

Seattle Veterans Museum



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Kenmore, WA 98028
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Todd L. Crooks
President, Seattle Veterans Museum
9325 NE 141 Place
Bothell, WA 98011

Jan. 7, 2006

City of Seattle
Mark Ellerbrook

Mr. Ellerbrook,

The proud history of Fort Lawton and the future development plans make it a perfect location for a museum to honor our veterans. We are very interested in the buildings that are available. This opportunity can provide a great new location for our growing museum which has been in existence since 2001.

After studying the floor plans of the buildings available, we plan to submit a proposal. This letter shall serve as our Letter of Interest to occupy any available space at the Fort Lawton area of Discovery Park.

Thank you for your assistance in honoring our Veterans and teaching others of the sacrifices our Veterans have made for our country and our freedom.

Sincerely,



Todd L. Crooks

"If you love your freedom,.... thank a Veteran."

Fort Lawton NOI

Deadline: **January 7, 2007**

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

1. Applicant	Organization Name: THE SEATTLE VETERANS MUSEUM		
	Director: Mr.	Title: President	
	First Name: Todd	Last Name: Crooks	
	Address: 2 nd Ave and University Street ----- Mailing Address: Seattle Veterans Museum P. O. Box 82333 Kenmore, WA 98028	City: Seattle	Zip: 98101
	Area Code: Phone: 425-821-0489	e-mail: crooksy@msn.com	
	Area Code: Fax:	http:// www.SeattleVeteransMuseum.org	
	Date of Incorporation: 11 /OCT / 2001	Federal Tax ID#: 31-1808860	
	Fiscal Year End Date: 31 /DEC / 2005		
Contact	Mr.	Title: Pres	
	First Name: Todd	Last Name: Crooks	
	Address: 9325 NE 141 Place	City: Bothell	Zip:98011
	Area Code: 425 Phone: 821-0489	e-mail: crooksy@msn.com	
Address Location & KC Council District of Primary Activities	Location A: Second Ave. & University St. , Seattle, WA	County Council District #: 10	
	Location B:	County Council District #:	
Total Operating Income for the last 2 Fiscal Years	2003: \$ 15,767.20		
	2004: \$ 13,231.89		

2. Proposed Programs – Same as Existing Programs 1 A. Mission and Goals.

The mission of The Seattle Veterans Museum is to honor and thank our military veterans for their service to our County, and to teach all our citizens about the price our veterans have paid for our freedom. In short, "To Honor and To Educate".

The Seattle Veterans Museum is located in downtown Seattle on 2nd Ave, between Union and University Streets (on the west side of Benaroya Symphony Hall). This is also the location of the "Remembrance Garden Memorial Wall" which lists Washington state's service-members killed-in-action since 1940. The museum is open every Friday and Saturday from 10am - 5pm. It is also open Memorial Day, 4th of July, Veteran's Day (Nov. 11th) and also by appointment for groups. Admission is \$3.00.

The doors of the museum were first open on Sept 11, 2002, The displays cover every major conflict in our Country's history from a reproduction Revolutionary War uniform to a display of Republican Guard relics from Iraq. All branches of the service are represented, including the Merchant Marine. Items of special interest are a collection of authentic civil war infantry accoutrements, WW2 flight gear, and a Korean War bazooka.

The prized collection of the museum is the "Price of Freedom" displays. The stories of six young men who gave their lives for our Country are told in a display of their personal effects, including purple heart medals, dog tags, pictures, letters, and even the dreaded Western Union telegrams informing the families of the fate of their loved ones. It is stories like these, and the stories of all service members, that the museum is dedicated to preserving and passing on to future generations of Americans.

Every generation of Americans have paid a great price for the freedom of those that followed. "Freedom is not free" - it has been paid for by the blood, sweat, hardship, tears and lives of millions that have served this country in uniform. To every service member that has stood the watch for our County, the Seattle Veterans Museum would like to say, "Thank you for your service to our Country". The museum not only teaches kids to appreciate their freedom, but also teaches them the basic concept of making a contribution to their community. Seattle needs an institution like this to properly thank ALL our vets and to educate our citizens, and especially our kids.

The museum has an all-volunteer staff working the front desk, acting as docents to answer questions and many other projects, from fundraising to restoring antiques. The volunteer's duties are tailored to whatever a volunteer is interested in doing.

Our museum accomplishes the "Educate" part by teaching through the interpretation of antique military artifacts and the personal stories behind those very artifacts. SVM collects, preserves and displays the personal stories, uniforms and equipment of the men and women that earned, fought for, died for and maintain the freedom of our Country. When community members come forward and offer to donate a relatives uniform or gear to the museum, we always request information about the veteran. Their name, hometown, service history, and a picture of the veteran preferably wearing the very uniform or article they are donating. The artifact is then displayed in the museum next to the old black-and-white photo of the veteran wearing the artifact. All people, but especially kids will comprehend and relate to a history

lesson better when they can see a piece of that history right in front of them. Reading about a World War II battle is a typical classroom scenario. At our museum, the same history lesson is taught by seeing the Purple Heart medal engraved with the name "Jack Cornelius Calvin", a Seattle boy that was killed in action on the pacific island of Saipan on the 4th of July, 1944, and also seeing the dog tag he was wearing, and the letter from the Marine Corps to his parents.

Our museum has collected and preserved groupings of artifacts from 6 US service members that were killed or died while serving our Country. In most of these cases, the lost service member had no children of their own. Their stories might be remembered by uncles or cousins for a few decades, but eventually they are lost to the ages and scattered to the winds like their uniforms and personal effects are sold off at estate sales and auctions. The Seattle Veterans Museum keeps these groupings of items together and the story and memory of these brave Americans alive for younger citizens to hear and appreciate. There is no other organization in all of King County that serves this purpose of history and heritage preservation. Considering the supreme sacrifice that some of our community members have made for this Country, the least we can do is remember them and thank them. SVM does not limit our display items to those only of veterans from King County, yet a vast majority of what is donated to us is from King County residents, simply because that is where we are located. We feel that any veteran that served our County, or died for our County, is part of the history and heritage of King County no matter where they grew up.

2 B. Current King County Heritage Related Programs, Events, Services or Public Benefits.

Since before our museum officially began, we have been setting up a booth at community events to get out to the public our efforts to thank vets and teach kids. We set up a 12' X 12' tent and have a small museum display with 2 or 3 mannequins in full uniform and gear. It is an opportunity for community members to stop by and be thanked for their service to the Country, or to teach younger kids about what their parents or grandparents had done during their service. At many of these events, people have told us the stories of their veteran, and then followed up by bringing the artifacts and documented details of their veteran's story for SVM to preserve and share with the community. Attachment J-1 is a partial list of some of the events we have attended. At the larger community events, thousands of people attend each of these with hundreds of them visiting our booth. The smaller events probably brought 25-100 visitors to our booth.

On Memorial Day our museum began it's own program of recognition of our fallen service members. Each hour on the hour, in The Remembrance Garden, which is directly in front of our museum, we held a military style Flag-folding ceremony. This included a narration during the flag folding explaining what each fold of the flag represents. The triangular shaped flag was then placed next to a wreath of flowers in front of the Remembrance Wall and a local boy scout played TAPS to close the ceremony. Any time you can draw attention to honoring our fallen heroes and telling their stories to the public you are passing on our history and heritage for future generations. Each time we performed this ceremony about two dozen passers by would take time from their too busy day to stop and remember.

On Memorial Day, we also assisted other local veterans groups as they dedicated the names

that had been added to the Remembrance Wall for the current War on Terror. This Wall is the center piece of the Remembrance Garden. It contains the names of Washington service members that have given their life for our Country since 1940.

SVM also participated and supported the Veterans Day Parade hosted by the Compass Center. This parade to honor local veterans and allow them the praise and applause they deserve terminates at the Remembrance Garden where speeches and comments are offered by local authorities.

Our museum also assisted one Seattle resident to get his father's name added to the Remembrance Garden Wall. His father was listed as missing in action during WW2. Since no body was recovered, after a year his name was moved to the killed in action list. The Garden Wall is supposed to contain the names of all Washington residents that have been killed or died during wartime since 1940. Through some oversight, this particular name was neglected. The son of this soldier had tried a couple of time to get his father s name added, but had been unsuccessful. SVM staff attend many of the meetings of the Remembrance Garden Committee. The committee was notified and SVM assisted the son with getting all the necessary paperwork to the Garden Committee. On Memorial Day, when the new names were added to The Wall, the WW2 soldiers name was included.

The museum also assisted another local family to have a misspelled name corrected. The name was missing an "i". This error was also corrected for Memorial Day. These small services that SVM provides mean a lot to Seattle families who have their son's names on that wall.

SVM is happy to provide assistance and support to the Remembrance Garden Wall and its governing Committee. Benaroya Hall and The Garden Committee have aired their appreciation to SVM for bringing attention and public understanding of the Wall and its meaning. SVM has also started it's own project to coincide with The Wall. It is called "The Faces on The Wall ". Whenever our museum encounters a visitor or passerby that knows one of the names on the wall, we ask them to share it with us. We are collecting all this data in one file. Sometimes we are told their hometown, high school and maybe a few words about what kind of person they were or what they liked. Other times, SVM has received photos and some artifacts to go with the name. Here again, our museum is serving to preserve the personal story and face that go along with the Name on the Wall

2 c. Planned or Proposed Programs, Events and Services Relating to King County Heritage that your organization intends to develop and offer in the next two years.

Last veterans day we made arrangements with a local filming professional to record some interviews with local veterans for The Veterans History Project. This is a federal project to record and preserve the personal accounts of history as told by the vets themselves. Unfortunately, a last minute emergency prevented the filming. We plan to pursue this again in the near future. We have recently acquired the use of a video camera and will be adding video as a way of preserving the stories of veterans that visit or donate artifacts to our museum.

In the summer of 2007 we will be holding our first "Kids Boot Camp". This will be either a one or two day event for kids age 8 to 13 to have their first taste of military life. On the "Plan of the Day" we will have the basics of standing at attention in formation, basic marching, physical training, first aid, setting up camp with a two-man "pup" tent. At least one of their meals will be the wonderful military experience of eating MRE's (Meals Ready to Eat). We have some military clothing and gear that the 'cadets' will be able to wear and use to add to the fun, and of course we will include a trip to the museum for a lesson on history and the debt we all owe our veterans.

We have also been in contact in the past with a local military historian named Manfred Wolfenstien. He and some colleagues have collected a list of every King County military site, museum, monument, marker, etc. We hope to obtain a copy of Mr. Wolfenstien's list and publish it for public use.

Time Required to Commence Operations in Fort Lawton

Since our program is already in operation in downtown Seattle, it would just be a matter of moving all our collections to the new facility and removing and re-installing any cabinets from our existing location. We can adjust our museum layout to accommodate building that has one large area, or one that has several smaller rooms.

One of our volunteers is a carpenter and cabinet-maker and, if required, would be in charge of any minor physical modifications to the interior of the building. Roy Shadbolt is one of our volunteers that works at the museum every Friday morning. Roy has 18 years of experience as a cabinet-maker, carpenter, shop supervisor and manager. His experience covers all aspects of projects from the details of the construction to the ordering of materials. His knowledge and skill will guarantee that the project is of the highest quality.

2. Public Benefit/Audience Served 2 A. *Accessibility. Describe public access to King County heritage programs and services, including open hours of any facilities.*

The museum is open every Friday and Saturday from 10am – 5pm and also on Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day from 10am – 5pm. The museum is free to veterans on Veterans Day and is free to everyone on Memorial Day. We are also open to groups by appointment on any day of the week. We have three volunteers that live near the museum and are semi-retired and can make arrangements for almost any desired visit.

Several of our museum staff and volunteers are also available to make presentations and displays off-site. We typically provide a couple tables of military antiques ranging from the Revolutionary War to today's War on Terror. We explain the museum's mission and programs thank all the attending veterans for their service.

2 B. Audiences Served / Geographic Area. Describe the primary audiences and service area(s) of your organization, including the character any known internet / web-based audiences.

Our target audience is the entire Puget Sound community, but our location in the heart of Seattle brings in predominantly King County residents. We receive emails on a regular basis via our website from veterans, teachers, military history buffs and folks appreciating our efforts

2 C. Community Outreach. *Describe your organization's community outreach activities, including those that expand and/or diversify audiences, membership, staff and leadership.*

The locations of many of our public displays have been at public events that cover the whole spectrum of our population (shopping malls as an example). We feel that EVERY member of our community that enjoys the freedoms of this Country have a vested interest in the service members who make the sacrifices to safeguard those freedoms for us all. And, every person in this Country also a vested interest in our museum.

Our museum volunteers have also filmed and produced several video products. These include a 30 minute "Seattle Veterans Museum Show" as well as 30 sec – 1 minute Public Service Announcements. These have aired on Seattle Cable Access Network (SCAN-TV), which caters to a very diverse audience.

These productions, like all our displays and daily operations are NON-POLITICAL. Our museum has adopted a "non-political" policy. We do not want the political debating about a war or conflict to detract from the sacrifices of those that served in that war. We concentrate on the fact that service members are there to serve the Country and risk their lives to guarantee our freedom to choose our politics.

3. Contributions to and Management of King County Heritage Resources. *Describe significant contributions to, or management of, King County history and heritage resources, including any that relate to **threatened and neglected** aspects, such as those defined by theme, ethnicity or geography.*

Our World War II veterans of The Greatest Generation are passing from us at a rate of over 1000 per week. With each passing veteran we are losing a valuable story unless it is recorded and preserved. Our museum is venturing to preserve not only the written or spoken story but also the artifacts that are part of the story and can bring the story alive for future generations. We are not just limiting ourselves to the WWII veterans. We recently received a contact from a man who is planning to donate a grouping of his father's WWII personal effects as well as his grandfather's Spanish American War artifacts. We have already asked the donor to record the stories of both of these brave Americans to preserve them for generations to come. Other than the "Veterans History Project" which films interviews with the veterans, we believe SVM is the only organization in King County striving to preserve detailed personal military experiences. We have recently acquired the use of a video camera and will be adding video as a way of preserving the stories of veterans that visit or donate artifacts to our museum.

Every day, the personal effects and the stories of sacrifice of our neighborhood veterans are being lost in estate sales, garage sales, auctions and even the trash can. When people first hear about our museum, they realize that this is where their loved-ones story can be

preserved and serve a much higher purpose than a garage sale.

BUILDINGS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT PROGRAM

Since Sept 11, 2002 The Seattle Veterans Museum has been operating out of "The Remembrance Place" thanks to Priscilla "Patsy" Collins. Mrs. Collins was the chairperson and major sponsor for The Remembrance Garden on 2nd Ave and University Streets, on the west side of Benaroya Hall. After the Garden was complete, Mrs. Collins rented out a small office space right behind the Garden and she named it "Remembrance Place". She wanted it to be a family meeting place or an interpretive site for the garden. The space was set up and furnished, but was never put into function. .

Our museum staff members visited the Garden in the fall of 2001 and saw the unused office space. We contacted Mrs. Collins and worked with her until we achieved our 501c3 status and eventually met her at the Remembrance Place to talk about how our museum might be able to get started in her unused office space. She agreed and our museum was off and running.

We are still managing on an all-volunteer staff. We hope to expand in the next 6 months to having a paid front desk docent for Thursday and eventually Wednesday. This paid staff position will have a requirement of working on fundraising efforts. The employee will work on museum fundraising efforts when there are no visitors at the museum and this position will hopefully pay for itself in the near term.

The museum is obviously now our main focus of attention and the number of displays and "traveling" events we do have decreased in the last year. We do realize the value of getting out to the community to attract attention to our museum efforts, and will continue to do so. The space we are currently in is only about 600 square foot and our displays are VERY crowded. We have many display items in storage, enough display items to occupy a space ten times as large.

We are also hoping to have a conference room where events could be held or other attractions to our museum such as guest speakers , fund-raising dinners, and other public events and fund-raising events.

We have recently received a grant for \$4,500 to build display cabinets for our collections. These cabinets can be moved into any future location.

4 B. Operating Budget Notes. See Attachment .

The future operating budget would be similar to years past except the \$600 per month rent would be allocated to building maintenance/improvements and other expenses.
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