



SUQUAMISH TRIBE

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

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New Suquamish Museum Opens to the Public

SUQUAMISH, Wash. (Sept. 6, 2012) - The Suquamish Tribe will open the new Suquamish Museum to the public on Saturday, Sept. 15, 2012. Doors will open at 10 a.m. when staff invite visitors inside the state-of-the-art 9,000 square-foot facility located on the corner of Division Street and Suquamish Way on the Port Madison Indian Reservation.

The new museum is triple the size of the previous facility and features two galleries, a performance space, museum store and outside learning areas. Inside, the largest gallery houses the new permanent exhibit *Ancient Shores – Changing Tides*, where seven symbolic design elements illustrate an integrated cultural view of the Suquamish Tribe over time; past, present, and future. Objects and artifacts owned by the Suquamish Museum, many never before exhibited, and those on loan from Suquamish families and other museums, will engage visitors to learn about the lives and culture of the Suquamish.

“The exhibit was consciously designed to offer visitors multiple ways of seeing, listening and doing to absorb the history and cultural environment of the Suquamish People,” said Suquamish Museum Director Janet Smoak.

The smaller gallery features rotating exhibits throughout the year. The first temporary exhibition in the smaller gallery runs from opening until February 2013 and features art by Suquamish Tribal Members. A celebration of knowledge and talent, the *Suquamish Art* exhibit displays work from nearly 20 tribal members including wood carvings, bentwood, wool regalia, cedar baskets, carved bone jewelry, wool weavings, two dimensional and three dimensional fine art pieces. Every year the gallery will feature three to four exhibits on a number of different topics including history, art and science to assist in exploring other aspects of the Suquamish story and how it relates to others around the world.

The new 50-seat education and presentation auditorium is equipped with an 80” flat screen TV, compatible with modern methods of computer and projection generated programming. Public lectures, documentary screenings, demonstrations and activity based workshops will be featured in the space as a regular part of museum programming. Public and private schools and tour groups will also benefit from this space as a way to augment museum learning with hands on activities and added content presentations. The Museum education program will also expand over the coming months to incorporate learning opportunities at other culturally significant sites on the Port Madison Reservation, including Old Man House Park, the gravesite of Chief Sealth and elsewhere.

An environmental and cultural resource education program, to debut in Spring 2013, will use the native habitat design of the Museum grounds. Historically, the Suquamish Tribe relied on the bounty found all around them for food, clothing, and housing. Outside spaces will be utilized to offer a glimpse into how those basic parts of family and community life were easily satisfied using the products of the local environment. Two exterior exhibit sheds will house wood carving and weaving demonstration areas. Both

activities helped produce much of the personal and home environmental needs by providing housing, tools, transportation, clothing, storage containers and decorative arts. The Suquamish Tribe today aggressively pursues habitat conservation and resource preservation. The health of the marine ecosystem is important culturally and economically. The museum programs will partner with the Tribe's Department of Natural Resources and Fisheries to offer environmental education in 2013.

Shopping in the Leota Anthony Museum Store will complete any visit to the new museum. Store manager, Virginia Adams, has assembled an impressive array of merchandise celebrating Coast Salish design influence along with Pendleton blankets in-store and available for special order.

The new Suquamish Museum will be open year round, seven days a week, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. A monthly calendar of events filled with family oriented activities and academic learning opportunities will draw visitors from the surrounding region. The Admission prices are \$15 for a family, \$5 for adults, \$3 for Seniors 55 and over, and \$3 for children 17 and younger; 5 and under are free. A self-defined unit, the family admission price is a new way of supporting the museum exhibits and programs. The Suquamish Museum Friends Program is also being revitalized in the coming months for those who would like a way to easily participate in programs and events plus enjoy free admission and discounted store merchandise and workshop fees.

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