

Duwamish Longhouse & Cultural Center
Annual Support Appeal and
Duwamish Tribal Services 2009 Year-End Report

Now is the time for our Duwamish Annual Support Appeal. We are asking that you consider making an Annual Pledge and/or donation to DTS at this time. Because Duwamish Tribal Services is a 501(3)c nonprofit organization, your gift is tax-deductible. Your support will be used for daily operational activities which include salaries, supplies, maintenance and utilities. This appeal is for annual expenses that accrue each fiscal year, beginning July 1st and because we are aware that economically we are all doing our best to get by DTS consciously put off this Appeal until now, so please give generously in support of the Duwamish Tribe at this time. Enclosed please find a postage-paid, self-addressed envelope to ***Duwamish Tribal Services*** for your convenience.

Also, at this time, that we are pleased to update all Duwamish Tribal Members, public & private donors, volunteers, community members, and friends about the first year of the opening of the ***Duwamish Longhouse & Cultural Center.***

The Duwamish Longhouse & Cultural Center opened on ***January 3, 2009*** with a thank you celebration for all who supported the building of the Longhouse including the original "Friends of the Duwamish" who gave the tribe the seed money to purchase the land in 1999. The "*Friends*" include George & Arlene Wade, Ellen Ferguson, Judy Pigott, Michael Alhadeff, Martha Kongsgaard and Donna Beeson. It's been over 100 years since the last Duwamish Longhouse was burned in 1894. It's taken 10 years to realize the dream of a home for the Duwamish People. A special thank you was also offered to Jolene Williams and Chad Lewis who along with Arlene Wade served as Duwamish Longhouse Project Capital Campaign Co-Chairs. The opening day of the Duwamish Longhouse & Cultural Center was a grand event and the Longhouse was filled to capacity. Thanks to all who shared this special day with the Duwamish People.

"We raise our hands to you!"

In January, the Duwamish Tribe hosted its first performers, the Unangax Dance Group, and opened the Longhouse to its first film premiere “Princess Angeline” by Sandra & Yasu Osawa. Mary Lou Slaughter opened the exhibit and gallery space with her beautiful hand-woven cedar baskets. Mary Lou is the Duwamish Tribe’s Master Basket-Weaver and 4th generation great-granddaughter of Chief Seattle and member of the Sackman Family. Her beautiful work was displayed in the Longhouse through March. Today, you can find her basketry and handmade cards for sale in the Duwamish Tribal Gift Shop.

To view Duwamish Tribal Artists’ work and also learn about special offerings, and sales, please click on gift shop (*under construction*) at www.duwamishtribe.org.

In February, Tlingit actor, Gene Tagaban, was featured as the performer for the month, as was the 2nd film premiere featuring the Evergreen Longhouse, “Native Artists in Resurgence.”

In March, the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition was the tribe’s first facility rental along with environmentalists for Mercer Slough and the King County Health Department. The 3rd film premiere featured was “Seventh Fire.”

In **April**, Michael Halady, Duwamish Master Carver, was featured in the Longhouse. Michael is a 5th generation grand-son of Chief Seattle. Michael studied under David Boxley, a Tsimshian Master Carver. Michael is trained in Northern & Southern style sculpture which includes the Coastal Salish and Puget Sound Salish styles. His carvings were displayed proudly in the Longhouse exhibit space through June. The featured performer **for April** was Peter Ali who is a Native Flutist. April was also the start of elementary school tours for the exhibit areas and at least (3) schools brought children to learn Duwamish history. It was also a busy month for facility rental with events that included a family birthday celebration, UW Environmental Forum, Port of Seattle walk-thru, Indian Child Welfare (LICWAC) and Environmental Protection Agency meetings. The featured film for April was “On and Off the Reservation” by Charlie Hill, Native Comedian.

In May, there was a televised Port Commission meeting and visits by more schools and even some representatives from Indonesia. A successful event that

will be back again was “State of the River – State of the Sound” with environmental groups from near and far meeting to address the pollution in Puget Sound waters. The 6th Annual Children’s Potlatch was also held in the Longhouse. The children did traditional craft-making, dancing and singing and were fed kid-friendly food and were presented with gifts like a traditional potlatch. The 4th featured film was “Maria Tall Chief”, the world famous Native ballerina and dancer. The Lekleh Path Tour Pilot Program formally began its training with Roger Fernandes and still another school traveled to the longhouse for a tour from as far away as Montesano.

In June, the Longhouse hosted its first Graduation with Native students from the University of Washington who featured a traditional blanket ceremony which proved to be a beautiful evening for all the graduates in attendance. The month was also busy with school-end tours and community rentals but the highlight of June proved to be the Duwamish Tribe, Gala, Dinner & Art Auction held for the first time in our own venue and despite some space deprivation the night turned out to well attended and festive. DTS raised around \$20,000 after expenses that evening.

In July, the Longhouse welcomed guests from more groups such as IWASIL, the Edmonds Boys & Girls Club, Department of Social & Health Services, the Rainier Valley Youth Theater, the YMCA, the Huchoosedah School, Seattle School District, visitors from Global Ed Service from the Ukraine, Tree House, and Foster High School.

In August, activity proved to be consistent and included more environmental meetings for BIO Region and the homeless encampment, Nickelsville, whom Duwamish Tribal Chairperson Hansen actively championed to Port of Seattle officials. Other environmental groups continued to rent the facility for their important work, such as the Department of Environmental and Occupational Service and Friends of the Cedar River Watershed. Tribal Chairperson Hansen, also organized and prepared salmon dinners for the first- ever Duwamish Longhouse, “Rummage Sale for Justice” to raise monies for the tribal legal fund. That event proved to be a lot of fun and helped to reconnect the tribe with past

community partners although fundraising that day was mostly from the salmon dinners as opposed to sales or rummage sale items. At the end of August, Roger Fernandes, Lower Elwha S'Klallam Tribal Member, artist and storyteller, was featured in the Duwamish Art gallery where paintings and artist renderings of traditional Salish themes were depicted through early October.

In September, Chairwoman Cecile, created the Youth Talking Circle which began to meet on Wednesday evenings beginning at 6 p.m. with *simple supper*. The goal of the talking circle is to help youth develop listening skills and respect for others in order to promote unity. About the second week of September, an event sponsored by the Tierra Madre Fund featured a Native blues singer. The singing voice of the star performer with the accompaniment of a piano was a beautiful sound in the Longhouse. The guests in attendance sat down to a Native-catered dinner and entertainment included traditional storytelling. Also in September, the Longhouse was visited by Red Eagle Soaring, Japanese Students from the University of Washington, and the West Seattle Kiwanis Club but the end-of-the month highlight was a native-themed wedding that was attended by 170 guests. The ceremony was memorable for all who attended and the longhouse was beautifully decorated for the occasion.

This month of October has proven to be more of the same with visits from Alternative School #1, Seattle Pacific University Environmental Network in Action, the Environmental Protection Agency and Pathfinder's School.

So as we have reported, the Duwamish Longhouse & Cultural Center has been very busy during the past 9 months. Our facility serves both Native and non-Native people. The facility offers tours to share Duwamish History and Culture. We offer traditional gifts in our Duwamish Tribal Gift Shop most of which is made by tribal members. Our Longhouse & Cultural Center provides rental space for special events and meetings and the state-of-the-art kitchen helps to enhance the experience. The offices for Duwamish Tribal Services are also maintained in the Duwamish Longhouse where staff can interact with guests and community groups concerning sales, tours, rentals and events; and Duwamish Tribal

Members can come visit tribal staff ID cards, food vouchers, genealogy history documents or just to visit and experience a sense of community.

The Duwamish Tribe and our non-profit Duwamish Tribal Services are proud to provide a facility that caters to all youth who come through the door. They have the opportunity to learn Lushootseed language, songs, and dances and to honor each other with Talking Circles that promote respect for others. The center provides them a safe haven for movie screenings, traditional storytelling, potlatches appropriate for their ages, and parties they get to plan. The local tribes and canoe families have participated in different ways, as well as local schools and community groups who are welcome all year-round. The cultural center provides a forum for Native artists to showcase their art and share its origin, especially Duwamish Tribal Members who have been waiting for many years to be acknowledged and celebrated.

Building our Duwamish Longhouse & Cultural Center would not have been possible without caring donors like you. We thank you for your generosity and your friendship. The Duwamish Tribe and Duwamish Tribal Services are forever grateful for your support.

On behalf of Duwamish Tribal Services and the Duwamish Tribal Council, we would again wish to humbly express our sincere gratitude for any donation, big or small, and we hope that you will always consider the Duwamish Longhouse & Cultural Center your home away from home. We have been true to our words when asked why we wanted this longhouse. ***The Duwamish Tribal Leadership stated that, “the Duwamish People want a place to share its history and culture; a place to honor our ancestors; and a place to reclaim our identity as native people.”***

We hope that you agree we are striving to do that and deserve the opportunity to continue to do so in the future. We hope that you will come along with us and will always consider yourselves welcome in our new home.

Thank you!

