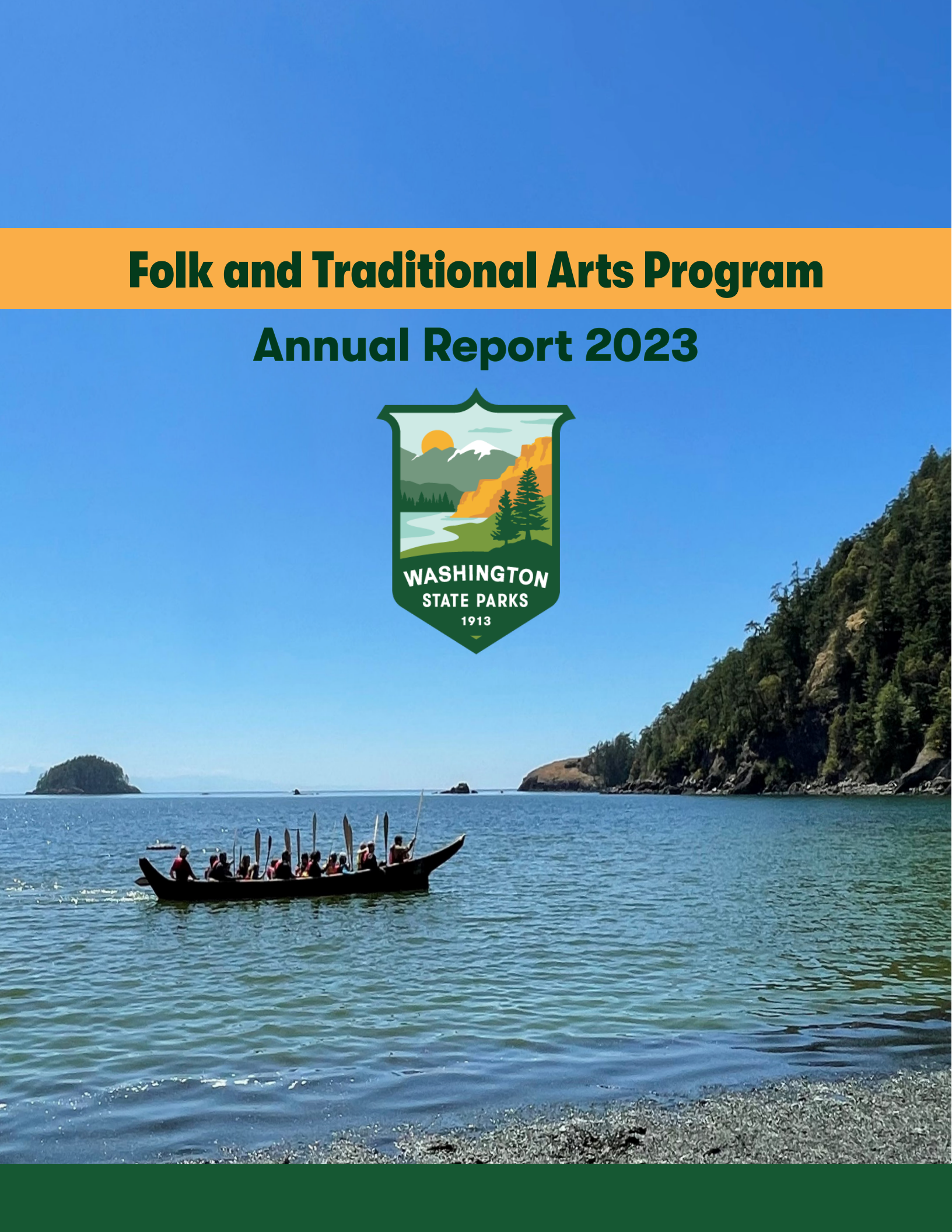


Folk and Traditional Arts Program

Annual Report 2023



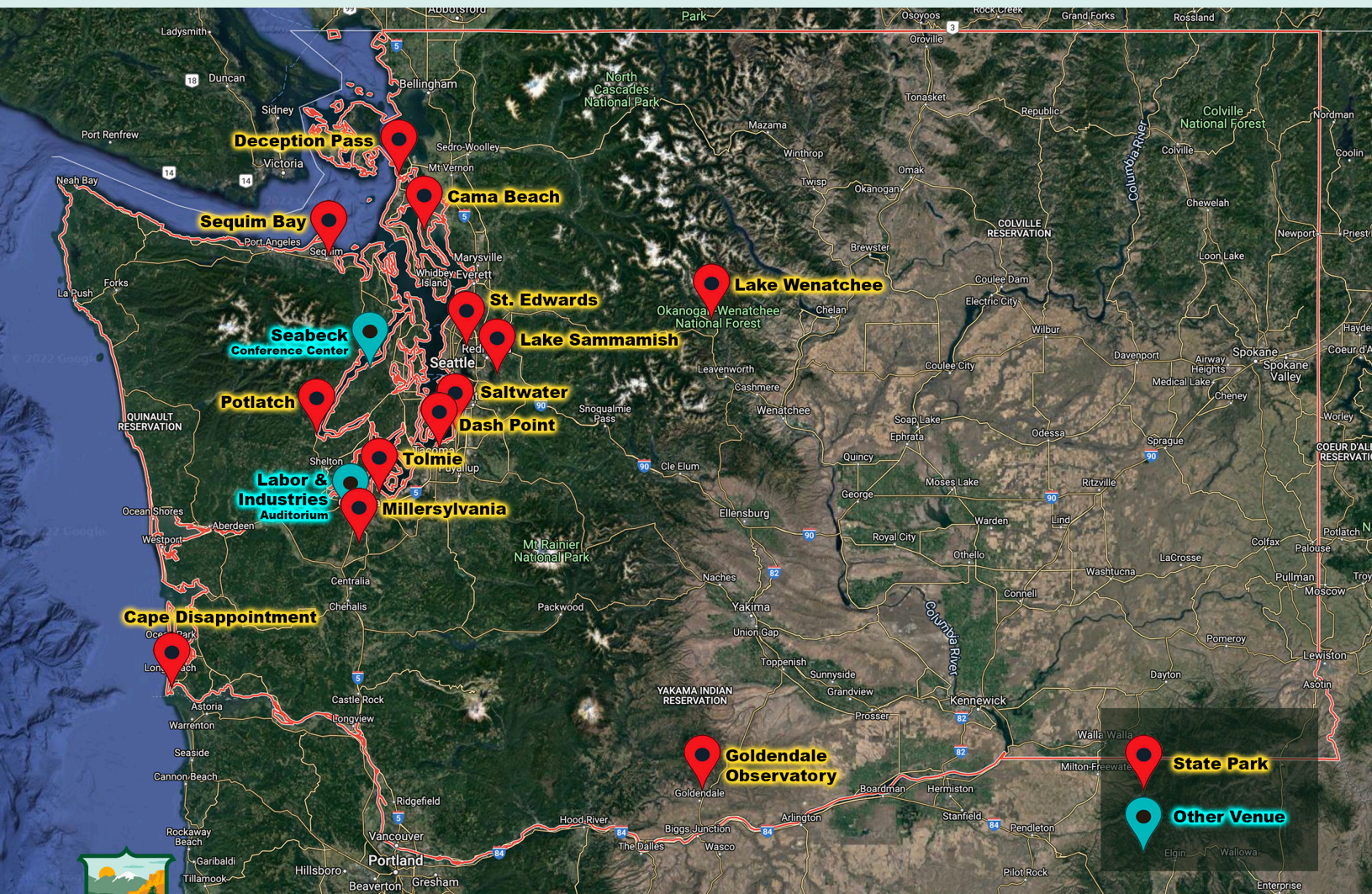
Foreword

In 2024, the Folk & Traditional Arts Program celebrates twenty years at Washington State Parks. Originally founded as a partnership with the Washington State Arts Commission, now ArtsWA, the program advanced shared goals to develop venues for the arts and to create culturally relevant programs to serve the rapidly diversifying population of the state.

As we reflect on the past and think about the next twenty years, we believe investing in relationship building and community engagement is a proactive way to realize our mission and values as an agency. Community driven programs help us grow as an organization and challenge us to be intentional partners, more than venues.

Makaela Kroin, Program Coordinator, and **Kuen Kuen Spichiger**, Program Specialist.

Cover: Canoe ride in Salish Sea Day at Bowman Bay, Deception Pass State Park.



A Map of Folk & Traditional Arts Program Event Locations in 2023



Content

Foreword	1
Connections	3
Sustainability	4
Advocacy	5
Creativity	6
Season Recap	7
Behind the Scenes	9
Thanks to our Funders and Partners	10



The Folk & Traditional Arts Program cultivates space where people can interact with one another and nature with curiosity, creativity, and playfulness. From concerts to camp outs, our programs bring people together to celebrate a common heritage or to learn about the traditions of others.

Community gatherings make parks more welcoming to many new visitors.

“There was a wide selection of Zimbabwean food and most guests were treated to traditional food which they had not tasted in a long time.”

– Ken Chikonzo,
Member of Zimbabwean community

LEFT 1: Thum som in Lu Mien language (Papaya Salad) sold at Lu Mien Festival at Saltwater State Park. LEFT 2: Tribal First Foods, dried berries, presented at Native American Heritage Month cultural activity at Goldendale Observatory State Park. LEFT 3: Zimbabwean food named Madora in Shona language (Mopani worms) served at Mbira Rythm and Aroma of Zimbabwe picnic at Lake Sammamish State Park. LEFT 4: Guests from Zambia, Malawi, South Africa, Congo, Cameroon, Nigeria, as well as Canada, UK and the USA participate at Mbira Rythm and Aroma of Zimbabwe picnic at Lake Sammamish State Park. Photo: Deborah Sibanda. LEFT 5: Event organizer, Rady Oum (in the middle) with participants at Cambodian Festival at Saltwater State Park. RIGHT: Young dancers in traditional clothing at lu Mien Festival at Saltwater State Park.



“We are immensely grateful for your belief in us, your commitment to promoting equity, and your role in revitalizing this long-awaited tradition. Washington State Parks has not only provided us with a venue but has also become an integral part of our story.”

– Som Lee, Organizer of Iu Mien Festival





“The facility itself played a significant role in enhancing our camping bonding experience. Not only was it well-maintained and equipped with all the necessary amenities, but it also provided a serene and picturesque backdrop for our activities. The natural beauty surrounding us only added to the charm and tranquility of the retreat.”

– Kayla, Tracie & Koua, United Communities of Laos

Sustainability

Parks are public resources where we balance the complex needs of humans with a responsibility to steward our natural ecosystems. Folk & Traditional Arts programs can build deeper relationships with communities to better communicate the challenges of managing finite and fragile resources. When we invest in relationships with visitors and park neighbors, we foster a sense of ownership of public resources.

TOP left: A record-breaking number of people (782) enjoy The Brownsmead Flats Concert at Cape Disappointment Waikiki Concert Series.

TOP right: Quickdraw String band performs during the American Roots Concert Series at Deception Pass State Park. MIDDLE

left: United Communities of Laos members play outside at Cornet Bay Retreat Center. MIDDLE right: Participant holds a bag of clams harvested at Potlatch State Park. BOTTOM:

Participants and partners at Outdoor Asian shellfish harvest program at Potlatch State Park.





Advocacy

Our institutions are rooted in systems that do not serve all communities equally. We believe that curiosity, creativity, and relationship building are key to meeting communities where they are. We provide funding and resources to artists, cultural groups, and community organizers to co-create culturally responsive programs. We are proud to share our programs and services free of charge or by scholarship.



TOP: Ship of Fools: A Giant Puppet Odyssey by String & Shadow Puppet Theater at Deception Pass State Park. **RIGHT 1:** Danza Monarcas performance at Latino Leadership Network Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration at Millersylvania State Park. **RIGHT 2:** Charlene Jarrell, Artist in Residence, teaching coffee painting at Sundaes Outside Camp Out at Cornet Bay in Deception Pass State Park. **LEFT:** Hmong-American participants in the United Communities of Laos Summer Festival at Saltwater State Park.

“I was so happy to see they enjoyed the activity whether they followed my step-by-step demonstration or explored their own creative visions. One woman made arrangements to buy coffee painting supplies on her way home. My heart melted when she told me this.”



– Charlene Jarrell, Artist in Residence

Creativity

Whether visitors join us for an hour-long concert or a weekend of workshops and guided activities, our programs center engagement with creative expression. Research suggests that engaging with creativity can relieve stress, increase brain plasticity, and enhance empathy and tolerance, among many other benefits. Paired with time in the outdoors, we believe our public programs can create powerful and memorable experiences.



TOP: Harvest Moon and a cedar bark rose at the workshop in Tolmie State Park. **MIDDLE right:** A participant holds up her beaded necklace after the workshop with Maria and Victor Godines at Tolmie State Park. **MIDDLE left:** Rudy Romero teaches salsa and bachata at Latino Leadership Network’s Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration at Millersylvania State Park. **BOTTOM:** A young attendee enjoys painting at the nature sensory scavenger hunt tent at Latino Leadership Network’s Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration at Millersylvania State Park.



“Listening to Harvest Moon share her stories and weaving the cedar roses was magical! I will always remember this wonderful event. Thank you!”

– Participant, Cedar Bark Rose Workshop



“I liked how welcoming everyone was and it was a relaxing and supportive environment. I truly appreciate Maria & Victor’s openness to sharing their knowledge”

– Participant, Warm Springs Wasco Style Beaded Necklace Workshop



\$112,550 Amount of funding that flowed to artists/culture bearers for public programs

Season Recap

Cultural Festivals

- Sundaes Outside Earth Day
Apr 22, Dash Point State Park ----->
- Salish Sea Day
Jun 11, Deception Pass State Park
- Skandia Midsommarfest
Jun 25, St. Edwards State Park
- Washington Immigrant Network Immigrant Heritage Month Celebration
Jun 27, Labor and Industries Auditorium
- United Communities of Laos Festival
Jul 15, Saltwater State Park
- Cambodian Cultural Festival
Aug 12, Saltwater State Park
- Washington Lu-Mien Festival
Aug 13, Saltwater ----->
- Mbira Rhythm and Aroma of Zimbabwe
Sep 2, Lake Sammamish State Park
- Latino Leadership Network Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration
Sep 23, Millersylvania State Park

Concert Series & Performances

- Cape Disappointment Waikiki Beach Jun-Aug
- Cama Beach Family Dances Jun-Aug
- Lake Wenatchee Mountain Melodies Jul-Aug ----->
- Deception Pass American Roots Jul-Aug
- Miho & Diego Duo Jun 13, Seabeck Retreat Center
- Gangspil Jun 22, Tolmie State Park

Retreat Center Programs

- Sundaes Outside Camp Out
Jul 17-19, Cornet Bay, Deception Pass State Park
- Sundaes Outside Camp Out
Sep 15-17, Ramblewood Retreat Center ----->



Free ice cream at Sundaes Outside Program.



Nearly 2000 participants attended the celebration of Lu Mien Festival.



Audience members enjoy a performance by the Eclectic Cloggers.



The Sundaes Outside Camp Out is a family friendly, free introduction to camping for many attendees.

Season Recap

- United Communities of Laos Camp Out
Sep 8-10, Cornet Bay, Deception Pass State Park

Workshops & Outreach Programs

- Quinault Storytelling and Cedar Bark Weaving Harvest Moon May 13, Tolmie State Park
- Outdoor Asian Shellfish Foraging Day
May 21, Potlatch State Park
- Wasco Beading Workshop with Maria and Victor Godines Jun 2, Tolmie State Park
- Danish Fiddle Technique Workshop with Gangspil Jun 22, Tolmie State Park
- Crankie Making Workshop with Podorythmie
Jun 24, Cape Disappointment State Park
- Songwriting Workshop with Jenner Fox
Jul 30, Deception Pass
- String & Shadow Puppet Theater
Aug 20, Cranberry Lake, Deception Pass State Park
- Kanikapila (Hawaiian Jam) with Nā Lei 'Ehā
Aug 27, Cape Disappointment State Park
- Guizhou Miao Batik - Kuen Kuen Spichiger
Sep 16, Ramblewood Retreat Center & Dec 14, Headquarters
- Kamiltpah Band Tribal Heritage Program
Nov 30, Goldendale Observatory

Artist Residency at Deception Pass

- Charlene Jarrell - Painting and Photography
Jul 5-Aug 2

Multimedia Storytelling Programs

- Rooted Wisdom Screening & Program
Jul 8, Millersylvania State Park
- Expedition Reclamation Screening and Panel
Aug 5, Millersylvania State Park
- Public Lands Unearthed Oral History Project
- Skandia Folkdance Society Oral History Training



United Communities of Laos Camp Out participants explore Deception Pass.



Attendees of Podorythmie's workshop created crankies.



Participants dye their batik pieces in an indigo dye vat.



Participants watch Expedition Reclamation.

Behind the Scenes

What does it take to make a program happen?



A lot more goes in to creating and producing a program than you might think. Below are some of the key planning pieces that occur before a program can take place:

Program Life Cycle:

1-2 years before a program: Relationship building, grant writing, site visits to assess infrastructure and accessibility.

1 year to 6 months before a program: Reserve park facilities, schedule programs with partners, book performers, site visits with partners.

3-6 months before a program: Secure event infrastructure, sound technicians, graphic design for outreach materials, complete permits with park staff and partners.

1-2 months before program: Contract artists and organizers, distribute outreach.

1 week before program: Transport event equipment, print signage.

Day of program: Arrive early to help set up, brief volunteers, solve problems, document program with photo and video, build relationships, tear down equipment.

Post-program: Pay artists and organizers, process and share photos and videos, debrief and gather feedback, federal and local grant reporting.

When envisioning a new program, the first step is assessing a park's existing resources:

What facilities does the park have to host programs? Assessing park sites is key in program development. An amphitheater can be helpful but is not a must have.

What capacity do staff have?

Are locals from a variety of communities coming to your park? Programs developed with community buy in build relationships and trust.

What are your goals for community engagement at your park/s? Community engagement is a planned, long term process.

LEFT: Ranger Stacey Coltrain leads an animal track identification program and helps a participant cast a foot print in plaster. MIDDLE: Ranger John Lipparelli moves picnic tables in preparation for the Latino Leadership Network Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration at Millersylvania State Park. RIGHT: Ranger Caleb Economides leads a hike at Miller Peninsula State Park.

Thanks to our Funders:

Deception Pass Park Foundation, Friends of the Columbia River Gateway, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington State Parks Foundation, and Washington State Parks Specialty License Plate Fund.



Thanks to our Partners:

Arbutus Folk School, Cambodian Classical & Folk Dance Northwest, Center for Washington Cultural Traditions, Golden Bricks Events, Northwest Folklife, Samish Canoe Family, Skandia Skandia Folkdance Society, String & Shadow Puppet Theater, Swinomish Canoe Family, United Communities of Laos, United Mien Youth of Washington, Washington Immigrant Network, Washington State Latino Leadership, and Wayward Audio.

