

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

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NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL HERITAGE GUIDE

MUSEUMS • GALLERIES • HERITAGE SITES • SPECIAL EVENTS



Darkfeather, Bibiana and Eckos Ancheta (Tulalip), 2014 by Matika Wilbur (Swinomish / Tulalip), Project 562, [instagram.com/matikawilbur](https://www.instagram.com/matikawilbur)

SEATTLE CULTURAL HERITAGE GUIDES are a resource for visitors who want to explore the city's rich cultural heritage. Learn about museums, historic sites, public art and neighborhoods that will give you an insider's view of Seattle's vibrant ethnic communities and unique history.

The guides are produced by the Cultural Tourism program of Visit Seattle, and supported by funding from **4Culture** (King County Lodging Tax) and the **Office of Arts and Culture**.

Learn more about Seattle and access expert travel advice at [visitseattle.org](https://www.visitseattle.org). Or stop by one of our Visitor Information Centers at 1st & Pike in downtown Seattle or the main floor of the Washington State Convention Center at 7th & Pike.

Our sincere thanks to all the community members who helped contribute to this project and who preserve and protect Seattle's cultural legacies.

VISIT
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[visitseattle.org/culturalheritage](https://www.visitseattle.org/culturalheritage)

Content by Past Forward NW Cultural Services, third edition 2016

Cover photo: artist Shaun Peterson (Puyallup). Photo: Esha Hart



Canoes representing Native American tribes from the Salish Sea wait at Solo Point during a canoe journey. Photo: Ingrid Barrentine / NW Guardian

INTRODUCTION

Seattle is Indian Country. The city is named for a hereditary chief of the Suquamish and Duwamish people, many of our communities and landscape features have Indian names, and tribal artwork can be found throughout the city's museums, galleries and public spaces. Several Indian tribes call the region around Seattle home, including the Duwamish, Suquamish, Muckleshoot, Snoqualmie, Tulalip, and Puyallup Nations. In addition, Seattle is home to a diverse group of Native people from throughout Washington, Alaska and the rest of North America.

*"We have always been here, we are still here, we will always be here."
- Upper Skagit Elder Vi taq'w'səbllu Hilbert (1918 - 2008)*

Lushootseed, or Puget Sound Salish, is the Coast Salish language that is traditionally spoken in the Seattle area, and tribes are working hard to revitalize the language through youth and adult education programs.

In recent years, a cultural revival has taken place in Puget Sound Native communities, based on renewing and passing on such traditions as canoe carving, weaving, and preparation of traditional foods.

Archaeological sites in the Puget Sound area date back over 10,000 years. Sites are found throughout the landscape, from high in the Cascade Mountains to lowland rivers and beaches. For many generations, traditional life centered on two primary resources: cedar and salmon. Oral histories among tribal groups feature a spirit being called Transformer who created the landscape where people live. Given the region's dynamic history of earthquakes and volcanoes, Transformer may still be at work today.

Indian tribes in the Puget Sound region ceded thousands of acres of their traditional territories under the Treaty of Medicine Creek (1854) and the Treaty of Point Elliott (1855) to the United States government. Tribes today are sovereign nations which hold treaty rights for fishing, shellfishing and hunting, and serve as co-managers, along with federal and state governments, of natural and cultural resources.

In 2014, the Seattle City Council designated October 14 as Indigenous Peoples Day, honoring the resilience of Native culture, rather than the role of Columbus in colonizing the Americas. Seattle's Native American heritage can be experienced in many ways – by visiting museums and heritage sites, attending festivals and special events, and exploring the city with an awareness of Native legacies in the place names, artistic traditions and community events that make Seattle unique.



Andrea Wilbur-Sigo, *Grandfather's Wisdom* (in fabrication), courtesy of the artist and 4Culture / King County Public Art Collection



COAST SALISH ARTWORK

The ubiquitous totem pole, the most visible example of Native artwork in Seattle, actually comes from Southeast Alaska and British Columbia.

Since the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897, Seattle has had close ties to the Northwest Coast, and many monumental works of art from Haida, Tsimshian and Tlingit carvers can be seen in Seattle.

Totem poles were traditionally carved from cedar trees to serve as memorial posts displaying inherited crests, or as exterior house posts providing support for large cedar long houses.

These monumental sculptures feature stylized animals and animal-spirits such as Bear, Beaver, Raven, Frog, Killer Whale, and many others that play important roles in traditional stories and are associated with family clans reaching back many generations.

Traditional totem poles are on display at the Burke Museum, Victor Steinbrueck Park, Pioneer Square, and other parks and viewpoints around the city. Contemporary artists throughout the Pacific Northwest have adopted this form, and examples of their work can be seen in many museums and galleries.

COAST SALISH ARTWORK, the traditional style of the Puget Sound area, features more subtle and personal designs. Local traditions included carved objects such as house posts, that were both decorative and functional. In this region, house posts were typically found inside large plank houses as part of the framing structure, rather than outside on public display.

Small items such as spindle whorls and canoe paddles were both utilitarian objects and ornately carved artworks. Twined baskets, as well as hats and clothing were made from cedar, and master weavers created elegant blankets and robes on large looms using yarns spun from the hair of mountain goats and woolly dogs.

Local design traditions have long been overshadowed by more imposing artistic styles from farther north, but contemporary artists such as Susan Point, Roger Fernandes, Andrea Wilbur-Sigo and Shaun Peterson are reviving Coast Salish aesthetics. These and other Native artists draw on traditional styles, and incorporate new materials such as glass and metal, to create work that is increasingly visible in Seattle's galleries, museums, and public artworks.



Top: Detail from Susan Point's *First Peoples*, Photo courtesy of Seattle Art Museum

Left: *We've* by lessLIE Sam (Coast Salish). Image courtesy of Stonington Gallery

Right: *Tlingit Totem Pole in Pioneer Square* by Charles Brown; Photo: Michael Craft



SPECIAL EVENTS



Seafair Indian Days Pow Wow
Photo by Jack Storms

FIRST SALMON CELEBRATION
Spring or Summer, Indian Reservations throughout the Pacific Northwest
These annual ceremonies are observed by many tribes, depending on the timing of local salmon runs. According to tradition, the first salmon caught each season is welcomed as a sacred guest, and treated with respect. This time-honored event is an opportunity to thank the salmon for returning and for giving its life to feed the people. Contact individual tribes for information about dates and locations; a directory of tribes can be found at goia.wa.gov.

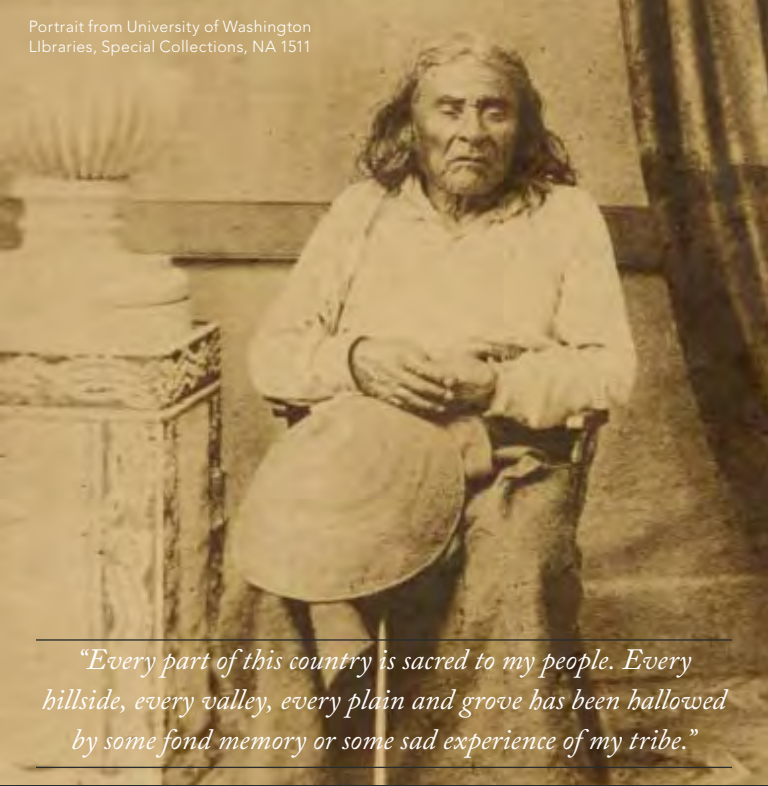
SPIRIT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE FESTIVAL
June, Seattle Center
This festival brings together American Indians, Alaska Natives and First Nations People for a pow wow, Native art market, music and dance performances, and cultural celebration. sihb.org/spirit-indigenous-people

SEAFAIR INDIAN DAYS POW WOW
July, Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center in Discovery Park
Hundreds of dancers in full regalia, dozens of drum groups and thousands of spectators gather to celebrate the richness of Native American cultures. unitedindians.org

CANOE JOURNEY
July and August, Destination changes annually
Canoe families' representing tribes throughout the region travel for weeks each July in large cedar dugout canoes. This journey, which is alcohol and drug free, culminates in a week-long celebration at the destination village or tribal community. facebook.com/OfficialTribalJourneys

CHIEF SEATTLE DAYS
August, Suquamish, Port Madison Reservation
This historic celebration includes traditional dancing, canoe races, Native foods and artwork, and a ceremony honoring Chief Seattle. suquamish.org

INDIGENOUS SHOWCASE
Ongoing, Northwest Film Forum
In partnership with Longhouse Media, this series presents the work of emerging Native American and indigenous filmmakers. nwfilmforum.org



Portrait from University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections, NA 1511

"Every part of this country is sacred to my people. Every hillside, every valley, every plain and grove has been hallowed by some fond memory or some sad experience of my tribe."

CHIEF SEATTLE (siʔaʔ)

Seattle is the only major city named for a Native American chief. Recognized as a leader of the Suquamish and Duwamish people, Chief Seattle was known as a peace maker, and as a great speaker in his native Lushootseed language. This 1864 studio portrait is the only known photograph of the famous Indian leader.

The Chief's name was pronounced "See-Ahlth," which was difficult for English speaking settlers to say, so they smoothed it out by changing it to "Seattle," and it is sometimes written as "Sealth."

In addition to the city which bears his name, Chief Seattle's most enduring legacy is his 1854 speech which includes the famous statement above.

In 1887, more than 30 years later, the speech was first printed in a Seattle newspaper, based on notes by Seattle pioneer Henry Smith. How well the speech truly captured the Chief's words, originally spoken in Lushootseed and translated into Chinook jargon and then into English, and how much reflected Smith's flourishes of Victorian oratory can't be determined with any certainty. But the speech is known throughout the world as a powerful statement from an Indian leader about his people's deep attachment to their native lands. To read Chief Seattle's speech, visit suquamish.org.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE SITES



A. DAYBREAK STAR INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER
Discovery Park, 5011 Bernie Whitebear Way, 206.285.4425
 The Center was established by the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation after a long occupation of the land, part of a former military base, by Native American activists in 1970. A gallery and numerous social and cultural programs serve the local and regional Indian community. unitedindians.org



B. A SALISH WELCOME
34th Avenue NW Street End
 West of the Ballard Locks, a monumental welcome figure by Marvin Oliver, a renowned artist of Quinalt heritage, watches over the Salmon Bay Natural Area. This public artwork dedicated in 2010 celebrates the transformative powers of the salmon life cycle and its central role in indigenous cultures.



C. BURKE MUSEUM
17th Avenue NE & NE 45th Street, 206.543.5590
 Located at the northwest corner of the University of Washington campus, the Burke Museum exhibits artifacts from throughout the Pacific Rim, including Northwest Coast Native American masterpiece baskets, archaeological materials, carvings and other artworks. The museum's Pacific Voices exhibit includes a display about the First Salmon Ceremony. burkemuseum.org



D. wə'təb'altx'w - INTELLECTUAL HOUSE
University of Washington campus
 A cedar longhouse-style community center celebrating Native culture opened in 2015, representing a long-held goal of establishing a visible indigenous presence at the state's flagship public university. The center's Lushootseed name is pronounced "wah-sheb-altuh." uw.edu/diversity/tribal-relations/intellectual-house



E. IVAR'S SALMON HOUSE & WATERWAY 15
401 NE Northlake Way, 206.632.0767
 Ivar's Salmon House is a cedar replica of a Northwest Coast Indian longhouse located on the north side of Lake Union. Traditional and contemporary Native American artwork, canoes and historic photographs are on display inside. On the west side of the building is Waterway 15, a "pocket park" where public art highlights the area's Native heritage. ivars.net



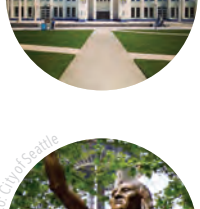
F. CHESHIAHUD LAKE UNION LOOP
 This 6.2 mile footpath and bike path circles Seattle's urban lake, passing houseboats, historic neighborhoods and numerous parks large and small. The trail is named in honor of Duwamish tribal leader John Cheshiahud who lived nearby on Portage Bay until the early 20th century. seattle.gov/parks/LakeUnionLoop



G. THE CENTER FOR WOODEN BOATS
Lake Union Park, 1010 Valley Street, 206.382.2628
 Carver in Residence, Saaduuts, shares his knowledge of Haida cultural traditions by working with Native and non-native students and other visitors to carve northern style canoes. cwb.org



H. MUSEUM OF HISTORY & INDUSTRY (MOHAI)
Lake Union Park, 860 Terry Avenue N, 206.324.1126
 MOHAI's permanent exhibit *True Northwest: The Seattle Journey* features Native American people and stories from the city's 150 year history. mohai.org



I. CHIEF SEATTLE STATUE
Tilikum Place: Intersection of 5th Avenue, Denny Way & Cedar Street
 A life-size cast bronze statue of the Indian Chief for whom Seattle is named graces this historic intersection near Seattle Center. Designed by sculptor James Wehn in 1907, the statue is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Chief's right arm is raised in greeting, a pose characteristic of the tribal leader who signed a treaty in 1855 on behalf of the Duwamish and Suquamish people.



J. SEATTLE ART MUSEUM
1300 First Avenue, 206.654.3100
 SAM exhibits a variety of Northwest Coast and Coast Salish artworks including ceremonial masks, textiles and sculptures in both traditional and contemporary forms. A variety of native plants having cultural uses are displayed at SAM's Olympic Sculpture Park on the waterfront. seattleartmuseum.org



K. SEATTLE UNIVERSITY VI HILBERT ETHNOBOTANICAL GARDEN
James Street, between Broadway and 12th Avenue
 A native plant garden on the campus of Seattle University honors Upper Skagit elder Vi Hilbert, who dedicated her life to preserving and teaching Lushootseed, the language of the Puget Sound Salish people. With interpretive information in both English and Lushootseed, this ethnobotanical garden features plants that provide traditional foods, medicines, and materials for tools, artwork, and buildings. seattlivihibert.org



L. DOWNTOWN GALLERIES showcase contemporary Coast Salish artists, and other regional Native artists. **Stonington Gallery** displays contemporary masterworks at *125 S Jackson Street, 206.405.4040*. **Flury & Company** features Edward S. Curtis photographs at *322 First Avenue S, 206.587.0260*. **Steinbrueck Native Gallery** emphasizes work from the Northwest Coast at *2030 Western Avenue, 206.441.3821*. stoningtongallery.com | fluryco.com | steinbruecknativegallery.com



M. PIONEER SQUARE
First Avenue and Yesler Way
 Seattle's oldest neighborhood contains many layers of Native American heritage. Two Indian villages were once located in the vicinity, and the Lushootseed name for the area translates as "a little place where one crosses over."
 The stately totem pole in the center of the cobblestone Pioneer Place park seems to be a fitting tribute to Native heritage, although the original totem pole that graced the park was actually stolen from a Tlingit village at Fort Tongass, Alaska by a group of prominent Seattle businessmen in 1899. The current totem, a 1938 replica created by Tlingit carver Charles Brown, was acquired a bit more legitimately by the City of Seattle.
 A bust of Chief Seattle was created by sculptor James Wehn in 1909. A 1991 artwork called *Day/Night* by Hachivi Edgar Heap of Birds flanks the bust and comments on the experiences of Native people in Seattle. Occidental Square, one block southeast of Pioneer Place, is the setting for several contemporary carvings in traditional Northwest Coast styles by Duane Pasco.



N. LOG HOUSE MUSEUM AND BIRTHPLACE OF SEATTLE MONUMENT
Alki Beach, 3003 - 61st Avenue SW, 206.938.5293
 Exhibits highlight indigenous history, and a monument on Alki Avenue SW marks the location where the Denny Party landed in 1851, and received assistance from the Duwamish Tribe to survive their first winter. loghousemuseum.info



O. DUWAMISH LONGHOUSE AND CULTURAL CENTER
4705 West Marginal Way SW, 206.431.1582
 This cedar post and beam structure opened in 2009, the first new tribal longhouse constructed in Seattle in over 150 years. The facility serves as the headquarters of the Duwamish Tribe, and offers gallery exhibits, films, performances, and community events.
 Across the street, Terminal 107 Park and Herring's House Park provide access to the Duwamish River. Up the hill from the Longhouse at Belvedere Viewpoint (3600 Admiral Way SW), a story pole carved by Michael Halady, a descendant of Chief Seattle, honors the Duwamish people. duwamishtribe.org



P. TILLICUM VILLAGE
Blake Island State Park, 206.623.1445
 Located across Elliott Bay from downtown Seattle, Tillicum Village features a replica northern style longhouse where salmon dinners are served, and performances highlight Northwest Coast dances and legends. Argosy Cruises provides boat transportation to Blake Island. tillicumvillage.com



Q. SUQUAMISH MUSEUM AND CULTURAL DISTRICT
 The Suquamish Museum is located on the Port Madison Reservation, less than an hour west of Seattle via the Bainbridge Ferry. Permanent exhibits interpret the history and culture of the Suquamish people. Nearby are several sites of interest including a waterfront Community House called *sgwadzadad qət'altx'w* (The House of Awakened Culture), Chief Seattle's grave and monument, and Old Man House Park, the location of the Chief's former home. suquamishmuseum.org



R. HIBULB CULTURAL CENTER AND NATURAL HISTORY PRESERVE
 Taking its name from a nearby winter village, the Tulalip Tribes' museum an hour north of Seattle near Marysville integrates Lushootseed language throughout its exhibits. A canoe hall and longhouse provide venues for a variety of programs, and the traditional cultural uses of native plants are highlighted in surrounding gardens. hibulbculturalcenter.org



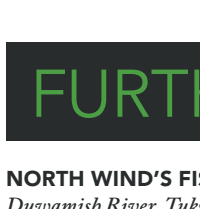
S. MAKAH CULTURAL AND RESEARCH CENTER
 The Makah Museum in Neah Bay, five hours west of Seattle near the Olympic National Park, exhibits artifacts from the Ozette archaeological collection, uncovered from a Makah village partially buried by a mudslide nearly 500 years ago. makahmuseum.com



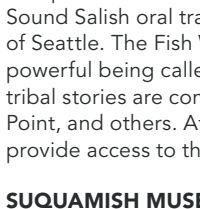
T. SNOQUALMIE FALLS
 An hour east of Seattle, Snoqualmie Falls is one of Washington's premier tourist destinations, and is a sacred site for the Snoqualmie Tribe, which has worked for many years to preserve the Falls "for all people, for all time." A park with viewing platforms and hiking trails provides public access. snoqualmiefalls.com



U. BILLY FRANK JR. NISQUALLY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
 Protecting the biologically rich estuary an hour south of Seattle where the Nisqually River meets Puget Sound, the refuge honors the Nisqually tribal leader and fisherman who dedicated his life to defending Native American treaty rights. fws.gov/refuge/Billy_Frank_Jr_Nisqually



V. SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE MUSEUM LIBRARY AND RESEARCH CENTER
 Cultural items found at an Eld Inlet village site in Southern Puget Sound form one of the main exhibits in the Squaxin Island Museum Library and Research Center, located near Shelton, 1.5 hours southwest of Seattle. squaxinlandmuseum.org



W. YAKAMA NATION MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER
 Located in Toppenish, three hours southeast of Seattle, the Yakama Nation Museum and Cultural Center interprets the history and culture of the Plateau and Columbia River Basin people. yakamamuseum.com



FURTHER AFIELD

NORTH WIND'S FISH WEIR & DUWAMISH HILL PRESERVE
Duwamish River, Tukwila
 Two places associated with the "Epic of the Winds" stories from Puget Sound Salish oral tradition are connected by the Green River Trail south of Seattle. The Fish Weir, believed to have been turned to stone by a powerful being called Transformer, is visible in the river at low tide, and tribal stories are commemorated in artworks by Roger Fernandes, Susan Point, and others. At the Preserve, a cultural garden and viewpoint trail provide access to this significant cultural landscape. duwamishhill.org

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DID YOU KNOW?

WHEN & WHERE ARE VISITORS WELCOME? Visitors are generally welcome at tribal events held at outdoor venues and in public areas of cultural centers. By contrast, spiritual ceremonies may not be accessible to visitors. When in doubt, ask if an event is open to the public. It is always respectful to ask permission before taking photographs of individuals.

ARCHAEOLOGY - A PROTECTED LEGACY
 Many places around Seattle, from beaches to hiking trails, contain archaeological artifacts made by Native Americans. All archaeological sites are protected by law, and artifacts may not be disturbed or removed from public or private lands. You can help protect the region's heritage by taking only photographs and leaving only footprints. To learn more about archaeology in Washington State, visit dahp.wa.gov.

CASINOS
 As in other parts of the country, traditional gambling played an important role in local Native culture. As sovereign nations, Indian Tribes have the right to regulate gaming on their reservations, and there are more than two dozen tribal casinos in Washington, many of which feature displays of contemporary Coast Salish artwork. Casino profits contribute to economic self-sufficiency for tribes, and support cultural preservation efforts such as tribal language programs, museums, and history projects.

TERRACOTTA CARTOUCHES
 Large terracotta cartouches featuring a stylized portrait of an Indian elder are found in several locations throughout Seattle. Oddly, the figure's traditional feathered headdress is associated with tribes from the Great Plains region, rather than the Pacific Northwest, and was perhaps inspired by photographer Edward Curtis and intended to symbolize the grandeur of the West, rather than to depict local historical reality.

These architectural ornaments were part of the 1909 White Henry Stuart Building which stood at Fourth Avenue and University Street. When that building was demolished, the terracotta artifacts were salvaged and are now on display at the Washington State Convention Center, the Museum of History and Industry, Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center, and other locations.

Above Left: Snoqualmie Falls
 Above Center: *Northwind Fishing Weir Legend*, © Susan Point, 1997 King County Public Art Collection, Photo: Joe Manfredini
 Above Right: Suquamish Museum, Photo: Ben Benschneider, courtesy of Storyline Studio
 Right: Terracotta cartouche, Photo: Holly Taylor