



Allyson Brooks Ph.D., Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Greetings:

As the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer, it is a pleasure to share the **Washington State Historic Preservation Plan 2021-2026: *Inhabiting Our History***. As explained in the Introduction, development of a preservation plan by the state historic preservation office (Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation or DAHP) is mandated by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. To this end, it is gratifying to announce that the National Park Service reviewed and accepted *Inhabiting Our History* in October, 2020.

As you read through the document, please keep in mind that the goals, strategies, and actions called out in the Plan are based upon extensive outreach to stakeholders across the state. While much of the Plan was composed during tumultuous 2020, the issues addressed in the Plan transcend the health, economic, and social challenges that characterized the year. For example, key themes articulated in the five planning goals will position historic preservation as a way to: rebuild local economies; sustain healthy and safe communities; and strengthen work to preserve the places and traditions of *all* people, including previously underrepresented communities, who have shaped Washington.

I want to extend our appreciation to all who helped develop the Plan. Special thanks go to members of the Plan Steering Committee and DAHP Staff (see list of names in Appendix A); our many colleagues in preservation related trades and professions; cultural resource managers in federal, state, and local agencies; private, non-profit organizations and institutions; and to all who participated in our public outreach effort by responding to surveys, attending meetings, and reviewing draft documents.

A special word of appreciation goes to Tribal Elders, Tribal Councils, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, and cultural resource committee members for their dedication to preserving the culture that has thrived here for millennia. A special thanks to Melissa Calvert of Muckleshoot for authoring the Historic Preservation and Native American Values statement found on page 6.

Now the work begins. As described in the document, *Inhabiting Our History* is not a DAHP agency work plan. Nor is any funding source attached to help implement it. Therefore, I invite you to join with me and the many organizations called out in the Plan to undertake the challenging, yet rewarding work of preserving Washington's cultural resources for the present and future generations.

Sincerely,

Allyson Brooks, Ph.D.  
State Historic Preservation Officer

