon it before, but really what is your hope moving forward?

**David Kiffer (28:54):**

Historic preservation, for you guys?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (28:57):**

Just for the community as a whole, I mean, you could put it within the context of historic preservation. You can just... what is your hope for Ketchikan?

**David Kiffer (29:06):**

It survives, but it's still here. We had an interesting view last couple of years of what Ketchikan would essentially be without the tourism. And it wasn't the end of the world. It was actually kind of nice, to walk down the docks in the summer and not have, you know, 25,000 people from Cleveland, you know? But with that said, you know, it wasn't sustainable, it was federal, it was government money keeping this going. But we saw that, you know, one of the good things about Ketchikan in recent decades is the economy has diversified. It's not just all one thing. You know, there's a lot of service industry stuff here. There's a lot of, you know, we are regional hub for other areas. You know, whether it's Prince of Wales or Hydaburg or whatever, people come here to shop and do stuff. Now, the scary thing about that is if you look at the, you know, 10 largest employers, this goes back even before the mill closed, the vast majority are all government. It's the city, it's the borough, it's the hospital, which is quasi-government. It's groups like community connections, which are quasi-government. It's the forest services. It's the coast guard. And we all know how government funding is, it has its own issues. You know, things go badly wrong. So government funding for lot of things, can go away. And Alaska in general, we like to perceive ourselves as being these rugged individuals out there doing our own thing. If the federal government or the state government would go away tomorrow, we'd collapse.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (30:47):**

So if government is such an important factor for the community and sustainability, if that's what you're telling me, then what do you feel the role of the historic preservation commission is as an entity within the government, in improving the community?

**David Kiffer (31:12):**

I think of ways it's... what's been doing, you know... I'm not sure there's a major new role that I can envision. I mean, in actually I guess, one of the things about Ketchikan is there's a lot of confusion in Ketchikan about some of the different groups. Yeah. When I was at Historic Ketchikan, which is a private non-profit, everyone always assumed I was a museum and I would say, "No, that's the Tongass Historical." Then there's confusion about the historic commission you know, what is the tool? It's an arm of government to deal with grants if they're available or to rule on certain things, at least to advise the city on certain aspects. But I think for one thing, if you ask the average Ketchikan person about the historic commission, they wouldn't have a clue about it. So I think it needs to have a higher profile. Now how it gets that higher profile without, you know, stepping on the toes of say an autonomous historic society, or even, I think it's a little... I don't know.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (32:31):**

Do you find there's competition amongst those different historic groups or historic preservation groups in Ketchikan?

**David Kiffer (32:40):**

Just initially? I don't think so, but I could see how it would happen. I think that I know at times there's been some back and forth between Historic Ketchikan and the historic society. But really, the historic society is the museum and that's about all they are really engaging for the most part. The historic society was always doing more. They were out more, they believe in history, but they also believe in using that history for economic development. It's hard to say if there's competition with the historic commission, because frankly, like I said, it keeps such an intensely low profile, 99% of the time. It's hard to tell sometimes what it is doing. Again, I'm, I'm not trying to be negative. Right. But other than as a function of the city in that if we're given a grant, I'm not sure what else it does. There was a time when I was actually involved in the historic commission back in the... I want to say the early nineties, when I first came back and the historic commission at that point was highly involved with the city in the planning for the new museum. Unfortunately, for whatever reason, not a real lot was created. If it had been. Now, part of the reason was cost in 1994 like I said, we're not going to 6 million for now. You pay 6 million over four year, you know, but I think it was more kind of out there leading that charge and being involved in that planning process in recent years, you know, I feel bad that I can't really say what they've been doing other than when the city's getting grants, the city's working on projects that have to go to the commission to have them, you know, either sign off on the project. It's not going to be a historical detriment or things like that. So I'm not sure...

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (35:01):**

If I'm understanding correctly, you're saying that there's a low profile. It keeps a low profile. And with the other groups, it's not as much competition as it is confusion as to what group's doing what in the community.

**David Kiffer (35:16):**

Exactly. Yeah. Precisely.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (35:19):**

What role do you see the State Historic Preservation Office in your community? Do you see any role for the state's involvement?

**David Kiffer (35:29):**

Yeah. Approving National Register listings a lot faster. So that was always my thing. People would fill out the form then great, blah, agree. And then it would take the state two years, frankly. I understand making sure all the eyes I's are dotted and t's crossed or whatever, but you can lose a lot of enthusiasm for a project and it sits. And then of course they take two years to do it. They would take the feds two or three years to do it. And heck by then, the original probably wasn't even around.

**Casey Woster TNSDS (36:19):**

I have to break in really quickly: we have about three and a half minutes left before Zoom cuts us off.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (36:23):**

Oh no.

**David Kiffer (36:25):**

I'll tell you a story fairly quickly. The perfect example of that was when we were doing the Whale Pass School project. Yeah. We basically got it all set up for those things to do, arranged for the money, arranged for the contractor, arranged for all of that. And then it took like six years for the state and the feds to sign off on it.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (36:50):**

I've got two really important questions I want you to answer before we get cut off here. One is what role do you

see for the preservation plan in shaping the future of Ketchikan and two, or what are your hopes for the preservation plan? What issues do you want to be sure are addressed?

**David Kiffer (37:05):**

Okay. First of all, preservation plans, like any plans in government, if they don't have real specific, short term things you can do now, they're going to sit somewhere and be forgotten. So besides saying "Here over the long term is" - that's great. There's got to be things that you can obtain now, right now, the things you can work on in the next six months. I think it's important to tie together all these different efforts. You know, like I said, right now, we've got a bunch of different historic districts. We need to tie those altogether. We need to figure out that what we're doing with one district is not, you know, compromise. What's another district. And we basically need a storage district plan for the entire city. I like need one for the entire borough, but that's not going to happen because frankly, too many people in the borough, they think, "It's my property, don't you tell me to do." But I think now at least from the Coast Guard, the city can come up with an overall plan to preserve what needs to be promoted and get us to the future with as much historic things around as we have now.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (38:24):**

As mayor, what kind of role do you think you could play? In these future efforts?

**David Kiffer (38:30):**

I remain the bullet pulp and plus, you know, I can always be urging the city council to move in these directions. And frankly, every time I write in history, I hear from lot of local people who are fascinated by that. So clearly my role is to produce more preservation that kind of preservation of local history, but you're right. I should probably do a podcast, but we're not there yet. So yeah, that's my role. My role is to keep cranking out stuff as long I do.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (39:08):**

Well, Hey, we did it all within the timeframe that we had. Alloted so thank you so much, David. I really do appreciate... Casey and I both appreciate your time here. And once again, I appreciate it. And I guess I didn't introduce myself. I'm Rob Meinhardt, the president of TN SDS. This is Casey Woster, architectural historian. And thank you so much. I appreciate it.

**David Kiffer (39:32):**

No, not a problem, if any, this makes sense or you have any questions? Give me a shout.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (39:35):**

Will do. Thank you, sir.

**David Kiffer (39:37):**

Okay. Take care. Good luck.

## Karen Pitcher

The interview with Karen Pitcher took place on June 17, 2022. The interview was conducted by TNSDS Principle Consultant Robert Meinhardt and TNSDS Project Architectural Historian Casey Woster.

Ketchikan Historic Preservation Community Outreach Project  
Stakeholder Interview #5  
June 27, 2022  
True North Sustainable Development Solutions, LLC  
Robert Meinhardt, MA  
Casey Woster, MA  
Interviewee: Karen Pitcher, former KHC member

### Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (00:00):

Start the recording. Ah, perfect. Okay.

### Karen Pitcher (00:03):

That is recording now.

### Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (00:04):

All right. Perfect. All right, Karen. So we're going to go ahead and record the interview and then we will use the transcription from the audio as part of our assessment of the interviews for developing the priorities for the updated historic preservation plan. Are you okay with us using it?

### Karen Pitcher (00:23):

Sure. Yep.

### Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (00:25):

Excellent. And Karen, if you don't mind, can you go ahead and state your name and how you identify as a stakeholder?

### Karen Pitcher (00:33):

My name is Karen Pitcher and in the past I've been active with historic preservation in Ketchikan. I served on the Ketchikan Historical Commission and I also owned a home that I did the work to have it placed on the National Register. I think it's probably still on the National Register, although I sold it in, oh God, when did I sell it? 2010. And I think the current owners have made changes that probably make it no longer eligible.

### Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (01:13):

And which property was that? If you mind me asking,

### Karen Pitcher (01:15):

623 Grant Street in Ketchikan.

### Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (01:18):

All right. I'm going to write that down. Perfect. And so we have a list of questions. The interview will last about 45 minutes. Max. We have a cap on our time on the interviews, in the Zoom format that we're using. So we're going to go through these questions, hopefully at the end, we have a little bit of time just to chat, but I am just going to go through each question. There's a list of 20 and then the 21st question, it's just kind of an open discussion if we

have time. Does that sound good? Okay, perfect. Okay. So the first question we're going to ask you is how do you define preservation?

**Karen Pitcher (01:56):**

Well, strictly defined, I would say it's preserving the structures, the sites, whatever, in a manner that's as close to the original as possible. For example, if a home had wooden gutters, I would define, I would expect those gutters to be replaced with new wooden gutters. Restoration I see is a little bit different and having more flexibility, I guess, but still trying to keep that historic sense, integrity.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (02:51):**

And so I know you touched upon this a little bit previously in your introduction, but can you tell us about your involvement with historic preservation efforts in Ketchikan?

**Karen Pitcher (03:00):**

Well, it was a long time ago. I don't think the historical commission exists anymore. I think KHC was established when Ted Ferry was the mayor and that's who appointed me. One of the things that we did during that time was we contracted with a fellow here in Ketchikan to do an analysis, which was published in book form of how many of the historic properties in Ketchikan could be preserved and restored to maintain their integrity. So it was one of the big projects we worked on. I can't even remember how many years it was in existence and how many years I was on it. I'm sorry.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (03:55):**

That's okay. Is that the book that was published back in the eighties with the inventory?

**Karen Pitcher (04:01):**

No. You mean the big kind of brown book? Okay. No, no. That one was originally done by... I can't remember the woman's name. And then it was redone a number of years later by someone in the local planning commission or planning department.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (04:23):**

Okay.

**Karen Pitcher (04:24):**

His name was Phil Tucker, I think. But that wasn't who did the original research, I've got the book here somewhere with the person's name in it. I believe it was a woman from Anchorage.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (04:42):**

Yeah. It's a wonderful book. We have a copy of that in our office as well.

**Karen Pitcher (04:46):**

Yeah.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (04:48):**

In the third question: why does preservation matter to you?

**Karen Pitcher (04:57):**

Hmm. I guess I've just always appreciated... like with buildings, I appreciate the knowing, being able to see the history of a building and I guess the same with places. Yeah. It's just a general appreciation, I guess.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (05:34):**

Absolutely. And why do you think it matters to Ketchikan as a whole?

**Karen Pitcher (05:39):**

Well, I know at one time, whenever that was that I was on the historical commission, Ketchikan was identified as having more historic properties than any other community in Alaska. I doubt that that's true any longer, but at that time it was true and sadly we've lost some very significant ones like McKay Marine Ways. And in particular is one that was one of a kind type of structure that could never be duplicated again.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (06:18):**

You certainly have probably still to this day, maybe even the highest density of properties on the database. So Ketchikan is definitely special that way.

**Karen Pitcher (06:27):**

That's good to know.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (06:29):**

Yeah. And what is one of the biggest challenges to preservation in Ketchikan you can see?

**Karen Pitcher (06:35):**

Well, I think it's with the climate. It's difficult to maintain the properties and it's expensive, in order to use, I mean, you know, the temptation is always there for people to go to with what they feel are more low maintenance materials, less costly materials. And, I think that would be the main... those two things, the cost and the weather.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (07:12):**

And what are the strengths and weaknesses of your community?

**Karen Pitcher (07:21):**

Well, I mean, this is a very much in terms of just the community in general. It's a very supportive, community. There are a lot of events and organizations here that are well supported by the locals. We're very, you know, we tend to be dependent on one industry, which right now is tourism and that's been both good and bad, I think for historic preservation. I think a lot of tourists, a lot of visitors to the community, like to see the history of the area, but yet, it's also introduced a lot of new construction that's not generally based in history, that's more just geared to the tourists trade.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (08:28):**

Okay. Do you see a place for historic preservation in your community?

**Karen Pitcher (08:34):**

Definitely.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (08:39):**

And what is the largest public misunderstanding of preservation in Ketchikan?

**Karen Pitcher (08:47):**

Hmm, well, I think like with the National Register, for example, people think that, you know, it's the Alaska frontier spirit, nobody wants to be told what to do with their property. And so, I think that with that mindset, makes it a little more difficult.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (09:22):**

And are there any stories or histories that you can see or you have experienced that remain untold or underrepresented in Ketchikan?

**Karen Pitcher (09:35):**

Well, one thing, when I first came here in 1972, the Native history and the teaching of the Native culture was just really starting to emerge and take off. And I think an excellent job has been done with that. I think the community has really embraced and supported that I think there are other aspects, like maybe the, the history of the so Scandinavian fishermen population and the contributions they've made, the buildings they've constructed. hasn't had as much attention, you know, some aspects of fisheries are, are really, emphasized, but, but some still aren't, I guess, or, or the history. I guess those are just a couple things that come to mind.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (10:47):**

Can you give us an example of a preservation success story and what do you think the elements are that contributed to that success?

**Karen Pitcher (10:57):**

Hmm, God, let me think. <laugh> A preservation success story. Hmm.

**Casey Woster, TNSDS (11:07):**

You mentioned that you were able to get your own home listed on the National Register. I think that's a success story right there.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (11:14):**

I agree, Casey.

**Karen Pitcher (11:16):**

It is. And the people in the office in Anchorage were very helpful to me at that time, but like I said, you know, it's new owners and initially they really wanted to follow, the whole idea of historic preservation. But then, I don't know them really personally, but things changed. And so, like I say, I don't think the house probably would qualify anymore. I know at one time there were grants available, like the Broader House, for example, got a grant for its roof. And that was maintained very nicely for quite some time. I don't think it's in as good a shape anymore as it was for a while. And I know those grants aren't available anymore, and I know they actually commit a person to following certain restrictions and regulations. I think that's a big misunderstanding that people have if, like, for example, having my house listed on the National Register, I didn't have to follow any regulations or restrictions. I wasn't forced to, it was my choice to do that, but if I had decided not to, like I think the present owners have decided, it just gets removed from the Register. I mean, there's no other penalty than that. And I think a lot of people don't understand that. I think they think that there's going to be some monetary or tax penalty or something, and that prevents them from then wanting to own a historic property.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (13:18):**

If money were no object, what would you do to improve your community?

**Karen Pitcher (13:24):**

Hmm, well, for one thing, the Stedman Street area, you know, there's some really nice things happening there, but there's some buildings that really could use some help and some work. Creek Street has become a little touristy and commercialized, but yet there still is, you know, there still is that sense of history there. The rest of the downtown, you know, it's kind of here and there, there are some historic buildings, and then there are some that have

been replaced by other things. I think the loss of the old folks hole bar, that was another real loss. I mean, it was a rough bar. It was a logger bar and not one I frequented often, but the back of the bar was like the folks will love of a boat. It was incredible. It was just a really wonderful structure. And even, you know, the whole interior of the bar, even though it was a little, maybe, not the cleanest or so forth, but just the fact that the loggers got their mail there and stuff. I just thought that was a real interesting part of Ketchikan's history. And now that's totally gone and been turned into this real junky looking jewelry store. So, I can't remember how I even got off on this track, but anyway. <laugh>

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (15:20):**

So, if I'm understanding you correctly, you're thinking there's some need for some preservation in the Stedman Street District and as well as downtown, essentially. Yeah. So that money could go into those areas. Yeah. What do you think would need to happen to make that possible, to make all of this possible? What do you think?

**Karen Pitcher (15:41):**

You know, I don't really know. I think one thing would be educating people to the idea that right now the tourism industry is the predominant one. And I think most tourists really like to see historical structures and the history of buildings. I mean, that's why we go to Europe and places like that. So I think if those retailers could understand that it would be to their benefit to preserve the history of their buildings, that would help as far as the money to do that. I don't know where that would come from.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (16:41):**

And what is the most effective preservation training program or medium that you can think of? I mean, you've made the comment that educating people is what really needs to happen to make all of this possible. What do you think the most effective preservation training would be? How would we educate those folks in Ketchikan?

**Karen Pitcher (17:03):**

You know? I don't know if I know. You can do booklets, like the ones we did, through the historical commission, you know, the historic property survey, you can send out newsletters and so forth, but you know, whether people pay attention to that or not, I don't know how you get them to do that.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (17:37):**

And that goes into our next question. What is the most effective way of communicating preservation information? Do think newsletters?

**Karen Pitcher (17:46):**

Well, I think if you could get some of the more active organizations in town, like the Chamber of Commerce, the rotary organizations, if you could get them to give presentations to them and get them on board, I think that would really, be a good beginning.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (18:17):**

What is your hope for the future of Ketchikan?

**Karen Pitcher (18:22):**

Hmm, well, I'd like to see it, see Ketchikan remain a very close knit community as far as the arts and the culture, the history, et cetera. and not get overrun by too much tourism. I think we're getting to the point where we have so many cruise ships coming in, that it's not a good experience for the visitor, much less for the residents. And I know that's easier for me to say because I don't depend on tourism for a living, but a lot of people do and, you know, I understand they have a different perspective, but I'd like to see it keep its small town atmosphere, but get cleaned up at the same time.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (19:46):**

You know, we're seeing that pattern of statements of tourism and it sounds like it comes with a double edge sword in terms.

**Karen Pitcher (19:54):**

It definitely does. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (19:57):**

Now what do you feel is the role of the local preservation commission in improving your community? What is the role, do you think, of the commission?

**Karen Pitcher (20:06):**

Frankly, I didn't know there was one.

**Casey Woster, TNSDS (20:15):**

You're not the only person who has said that.

**Karen Pitcher (20:17):**

Yeah. Yeah. I knew there was an organization called Historic Ketchikan and I know, years ago we had the Ketchikan Historical Commission, you know, which I served on, but I didn't know there was anything else happening right now.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (20:34):**

Okay. Like Casey said, you're not the first person to have mentioned that, quite a few people have actually mentioned it.

**Karen Pitcher (20:40):**

Can I ask who heads it up or who it's through, how many people serve on it?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (20:47):**

Yeah. So Anita Maxwell is the city staff that staffs the commission. There are various commissioners and Casey, do you remember how many people are on that commission off the top of your head? I don't either.

**Karen Pitcher (21:01):**

Well does she do it through the museum or the Tongass Historical Society?

**Casey Woster, TNSDS (21:06):**

It's actually through the City of Ketchikan.

**Karen Pitcher (21:09):**

Oh, okay. That's what the original historical commission was too.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (21:15):**

Yeah. The ordinance that the commission established is through the city. It's a commission to the city and I want to say there's either seven or nine seats on that particular commission. and there, there are a variety of professionals on the commission as well. I know Amanda Welsh is one who's an architect in town, she on the commission, but yeah.

**Karen Pitcher (21:41):**

And Anita's an excellent person to have heading that up. Yes.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (21:49):**

And so what do you... switching gears here, to a much broader level, what do you think the role, and I know you've had experience with the state, but the State Historic Preservation Office in your community? Do you see a role with the State Historic Preservation Office in your community?

**Karen Pitcher (22:05):**

Well, they certainly were helpful to me when I was listing my property. And I think that's who was behind that initial historic property survey, you know, the big brown book. So those kinds of things have been very beneficial. I mean, people love that book. They love to go through it. It's not a hundred percent accurate I've found over the years, but you know, it's still really wonderful.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (22:38):**

It definitely provides some baseline information though for the history of Ketchikan's built environment. Mm-hmm correct. Mm-hmm <affirmative> yeah. And what role does the preservation plan have in shaping the future? Part of what we're doing is trying to update that historic preservation plan for the community. And so what do you feel the preservation plan? I mean, what kind of role can it play in shaping the future at Ketchikan?

**Karen Pitcher (23:04):**

I guess I'm not quite sure what you mean by that.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (23:08):**

So the preservation plan is a plan moving forward in preserving the history, the culture, the built environment, the sites of Ketchikan, all of those cultural resources and historical resources. And so what kind of role can it play in overall in shaping Ketchikan? You've mentioned tourism, you've mentioned a lot of different things that factor in on Ketchikan and the historic preservation of Ketchikan. And so what do you think having a preservation plan in place can do for Ketchikan?

**Karen Pitcher (23:44):**

Well I think if it's known about by enough people and referenced, it certainly can provide good guidance for the development of Ketchikan, in a way that I think would benefit both residents and visitors to the community.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (24:17):**

Okay. What are your hopes for the historic preservation plan and what issues do you want to be sure are addressed? This is a pretty important question. What would you like to see happen with this preservation plan and what kind of things would you like to see inside of it?

**Karen Pitcher (24:39):**

Okay, well, without having seen it, it's a little hard to comment, but I would hope it would identify historic properties, historic sites, historic stories, maybe, or past histories. And then it would provide information as to how best to preserve those, how to share them, in an environmentally sound way with people. Those are just a couple things that come to mind, I guess.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (25:30):**

And what role, if any, would you like to play, or do you see for your organization? I know you're not really part of an organization, but you are a property owner and you were part of a lot of different organizations, so what do you see your role as being in future preservation efforts moving forward?

**Karen Pitcher (25:47):**

Well, I don't see myself being real active anymore. I'm like almost 74 years old and I only live in Ketchikan for part of the year. I live in Cambridge, Massachusetts next to Boston for the other part of the year, which they're very history conscious. They have permitting and regulations, you know, that just are almost extreme, you know, they're just a complete opposite of Ketchikan I think. So, also a very blue bubble, I guess. So I don't know. I certainly would attend meetings, and you know, just provide personal support. I don't see myself... I'm not trained in any area that pertains to historical preservation other than, you know, what I've just learned independently on my own. But you know, public meetings, those sorts of things I would definitely attend.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (27:07):**

If there was more advertising or marketing for the local historic commission, would you find yourself attending more of those commission meetings if you knew more about it?

**Karen Pitcher (27:20):**

Yeah, I would be interested. I have no idea when they meet or how often or anything. <laugh> Like I say, I didn't know they existed, so... <laugh>

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (27:32):**

So that wraps up the 20 questions that we have for you. But the last question is just, you know, anything else would you like to discuss, or would you like us to know about Ketchikan and historic preservation?

**Karen Pitcher (27:54):**

Well, I mean, one thing, that I know about right now, is the First Lutheran Church, which I think was built in the thirties by Norwegian immigrants. And it's in desperate need of funds right now for restoration. And I don't know if there's anything, any kind of grants or loans or anything available for that. I know the church is trying to do what it can, you know, through bake sales and so forth, but the amount of money it would take to really restore that building is a lot more than bake sales are going to pay for. And I'm sure there are other buildings in town like that, and I know federally there's really nothing available anymore, is there?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (28:58):**

You know, it just really depends on, you know, like you said, I mean, there's grants out there, but you really have to look for them and sometimes, you know, knowing about what grants are available is the problem. They're out there, but do you really know about them? And so I think, you know, maybe, a little bit more information on what grants are available could really be helpful for Ketchikan. And there's also been some discussion, some of our interview questions, about revolving loan funds being available. I know the mayor mentioned that he would like to see something like that. You know, something that could be created on the city level or on the borough level would be nice, but you know, there's money out there, you just have to find it. And sometimes people just don't know about it and they don't know the money exists. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>

**Casey Woster, TNSDS (29:52):**

A lot of times they don't even know where to start looking.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (29:55):**

Right. Right. You know, there's a lot of funding right now, for instance, for environmentally threatened communities and it could be allocated towards historic preservation. So there's some funding sources that aren't necessarily directly historic preservation funding directly, but maybe indirectly related to historic preservation, it could be tapped into if you will.

**Karen Pitcher (30:19):**

And is that something that people on the current historic commission know about? Or is that something that they maybe need to look into more and provide that information to property owners?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (30:37):**

That's a really good, good comment. I think, that, to be honest with you, I think there's some education around the commission level on what funding sources could be available for tapping into. I think I see Casey's shaking her head. I think we both could say that the commission itself probably could benefit from seeking out and really trying to find out what funding is available in today's climate, if you will, political climate, because it changes with every administration as to what money is available for what. We're working with one organization right now that's getting money under the American Rescue Plan. And that's the Department of the Treasury. Now a lot of they're using those funds, in some respect, in a cultural preservation context. So there is money out there for various different communities, but they may have to be a little bit creative in terms of where they look for those funding. And I think maybe, you know, the commission could definitely benefit from looking at some of these different avenues.

**Karen Pitcher (31:40):**

And as I know, the historical commission that I was on, if I remember right, we got some local businesses to get involved, and this is probably not the time for that because of the financial situation of our country and of Ketchikan right now. But I think we got like, at least one or two, local hardware stores to offer like paint discounts for people who were going to restore historic houses. Other than the paint discount, I'm trying to remember what else, you know, to pull local merchants into helping other local people preserve structures. And you know, it's more than just structures, too. It's areas, it's the forest service is pretty much responsible for the trails and the state park service and stuff, but all those things are important, I think to the community, the harbors.

**Casey Woster, TNSDS (32:54):**

We have about five minutes left before Zoom cuts us off.

**Karen Pitcher (32:58):**

All right. Okay. Be okay. <laugh>

**Casey Woster, TNSDS (33:02):**

I have a little timer going in the upper corner. <laugh>

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (33:08):**

Honestly, Karen, you've been extremely helpful in this interview process. And a lot of the answers that you've provided are, you know, answers that will definitely be taken into consideration as we develop those priorities in the update of the historic preservation plan. What's really interesting about, excuse me, about this process is that we are seeing patterns of both issues, concerns, interests, and, you know, climate is a big one that we're seeing a pattern of people are concerned about the climate and the climate's effect on the historic properties of Ketchikan. We are seeing some, you know, lack of awareness of various different entities, such as the local historic commission. We are also seeing some patterns and lack of understanding of the different entities that do exist there and what their role is in Ketchikan. There's a lot of different organizations playing a role in Ketchikan, and a lot of people don't know what who's doing what, and how to actually educate themselves as well as other people is a big thing that we're seeing in these patterns and in these interviews. So I really appreciate your participation in this. And, if there's anything that you can come up with or you think of after the interview is over, please feel free to send us an email, give us a call, we're available to chat, but we do appreciate it. Thank you very much, Karen.

**Karen Pitcher (34:41):**

Okay. And I'm going to check with Anita too. I haven't seen the latest show at the museum so I'll stop in there and ask her more about that. Now the meeting tomorrow night, is that like a local meeting or a Zoom meeting.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (34:55):**

It is a Zoom meeting and there is a link.

**Karen Pitcher (34:58):**

Zoom, I think I registered for that, but I'm not sure I got a link for it.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (35:03):**

The link is in the registration itself. Am I correct Casey on that one?

**Casey Woster, TNSDS (35:10):**

I believe so. if you want Karen, I can go ahead and send you a link to it.

**Karen Pitcher (35:15):**

I'd appreciate that because I know that was the problem when I did this originally, I was in Cambridge, we traveled to Oregon. Then we came to Ketchikan. And so, you know, I get a lot of emails and those were buried very deeply. <laugh>

**Casey Woster, TNSDS (35:36):**

Believe me, we understand. <laugh>

**Karen Pitcher (35:36):**

Okay. Well, it's been nice talking with you both and thank you for doing this. I like to see these things happening, so thank you.

**Rob Menhardt, TNSDS:**

Thank you, Karen. We appreciate it. And hopefully we'll see you tomorrow night. Yes. Okay. Thank you. Cheers. Bye.

## Richard Jackson

The interview with Richard Jackson took place on July 22, 2022. The interview was conducted by TNSDS Principle Consultant Robert Meinhardt and TNSDS Project Architectural Historian Casey Woster.

Ketchikan Historic Preservation Community Outreach Project

Stakeholder Interview #6

July 22, 2022

True North Sustainable Development Solutions, LLC

Robert Meinhardt, MA

Casey Woster, MA

Interviewee: Richard Jackson, Tongass Tribal Leader, president of Tongass Tlingit Cultural Heritage Institute, member of the Advisory Committee for the Totem Heritage Museum, former president of Ketchikan Indian Community

**Richard Jackson (00:00):**

Doing

**Casey Woster, TNSDS (00:02):**

Forgive me for that. Yeah. I will go ahead and turn it over. Hi, Rob, how are you doing? Mr. Jackson is on the call already.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (00:11):**

How you doing Richard?

**Richard Jackson (00:13):**

Hello? I got some kind of messages over your face. I don't know what to do about it.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (00:21):**

On my face?

**Richard Jackson (00:22):**

Got it. Okay. Because that's just telling you it's recording. Okay. I see you now.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (00:29):**

<laugh> Well, I'd like to start off by saying thank you for taking the time out to take this short little interview. There'll be 20 questions. And if we've got time...

**Richard Jackson (00:45):**

You could thank my wife. She's the one that put me in this. <laugh>

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (00:49):**

...there'll be an additional question. If we have time, it's just more of an open discussion. So I don't know if Casey...

**Richard Jackson (00:57):**

Are you the consultant for this group?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (01:02):**

So I'm Rob Meinhardt, I'm the principal and president of True North Sustainable Development Solutions. We're

working with the City of Ketchikan to update the historic preservation plan and as part of that update, we're doing public involvement, which includes stakeholder surveys and interviews. And so this is part of our stakeholder interviews. And considering that you identify as a stakeholder being the president of Tongass Tlingit Cultural Heritage Institute, is that correct?

**Richard Jackson (01:28):**

That's correct. It's got IRS non-profit standing.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (01:33):**

Yeah. So we're really interested in hearing from you and having you answer some questions. So as Casey's our architectural historian, Casey Woster, and she's going to be helping me with the interview. She's going to be recording, taking notes. I'm not sure if she told you, but we are recording the interview. We won't record video. Won't be disseminated, but we'll use the transcriptions to go into our final, uh, public involvement report. So with that said, can you please go ahead and just state your name and, uh, how you identify as a stakeholder?

**Richard Jackson (02:14):**

Uh, my name is Richard Jackson, Richard Harris Jackson born in Ketchikan from the Taanta Kwaan, more popularly known as the Tongass Tribe from the Bear House Norman Walker, which is the man named Mary Brown bear house from Tongass island to Ketchikan, we've settled in downtown Ketchikan by Ketchikan Creek. I'm the president of Tongass Tlingit Cultural Heritage Institute. I'm on the advisory committee for the Totem Heritage Museum, former president of Ketchikan Indian Community, I ran for president of Alaska Native brotherhood, actually going to have a convention in Anchorage pretty soon. And I'm a Vietnam veteran, four years combat. Wanted to be involved in the Ketchikan preservation, because I think there's a lack of information or misinformed information about the early heritage of the Tongass people. We all know that there are migrations here from different nations, meaning the Haida and the Tsimshian, and maybe you could say all the Aleuts who were interned here and others, but the area is primarily Tlingit and Tongass Taanta Kwaan, and the Saanyaa Kwaan, which is Cape Fox are the primary people's Revillagigedo Island encompasses, which is under the jurisdiction of Ketchikan Gateway Borough and City of Ketchikan. So I thought, well, get us involved there. And we've been getting involved with the Totem Heritage Center and Anita Maxwell has doing a very good job on getting our history cataloged. The City of Ketchikan through my help. And one of the council members last year formulated a land acknowledgement response. That's read at every meeting, they have your part to the meeting. So I thought, well, unless we get involved, you know, you won't have your part. So I thought, why not, you know, show our face and see what we can do with the community.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (04:46):**

That's great, Richard, and we appreciate you getting involved with the update of the preservation plan. It's going to be extremely helpful moving forward as the city continues to update that historic preservation plan. So I'm going to start with just going to go through these questions. And we've got about 45 minutes in our session.

**Richard Jackson (05:09):**

Here before, before we go on, I have my secretary of our Heritage Institute here, our treasurer actually, Priscilla, Schulte, Dr. Priscilla Schulte for the university. So she's taking notes while we talk, we don't have video on, want to put video on? Oh, I'm sorry. You didn't see my face. It's on. There it is. Oh, there are you.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (05:32):**

There!

**Richard Jackson (05:32):**

There you go. Sorry. I didn't want to be anonymous. Her computer I'm using. My wife is sewing at home. She told me to get out and come down here. <laugh> She's an award-winning sewer from .... school. Pretty big honor this year.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (05:49):**

So I'm going to start.

**Richard Jackson (05:50):**

So you said 45 minutes?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (05:51):**

Yeah. It's going to be take about 45 minutes. So I'm going to start off. Like I said, there's 20 questions. I'm going to start off with the first one, which is how do you define historic preservation?

**Richard Jackson (06:03):**

Acknowledging the users of the land from today until when they began migration, I guess you would say, because different people have different migrations. The city started early after the tribe was here and then Gateway Borough started after that. Then you have, the other stakeholders are part of that government. Then you have people moved to town from different groups, say the Norwegians and the Filipinos and the Haidas and the Tsimshian. And then those who were in the fishing industry. I came from here when it was a vital town, when it was really good when I was a boy and had a pulp mill here. Now we're primarily talking about tourism. That's all they're talking about here. And let's face it. That's it? The all is how many people come to town. So if they're going to talk about tourism and tell the preservation of history, it would be nice to hear about those different events of the past and how people participated in it. Another part of it is what occurred politically, you know, is in just a couple events that happened. They had a trial here where William Paul defended his uncle, who came from Wrangell for voting. He was charged with voting and he wasn't what they call a qualified voter at the time, he had to forgo his culture. So he got charged. He came to Ketchikan, the federal judge came here and he had to trial and he found him innocent. And we got our Native rights as citizens, two years prior to the Native Americans did because of that trial. We have school integration here with William Paul again, and we have Elizabeth Peratrovich who went to high school here and her husband, I think he was here with her at the latter part of their education. She was able to work with Ernest Gruening as the grand president of Alaska Native Sisterhood and her husband with the grand president of Alaska Native Brotherhood and get an equal rights anti-discrimination act fulfilled. And the people standing by her, supporting her, one of them was from Ketchikan, Roman R. Walker, the field up there was named after him and a Cochran from Juneau and Joe Diamond, other famous people that were part of that. So it was and it was a cooperative effort from different people from the legislature, all the way to the, you know, the tribe or the representative of the tribe, which was the political entity was Alaska Native Brotherhood at the time. So that's really interesting stuff to look at.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (08:45):**

Absolutely.

**Richard Jackson (08:46):**

It defines the community. I think they should be proud of that.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (08:49):**

Absolutely. Can you tell us a little bit about your involvement with historic preservation efforts in Ketchikan?

**Richard Jackson (08:57):**

Well, you see the Chief Johnson pole downtown. I was one of the people that put it up. We got plaster money. We instituted a non-profit Tongass Tribe. With Priscilla and others help, we got money through the capital improvements from the state. I think I can't remember the legislation. It was from rank. Remember that? Robin Taylor. We got a hundred thousand dollars and we didn't have non-profit. We had didn't have tax IRS standing. So we passed the money through the city and we got a carver to carve it. We put up a a big, big celebration and we put that pole up. And then later on, a couple times they preserved it. Last time they asked me was when my brother who recently passed away, like three years ago. One of the tribal members from Sitka came down and preserved the Johnson pole again. So it's really a landmark of Ketchikan. The other pole is the Chief Kyan pole and there's the Memorial Pole from the Sun Raven pole, which is up by the university, which the university helped. And I helped them with that. Mm-hmm <affirmative> when I was the maintenance manager at, supervisor at the University of Alaska in Juneau. So and you know, I worked with Anita Maxwell and Marni. What's her last name? I forgot... mostly Anita is who was the director of the museum. And we talk at times about our historical knowledge, which at this point in time is becoming dimmer and dimmer because it was elders that knew it. I come from, with there, when my parents went to school, both of them spoke Tlingit my grandfather spoke Tlingit and my grandmother spoke Tlingit, they went to school and they were told not to speak Tlingit. They came home, they talked to each other and they never said anything to us. So we got the byproduct of that, not much. And it's unfortunate because that was what happened. And they later learned that it shouldn't have occurred, but that was a psychological training. They got in schools where they didn't teach it when they got home and there was a period where there was no cultural events happening until the seventies that started occurring when they started funding the tribes with Johnson O'Malley money, which they started doing cultural classes, which my mother started doing. And then they worked it into the college where she got a degree and she started teaching with the Silas Salty group. And now then Sealaska started advancing their Sealaska Heritage Institute and started teaching the language. So we have what we call a renaissance now, and I'm kind of happy about that. And it got further where the city started acknowledging the tribe, not what you call official recognition of rights, just an acknowledge that we were the first settlers of this area, which we really appreciate. And they called on us to help write the language. And we did very short, you know, sentence. And so I'm always interested and I'm actually very enthusiastic about it. And probably you could tell when I talk about this, that if you do this, do it right. Don't, you know, don't get into the involvement of somebody's ego or they want to look good. I just want something to be done that shows that representation, just like I told you about the city, I think highly of Ketchikan for some of the events that occurred here that was beneficial to everybody, you know?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (12:51):**

So why does preservation matter to you? I think you've touched upon that, but more specifically?

**Richard Jackson (13:01):**

Because of what happened in schools, they didn't, they didn't convey that knowledge. It had to be preserved, and it was preserved primarily by third parties, which weren't really us. It was an anthropologist and that could be misinterpreted sometimes, but there were corrections that were made and we got together and they have clan conferences. They talk about their history or at-hoowa they call it, we process things. And it's part of my view of my life. If I don't preserve it, then I'm in a ship without paddles or canoe without paddles. I think it's important. And it's important for my family and my friends' family. And right now it's not just a strictly Native identity, because we're intermarried, we're intermarried with the other peoples, but they still identify with that part of themselves being Tlingit. So when we know who they are, we keep our oral knowledge, some of us, so that we can tell people who don't know where they came from, who their family is, and their clans are. So, we work primarily with the university at times. I've gone on trips. We've gone to Tongass Island, we've did the water room report, which identified land sites called tuck. What's the name of it? Haa Aani is a book that was put up by Sealaska, which one third is

Tongass territories down here in then Tlingit. And there a map of all the places where we used to go to and our primary source of knowledge of our area that was written that is consistent with who we are and areas was, is the Goldschmidt Haas report to which came up in the 1940s when they were elders alive. So we can identify where we used to live. And then there's other books like W. Olson, which really is a good history, and others that we look at because we don't have the resources alive anymore, you know, but they have enough out there and there's always new discoveries and it's always nice to collaborate with other people because I think this information preservation history is a nice narrative and presentation for those who are curious. And that's why tourists come to Ketchikan and see a presentation that stimulates your mind. And when you look at life in a different way or you feel or whatever. And so I think that's the point of why you preserve in my view.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (16:07):**

And why do you think it preservation matters? To Ketchikan?

**Richard Jackson (16:15):**

At one point it really wasn't in the forefront because we were a vital community. We had an industry I remember as a boy, fishing was really great. There was like 40 boats point out to the water, schooners who came in, tied up next to each other. We'd go all the way out and, you know, have lunch with somebody. There was the halibut schooners that came up Seattle more, primarily Norwegian that was loaded up with halibut. My dad worked at New England Fish Company. There was the pump mill, which had huge impact on the economy here. And there was logging, which is associated with the pulp mill, not only with pulp, but also with exported timber that all went away. So, just changed the outlook of the town. And I think that I have to go back to your original question. What was it?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (17:17):**

Is why does historic preservation matter to Ketchikan?

**Richard Jackson (17:22):**

Because of the fore fathers, whether they're Native or a non-Native valued the area and that we should remember it. They structured this area, whether it was good or bad for either party. Now it exists and now we have to preserve it somehow because, especially in this area, Native identity is all oral because traditionally all of our artifacts were made out of degradable material. And the only thing left is oral. Even our totem poles go into the ground, but now they're preserving those. They did all the poles from Tongass Island and I think other places, and went put them in totem heritage, which is not normal for traditional Natives. They just let them fall. So what we do now is we could value the artifact or our history, what we call preservation or precious things, and that would be the same thing as what you're saying here, a precious things, is it just artifacts and inanimate objects you're preserving? Yeah, that is true, but it has a history behind it. And that's what matters.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (18:47):**

So what do you think one of the biggest challenges to preservation Ketchikan is?

**Richard Jackson (19:03):**

I don't... if you might say if you're preserving something like a building, which they did, they've done that here, was historic preservation, do you have funding to do it, or do you understand the priority of what you want to preserve? And some of that is not under anybody's control, except those who make those decisions. So there's a discussion on that by somebody and they start preserving, whether you think you are a partner or not, it depends on somebody's decision. Not, you know, we're just putting our input in. So yeah, I think our information has value and most of it be historical knowledge and not in the material sense, because we don't have village here anymore, but we have a history here. In fact, the matter here in Ketchikan was the presidential executive order reservation from the tunnel all the way down to the Coast Guard base, there was Native allotment houses. That's never men-

tioned here. So, you know, if you went to the Southeast Alaska with this report, they have pretty good knowledge on this area that they researched about Ketchikan. Some of it is very intrusive and not very nice, but it's the truth as they interpreted. So, preservation is going to, you know... historical preservation can be very cruel or it can be very enlightening. It depends on who's telling it and what they want to present.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (20:46):**

And what do you think the strengths and weaknesses of your community are when it comes to preservation?

**Richard Jackson (20:55):**

Of the strengths and weaknesses of what?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (20:59):**

Of your community like when it comes to carrying out historic preservation, what do you think the strengths are of Ketchikan and maybe some of the weaknesses of Ketchikan?

**Richard Jackson (21:11):**

The strengths are, there's pretty rich background. It's very rich, you know, from the beginning. And when, you know, you look at the migration of the Tlingit as early, as in the 1880s, I believe it was, there was a little village site down in the Creek and more like a fishing village. And then later on, they made a reservation, a tide lands reservation. And then the city moved around it and it became a kind of a hub for a different types of workers. And I grew up in school with primarily Indians, Alaska Natives. And at the time there was a large number of Norwegians, believe it or not, here, like in Petersburg. So I knew a lot of people that have Norwegian origins and later on, there was other nationalities that were moving here... from the Philippines and other people from down in the Lower 48 who came up here for fishing and they stayed, they liked the country. And so now the strength of that history is, I think that can be boundless in terms of how they tell it with equal representation or somehow you can't do that because you're limited in how much you want to tell them on a form.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (23:06):**

What do you think some of the weaknesses are?

**Richard Jackson (23:14):**

Early on, the weaknesses we had was that you thought we were subhuman <laugh>, we weren't citizens. And that was based on the relationship they had with Native Americans in the Lower 48. The difference was that we never had a treaty up here. They regulated the Natives here by acts of Congress, not through treaties, because we never fought the United States. It was purchased from Russia, from a distance, which we didn't even understand. And so, we were subject to regulation and later on... After I got back from Vietnam, they were able to negotiate the land things based on the need to get access to the pipeline and get all the encumbrances off of it. And they did that. And so we got a foot in the door in terms of economically and that started itself within the timber industry where the town benefited from resources that these little Native communities had. And unfortunately Ketchikan was one of those communities that didn't participate. They were neglected, for some reason, by land claims, there were five communities. And so there was an assumption that we had a lot of money or we had it pretty well. And that really wasn't actually true in a lot of different villages. So we didn't really get enough assistance to develop our communities from really anywhere. I lived in Saxman, pretty poor house. Jobs were very family orientated, I would say. So if you didn't want to certain family or you had a hard time getting jobs, unless you got training. So I finally got training and became a mechanic and I worked for the State in three different places. So, we were just more of an independent community and I think we were no different than a lot of the people in town, except we had, you know, we just had to sometimes leave town to get jobs. And there was complex issues dealing with either boarding school and then trying to find work later on after coming back from service. And now there's a

renaissance on trying to look at our history and because there was a period of time where they didn't want to talk about it. That became a real big weakness for us. And no one in Ketchikan really approached us until within the last maybe five years. And recently it's been Anita Maxwell, who's done quite a good job and actually coming to talk to us and actually working out different programs that we do for the museum and then the university coming to discuss with us and the forest service. So, the city itself, the only thing that we have done with them is that land acknowledgement. So, one of the things I thought I saw in this town, which I really thought was interesting when I was young... Ketchikan had a real resource area of different totem poles that the city put up and they took them all down. And I can understand that because weather damage is pretty severe, you know, that they got the Johnson pole up and the Chief Kyan pole up and those are Tongass poles. And so was the Sun Raven pole, but they require a lot of attention, but they are part of the history. And that's a strength of a portion of this town. I don't think there's a dialogue of adversarial relationship with the city. We just didn't have any communication. We, what we communicate better. We understand each other, we see the benefit of certain inclusion, whatever it is, there's a benefit for the city.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (28:08):**

Do you see a place for historic preservation in your community?

**Richard Jackson (28:11):**

Pardon?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (28:12):**

Do you see a place for historic preservation in your community in Ketchikan?

**Richard Jackson (28:18):**

If you're talking about what in preservation in the sense of preserving something?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (28:24):**

Yeah. I mean, some communities don't really see historic preservation as important, but in Ketchikan, I mean, it's sounding like there is definitely a place for historic preservation in Ketchikan.

**Richard Jackson (28:39):**

Well, historic preservation is important because if you look at Ketchikan, having lost every bit of their resources, they had a really real rich history to closure of the pulp mill, prior to the diminishment of the halibut resources and salmon, there was just history that was here. That was important that should, you know, tell those who come here about this area. And if they don't tell that, doesn't have, let's say the line drawn in the sand, that there is no history, then it's a dull town! <laugh>

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (29:26):**

Right.

**Richard Jackson (29:27):**

<laugh> That's it. There's nothing to be bragging about.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (29:32):**

Right. What do you think the largest public misunderstanding is of historic preservation?

**Casey Woster, TNSDS (29:40):**

Just to break in. We have nine minutes left.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (29:42):**

Oh, geez. Okay. What do you think the misunderstanding is of historic preservation in Ketchikan?

**Richard Jackson (29:51):**

That's a kind of a hard question. Well, the misunderstanding is based on lack of communication. Like, you know, if I was going to say, what would I think historic preservation in Ketchikan would mean to the Tongass, it's not even money. It's not even buildings. You know what it is, it's what Juneau did. They recognized us that their people named their streets and their schools after the Tlingit and Ketchikan has never done that. There's one name here it's called Shaa Tlein subdivision. And that was put up by KIC and Tlingit-Haida and the housing project manager thought that name was Haida. And it wasn't, it was Tlingit with my grandfather. My great grandfather's name Shaa Tlein, means big mountain. And there's lack of communication. Juneau communicated with the tribes up there and they started naming their streets is after Tlingits. Is that bigger than anybody else? It's an acknowledgement. It's a historical acknowledgement. It's just like Hawaiians do. Their names are named after the people that were there. And it doesn't have to be all the people, all the demand of the name, but just to acknowledge it through some way of naming different places after the people are from there.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (31:25):**

That's so do you think Tlingit culture is a story that remains untold or underrepresented?

**Richard Jackson (31:32):**

Well, it's told, but it's not told properly. I've gone through town, listening to people talk about different poles, for example, the Chief Kyan pole, you rub the belly and you get good luck. Well, that's as false as they get. <laugh> You know, things that are told and because maybe they read it somewhere, there was nobody, who they officially had a relationship, maybe a group, preservation group, as you all say, this is what this is, and this is why it's here. And so there's interpretations that are vague at the best.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (32:24):**

Are there other histories or stories or underrepresented groups in Ketchikan?

**Richard Jackson (32:31):**

I'd say to me of interest is those who were here when I was here, when they first started was the Norwegians. I'm really interested in them. They eat more fish than I do. <laugh> Almost 89 years old. He could do pushups. He was a tough worker. He wouldn't eat anything but fish. But they got a rich history for coming here. I guess at recently, the Filipino community, you know, and the Japanese community. Did you know, prior to integration, even after that, a lot of us were restricted to Indian Town here, they don't talk about it. Right long where it's down by Ketchikan Creek and guess who was there with us, the Filipinos and the Japanese and the Chinese. So this is the part of the history that, you know, we can say what these guys are telling preservation. This will get their dander up because this is the reality of what history is. And I'm just telling you, because I told my cohort here that if you ask me the questions, I'll tell you the answers I have on my mind. And you could use them or not. It doesn't bother me one bit. Right? Yeah.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (33:57):**

Can you tell us a story about a preservation success story in Ketchikan?

**Casey Woster, TNSDS (34:03):**

Five minutes.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (34:05):**

Okay.

**Richard Jackson (34:06):**

Let's see. Well, I guess the Johnson Pole's a really good success. The Totem Heritage Center, which worked with Alaska Native Brotherhood to preserve the totem poles that they use there, that's primarily a big success. You might look at Mud Bight totem area. I think Ketchikan's lacking more stuff that represents the native community like they used to have, but I think they decided leaving them in buildings because of the weather damage and maintenance that would occur. And I can understand that. So those are the ones that come to mind.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (34:52):**

So if, if money wasn't an object, what would you do to improve the community?

**Richard Jackson (35:02):**

From my stakeholder view, you know, in Saxman, they put up a tribal house. It's not really a traditional tribal house. It's put up by the EDA, which requires full use by the community. Those who use it, it doesn't have to be Native, but it's used by the Natives. It represents the Natives and Ketchikan doesn't have one. And, you know, I don't know if Ketchikan would be interested in even doing that, but that would be a real benefit to this town because it shows the historic knowledge of traditional users. It doesn't exclude anyone else to use it. They offer whatever they offer to those who want to use it when it's available.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (35:46):**

What would need to happen, do you think, like what would need to happen to make that possible?

**Richard Jackson (35:52):**

Some grant writing, the grants change all the time. There's Rasmusen. There's EDA, there's even non-profits like us who could pass through the money, whatever. I don't know, it just takes somebody to sit down and look at it, you know, and then if they get involved then there's an administrative benefit to those who work on it. And the benefit to those who are involved is they see a good result. I'm happy with it.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (36:18):**

What do you think the most effective preservation training program or medium is in Ketchikan?

**Richard Jackson (36:27):**

Um...

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (36:29):**

Or in general, you know, what do you think the most effective training program would be for people?

**Richard Jackson (36:37):**

At this point? My only contact is with the Ketchikan museum, which, you know, they have what they have to work with. They work with me on certain objects and certain booklet things that we look at. So, and they also work with the entire community, you know, whatever they present or just a portion of it. We should be just a portion. They represent the whole community.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (37:08):**

How do you think preservation can be communicated, the information that is within the community? What do you think the most effective way of communicating that would be? And you mentioned museums, but is there any other way to communicate, you know, preservation, cultural heritage, or...?

**Richard Jackson (37:31):**

You have, Ketchikan business bureau, but they're basically visitor orientating there. The whole goal is to get money through business. They should have an organization somewhat like that, but just for preservation and maybe do a website, have a permanent worker who works on this program and gets the stakeholders, finds out like what you're doing on a deeper level, you know, and establish.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (38:07):**

What is your hope for the future of Ketchikan?

**Casey Woster, TNSDS (38:10):**

Uh, Zoom's going to cut us off in about 30 seconds.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (38:13):**

Uh-oh

**Speaker 5 (38:14):**

Sorry.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (38:15):**

We'll end with this one. What is your hope for the future of Ketchikan?

**Richard Jackson (38:20):**

I hope it's continues to thrive, develops their economy. If not, the tourism is more factual and preserved correctly. <laugh>

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (38:33):**

I like that, preserved correctly. Well, we're running out of time, unfortunately, but I really appreciate you taking the time out of your day to answer some of these questions.

**Richard Jackson (38:46):**

Yeah. I don't know the value of this, but you know, I was...

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (38:49):**

Truthful. It's valuable, definitely valuable. We appreciate it. Thank you very much. Okay.

## Amanda Welsh and Stephen Reeve

The joint interview with Amanda Welsh and Stephen Reeve took place on Friday, July 29, 2022. The interview was conducted by TNSDS Principle Consultant Robert Meinhardt and TNSDS Project Architectural Historian Casey Woster.

Ketchikan Historic Preservation Community Outreach Project

Stakeholder Interview # 7

July 29, 2022

True North Sustainable Development Solutions, LLC

Robert Meinhardt, MA

Casey Woster, MA

Interviewee: Amanda Welsh and Stephen Reeve, Historic Architects in Ketchikan

### Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (00:00):

... And so we were going to do our best to kind of keep on track with all the questions. Just FYI, some interviewers go through quick and we have time for the 21st question, which is more of an open ended discussion. And then sometimes, we don't have time for that 21st question for that open ended discussion. And it's just the 20 questions if we can get through them. So how you want to answer the questions, I'll kind of let you guys kind of talk concurrently, I guess, or take turns. But first of all, I would like you guys to each state your name and how you identify as a stakeholder.

### Amanda Welsh (01:03):

Um, I'll go first. I'm Amanda Welsh, an architect, and a historic architect...

### Stephen Reeve (01:25):

...executive director of Historic Ketchikan. And I too have the sickness of historic preservation and have done quite a lot with the buildings in Ketchikan.

### Amanda Welsh (01:37):

Stephen has made it happen.

### Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (01:39):

Yes, he has. <laugh> Everybody knows Stephen Reeves, your name.

### Stephen Reeve (01:46):

I am not a former body builder.

### Speaker 4 (01:48):

John or John Yana,

### Stephen Reeve (01:50):

If you know the real Stephen Reeves, are you too young for that?

### Amanda Welsh (01:54):

Was he a body builder?

**Stephen Reeve (01:55):**

Was a major body builder when I was growing up. I've always kind of taken that.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (02:03):**

So, I'll start off with the first question. How do you define preservation?

**Amanda Welsh (02:12):**

Um...

**Stephen Reeve (02:13):**

Let's go into the second question.

**Amanda Welsh (02:14):**

Yeah, <laugh> I would say caring for and maintaining historically important sites and buildings and et cetera in your community.

**Stephen Reeve (02:28):**

That's pretty close.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (02:30):**

Stephen. You agree with that position as well? And you touched a little bit upon it, but tell us a little bit about your involvement with historic preservation efforts in Ketchikan.

**Amanda Welsh (02:45):**

For me, let's see. There's my personal involvement with the buildings, way back on the Historic Ketchikan board. We did, I think some grant writing work that was like 20 years ago. Then, when I was briefly had more time available in my life, I did a lot of volunteer work for the historic commission and we wrote grants for design guidelines in the Stedman Thomas Historic District that the neighborhood was not amenable to adopting. So that sort of got shelved. And let's see a lot of our projects at work have been historic preservation related. We do a lot of building description and determinations of eligibility, that some of that's been around the state, but mostly we don't do that much of that anymore. We've been so busy with other architectural projects. So just a lot of stuff over the years.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (03:49):**

Stephen?

**Stephen Reeve (03:55):**

As I look back, the maybe the first major historic preservation accomplishment I did was as planning director. We got the Creek Street Historic District set up with an architectural design review board. And that was, gosh, 50 years ago or something like that, maybe not quite that long ago. It's still functioning as that. Historic Ketchikan's about 30 years old and has a long history. We do the Historic Ketchikan walking tour, which is published by the local newspaper, and hundreds of thousands of copies get out to visitors every year. We've advised maybe 130 property owners, historic property owners, on everything from paint color selection to recommendations about window treatments, stuff like that. I personally have been involved in half a dozen historic building restoration jobs here in town, and seem to still be doing that... We produced things like Our Town, community magazine, every three or four years, just about ready to get our latest publication out. We do the colorful characters and places signs program, which are signs that are placed on sites or buildings of historic value or of a nature that is about characters in our community. So a range of activities that Historic Ketchikan does.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (06:04):**

And why does preservation matter to you?

**Stephen Reeve (06:11):**

A lot of reasons, it's very important to the community, especially from an economic development point of view where heritage tourism is where the vast majority of American travelers, they say 75, 80% of them are interested in that we need to be able to compete in our community for this business. We need to be able to tell the story of the community, to our kids and to residents and to visitors. And that's what storing buildings, and then not just stopping there, but being able to tell the story of those buildings and the people who built them is important. So it's a community thing. It's a personal thing of caring a lot about historic properties. And that's really it, I guess.

**Amanda Welsh (07:10):**

Yeah. I would say it's, for me, it's about community character and sort of having a tie with your communities past. When you go to a place without any historic buildings, it's kind of empty and you wonder what the origin of the place is. And I feel like these historic properties really help explain the history even without signage and interpretive material. The fact that they're there is informative.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (07:38):**

Why do you think it matters to Ketchikan?

**Amanda Welsh (07:42):**

I think from an economic standpoint, you know, a large part of our economic sustainability is related to the character of the community because of tourism.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (07:57):**

Stephen, do you agree with that as well?

**Stephen Reeve (08:00):**

Yeah, I think I already said essentially the same thing. I think so.

**Amanda Welsh (08:06):**

For our own quality of life as well, it's really a win-win.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (08:11):**

Being architects and being involved with Historic Ketchikan, I'm sure you can answer this question. What is one of the biggest challenges to preservation in Ketchikan?

**Amanda Welsh (08:24):**

I would say the weather. <laugh> I mean, you know, that the environment here is actively rotting your building. If you're not painting it, it's rotting. So it's staying on top of the maintenance. It's a big deal.

**Stephen Reeve (08:41):**

And, or as you know, we have way more historic buildings than any other community in Alaska here. And they're everywhere and they're being attacked by what Amanda just said the weather. And so it's really tough to restore older properties that haven't been maintained well, and yet, we just need to find a way to do that.

**Amanda Welsh (09:16):**

I think the other thread is lack of education on them. You know, property owners who aren't very familiar with

preservation, even if they have the right intentions, sometimes don't really know what the right thing to do is, and historic compatible materials are also much more expensive and not readily available. You can't just go to the hardware store and buy, you know, matching siding or that sort of thing. So it's a lot of challenges.

**Stephen Reeve (09:42):**

I think one of the big ones from a design point of view, and I know Amanda will agree with this, is window replacement. It's just a challenge. Most of the windows can be restored and should be restored, but aren't restored. And so we get, you know, when you compare what it takes to put good historic quality windows back into a building versus picking up a fiberglass one at Lowe's, it's pretty compelling to go that route and that's happening to a bunch of buildings. And that's the thing. We really try to work on educating people on, but it's not easy to do.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (10:24):**

And even in today's market finding vinyl window windows at Lowe's can take six months right now with material shortages. So, definitely can see the challenge with the historic materials. What are the strengths and weaknesses of your community?

**Stephen Reeve (10:42):**

The historic preservation strengths?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (10:44):**

What, yeah, what are the strengths? And it doesn't have to be historic preservation, just strengths of Ketchikan, and weaknesses. You can relate it to historic preservation, but just looking at your community. What do you think those strengths are? What do you think of Ketchikan?

**Amanda Welsh (11:00):**

I think one of our strengths is that we're all jumbled together in a real, relatively small, community with a limited amount of space. We sort of have to get along because we're also close and we're also interlocking from, you know, an economic standpoint, everything is sort of tied together and I think that's helpful, especially in this sort of divisive era.

**Stephen Reeve (11:26):**

Yeah, I think that is the interesting, one of the things that keeps us attracted to Ketchikan.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (11:34):**

What do you think about the weaknesses, if you had to think about some of the weaknesses with your community, what would that be?

**Amanda Welsh (11:40):**

Yeah. So from an overall community standpoint, one of the things that's really difficult here is how often people move on from here. I think I heard statistics on the radio once that were really interesting that only about 50% of the community is here long term, and about 10% of the community is swapping out annually. You know, because people come up here for a couple years, then they move and that it's been a long time since I heard those statistics, but there's, you know, a huge portion of the community that's not here for long, and that is difficult for community building. And, you know, you get some great people that move here and then they move on. So that's tough. And so I think quality of life is pretty key on that issue.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (12:23):**

So it's fair to say that Ketchikan has this really solid sense of community, but yet there's still this transient population?

**Amanda Welsh (12:30):**

Yeah, there's still a lot of coming and going.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (12:34):**

And do you see a place for historic preservation in your community? Obviously you do, but moving forward, how do you see historic preservation in your community given these strengths and weaknesses and whatnot?

**Amanda Welsh (12:51):**

I think, I mean, it's easier to answer that from an approach of what needs to be done. I think that maintaining the visibility of historic preservation and sort of, you know, attempting to educate the people that are here, property owners, outreach, to, you know, realtors and, you know... I would love to see somebody in the planning department with a preservation background that just gets information about like, "Hey, you just bought a house in a historic district." You know, there's not really anybody whose job it is to keep property owners aware that what they have is important. I mean, that's sort of step one is just, do they know it's important? Do they know they're in a historic district? A lot of people don't. So I'm not sure if I answered the question, but... <laugh>

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (13:39):**

Yeah, I think so. And Stephen, do you see a place for historic preservation in your community?

**Stephen Reeve (13:44):**

Well it's been... as you know, we have, unlike most of the rest of Alaska, we have two local governments here, the Borough and the City and they do not intertwine historically. And, as Amanda said, it'd be really great if the planning office had the vision and had a role in encouraging historic preservation and protection of our cultural heritage. They really haven't. And the city I think does a little better job, but they don't have the planning capacity. So it's a bit of a struggle. That's where non-profits and where people like Amanda and I, who just need to keep kind of chugging along. We have to do it, but we don't really have the support from local government that we should have for this community.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (14:47):**

So it's fair to say the answer to this question that you both agree upon is that you see a place for historic preservation in your community, but you see it more specifically embedded in local government and that need is there for it?

**Amanda Welsh (14:57):**

That would be great. Yeah. <laugh>

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (15:02):**

And this goes to sort of the misunderstanding, you know, and all of us in the preservation field seem to be pretty aware of, what the public misunderstandings of historic preservation is. But what is your experience in Ketchikan locally on the public misunderstanding of historic preservation?

**Amanda Welsh (15:21):**

Well, I think just general lack of knowledge of what preservation is, has been an issue. I've seen, you know, houses remodeled. They maybe take a 1920s house and they remodel it and they try to do historic, but it's got a bunch of gingerbread attached to it. And it's like, you know, just a lack of what's authentic, you know, what's actually helpful for your historic, the character of your historic property is a challenge. And those are the people that are interested. Then there's the people that are not interested at all. And there's a lot of resistance to anybody having any control over your property. This is probably an Alaskan trait in general, but, you know, that experience, that's definitely

common. Yeah, yeah. There's not even... though it could be great as a whole and bring the whole community up, you know, there's not any affinity for more guidelines or restrictions or somebody holding up your permit while they try to decide if it's what should be done. That kind of thing is a battle. I don't think I can fight. <laugh>

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (16:39):**

And Stephen, would you agree with that or do you feel there's some other misunderstandings out there that we may not have touched on or hasn't touched on?

**Stephen Reeve (16:47):**

That's covered it pretty well. I think a lot about Creek Street since it's been our one historic, now nationally recognized district that has some history and it's a struggle. Like Amanda said, some people shouldn't own historic properties. They're tough to maintain unless you're pretty knowledgeable. I wish we had a way through government to provide a little more support than just the volunteer efforts of people like ourselves. There's a number of buildings on the Creek right now that are really not easy to deal with in the sense that they're getting run down. People don't know how to do window treatment. Some of those people resist restrictions. We've always been pretty cooperative on the Creek and we go out of our way to help people. And that's been probably the key to the successes we've had, but there's always one or two individuals who are not easy to cooperate with. That's true as we work in the downtown national district as well.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (18:07):**

So if I'm understanding you correctly, one of the misunderstandings might be what it takes to own a historic property, basically, like, what it means to own a historic property, kind of like research?

**Stephen Reeve (18:20):**

Yes, why it's important.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (18:22):**

Right. And what stories or histories mean untold or underrepresented? We've touched on this a lot during the public meetings. But I'd like to hear from you all as to what are those sort of underrepresented or untold stories of Ketchikan that should probably be in the forefront of the historical themes and preservation in general?

**Stephen Reeve (18:50):**

Go ahead, Amanda.

**Amanda Welsh (18:52):**

Oh, no, no, that's okay. You go first. <laugh>

**Stephen Reeve (18:56):**

You know, it's pretty impressive that we have three nationally recognized historic districts. There's not any community in Alaska. I'm not sure there there's many communities throughout the US. I'm familiar with Boston and other communities like that. And you don't see this kind of recognition.

**Amanda Welsh (19:32):**

I can jump in. Okay. Yeah. So, I think the role of Alaska Native culture is often left out and one of the reasons for that is because they're sort of pushed out early in our history, I think. And like a lot of diverse cultures sort of ended up being sort of pushed out of the downtown area and being in Newtown and Stedman-Thomas district. And you know, most of the visitors are coming to downtown and getting the downtown story. And I think that it was a valid point at our first public meeting for this project that, you know, there is not recognition and signage

and information included about the Native culture that was here, you know, when downtown started. So I think that's a really... I found that first public meeting to be really helpful and informative. Anyway, and I think too, that there's, you know, a pretty diverse group of ethnicities that came to work in the canneries here. And I think that's not discussed much. So I think the Filipino community has stayed and thrived. But there's Chinese, Japanese that I think there was a lot of different cultures coming.

**Stephen Reeve (20:52):**

So yeah, I was going to say the same thing. Obviously the indigenous peoples have not been well represented in any of our communities, in any of our environmental information we provided about our culture. We have done a pretty good job with the Filipino, well, pretty good job. We've started at least with the Filipino, Japanese, and Chinese cultures, as we know here, and this was common throughout the US as white folks actually extricated them from the downtown and sent them all south of Stedman Street bridge. And that is still a pretty thriving Filipino and Japanese community. I say thriving, there's at least good remnants of it yet. And we've tried to tell the story through some of the interpretive signage in the area. We have a long way to go.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (21:55):**

I know Creek street is clearly a success story, even though it comes with some of its challenges, but can you give us some examples of some preservation success stories that we may not have heard yet in some of our interviews?

**Stephen Reeve (22:10):**

On Creek street or?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (22:12):**

Anywhere, just general. Creek Street's obviously a success story. I mean, you go to Ketchikan, it's successful. There's a lot of thriving businesses on Creek Street. But I am interested to hear some others as involved as you are in the actual restoration process, as architects and developers. What preservation success stories can you provide for Ketchikan, in Ketchikan?

**Stephen Reeve (22:39):**

I personally... Amanda, I think the recognition of the three districts and the support we had to talk to all property owners in developing those districts, all stakeholders, and the fact that property owners supported it, the local government did those are six. Those are the beginnings of success stories. We've been lucky to have a number of individuals who have had the development capacity and commitment to take on a number of historic properties. I think for example of the Gilmore Hotel. Yeah.

**Amanda Welsh (23:19):**

I was going to mention the Gilmore.

**Stephen Reeve (23:21):**

Yeah, yeah. So we've got, you know, maybe a dozen nicely done historic restorations in town that pay tribute to the commitment of those individuals.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (23:34):**

And what do you think contributed to the success? What sort of elements contributed to that success? Getting the districts nominated, getting that consensus of everybody to buy in on this is the right thing to do to the restoration of Gilmore Hotel. What do you think contributed to all those success, all that success that you guys have seen?

**Stephen Reeve (23:59):**

Sorry, what's the question.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (24:01):**

What I'm asking is what contributed to the success of things like the restoration of the Gilmore Hotel, getting these districts nominated, what do you think contributed, what elements contributed to that success?

**Amanda Welsh (24:14):**

I would say that concerted, intense effort by the individuals involved. <laugh> Sort of comes down to a few motivated people to make things happen. So I think our office building is actually a preservation success story, although it wasn't a super difficult project to do. But our building is, it's a concrete shell building. And when we bought it, it was, you know, an uninsulated, bare concrete shell on two floors and a really moldy large apartment on the third floor. We renovated and got it looking better for our office. But we had this challenge of what do we do with this damp, you know, high ceiling concrete space on the ground floor with floor drains in it? It was a boiler room for the old hospital and, you know, because the building looked good and was attractive and had been, you know, recently renovated. We ended up with a tenant who's running a small brewery down there and it's like perfect for a brewery. It stays cold. <laugh> You know, it's got the floor drains. And you know, it's basically exactly what he needs for his little microbrewery, but it never would've happened if we hadn't, you know, gotten the building looking like it, you know, would be an attractive spot for the public to come. That's worked out better than we ever thought it would.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (25:41):**

Amazing.

**Stephen Reeve (25:42):**

Amanda and her husband, Tim, only have a few steps to go to the brew pub, which is another...

**Amanda Welsh (25:49):**

We really neglect that place, we hardly ever get down there. It's kind of, uh, <laugh> sad.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (25:57):**

And you know, we've heard that some of our interviews too, of, you know, the attractiveness, that historic preservation can attract these businesses. And it really works out nicely when the adaptive reuse is just ideal for that particular building, which is a definitely the best case scenario. So that's an awesome story. If money were no object, what would you do to improve your community?

**Amanda Welsh (26:21):**

I have said many times if I was bill gates wealthy, <laugh> I would probably buy them all and fix them all and then sell them to people who liked them for that. <laugh>

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (26:34):**

Acquisition, is that what you're saying? You would just acquire them?

**Amanda Welsh (26:37):**

I would, I would have a team of, you know, great restoration carpenters and yeah, that would be a lot of fun and I'd blow through it all. <laugh>

**Stephen Reeve (26:50):**

Just blow it up. It'll be like that, Amanda.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (26:56):**

And so let's just say... what this next question is, what would need to happen to make that possible?

**Amanda Welsh (27:04):**

Yeah, I think a lot of funding, yeah. Community backing and funding, and maybe even something like revolving loans. If you're willing to meet certain standards or you know, technical assistance, you know, there's, I mean, we can do a little sketch or something, but really it gets pretty expensive if we are doing more than that. So you know, if people had sort of a stipend for a little higher level of technical assistance, that would be awesome.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (27:37):**

We've definitely heard revolving loans in some of our interviews. So that seems to be a common or interest.

**Amanda Welsh (27:43):**

Another way to do that instead of a loan would be a tax break, you know, for people who are really, you know, keeping their properties up and have restored them suitably, then that would be great to not then get higher taxes.

**Stephen Reeve (28:02):**

I think, you know, more emphasis, too, on telling our story. We don't do a good job yet. We're working on one of the new signs for buildings, we call Colorful Characters and Places, for the Heckman building and a number of other buildings downtown. But here's the story of a guy who came here in the late 1800s and a very innovative character, who created the floating fish trap and made Ketchikan the salmon capital of the world and stuff. And his buildings are still in excellent condition. In fact, I'm very pleased that someone just purchased them that Amanda and I know who are very, very committed to historic preservation. And they will stay that way for the foreseeable future. But just telling that story, I see locals and visitors stacked up looking at the signs we do have up, I think that really reinforces historic preservation and a better understanding of the community of the role of historic preservation in our own economic future. And so well, it's great to restore these buildings. That's the most important thing to be done? I think we really have to invest in telling the stories of these buildings to really communicate with kids and with citizens of the community and the visitors who come here.

**Amanda Welsh (29:34):**

That's a good point. I mean, it's hard to miss that you're buying a historic property, if there's a sign on it that tells you about it. <laugh> Yeah.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (29:40):**

Well, that actually goes to my next question, which we've touched a little bit about education, and that seems to be another common interest, if you will, in terms of the folks we've interviewed is, you know, getting the education out there. And so what do you think the most effective preservation training program or medium is currently that you may have, or what you think may work? What do you think that preservation training, how should that education be disseminated in terms of training folks on the importance of these buildings? I mean, culture resources, not just buildings, but...

**Amanda Welsh (30:19):**

Yeah. You know, over the years, I've sort of thought about how awesome it would be to have a series of workshops, you know, how to restore your historic window, how to, you know, just that sort of thing. You know, how

to research what your house used to look like, how to, I mean, there's just probably a laundry list of subjects that could be sort of presented as a community workshop for people who are interested. I think just in the process of advertising for that and getting the word out about things like that, it would be educational for people to know that's going on, even if they don't attend.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (31:00):**

What do you think the effective way of communicating preservation information like ... Okay, workshops, but how do you think getting that information out to the public? Let's say if you were to have a workshop, what do you think in Ketchikan, how would that look like? What would that look like in Ketchikan for getting that out, we're talking radio advertisements, we're talking social media. What do you think that outlet should be to get the information out?

**Amanda Welsh (31:24):**

I think it would be the local newspaper. And there's the Ketchikan Daily News, I think, either one of those or both, a lot, you know, we have a good strong, locally owned newspaper here, which is unusual. And so a lot of people do read it. Then KB, and what's the other one that my kids like, or the radio stations, you know, it's pretty easy to get a very broad cross section of the radio listening public in Ketchikan, because there's not that many stations that are really popular. But then I also see on Facebook, you know, it's worth it to pay a little bit to advertise on Facebook so that your word gets out because there's a lot of community events listed on like the community events page and you know, people share interesting things that are going on. So it's sort of, you know, every way possible. <laugh> Not one specific thing.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (32:21):**

One of our interviews that we had, somebody had commented on, on language barriers in Ketchikan and disseminating this information isn't necessarily one of my questions, but, you know, when you're talking newspapers and radio advertisements, some of these underrepresented communities, do you think there could be some, you know, advantage maybe having these sorts of newspapers in a different language, written in a different language or radio advertisements out in a different language?

**Casey Woster, TNSDS (32:53):**

We have five minutes left.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (32:55):**

Okay. Yeah.

**Amanda Welsh (32:57):**

Yeah. I don't know. That's a good question. I don't really know how many people in Ketchikan don't speak English and what languages they do speak. So that's a good research question.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (33:08):**

What is your hope for the future of Ketchikan?

**Amanda Welsh (33:14):**

Hmm, I guess I hope for improved community character and improved quality of life. You know, we're struggling with a little bit of over tourism right now and I hope that can get figured out. It's a great place to live. We have like so many assets here that I think the future's pretty bright. So.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (33:37):**

And what do you think, being on a commission and being very involved with the commission, what do you think the role of the local preservation commission is in improving your community?

**Amanda Welsh (33:48):**

I mean, a lot of the commission function things we're already doing, you know, sort of keep keeping track of what DOT wants to do in town is really important. But I think that we could have a bigger role in working with Tongass Historical Society and Historic Ketchikan, sort of in conjunction on some of this education stuff. I would like to see more involvement in cooperation among the groups. And now that COVID is sort of waning, I think we can start having, you know, some joint get togethers and, you know, sort of get to know each other again.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (34:22):**

I like it. And I'm going to skip to this next question, which is what role does the preservation plan have in shaping that future?

**Amanda Welsh (34:31):**

Well, I've always really seen the preservation plan as a really helpful guide to what the historic commission is doing, because I write a lot of the letters to DOT, because I have strong opinions. And it would be really helpful to know what our priorities are, you know, what's, I mean... one example that I've talked to the commission about before is, you know, there's a little house near Bar Harbor, or Bar Harbor Marina that the city is purchased and it's going to tear down for more marina parking. It's not necessarily a super important old house, but it is historic. It has some integrity. On the other hand, you know, the marina is incredibly important economically and it has a severe shortage of parking and assets. So it's like, you know, how as a commission, I know what we're supposed to do as a commission, as what we want to see for the community, what are we, you know, how do we prioritize what we're really fighting to save, and what, you know, it's just, there's just a lot of challenges and difficult decisions. So I'm sure we'll be asked to comment on that house and I'm really conflicted on, you know, how to comment and actually, we'll have to sit out because we're writing a report on it for the city. So it's, I don't think I'll have a say that one since I'm involved at the office, but just as tricky questions.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (35:49):**

What are your hopes for the historic preservation plan and what issues do you want to be sure are addressed?

**Amanda Welsh (36:02):**

I guess, you know, some of it is already happening. I was really thrilled with that first meeting and how much input we got. And it's really good to know who's interested in this stuff because we're sort of operating in a vacuum. And I hope it, you know, I know this is just the information gathering stage and there's the future planning stage that will be based on this. But I hope it helps guide all the different preservation related history related groups in town, you know, I hope it can be of wide ranging value.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (36:37):**

And what role would...

**Casey Woster, TNSDS (36:38):**

I'm sorry. Zoom is going to shut us down in less than a minute and a half. If we get cut off it, we did not do it on purpose.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (36:46):**

<laugh> all right. Last question. What role, if any, would you like to play or do you see your organization playing in future preservation efforts?

**Stephen Reeve (36:54):**

That's just we in Ketchikan?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (36:57):**

Just..

**Amanda Welsh (36:57):**

Your, everybody, anybody? <laugh>

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (36:59):**

What role would do you see yourself playing in that future preservation efforts?

**Stephen Reeve (37:08):**

For me personally, it'll be continuing to focus on building restoration for Historic Ketchikan. I really want us to be able to have the financial support, so much of what we do as all volunteer and there's really limits about what you can do. A lot of the keys to historic preservation in the community is information, whether it's signs or websites or whatever, it takes a lot of effort to do these things. I'll keep plugging away at it, but we need better local go support for this work.

**Amanda Welsh (37:47):**

Yeah. I'm going to keep on keeping on. <laugh>

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (37:50):**

<laugh> Well, I, Hey, I appreciate it. It was a little challenging to fit two people in one, but we did it. We, we only have the 21st question left. I skipped one question. That was, uh, what role do you see the...

## Janalee Gage

The interview with Janalee Gage took place on August 1, 2022. The interview was conducted by TNSDS Principle Consultant Robert Meinhardt and TNSDS Project Architectural Historian Casey Woster.

Ketchikan Historic Preservation Community Outreach Project

Stakeholder Interview # 8

August 1, 2022

True North Sustainable Development Solutions, LLC

Robert Meinhardt, MA

Casey Woster, MA

Interviewee: Janalee Gage, former KHC member

### Janalee Gage (00:00):

Here we go. All right. I don't know how...

### Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (00:03):

Yeah. The interview is going to take about 45 minutes. We have a cap at 45 minutes. There are 20 questions. And then one open ended question at the end. If we have time, sometimes we have time and sometimes we do not. But I'm going to start out with just asking you to state your name and how you identify as a stakeholder.

### Janalee Gage (00:28):

Janalee Gage, sixth generation Ketchikan. My great, great grandmother was Harriet Hunt and Forest Hunt was my great, great grandfather, instrumental in building a library, the museum, he sat on the sixth seat for the state of Alaska before it was a state. So I guess that's part of my that's where I'm a stakeholder. <laugh>

### Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (01:07):

It's a good reason to identify that's for sure. So I'm going to start off with just some simple questions. Casey will just let us know when we start getting close to the 45 minute mark so that we can try to get through these is the best that we possibly can. So I'm going to start off with the first question. That is, how do you define preservation?

### Janalee Gage (01:28):

Making sure to tell the history in its entirety, whether it's good or bad, just being able to preserve all aspects of it, and the timelines not making up stuff, just because you don't know what to fill the whole.

### Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (01:59):

Can you tell us about your involvement with historic preservation efforts in Ketchikan?

### Janalee Gage (02:04):

Well, I sit on the library advisory board, and I also have donated photographs over the last two years for the events that happened in Ketchikan, but also demonstrations like Black Lives Matter and other events that went on during that time period. And I continually take pictures, it's my nature. <laugh>

### Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (02:40):

Why does preservation matter to you?

### Janalee Gage (02:46):

Well, my grandmother taught me that if you don't know your history, you're deemed to repeat past transgressions,

and it's always good to know where you come from. It's important to know where you come from so that you can learn from that.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (03:09):**

Why do you think preservation matters to Ketchikan?

**Janalee Gage (03:18):**

I think we have a unique story. I think that all aspects of the community have value and the history of that value, if it's lost then becomes, I think, when you have a community that has no attachment to their history you lose the value of support and, like actual commitment to that community. You don't... if you live in a community where you have no value or no history, you don't see any value in the community. Well, I don't know if that makes sense, but...

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (03:59):**

Absolutely. And what is one of the biggest challenges to preservation in Ketchikan that you can see?

**Janalee Gage (04:10):**

I think, well, one of them that I've seen lately is I think we, over the years, thought that somebody might have been keeping track of something. So like, and the only example I can give is the 4th of July Queen, event happened for the last I want to say, I went back to 1900s. The earliest photo I can find has got to be 1920s, maybe younger, but no one actually... no one kept any of the history or if they did it got lost somewhere, because it was a family, somebody kept it in there and it never went to the museum. It never went to the library, it changed different organizations, ran it. And so I can't, for example, find who was queen for every year and how far back it went. So that would be one. And then also, there was a question asked about the yearbook for the high school and how the name got changed from one thing to another. And there's no way to really find that out. Unless there you could pull all of the old high school newspapers and whether or not they're on microfiche. yeah, so that would be one. Those are two areas and I think it's true even in the high school. Like, I remember when I graduated from high school, we got a new yearbook editor or a new yearbook teacher and she pretty much like threw out all of the past negatives, past photos, past everything. And even some of the old yearbooks and even though some of us were like, no, you can't do that. <laugh> Although I snaked them from the janitor afterwards. They're now in my house.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (06:17):**

And now you're the record keeper, so that's good.

**Janalee Gage (06:19):**

Well, half of them were mine and I was angry that she would throw them away. So. <laugh>

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (06:25):**

So what do you think the strengths and weaknesses of your community are?

**Janalee Gage (06:32):**

I think we have not truly told the story of how we impeded on the Native people in downtown Ketchikan, how Chief Kyan's property was taken. There are some stories that have never been truly explored and actually given purpose to, or acknowledged in that respect. I think it's interesting because I think there's some direct correlation between some capacity council, transgressions, and the taking of properties from Native community members. That story hasn't been told. I know it's there, but it's almost like been Ketchikan has a bad habit of putting their dirty laundry under the rug, and not acknowledging their dirty laundry. And just things that people don't about, someone's keeping a record, but not actually keeping a record, not in a way that it will benefit Ketchikan. The other

one would be in the black history. There are multiple people from the black community that have done amazing stuff in our community. Like the... I'm going to... anyway, her husband and her donated the one of the ball fields and they tried to change the name and I think understanding the naming of things and you can't just go and change them. Mrs. Dudley. So Mr and Mrs. Dudley, they were instrumental in creating a place for people to play baseball and softball later on. And that's a piece of history that's not well known and I'm sure there's others. So I think just what do you do with the diverse history?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (09:04):**

What do you think some of the strengths are of Ketchikan?

**Janalee Gage (09:09):**

The number of people that did keep the... I think one of the strongest things was when they started doing the verbal, like actually interviewing community members before they passed about their experiences. It would've been nice if they kept doing it, but, you know... <laugh> But back in the seventies and the eighties, they were doing those, interviewing and recording people's stories, like Dolly, she did hers. And I think that was extremely important. Being one of the only last houses of ill repute on the Creek, she was one of the only ones that would speak to it, even though many of them were still in town and just got married and moved on and just didn't want to speak to it. The knowledge of storytelling and people telling their stories, I think is probably one of our biggest strengths. And then the fact that our museums, we now have advisory boards that are extremely diverse and with the Native community. And, I think it still could be better, but having that, where we're all at the table and having those conversations and not... yeah. I know when years ago it was very contentious because they were left out of the conversation and now it, I think it's much better. I think it could always be better, like our heritage center could be bigger. <laugh>

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (10:58):**

Do you see a place for historic preservation in your community?

**Janalee Gage (11:02):**

Oh yeah. Yeah. I think multiple places. I think we could do more with our Totem Heritage Center. The museum, we have so many things in storage that don't even get, you know, air time. I think there's always more, just in the community's art arena, you know.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (11:35):**

What is the largest public misunderstanding of preservation in Ketchikan that you can see?

**Janalee Gage (11:44):**

They think I think the largest would be people think it's not important, that it's a waste of money, that nobody wants to see it. Nobody's interested. It's similar to the idea that we don't need libraries anymore because we have the internet.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (12:07):**

Right. Now. You touched on this question a little bit, already, but what stories or histories remain untold or under-represented? You talked about the black history in Ketchikan, the African American history and the ball fields with the Dudleys, but can you think of anything else?

**Janalee Gage (12:27):**

Yes. The Filipino community. We recently had a show, you know, it's interesting because I was in high school when this went down. So this shows how blind I was at the time and I have a lot of Filipino friends, but in the eighties

and it might have been when I was in college actually. So it might have been just that I was out of town, but they had that strike at the fish canneries due to the way the Filipino community was being mistreated and used and brought in from the Philippines to work. But we also have a very large Filipino history, I mean, they've been here forever too. About a hundred years, 200 years and, and a lot of well-known families and a lot of history there. We did finally get Alma Parker on the advisory board to represent, it was very hard, lot of begging.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (13:32):**

And we were fortunate enough to interview her and she's like a lot of amazing insights.

**Janalee Gage (13:37):**

Oh yeah, no incredible. And I know it's a cultural thing. There's a lot of just navigating in culture, the way they see history and all that, I get it.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (13:49):**

Can you tell us a story or give us an example of a preservation success story in Ketchikan and what contributed to that success?

**Janalee Gage (14:05):**

I'd have to say it was actually at this last show. We have the Riley, Ryan is amazing and he came out a couple years ago and they put together the show that had what went on during COVID and then in the past. So there was a combination of like when the influenza and like all these random, but they all kind of sync together, but it had the history of the Filipino strike at the canneries. But it also had the demonstration for LGBTQ, which I can tell you, our our museum has never had anything about LGBTQ ever. So I think that was a huge win. The other one was the event that the museum participated. And by having to address the missing murdered indigenous women. So I think just the fact that they're keeping, kind of, incorporating, or they're being a part of not just the path, but in what's going on currently, you know, historically coming in at the time that it's actually happening. And I think the other thing that's kind of neat is they've been, they started, with COVID, they were able to video or do a little more work with what they have in storage, and doing videos. So people could actually see the museum while not even being in town.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (15:54):**

What do you think it contributed to all this success?

**Janalee Gage (16:00):**

The time to actually be able to sit down and do it when we weren't allowed to be out and about, okay. Being closed down, actually I think benefited, in another ways, you know, like we see it as a bad thing, but for them it was an opportunity to take that time. They could never before do the things they needed to do. On another level, you know, those things that always get put on the back burner, got started.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (16:33):**

Interesting. If money were no object, what would you do to improve your community?

**Janalee Gage (16:42):**

<laugh> In historical stuff or just in general?

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (16:52):**

I think it could be historical historic preservation. It could be arts, it could be anything. What would you do to improve Ketchikan?

**Janalee Gage (17:08):**

There's so many things I would... oh, if money was no object, I would create an art, an artist or art venue that was large enough that could support not only the smaller artists, but just the historical pieces. Like, I know that there's always been talk about that Grumman Goose that sits in a warehouse that nobody sees, that I know that those guys would love to be able to drive through town and see that hanging in you know, a giant glass case. <laugh> Which is, you know, that was a huge piece of our history.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (18:04):**

And what do you think, would need to happen to make that possible?

**Janalee Gage (18:09):**

Well, I know like, with the theater, when the money dropped out of the theater back in 2007, it would be a big chunk of change. It would take some money. But I think it would be a really good benefit to the community. And it'd be an investment for people to come see it. I also would build a... I would actually, and I brought this up, is I would have a pole in honor of Elizabeth Peratrovich and all the other women in our community who were civil rights activists, you know, the Peratrovich is the... all of them, there's five women that should be, to me, should be on a pole. <laugh> I know they just recently did one for POW MIA. And so I think more poles and having more representation and the history of women in our community, women are one of those. Like, they pretty much built this town, and I think that's another part that hasn't been explored, how much work the women put into this community, and still do.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (19:52):**

<laugh> Absolutely. And what is the most effective preservation training program and/or medium that you see? Like what, what kind of program to educate the public on preservation? What do you think is the most effective?

**Janalee Gage (20:06):**

I don't know that answer. <laugh> I'm not sure I've ever been to one, to be honest with you. So, you know, I mean, I think the advisory boards and community home town hall meetings seem to work, but I think there's other ways to engage people. If they feel like they're invested in it, or if they have something to bring to the table, I think they tend to... when they were working on redoing the library or the museum, they had multiple town halls and a lot of people, a lot of stakeholders showed up. I was actually impressed. I wish I could get that many people to a city council meeting.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (21:01):**

<laugh>

**Janalee Gage (21:03):**

So there was a lot of young and older, between my mom's age and down that showed up. So I think that was good. I think education at the college level, you know, maybe more activities where people could go and learn. okay. And I know Mr. Tatsuda did one, one night. Of course, I couldn't go because it's a Thursday night, but I heard it was really good. <laugh> On a history of the Catsuda family and things like that. And, when they were in the internment camps, that there was another part of history that should be, you know, how people came together to help make sure they didn't lose their property or their store and all of that. Cause that's not necessarily a story that you hear very often about.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (22:12):**

Interesting. And what do you think is the most effective way of communicating preservation information? So if you're going to communicate, for instance, some of these town halls, these meeting events where the information

may be there, how do you think communicating that information? What do you think an effective tool in Ketchikan would be?

**Janalee Gage (22:35):**

Facebook has a Ketchikan Communities event page that seems to work really well. Newspaper, radio, KRBD. I think a lot of people look at that, put it on their calendar, because everyone's always looking at the community page. KRBD has a community calendar, pretty much like a lot of people pay attention to that. Newspaper is okay, but not everyone reads the newspaper. You know, some of us just get it for the Wednesday ads and the weekend sit news. <laugh> There's posters, putting it up on the billboards all over town. People look at those all the time. There's calling and getting it out. But for mailers, I think even mailers are good. I'm always getting a mailer from the arts council, you know, when a new show comes up and I think that is always a good way to get ahold of people.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (23:46):**

And what is your hope for the future of Ketchikan?

**Janalee Gage (23:53):**

I would hope that we keep, I want to keep... I know how hard it is with the older homes, but being able to keep our community. And I know how expensive is to take care of an older house, I live in a 1920s and I'm just like, oh my gosh. <laugh> But being able to keep the downtown looking like it, you know, how it is because I think that's what makes us stand apart and I've seen where... You know, I've lived, I went to college in LA and I watched them tear down and just build up square boxes. And where I live now, I've watched people, take their barn shaped houses that used to have character and turn them into boxes. And I think just being able to give people the tools and the ability to, you know, restore and keep houses. So they have those characters and the ability. Because that's what people come to see. And I don't necessarily want it to be about the tourist, but I think it's important. I think it, it also makes us feel like we still live in our town. I remember my grandmother one time. It was right after the pulp mill closed down and all the shops, all the places got bought up, by jewelry stores and she came home and she's like, "I feel like I have Alzheimer's I don't even recognize my hometown." And change is inevitable, but there's a certain amount of change that's just devastating to a community. And that was one of those where for, for like 10 years, we had 101 jewelry stores. It was like they wiped out even, and I'm not saying that we needed 65 bars, <laugh> but the character of downtown totally drastically changed and it wasn't pretty. And now we're starting to see some more diversity in shops come back in to downtown and part of me just would love to see the jewelry stores just disappear. <laugh> But at the same time, there's this give and take of just quality and community that it would just be nice to have that back.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (26:24):**

So I'm going to switch gears a little bit. What do you feel is the role of the local preservation commission improving your community? The local Ketchikan Historic Commission?

**Janalee Gage (26:37):**

You know, I think, you know, their role, they bring some really great things to our council meetings and I wish that we could do almost everything on there. I love that they go outside of the, you know, like give us some really good ideas on walking around Ketchikan and be able to get it around having these landmark kind of like stories as they go. And I can see more of that. I actually went to a place in Washington where they had on the corners. They had these, kind of similar to what we have, where it has a history story on one side. But on the other side of theirs, they have a map that shows where everything is. So it's not designed by the cruise ships, it's city and it's designed so they can take it out and replace it with a new map if something changes. So they have it like in a glass case, but I thought it was great. It was like being in the mall where you look at the thing and it tells you where the stores are.

So if you're walking down the street, you at least know, "Hey, if I go three more blocks, there's an ice cream shop." Or, "If I go three more blocks, there's this little store." Or, "That's where Creek Street is." Because right now people don't get kind of, they think they don't want to go too far because they're afraid they're going to walk into a bad neighborhood. <laugh> But I think, I wish if I could give them all the money in the world to pull off their dream, that they pretty much have in that nice little package, I would do it in a heartbeat because I think it's great.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (28:36):**

What role do you see for the state historic preservation? Excuse me, State Historic Preservation Office in the community?

**Janalee Gage (28:52):**

Yeah. Yeah. Can we get, like walking where people can, you know, walk off the dock and know where they're going so they can find the community themselves if they so choose to and not just get trapped in the tour traps, but actually experience Ketchikan. It's interesting because two years ago I started, I wasn't working my job, they changed and they moved it up to Kenai and I didn't want to move back. So I was driving Uber and one of the things I heard from people that came into the community is how hard it was to find the locals or, you know, like not feeling like they were, you know, walking down main street and like there was nothing down there. Kind of, it gets dark in the winter too. But having that, just those little like okay, just keep going and you'll hit Creek Street. I know it's not that far to walk either, but I don't get it. <laugh> I have a disability and I walk it. <laugh> But a lot of them, they wanted more time here too. So I've actually had people who, as a matter of fact, this last week, a couple people that were on the cruise ship a few years ago, they decided to come here and spend a whole week, but then figuring out what they wanted to do and where they wanted to go. And so just having those tools that are available.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (30:46):**

So when I asked you about your hope for the future of Ketchikan, you discussed preserving that downtown historical character and restoring homes. What role do you think this preservation plan has in shaping that future?

**Janalee Gage (31:04):**

I don't know if it does. I just know that if there were ways to help people or, I don't know, if there's grants or what-not to assist people in restoring older homes, buildings to keep them from changing it. So they're more affordable. I know that some of the older buildings are harder to heat now, especially with the with the, you know, rising costs. Then there's been a lot of people like buying property that don't live here and, I find, not taking care of it. So what can we do to, and maybe this is something that I have to ask my council, is that when do we have to step in and say, if you're going to buy something here, you these are going to be the new rules as to preserving that piece of property. Does that make sense? And and maybe that's, we need those tools too, because we've never had to do that. I mean, I've lived in communities like Kenai where you, you had to keep your house up to a certain standard, or you got in trouble with, you know, the neighborhood watch. <laugh> It had one of those residential groups. So, if you did anything to bring down their property value, they were all over you. <laugh>

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (32:36):**

And I think you may have just answered my next question, which is what are your hopes for the historic preservation plan and what issues do you want to be sure are addressed? And I think what you're telling us is maybe you'd like to see design guidelines, some sort of design guidance for people on preserving those buildings?

**Janalee Gage (32:54):**

Maybe some tax breaks and you know, just like making things ADA accessible and having those tax breaks to keep things preserved at the same time. Maybe there's a give and take there where, you know, like, yeah, we wanted it to look this way and but we also want to give you a break, you know, maybe a tax break, if you do this same with

the ADA, if you make things accessible and maybe, letting people know that, Hey, you could do this and keep it looking like this, but here's how you make it accessible to people. And I think John did a great job at the old Bayside where he put in an elevator, but it still keeps the character of the old Bayside building. And it's beautiful inside in the banister. The staircase is still there, but the fact that I literally could go upstairs and they have walk-in showers to all their rooms. So somebody who cannot get into a bathtub anymore can stay there comfortably and take the elevator.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (34:05):**

And what role if any, would you like to play or do you see your organization playing in future preservation in Ketchikan?

**Janalee Gage (34:15):**

I think it's important that the city would be a partner. I think we could be a better partner even. I think just lately it's been, how do we get the grants to do our infrastructure and how do we get, you know, and how does that tie into keeping the current buildings in place and safe and sound without losing our character, and how do we do it without taxing the community and running our own people out? I think that's the biggest issue, is that communities that lose their own community members lose their history. And the Airbnb thing is starting to really scare me too, because I've read a lot of things on how that's affected places like Italy, where it's become too expensive. And so everyone's just renting out their homes and we have no room for actual people who were born and raised and live here year round and belong here.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (35:42):**

So the last question, I know we only have a couple minutes left, but what, if anything, else would you like to discuss or you'd like us to know? Just kind of an open ended question. Is there something we should probably know as we help the city develop its preservation plan?

**Janalee Gage (36:00):**

I think education. Even I can use a little more education on my community, but I think there's a lot of council members that are not from here originally. And so their history is skewed by what they may have been told or learned. And I also think it's important that our history, maybe, you know, we have Alaska history in high school now, we didn't have it when I was in high school. I took it in college, but having that Ketchikan history, you know, this is what happened, this is why we do what we do.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (36:49):**

It's a great answer. And I think education has been a common theme in a lot of the questions we've been asking folks and they just want more education out there. And I think you're going to see that.

**Janalee Gage (37:02):**

You know, and I think it can be done in a way that people learn as they go. I mean, even in PSAs, people learn through art, you know, people learn new things and just having it out there where, you know, even if they randomly read something, they're going to learn that little piece, you know, and then eventually maybe put something together. <laugh>

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (37:29):**

Well, I just want to thank you so much for all your input, all your answers. This has been a great interview and I appreciate it.

**Janalee Gage (37:36):**

It. One other thing I have to bring up is the history of Ward Lake and the internment camps. Just forgot about that one. Yeah, no, I appreciate that.

**Casey Woster, TNSDS:**

That came up in a couple of other interviews, too.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (37:52):**

Yeah,

**Janalee Gage (37:52):**

Absolutely good. Because, I mean, my grandmother made me read the thousand mile war.

**Casey Woster, TNSDS (37:58):**

<laugh> So we are about to get cut off. Zoom is going to cut us off here very shortly.

**Robert Meinhardt, TNSDS (38:05):**

We appreciate your time!

**Janalee Gage (38:06):**

Yeah.

**APPENDIX E: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (PIP) WORKSHEET**

## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN WORKSHEET (PIP)

### Overview

The Ketchikan Historic Commission is composed entirely of volunteers and as noted during the public outreach process, funding for historic preservation efforts is often limited. Thus, establishing priorities that are in alignment with available resources, time, and opportunities is critical in order for the commission to continue to build on its considerable work. The Project Implementation Plan Worksheet (PIP) was created to help do that.

The Phase I: Public Outreach process identified a number of possible strategic priorities or goals for the commission. As part of the Phase II, those goals and priorities will be further refined and developed as part of the creation of the Historic Preservation Plan. Between these two phases, there will be a gap of time between when the Public Outreach Phase is completed and when the work creating the actual Historic Preservation Plan, commences. The PIP worksheet is intended to leverage that interim time by providing a template to further refine and evaluate possible goals and priorities to be included in the plan.

### The PIP provides a way to:

- quickly define an action item, consider what resources might be needed,
- establish a preliminary time frame for implementation,
- identify key stakeholders and plan for public engagement,
- clarify desired results, and
- assess priorities for potential inclusion in the plan.

### How It Works

The PIP worksheet is organized around the classic questions of Who, What, Why, Where, and How. It is intended to provide a high-level overview of potential goals so that the commission and relevant stakeholders can assess the “readiness” or feasibility of potential goals.

It is important to note that this document is meant to assist in the preliminary stages of the planning process. It is not meant to be exhaustive nor to take the place of the historic preservation plan, rather it is a tool to help with that process. Thus, it should not be overly burdensome to complete.

It can be amended or altered as needed by the commission and it can be used by KHC members, stakeholders, collaborators, and the general public.

### Completing the Form

1. The form can be completed by in individual or by a group or combinations thereof. The KHC is encouraged to be creative when completing the forms.
2. It should take no more than 30 minutes to complete the form.
3. Completion of the forms should be followed by discussion and or shared between relevant stakeholders for comment.

### Aligning Goals with Duties of the Commission

The following table was created to help identify which goals or strategic priorities align with the main duties of the Commission. It is important to note that most of the goals identified during the public outreach process help forward the work of the Commission in multiple domains. For example, many respondents to the Public Outreach

Survey expressed their interest in and willingness to visit local sites. Thus creating a Local's List of Sites to Visit , while ostensibly under the domain of public outreach and education, could also result in the identification of previously unrecognized properties and their evaluation and eventual protection.

The thoughtful implementation of any of these priorities could support each of the main domains of the work of the commission.

Goal	Public Education	Public Outreach	Identification	Evaluation	Protection
Create a Public Engagement and Education Program (PEEP)	x	x			
Publish a Summary of Historic Preservation Efforts in Ketchikan	x	x			
As part of larger communication strategy, compile informational sources on preservation for public consumption as part of existing or new website. This could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calendar of events</li> <li>• “What Happens at KHC Meeting”</li> <li>• Newsletter with FAQs</li> </ul>	x	x			
Create a locals list of sites to visit	x	x	x	x	
Preservation Potluck	x	x	x		
Storytelling Events	x	x	x		
Create Citizens Guide to Preservation	x	x	x	x	x
Preservation Potluck	x	x			
Expand Protection of Historic Resources					
Create internal list of threatened or endangered properties					x
Provide Information on Economic Benefits of and Incentives for Historic Preservation	x	x			
Identification and Evaluation of Ketchikan’s Historic Resources					
Creation of Collaborative Signage	x	x	x	x	x
Establish NRHP Nomination Priorities			x	x	x
Remember the Recent Past			x	x	
Expanded notions of heritage	x	x	x	x	x
Establish a Program of Survey and Evaluation	x	x	x	x	x
Develop Historic Themes and Contexts	x	x	x	x	x
Expand Protection of Historic Resources	x	x	x	x	x

## FAQs

*I don't know the answer to some of the questions*

Great! The process is working. Part of the refinement of goals and priorities is clarifying what information is known and is accessible, and what information isn't. It is perfectly fine to write "don't know" on the form. If the goal or priority is adopted as part of the actual plan, then a deep dive on finding the answers will be done.

*If I fill out the form, does it mean I am responsible for doing it?*

Nope! The PIP worksheet is neither a commitment or a contract, it exists to help further hone and clarify possible priorities for inclusion on the plan.

*Is there a way to rank or prioritize the forms?*

If a forced ranking of priorities is necessary or desirable the commission can:

- Prioritize goals identified as high priority
- Prioritize goals that address two or more duties of the commission
- Create a method of prioritizing or ranking

*How will these work with the preservation plan?*

When work on the Phase II of the preservation plan commences, the KHC can share these forms with the entity that is working on completing the plan so that the information included in the forms can be incorporated in to the plan.

*Who can complete the forms?*

Because historic preservation is a collective, collaborative, and participatory effort anyone interested in advancing historic preservation efforts could complete the form. This could include the general public, local historians, elected or appointed officials, agency partners, or other stakeholders.

*It's another form! I'm so tired of forms!*

We understand! And forms and checklists can be a handy way to clarify our thinking and focus our effort. Ideally, time invested in planning means that implementation is more streamlined and straightforward.

**GOAL OR PROJECT TITLE:**

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**Form completed by:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Email</b>

**WHAT:**

Please provide a short description of the goal or project.

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**Alignment with the Duties of the Commission**

The duties of the KHC are grouped into three broad categories: Public Education and Outreach, Identification and Evaluation, and Protection. Work done by the KHC should fall under one of those broad domains. Which of these areas does this project fall under

<b>Duty</b> <i>(check as many as apply)</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Education
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Outreach
<input type="checkbox"/>	Identification
<input type="checkbox"/>	Evaluation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Protection
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please describe)
<b>Total</b> <i>(add up number of checks)</i>	

Please add any additional notes or comments here:

**Priority**

What level of priority is the project? Please provide a short commentary about why the selected level was chosen.

Priority	Description	Comments
High	Involves immediate threat or is critical to the mission of the Commission or to Historic Preservation Efforts in Ketchikan or the Region. This could include projects that are important for maintaining critical stakeholder relationships.	
Medium	Important to the mission and duties of the Commission or to Historic Preservation Efforts in Ketchikan and the Region. This could include projects that are important to maintaining stakeholder relationships.	
Low	Relevant to the mission and duties of the Commission or to Historic Preservation Efforts in Ketchikan or the region but not a strategic priority. This could include projects that could be completed by another entity or stakeholder.	

TABLE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

**HOW:**

What resources might be needed to complete the project? This list does not need to be complete or exhaustive but instead provides a high-level overview of what resources might be needed.. Please circle the appropriate answer in the column on the left and then use the column on the right for more detail as needed.

<b>Needed?</b> <i>Please Circle</i>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Details</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> <li>• Don't know</li> </ul>	<b>FINANCIAL</b> What financial resources might be needed to complete the project? What funding sources are available? Is it a onetime cost or ongoing?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> <li>• Don't know</li> </ul>	<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b> What administrative support is needed; how will the effort be managed?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> <li>• Don't know</li> </ul>	<b>LEGISLATIVE</b> Does the project require any legislative action? Permits?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> <li>• Don't know</li> </ul>	<b>STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION</b> What stakeholders need to be involved with the project?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> <li>• Don't know</li> </ul>	<b>EXPERTISE</b> Is there specific expertise needed to complete the project? Does that exist within the project team?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> <li>• Don't know</li> </ul>	<b>POLITICAL</b> What, if any political support is needed to move forward with the project?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> <li>• Don't know</li> </ul>	<b>TECHNICAL</b> What software, apps, or other special equipment might be needed?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> <li>• Don't know</li> </ul>	<b>MATERIALS &amp; SUPPLIES</b> What materials and supplies might be needed to complete the project? This could include items like printing.	

<b>Needed?</b> <i>Please Circle</i>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Details</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> <li>• Don't know</li> </ul>	<b>PROMOTION</b> How will work on the project be communicated through social media channels and other	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> <li>• Don't know</li> </ul>	<b>OTHER FEES</b> Will there be other costs or fees, for example venue rental?	

**WHEN:**

What is the project timeline? Is there a specific date by when the project needs to be completed? How long is it anticipated that the project would take? Six weeks? Six months? How much time will be needed by the commission to help steward the project?

<b>Important Dates</b>	Dates by which work needs to commence or be completed	
<b>Duration</b>	How long is it estimated the project will take?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short-term project (0-6 months)</li> <li>• Mid (6-12 months)</li> <li>• Long-term (1 year or more)</li> <li>• On-going (will become part of the work of the organization)</li> </ul>
<b>Amount of Time Needed</b>	In hours, approximately how much time will be needed by KHC commission to implement the project.	

Please add any additional notes or comments below

**WHO:**

Who needs to be involved to complete this project? This could include commission members, elected and appointed officials, collaborative partners, stakeholders, external consultants, public agencies and more.

**The Project Team**

Who will be on the project team? What roles will there be on the project team?

Role	Description	Name (if known)

**The Collaborators**

What other organizations need to be involved or included? *(check all that apply)*

- Historic Ketchikan Inc.
- Creek Street Architectural Review Board
- Ketchikan Visitors Bureau
- Tongass Historical Society
- Tongass Museum
- Ketchikan Gateway Borough Planning Department
- Ketchikan Indian Community
- Totem Heritage Center
- Ketchikan Tlingit & Haida Community Council, est. 1935 (Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska)
- Ketchikan Community Foundation
- Ketchikan Wellness Coalition
- Sealaska Heritage Institute
- Haida Canoe Revitalization Group
- Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce
- Downtown Steering Committee

- Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council
- Alaska Office of History and Archaeology
- Alaska Anthropological Association
- Alaska Association for Historic Preservation
- Alaska Historical Society
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
- National Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Other

Please add any additional notes or comments below.

### Public Outreach

How will the public be involved and included?

- Commission Meetings
- Special meetings
- Events
- Social Media
- Blog/Newsletter
- Local radio show
- Webinar
- Other

Please add any other additional notes or comments below.

**WHY:**

How is this project important to the work of the Ketchikan Historic Commission? How does it contribute to historic preservation efforts in Ketchikan? Why is a priority?

**Time Travel**

It is in the future, the project is completed, what has changed or transformed as a result?

**NEXT STEPS:**

After completing the form, what questions do you have? What additional information or support is needed?

**What are some of the immediate next steps to moving the project forward?**

If the KHC decides to move forward with this goal, part of that process will be to decide whether to move forward with a goal, and then create a more comprehensive implementation plan.

Action Item	Who	Date

## DECISION TO MOVE FORWARD

After review and discussion of the worksheet, the next step in the process is to decide whether or not to move forward with the initiative. Did the Commission decide to move forward?

Decision	Description
Yes	The Commission will be moving forward with the goal or initiative
No	The Commission will not be moving forward with the goal or initiative.
Holding	The Commission needs additional information, requires more time to decide or is delaying decision on the initiative for other reasons.

- No**
- Yes**
- Holding**

Please provide a short description of reason for the decision.