



Roslyn Downtown Association

The RDA is a Washington Main Street Community, a program of the Washington Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation. The Main Street Four-Point Approach is an innovative preservation-based economic development approach focused on Economic Development, Urban Design, Promotions and Organization. Communities are able to revitalize downtown and neighborhood business districts by leveraging local assets - from historic, cultural, and architectural resources to local enterprises and community passion -to restore prosperity and vitality.



The Main Street Program enables Roslyn to leverage its colorful past, historic architecture, established events, diverse culture and locally owned businesses to work as catalysts for economic growth.



Mission

To develop our local economy, honor our cultural heritage, and market our unique community assets.

Vision

Restore and preserve our historical community while enhancing our current business environment and attracting new sustainable economic opportunities.

2019 Officers

Cheri Marusa- President
Gail Dobberthein- Secretary
Valerie Lunn- Treasurer

RDA Board Members

Justin Zipperer
Ed Hewson
Jeri Porter
John Wyble
Mark Kantor
Jon Scholes

2020 Board Meeting Schedule:

Time: 9:30 - 11:00 AM
Location: Roslyn Creative Center
Sunday February 16th
Sunday May 17th
Sunday August 16th
Sunday November 15th Board Retreat

Thank you to the following businesses for their B and O tax contribution in support of our work and mission to promote and enhance Roslyn- an authentic historical home town:

- Basecamp Books and Bites
- Central Homes
- Chick's Mercer Island Shoe Service
- Coast Communications Company
- Heritage Distilling Company
- Inland Cellular
- Kantor Taylor
- Paragon Real Estate Advisors II
- Pegasus Global Holdings
- Pegasus Northwest Inc
- Puget Sound Energy
- Scott E. Perna CPA PC
- SHKS Architects
- Swiftwater Cellars
- The Brick
- Unionville Ranch
- Winpower Strategies

Each of these businesses made a contribution to Roslyn Downtown Association through the Washington State Main Street Tax Incentive Program. Through this program, RDA receives funding, while sponsoring businesses receive a tax credit equal to 75% of their contribution and 25% as a federal charitable tax deduction. If you are a business owner and are interested in learning more about this program, email info@roslyndowntown.org or visit the website at www.roslyndowntown.org



RDA Completes Restoration of Northwest Improvement Company Building

Transfers NWIC to community development and conservation organization

The Roslyn Downtown Association (RDA) purchased the iconic Northwest Improvement Company (NWIC) building in 2013. The NWIC Building is the largest, most visible and historically significant commercial structure in the city and the last remaining structure associated with the Roslyn Coal Field. The RDA has worked to carefully restore it in order to preserve an important piece of the town's history and provide a bright inviting tenant space for business. Transformation of the building was the cornerstone of the RDA's plan for revitalizing the city's commercial core. Having completed the restoration phase, this spring the RDA elected to

transfer ownership responsibility of the building to Forterra, a conservation and community development organization by end of year.

"Preserving Roslyn's historical authenticity is a banner carried diligently and proudly by many people in this community. The restoration of the NWIC Building is a perfect example of what can be accomplished when the desire to safeguard a valued piece of our past is realized," says RDA President Cheri Marusa.

A Charming Landmark with a Storied Past

Initially developed in 1886 by the Northern Pacific Coal Company as a mining camp and company town to exploit the area's rich coal deposits, Roslyn grew rapidly into an ethnically diverse community representing over twenty nationalities. The company store, built in 1889, supplied most of the food, clothing, furniture and hardware needs of the coal miners and their families as well as the explosives used



Visit us in the NWIC Building!

The Roslyn Downtown Association (RDA) is a 501c3 non-profit
Tax ID: 20-4041024

CONTACT US:
WEB: www.roslyndowntown.org
EMAIL: info@roslyndowntown.org
PHONE: 509.649.3650

in the mining operations. The Company Store closed along with the closing of numerous in 1957. It would only take a few years until there was life back in the building. Another industry Shoemaker Manufacturing opened their doors in 1959 and out grown the space moving to Cle Elum in 1970.

Renovations that Honor History

In 1973, the NWIC Building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places followed five years later, by the Roslyn National Historic District.

The WA Trust for Historic Preservation included Roslyn's Historic District on the **2010 Endangered Properties List** when the Roslyn Downtown Association (RDA), a non-profit Washington Main Streets Community organization, initiated an ambitious program to revitalize Roslyn guided by the Main Street Program's Four Point Approach.

Working with students and faculty from the University of Washington's Storefront Studio, the RDA, conducted community visioning workshops to identify potential projects. Cheri Marusa, RDA President along with the board of directors championed the redevelopment of the landmark company store emerged as an ambitious, high-priority goal. Washington State Main Street B&O tax credits helped fund a pre-design study guiding the renovation and fundraising efforts.

Starting in 2014-2019 the renovations from masonry restoration, structural reinforcement, new electrical and mechanical systems, windows, seismic improvements, building insulation, interior renovation and numerous repairs were completed. Today the building is home to the RDA visitor's center, locally-owned shops, and Heritage Distilling Co.

The RDA worked with SHKS Architects to preserve historical details like the original wood columns and stamped tin ceiling tiles, paying tribute to the building's rich history.

“Preserving Roslyn’s historical authenticity is a banner carried diligently and proudly by many people in this community.”

- RDA President Cheri Marusa

A Bridge to the Future

The transfer of responsibility for stewardship of the building to Forterra is the next step in RDA's vision of infusing new life into the local economy.



“We recognize the importance of the NWIC as a bridge from Roslyn’s past to the future. We are humbled to take on responsibility for its stewardship, to fulfill the vision RDA’s restoration efforts have made possible. We welcome guidance from local businesses and residents about how Forterra can best support the overall community’s goals,” said Michelle Connor, Forterra’s President and CEO.

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Welcome Back Storefront Studio

The Storefront Studio is excited to be partnering with Roslyn again in Spring 2020. Most of you have worked with the Storefront Studio in the past. Some of you may have heard of our work or have seen the four books we have created for Roslyn. You all have been in the NWI building, enjoyed the Roslyn Yard, and are about to start using the newly renovated community creative house.

While others have, with lots of hard work, built those projects and continue, with great success, to bring life to them, the Storefront Studio work was the first to give form to those community driven ideas. We helped the community visualize the dreams, and then individuals in Roslyn brought the dreams to life. We start at the beginning and help you give life to your community goals and visions. Our goal is community support through Historic Preservation and Economic Development. We have received awards for this work.

The students are researchers, not experts, you are the experts. The students have professional skills for realistically portraying and developing the ideas you give them, they can help you share your visions, gain support, apply for grants and consider alternatives.

Jim Nicholls,
UW Department of Architecture

ANOTHER COMMUNITY STORY

by Lyn Derrick, RDA historical writer

Roslyn Bank Robbery Hits National Press

In August of 1892, with coal production reaching new heights, larger and larger shipments of cash intended for the mine’s payroll arrived regularly at the Ben E. Snipes Bank in Roslyn. On September 24, five armed men rode up to the bank. Two stood guard outside, the other three entered the bank. Customers were lined up with their hands stretched above their heads. One robber struck the cashier with the butt of his gun, and other employees were herded into the vault. Outside two citizens were shot trying to stop the robbery. The robbers gathered up thousands of dollars, ran out to their waiting horses and fled.

The bank robbery made national news. Managers at Snipes’s Roslyn and Ellensburg banks posted \$1,000 rewards. Washington’s governor added \$500 to the fund. Snipes added more money, a lot more. The final amount was reported at \$20,000.

Snipes employed a detective to hunt down the criminals. The detective arrested Cal Hale, Tom Kimzie and George Zachary in Oregon. The cashier identified Hale as the man who struck him with the gun. Multiple bank employees and customers swore all three were the robbers. At the trial, 35 witnesses from Oregon testified giving Hale an alibi. Kimzie and Zachary were released due to insufficient evidence – despite witness testimonies. Hale was found guilty. Later, he was unconditionally released from jail.

Angry, Snipes learned from the prosecutor they’d received a letter from a woman named Sarah in Utah stating she knew who robbed the bank. Sarah was willing to identify them and tell where they could be found – if she was guaranteed protection. She named her brother-in-law, Ras Lewis and four McCarty brothers as the robbers. Sarah directed authorities to their hideout where one McCarty was arrested. Then she directed authorities to the Lewis’s ranch near Ephrata, where he was arrested.

That wasn’t the end of the revenge of the womenfolk. Lewis’s wife, Rose, wrote her own letter stating, “As Ras Lewis’s wife, I am fed up with living with a criminal and will lend every assistance in bring him to justice, along with the rest of his outlaw gang.” The letter said the gang gathered at her house and planned the robbery within her hearing. Rose said they left on September 12, and Ras returned on October 1 with a lot of money.

Unbeknownst to the prosecutor, Lewis’s defense attorney was directed to his stash of cash buried in Ephrata. It

totaled \$41,000 stolen from multiple robberies, including the Roslyn bank. The money was used to pay for his defense. It was money well spent. Despite overwhelming evidence of their guilt, not a single witness could be found to testify against them. Lewis and McCarty went free.

The New York World sent a correspondent to cover the robbery for the national press. Lewis denied his guilt for years. In an act of poetic justice, Lewis’s attorney said his defense took all \$41,000. Outraged, Lewis stated it took him ten years to steal that amount, and the attorney took it from him in a few weeks. He swore never to commit another illegal act “as long as I live.” However, he served four years for a robbery in 1895. In 1938, after serving for many years as a Justice of the Peace and sheriff in Price, Utah, Lewis made a full confession in *Cosmopolitan* magazine, including this information. It was reported that Rose and Sarah collected the \$20,000 reward.

Source: Ben Snipes, Northwest Cattle King, Roscoe Sheller; HistoryLink.org; Serialized confession, *Cosmopolitan*, 1938; 1892 Ben E. Snipes & Co. Bank Robbery, Roslyn, WA, Wikipedia. Photo: Northern Kittitas County Historical Society Collection, Snipes Bank Robbery reenactment, date unknown.

RDA 2019 CONTRIBUTIONS

- AARF
- High Country Log Show
- R- Town Art Festival
- Roslyn Farmers Market
- Ronald Club Community Heritage Festival
- Roslyn Fire Department
- Roslyn Library
- Vintage Trailer Rally
- WA State Historical Trust Conference
- RRCE Heritage Club
- Summer Movie Nights in The Yard
- Kiosk Roslyn Cemetery
- Cinco De Mayo Celebration
- Roslyn Old Town Christmas Lights