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## PRESS RELEASE

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### SUQUAMISH MUSEUM TO PARTICIPATE IN BLUE STAR MUSEUMS

***The Suquamish Museum is one of more than 2,000 museums across America to offer free admission to military personnel and their families this summer in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, and the Department of Defense***

[Suquamish, WA – May 26, 2016] – Today the Suquamish Museum announced the launch of Blue Star Museums, a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 2,000 museums across America to offer free admission to the nation's active duty military personnel including National Guard and Reserve and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day 2016. Leadership support for Blue Star Families programming and promotional materials has been provided by MetLife Foundation. The program also provides families an opportunity to enjoy the nation's cultural heritage and learn more about their new communities after a military move. The complete list of participating museums is available at [arts.gov/bluestarmuseums](http://arts.gov/bluestarmuseums). "We are very proud to join the Blue Star Families organization in offering free admission to active duty military personnel and their families", said Suquamish Museum Director, Janet Smoak. "Naval Base Kitsap is very close to us and it is an honor to extend this open invitation to those stationed there," she continued.

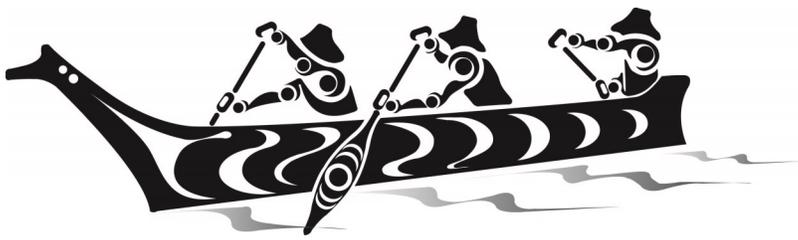
#### **About the Suquamish Museum**

The Suquamish Museum opened in 1993 and is charged by the Suquamish Tribal Council to collect, preserve, study, exhibit and teach the living culture and history of the Suquamish Tribe and its Salish neighbors. The current facility, opened in 2012 in the heart of Suquamish Village, features the exhibit ***Ancient Shores ~ Changing Tides*** chronicling the Tribe's presence in the region since time immemorial. This summer, visitors will also see a temporary exhibit, ***SQ3Tsya'yay: 20 Years of Coast Salish Weaving*** by ***Sa'HLa mitSa***—Dr. Susan Pavel.

#### **About Blue Star Families**

Blue Star Families is a national, nonprofit network of military spouses, children, parents and friends, as well as service members, veterans and civilians, dedicated to supporting, connecting and empowering military families. With our partners, Blue Star Families leverages data-driven insights to curate

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# Suquamish Museum

## Communications Office

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resources for military families, including career development tools, local community events for families, and caregiver support. Since its inception in 2009, Blue Star Families has engaged tens of thousands of volunteers and serves more than 1.5 million military family members annually. Blue Star Families also works directly with the Department of Defense and senior members of local, State and Federal government to bring the most important military family issues to light. With Blue Star Families, military families can find answers to their challenges anywhere they are. Visit [bluestarfam.org](http://bluestarfam.org) for more information.

### **About the National Endowment for the Arts**

Established by Congress in 1965, the NEA is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the NEA supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. This year marks the [50th anniversary of the National Endowment for the Arts](#) and the agency is celebrating this milestone with events and activities through September 2016.

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