



Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

NAME OF AGENCY: Burke Museum of Natural History & Culture
ADDRESS: Box 353010 Univ. of Wa., Seattle, WA 98195-3010
CONTACT: (206) 543-7907; www.burkemuseum.org

GENERAL GOALS: The Burke Museum creates a better understanding of the world and our place in it. The museum is responsible for Washington State collections of natural and cultural heritage and sharing the knowledge that makes them meaningful.

SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:

This grant was used for an exhibit entitled “Elwha”. The total number of participants was about 30,000.

This was a wonderful exhibit for us to present and we can't thank you and Tulalip Tribes enough for helping us produce it! I understand that our traveling exhibits manager is sending out information soon on the traveling version of the exhibit to Hibulb for a possible showing there. Perhaps you'll get a chance to see it again!

photography by Andrew Whitman



For more information regarding the specific uses of the award, see the following pages from Burke Museum.



Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture
Box 353010, University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195-3010
Phone 206 543-7907
Fax: (206) 685-3039
www.burkemuseum.org

Marilyn Sheldon
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund
8802 27th Avenue NE
Tulalip, WA 98271 April 8, 2014

Dear Marilyn:

Here is our final report on the Burke Museum exhibit, *Elwha: A River Reborn*—along with our sincerest thanks for your generous support in Q3 2013. I am sending some digital photos in a separate email.

I'm so glad you made it to our opening event and look forward to seeing you again soon.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ruth Pelz".

Ruth Pelz

Elwha: A River Reborn

Final report from the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture



PROJECT SUMMARY

From November 23, 2013 through March 9, 2014, the Burke Museum presented the exhibit, *Elwha: A River Reborn*, along with educational programs for schools and the public. The exhibit was based on a book of the same title by Seattle Times reporter Lynda Mapes and staff photographer Steve Ringman and produced in partnership with the Times, the Mountaineers Books, and the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe.

OVERVIEW OF THE BURKE EXHIBIT

The Burke presentation took audiences on a historical journey, exploring the Elwha watershed from the time before European contact to the dam removal and restoration project now under way—the largest such project yet attempted. Components included:

- **INTRODUCTION**, featuring wall-size murals, introductory text, contributor acknowledgements and profiles of Lynda Mapes and Steve Ringman
- **BEFORE THE DAMS**, with information on the Elwha as it was, including background on Klallam culture and the river's legendary abundance. Highlights included historic photos, primary documents, and a rare public display of Klallam artifacts recovered from the ancient village site of Tse-whit-zen.
- **TWO DAMS**. The history of the building of the dams—without fish passage, which was illegal even then—from the viewpoints of settlers, boosters, entrepreneurs, and the Klallam people, who lost the most with the destruction of the fish runs
- **THE ROAD TO REMOVAL**. Summaries of the many factors that came together to lead to the dams' removal—from the enlargement of Olympic National Park to the fishing rights guaranteed to tribes, to environmental activism and economics
- **A GRAND EXPERIMENT**: Examples of how Elwha project is providing hundreds of scientists a chance to gather data on every component of the ecosystem and track how it

changes after the dams are removed. Photos, text, and videos addressed the wide range of research under way, while ancient artifacts and personal remembrances shared insights into the cultural renewal of the Tribe.

- “CAMP ELWHA” EDUCATION AREA: A large and engaging educational space in an immersive setting—designed to suggest a field research station—equipped with tents, camping equipment, research tools, and an audio environment from the Olympic rainforest; case displays of Elwha-related objects from each of the Burke collections; and an assortment of engaging educational activities to try

ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMS

The Burke collaborated with partner organizations to present a series of educational programs to accompany the Elwha exhibit.

1. A family-oriented celebration was scheduled on opening weekend, which included:
 - Roger Fernandes, storyteller and member of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, shared a welcoming song and stories of the Lower Elwha.
 - Lynda Mapes, journalist and author of *Elwha: A River Reborn*, talked about covering the Elwha story for the Seattle Times.
 - The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe’s river restoration director, Robert Elofson, offered his perspective on the history of the Elwha Dams and the ongoing restoration.
 - The Elwha Drum Group, featuring young and adult members of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, performed traditional songs and dances.
2. “Short Takes on Dam Science,” a fast-paced program of short slide presentations attracted a capacity audience of college students and community members to the off-campus Neptune club, and featured the following:
 - *An Elwha History in Ten Slides* - Samantha Porter, Community Outreach Coordinator, Burke Museum
 - *Life Before the Dams: Archaeology Near the River’s Mouth* - Sarah Sterling, Anthropologist, Portland State University
 - *Removing the Dams* - Aaron Jenkins, Barnard Construction Company Project Superintendent, Elwha and Glines Dam Removal Project
 - *Remove It and They Will Come: Salmon Colonization on the Elwha* - George Pess, Supervisory Research Fishery Biologist, NOAA
 - *Occupy Elwha: Watching our Fellow Mammals Reclaim Lost Ground* - Kurt Jenkins, Research Wildlife Biologist, USGS-Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center
 - *Who’s hungry? Dam Removal and Aquatic Food Webs* - Sarah Morley, Research Ecologist, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA
 - *Using Stable Isotope Analysis to Gauge Dam Removal Impacts on American Dippers and River Otters* - Kim Sager-Fradkin, Wildlife Biologist, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
 - *Elwha Unleashed: River Evolution in Fast Forward During the Largest Dam Removal Ever* - George Pess presenting for Andy Ritchie, Chris Magirl, and Jeff Duda
 - *Untold Story of the Elwha Nearshore*- Anne Shaffer, Marine Biologist and Executive Director, Coastal Watershed Institute
 - *Beyond the Beach: the Dynamics of Fine-grained Sediment in Water Depths Beyond 10-15 meters* - Emily Eidam Graduate Student UW School of Oceanography
 - *Salmon, Killer Whales, the Greater Salish Sea and Beyond* - Brad Hanson, Wildlife Biologist, NOAA
 - *Where From Here* - Ranae Holland, Skeptical Scientist, *Finding Bigfoot* on Animal Planet

3. Archaeology Day:

- The Burke's annual Archaeology event for families took place during the run of the exhibit, and Elwha archaeology was a popular component of the day's activities. Two archaeologists who had done extensive fieldwork on Klallam sites staffed a table inside the exhibit gallery and provided additional insights into life along the river before Europeans arrived. The station was busy with visitors throughout the day.

4. School programs included:

- Elwha Discovery Tours—Museum educators offered an interactive exhibit tour program that was popular with secondary students, attracting middle schools in particular.
- Study Box—Educators have also created a traveling box of educational resources and lesson plans, which incorporates content and activities developed for the Elwha exhibit and is linked to the national framework for "next generation science studies." The kit includes interdisciplinary activities that will help students understand how scientists ask questions, gather and analyze data, and understand relationships between people and the environment. The box will be available to hosts of the traveling exhibit and then will become part of the museum's ongoing educational resources for schools.

5. Other programming:

- A preview reception for museum visitors and supporters, university and community leaders, and project partners celebrated the opening of the exhibit. Speakers included Lower Elwha Klallam Tribal Chair Frances Charles and Congressman Derek Kilmer, whose district includes the Elwha watershed.
- Monthly themed activities were offered for visitors of all ages on weekends and holidays throughout the run of the exhibit. Topics ranged from archaeology to shells and sea creatures. Visitors had opportunities to explore intriguing objects from the collections, create nature-inspired art, and watch collections preparation in process. Elwha collections were a special focus.

ATTENDANCE

Almost 30,000 people visited the exhibit, and a capacity crowd of 575 attended the offsite "Short Takes" event. A total of 48 group tours were booked specifically for this exhibit, an unusually high number. These included nearly 1,000 middle-school students—also more than usual—and several high school and college classes as well. Tours were also booked by tribal groups (Lower Elwha Klallam students, Snoqualmie elders, etc.), nonprofit organizations, and senior centers—with many older attendees sharing personal memories, including Congressman Jim McDermott, a sponsor of the bill to remove the dams.

TRAVELING EXHIBITS

The Burke created two versions of the Elwha exhibit to go on tour: a small, affordable version that will travel to museums and libraries around Washington State and larger version that will be offered to museums nationwide.

Local interest is expected to be strong; the following Washington institutions have already expressed their interest in hosting the show:

- North Olympic Library and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Heritage Center in Port Angeles
- Western Washington University Libraries in Bellingham
- Museum of Culture and Environment, Central Washington University in Ellensburg
- Museum of Anthropology, Washington State University in Pullman

At the national level, proposals are currently under review by:

- Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure in Salina, Kansas
- National Center for Nature Photography in Berkey, Ohio
- Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, Florida
- Bell Museum of Natural History in Minneapolis, Minnesota

PROJECT BUDGET AND SUPPORT

The total budget for the project was just over \$100,000. Funding support was provided by the following:

- **National Touring Sponsor:** The Snoqualmie Tribe
- **Sponsors:** The Boeing Company, The Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation, Rebecca S. and Robert M. Benton Endowed Fund, Quest for Truth Foundation
- **Supporters:** Educational Legacy Fund, Phillip and Noreen Frink, Keith and Carol James, Henry M. Jackson Foundation, Mountaineers Foundation, Squaxin Island Tribe, Suquamish Tribe, Tulalip Tribes, and donors to the Burke Museum Annual Fund
- **Media sponsor:** KUOW
- **Catering support:** Ivar's
- **Equipment support:** McEachern Charitable Trust, Norman Archibald Foundation, and Cabela's provided support for equipment purchases, including display cases, computer audiovisual players, and camping gear.

RESPONSES FROM VISITORS AND THE PRESS

Media coverage of the exhibit was extensive. Feature stories appeared in the Seattle Times, Tacoma News Tribune, Alaska Airlines magazine, Peninsula Daily News, tribal and community partner newsletters, and on KPLU radio—as well as numerous online media.

Total estimated value of the coverage was \$200,000.

Responses from audiences and the press were positive. Visitor comments, collected on site and through social media, included:

- The Elwha exhibit is exceptional. Two things I especially enjoyed 1) The concise discussion of legal strategy. 2) The benches by the river (sound + light) The net impression of the exhibition is fine curation.
- Just toured “Elwha: A River Reborn” - Highly recommend visiting before it closes.
- [Our] High School students came back energized and excited about their learning and shared their new understandings about water issues...
- A great exhibit on dam removal.

The “Camp Elwha” educational installation was especially popular with family visitors, as writers for Seattle’s Child and ParentMap Magazine noted in their reviews: “*Elwha: A River Reborn* was designed with kids in mind.” “Camp Elwha...has something for everyone.”

GOALS AND OUTCOMES

Project output goals were met for creating and presenting the Burke exhibit, the national and statewide traveling exhibits, and accompanying educational programs. Attendance goals were exceeded, particularly for school groups.

Student and teacher responses demonstrated that the project met educational goals for schools, with Burke educators commented that that “The Elwha exhibit helped Burke tour programs draw in many middle and high school students [because] the topic was relevant to their studies on the environment, history, and human impacts.” Responses suggested that goals were also met to engage visitors in critical thinking and discussions, as noted in the following reviews:

- More than just an exhibit of historical photos and artifacts, *Elwha* sparks emotions of hope, loss and wonder. It launches conversations about values, our environment and the future. *Tonya Cunningham, Seattle’s Child*
- “This exhibit [will] promote frank discussions on dam removal throughout the Nation.” *LaTrisha Suggs, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe*

Another important outcome for the museum was strengthening community partnerships, especially with Washington tribes. The collaboration with Lower Elwha Klallam helped build further trust in the museum’s commitment to collaboration and respect, and was reflected in tribal visits to the exhibit, positive comments, and financial support. The Burke’s traveling exhibits department is looking forward to having an additional statewide exhibit, co-created with tribal experts, to offer to tribal museums around the state. “The tribes were very appreciative of *Salish Bounty* the first exhibit in this series, and *Elwha* will help us continue to develop those relationships.”

