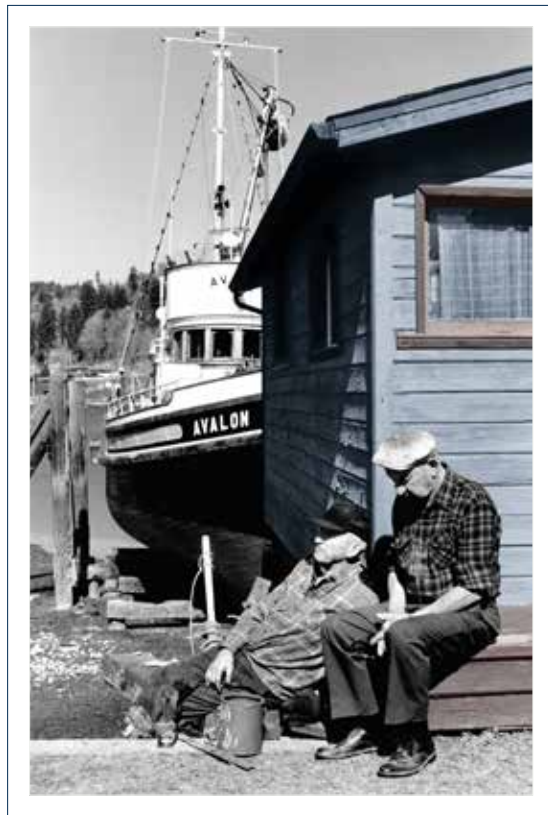


Skansie Brothers Netshed

Annual Report 2020



The Skansie brothers (Antone and Vince) rest outside the netshed in 1990. It was the last time they bottom-painted the hull of their fishing vessel, the Avalon. The brothers lived in the Skansie home built by their father, Andrew, until they passed (2001 and 2002). As was the wish of the family, the netshed, house, and grounds were purchased by the City in 2002 to become Skansie Brothers Park. Preservation of the Netshed signaled the community's commitment to preserving local maritime culture.



CONTENTS

Mission Statement	3
Executive Summary	4
What is a Netshed	5
Volunteers	8
It's Working	9
Programming	12
Collaborations & Associations	17
Annual Events	19
Awards Recognition.....	27
Social Media	28
Maintenance & Repairs	30
Hours of Operation.....	31

Mission Statement

“An educational organization dedicated to the preservation and advancement of fishing family heritage as it exists in the people, places, vessels, skills, and stories of Gig Harbor’s commercial fishing industry.”



Skansie Netshed Foundation (SNF) is a 501 c(3) non-profit organization established in 2015 to preserve and protect the Skansie Netshed and its contents. When the State of Washington registered the entire Skansie site on the National Register, the Foundation secured a 20-year lease with the City of Gig Harbor to ensure seasonal public access to the facility.

SNF Volunteers meet monthly to maintain the shed and its contents. All proceeds from special events, donations, and retail sales (hats, t-shirts, aprons, and posters) are reinvested to create public programming and educational materials. Projects include oral histories, database development, brochures, and audio-visual materials. The Foundation is self-sustaining with no “supplemental funding” from Gig Harbor City Government.



As early as 1910, Gig Harbor's first netsheds began appearing along the waterfront. These modest over-water structures and docks of wood were constructed as storage sheds for fishing nets and gear used by local fishermen.



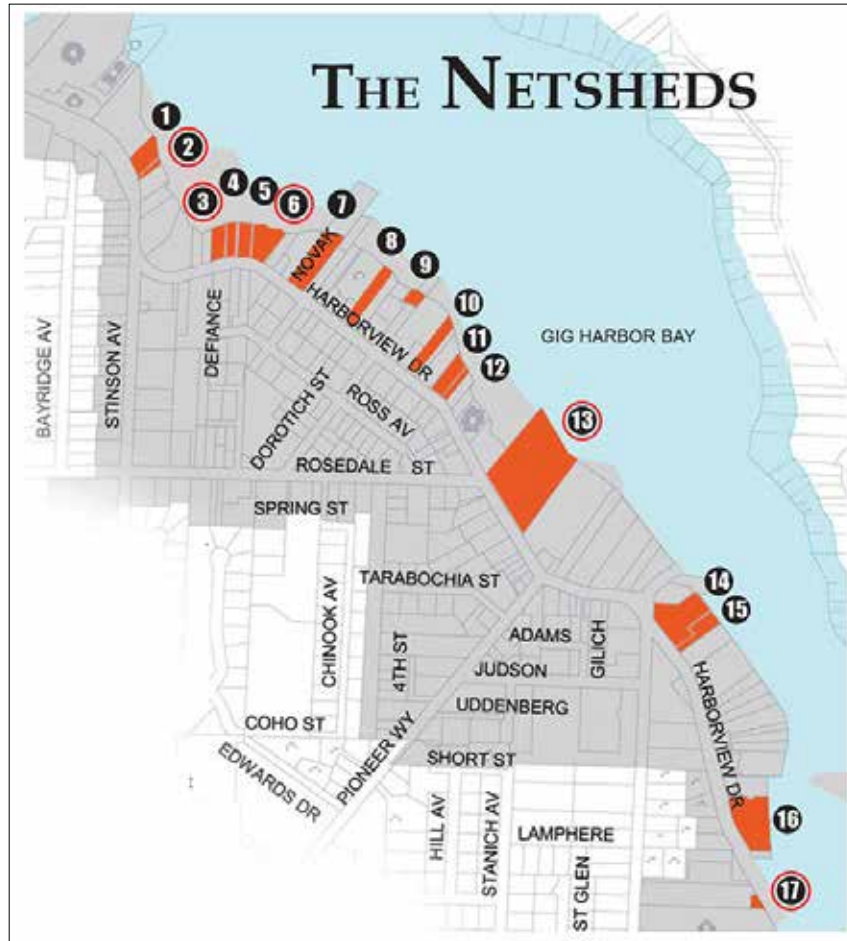
1946 Gig Harbor Bay



THE FLEET

As one of the few community-based fishing fleets remaining on Puget Sound, the Gig Harbor Commercial Fishing Fleet is the oldest. It was established by Croatian immigrants who imported fishing techniques and traditions from the Dalmatian Coast of what is now Croatia. Their influence across six generations forged the town's local economy and shaped the development of commercial fishing for decades. Today, approximately 18 local purse seiners fish from Alaska to California.

The first Blessing of the Fleet was the occasion for "Harbor Holidays" in 1970.



Today, only 17 netsheds remain but the Harbor still boasts the largest inventory of historic netsheds on all of Puget Sound with seven still in use by our Commercial Fishing Fleet.



President Andy Babich
Vice President Jim Franich
Secretary Linda Foster
Treasurer Margaret Sather

Board Linda Pitcher
Erin Babich
Nancy Jerkovich
John Skansi
Corky Ellis

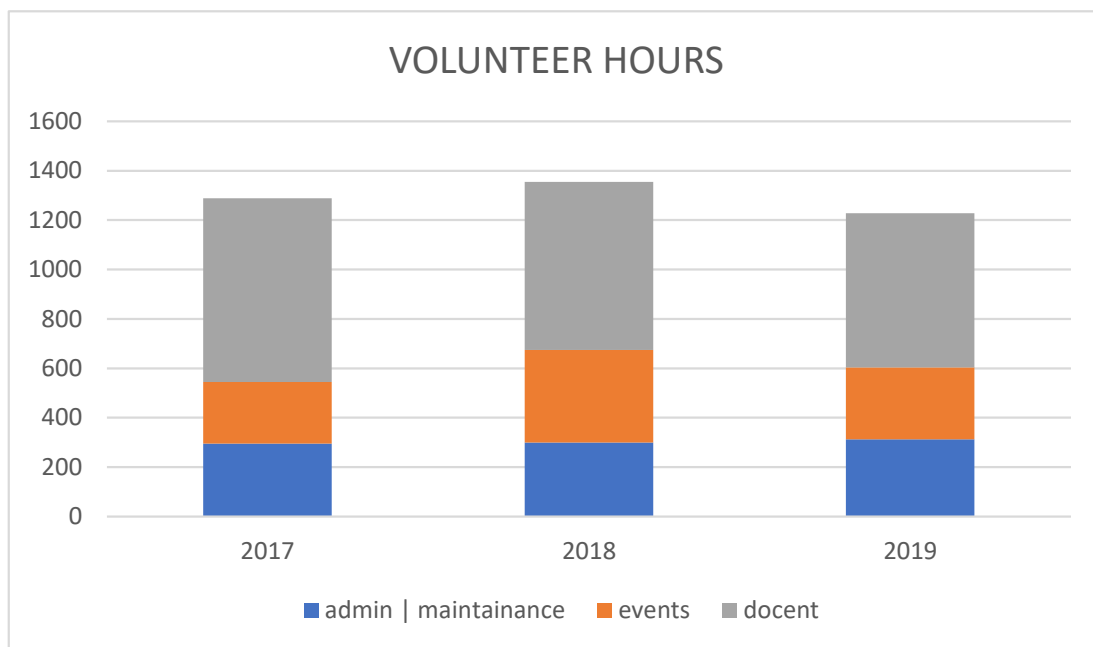
The Foundation consists of 9 Board Members, 45 Affiliates, and approximately 12 Trained Docents who volunteer a minimum of four days each month to maintain summer hours.





Since Skansie Netshed Foundation opened the doors of the Shed in the summer of 2015, the total number of visitors continues to increase; nearly 16,000 in the Summer of 2019. Visitors from around the world learn the importance of Gig Harbor's iconic Netsheds, recognized at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., and listed on the National Register.

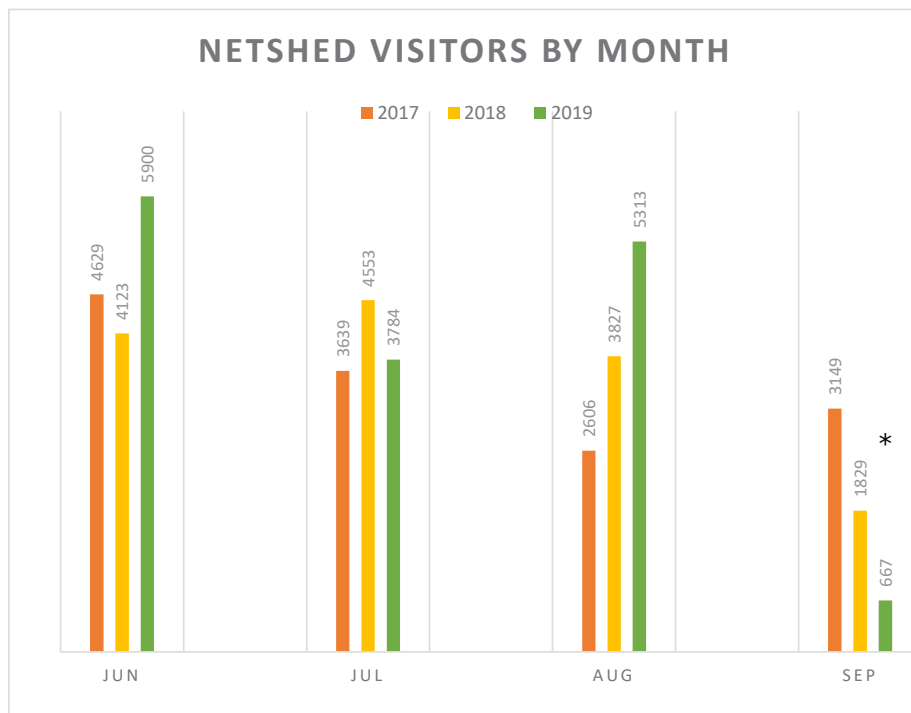
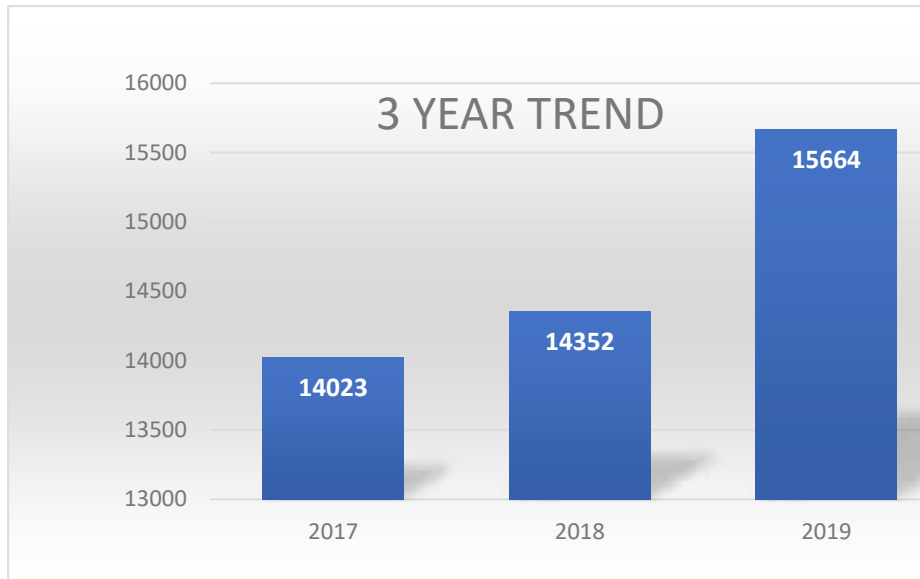
Open Weekends | Summer Only
and Thursday Farmers Markets Jun-Jul-Aug-Sep



Note: 2018 Admin Hours increased in order to initiate 2 new public events.

Note: Reduced Docent Hours in 2019
because of early close date (3-days total) in September.

Skansie Netshed VISITOR Totals



* Note: September Hours vary by School Year
 Sept 2019 -- Open 3 Days

- NET MENDING DEMONSTRATIONS

Net mending is an important fisherman's skill for patching holes in nets due to seasonal wear and tear during the fishing season. A "kushi" needle is used to complete the task. Originally, these mending needles were carved from wood. Today's needles are made from durable plastic. The sons and daughters of crew members and skippers were often responsible for keeping the needles filled with twine and ready for use.





- VIDEOS and ARTIFACTS

Videos shot by local fishermen run on a continuous loop during open hours.

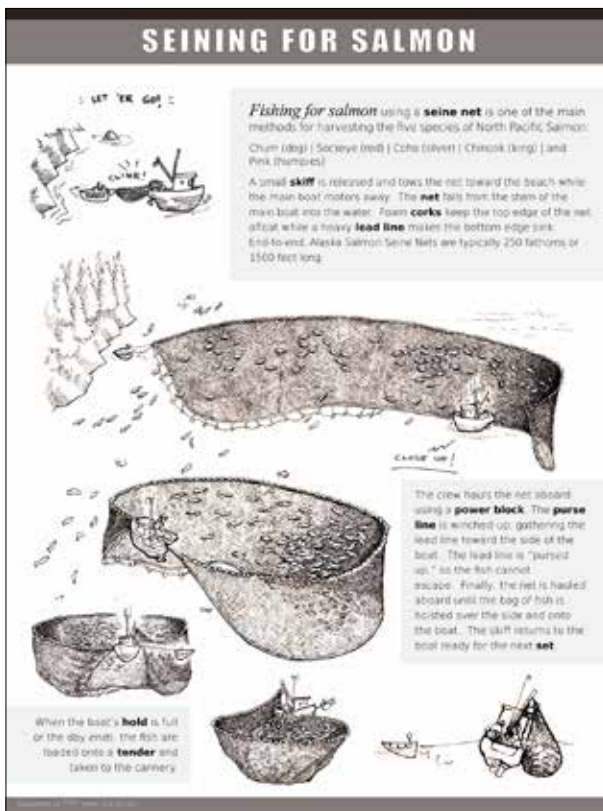
Each item in the shed is tagged, numbered, and described as part of the Netshed's inventory of artifacts collected by the Skansie Brothers.





- INTERACTIVE SEINE DISPLAY

Fishing for salmon using a seine net is one of the main methods for harvesting North Pacific Salmon. Visitors get a hands-on experience with this sample purse seine net. The Interpretive signage illustrates how commercial fishing vessels use their skiff to make each “set.”




- CAULKING STATION

Caulking is a technique whereby the gaps between the hull strakes or deck planks are sealed using cotton and okum. Visitors can try their hand at this work at the caulking display.




Caulking Station and Tools


CAULKING DUMMY




Seams between the hull or deck planks of a vessel must be watertight. Caulking is a technique whereby the gaps between the hull strakes or deck planks are sealed using cotton and oakum, then topped or payed with pitch or other sealants.




OAKUM




IRON



REEFING HOOK



COTTON



MALLET

Caulking Dummy Display courtesy of Shipwright New State

- KNOT TYING STATION

Using specific knots for a particular purpose is another required fisherman's skill. Practicing the tying of various knots is possible at the Netshed knot-tying station. Finding a "Monkey Paw" among the many items on display is a great challenge for the eagle-eyed visitor.





- CROATIAN PRIME MINISTER VISITS GIG HARBOR

In 2006, Zoran Milanovic spent the morning touring Gig Harbor to learn about Gig Harbor's early Croatian settlement. His fascination for our town culminated with a speech at Skansie Park and a luncheon event at one of Gig Harbor's historic netsheds.

(see website for more info)

**HELP US WELCOME
THE PRIME MINISTER OF CROATIA**



**9:30am Sunday, Sept 28
at SKANSIE BROTHERS PARK**

Join the celebration as we
Welcome Zoran Milanovic
to Gig Harbor!

(hand-held Croatian Flags provided to the first 300 to arrive)
Call (253) 853-7609 for more information



MENU Croatia Fest MENU

Grilled Wild *Trident*
Alaskan Sockeye Salmon
Coleslaw & Roll \$10

Dasani Water \$ 1

Visit Skansie Brothers Netshed



3207 Harborview in Downtown Gig Harbor

- CROATIAFEST at SEATTLE CENTER

For several years SNF has attended Seattle’s Croatian celebration where thousands of visitors can enjoy authentic dance, food, and entertainment venues that preserve the state’s historic Croatian traditions and contemporary ties to the country of Croatia.

- ANNUAL TREE-LIGHTING

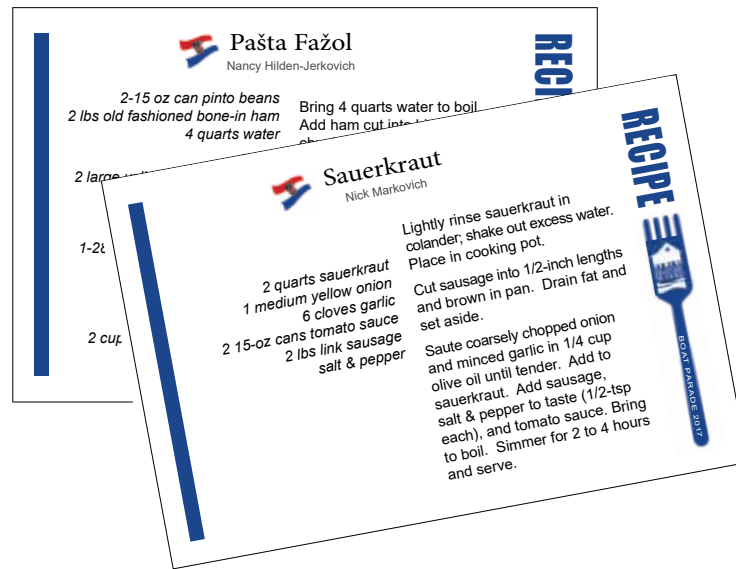
SNF volunteers partner with the **Downtown Waterfront Alliance** at the annual Tree-Lighting Event at Skansie Park.



- SKANSIE NETSHED DINNER

This Dinner maintains a tradition that began in the 1960s when a group of fishing captains would prepare meals at a local restaurant to celebrate their return from the season. The annual fish BBQ at Skansie Netshed began in 2013.





Croatian music, traditional songs, recipes, language, and foods are shared to celebrate local fishermen (past and present) and their families.



- LIGHTED BOAT PARADE

An evening's viewing of the Boat Parade with refreshments and Croatian Cuisine; another opportunity for visitors to learn more about Gig Harbor's rich maritime history.



THE LIGHTED
WATCH **Boat Parade** FRIENDS FAMILY
SKANSIE NETSHED · SAT · DEC 9

\$20
admit one



all proceeds go to preserve local fishing family heritage | skansiebrothersnetshed.com

- **PIE SOCIAL**

This annual fall event celebrates the return of our local fishing fleet. The public is invited to enjoy free pie and ice cream, as long as it lasts.

WELCOME HOME **PIE** **SOCIAL**

Please join us

SUNDAY · SEPT 15 · 1-4 PM

as we Honor & Celebrate



GIG HARBOR'S RETURNING COMMERCIAL FISHING FLEET

SKANSIE NETSHED · 3207 HARBORVIEW DRIVE



- GIRLS FISH TOO

A very popular, well-attended educational program where community members are invited to ask questions of a panel of three generations of Gig Harbor fisher-women.



- HALLOWEEN ON THE HARBOR

Volunteers from the Foundation decorate the Netshed and welcome the general public, as candy is disbursed to thousands of children that participate in this annual downtown event.



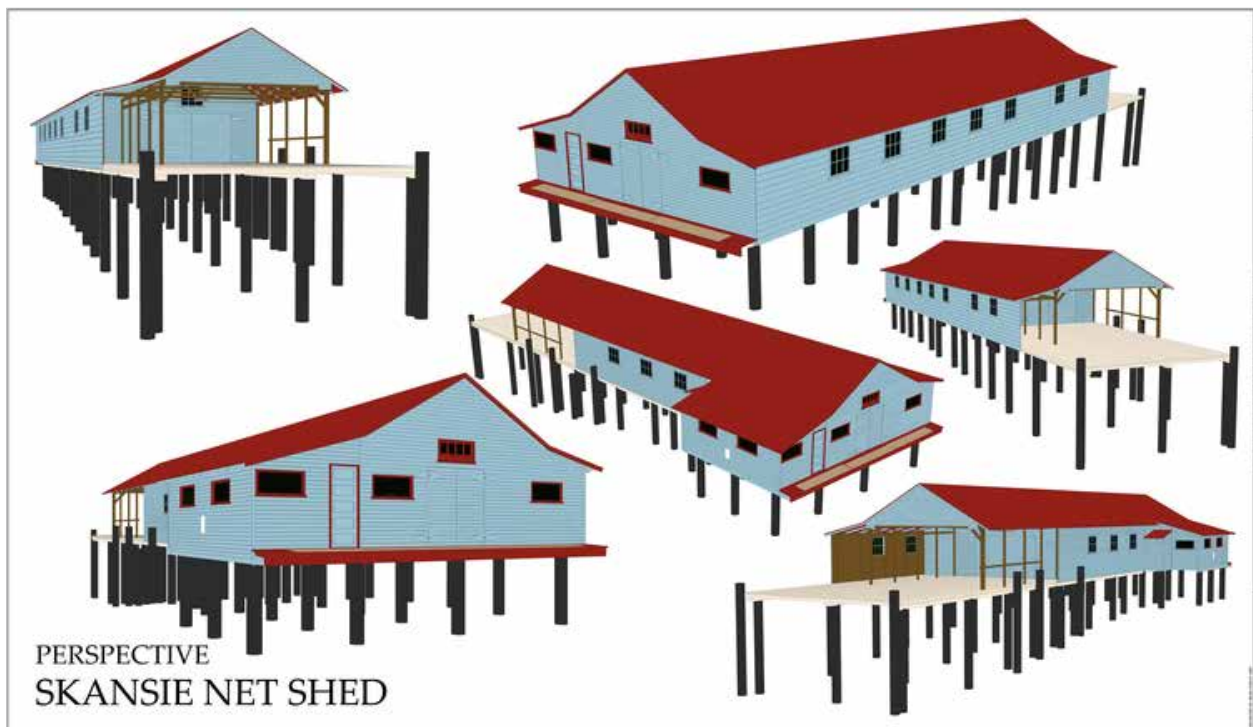
- SCHOOL VISITS

Students from local schools visit the Skansie Netshed to learn more about our community's history. Hands-on experiences and stories from the fishing families are shared, bringing life to what it was like to be a fisherman (or woman) in early Gig Harbor days. They learn how commercial fishing has evolved and changed to what we see today.



PRESTIGIOUS RECOGNITIONS | LISTINGS

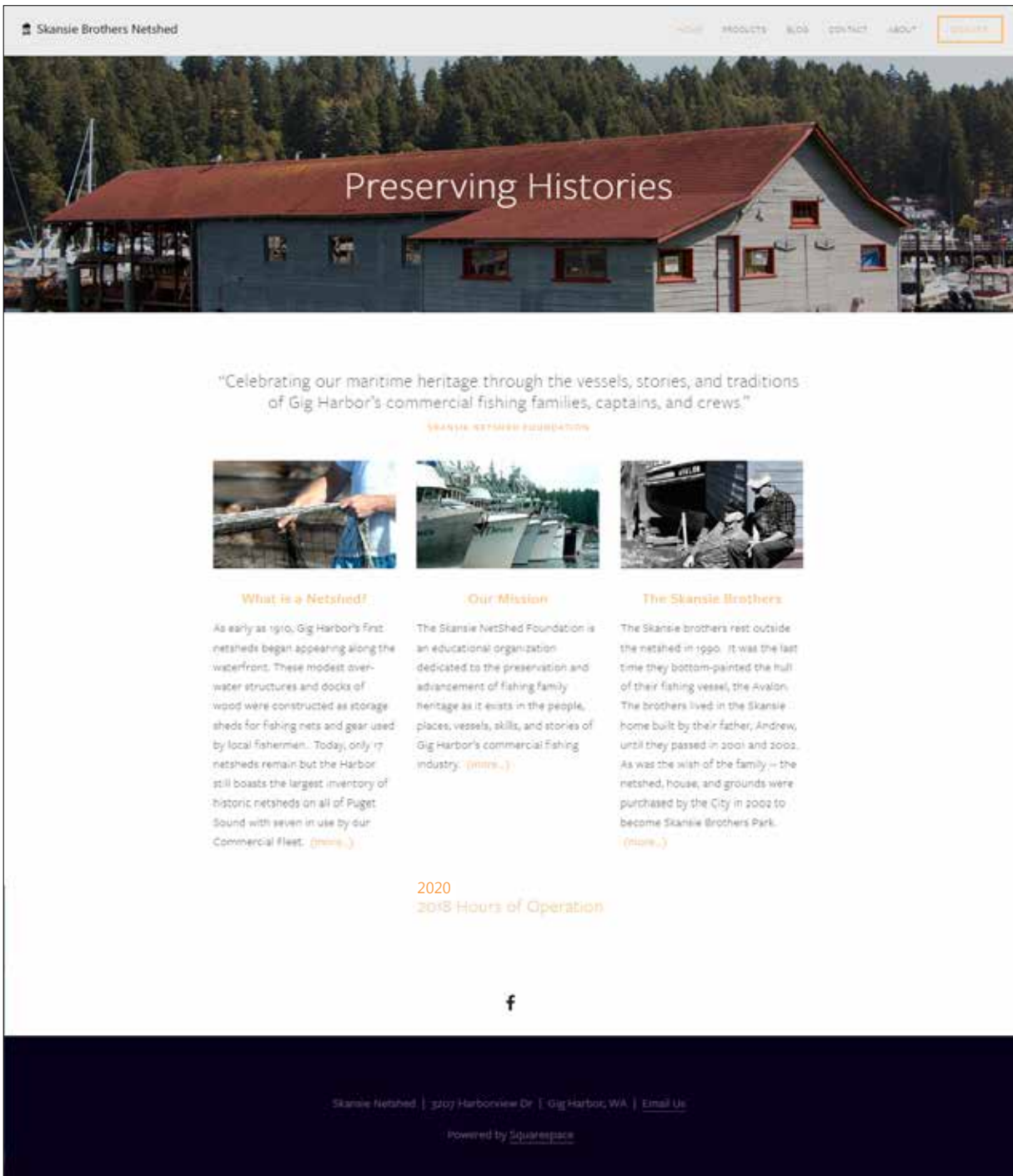
- 2010 American Express \$100K Statewide National Historic Preservation Award
- Washington State DHAP Award
- 2014 Croatian Prime Minister Visit
- Statewide Most Endangered Structures Designation
- Gig Harbor Register of Historic Places
- National Register Listing
- Washington State Register Listing



HABS-HAER Record at the Library of Congress, Washington D.C.

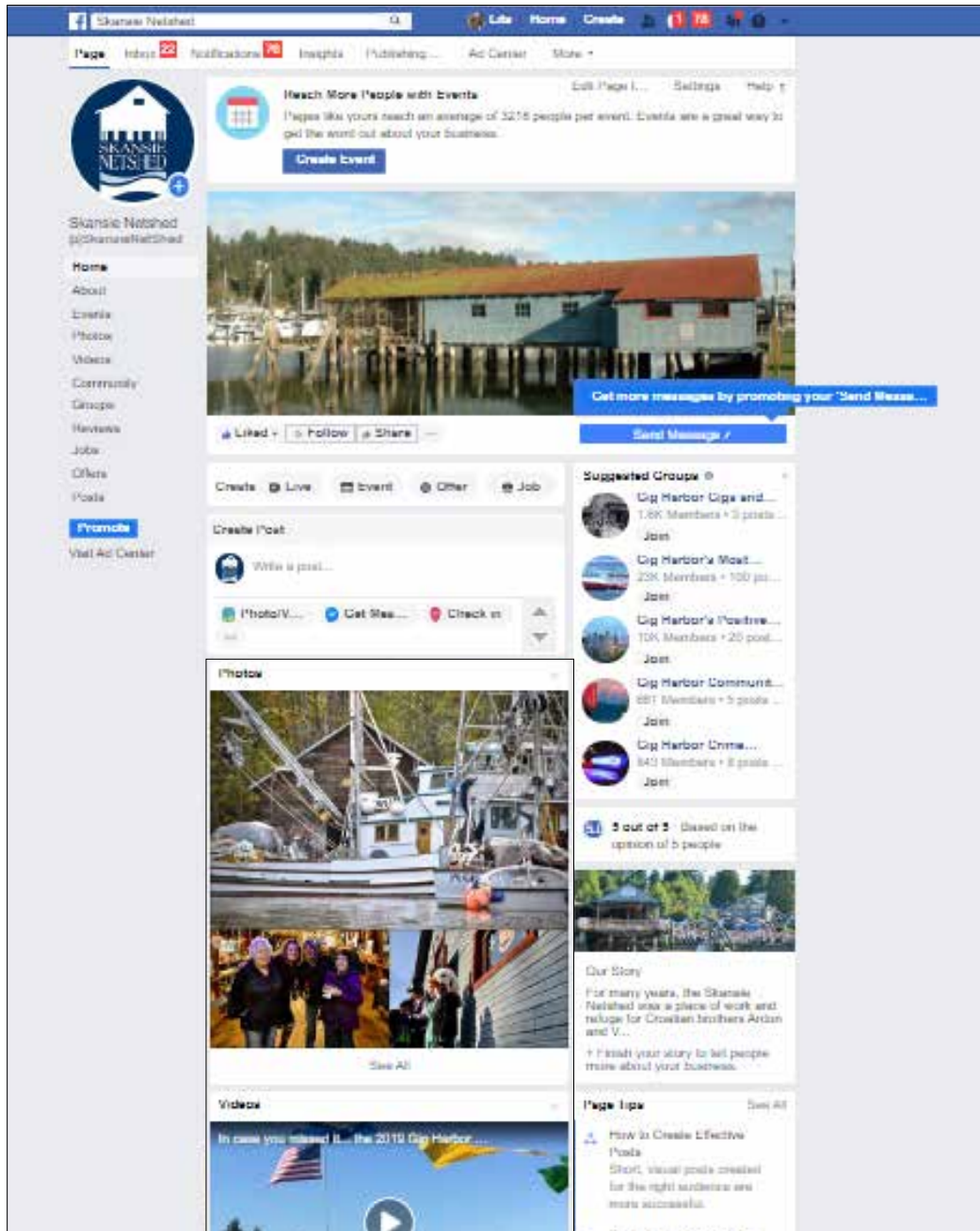
Skansie Brothers Netshed Website

www.skansiebrotherswebsite.com

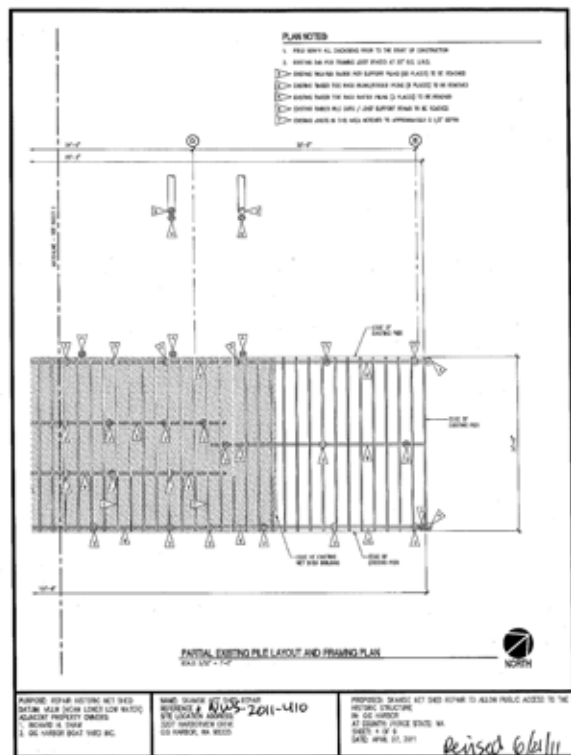
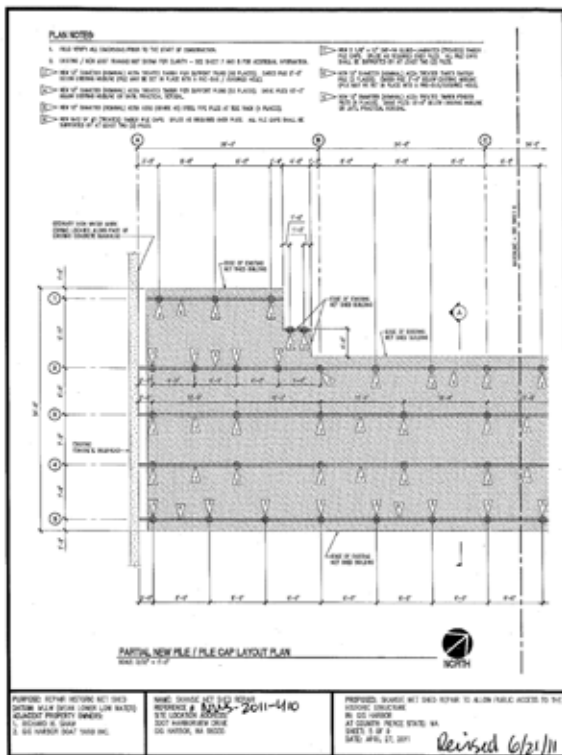


Skansie Brothers Netshed Facebook Pages

www.facebook.com/skansienetshed



- 2004 City replaced composition roof
- 2004 City paints building
- 2013 70 piling replaced with 64 new timber piling (Quigg)
- 2013 Multiple structural joists replaced (Quigg)
- 2013 Exterior decking replaced (Quigg)
- 2014 City reconstructs ADA ramp | adds sidewalk
- 2016 SNF door repairs | misc patching



Sitts & Hill Site Plan for Phase I and II Piling Replacement

In keeping with the historic use of the shed, the facility remains unheated. This limits use of the shed to seasonal hours only during warmer weather that is consistent with Gig Harbor's tourist season. In addition, the Foundation collaborates with local organizations to host public events upon request.

SEASONAL SCHEDULE

JUN - JUL - AUG - SEP

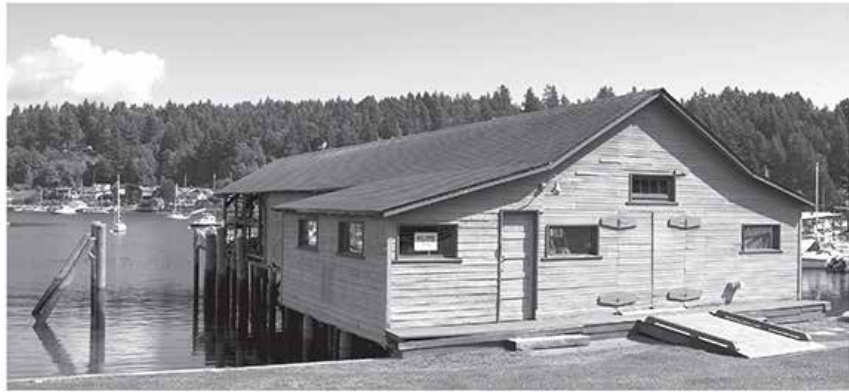
Opening Weekend: **Maritime Gig** (first Sat & Sun in June)

Thursdays 3am to 7pm (during Farmers Market at the Park)

Saturdays & Sundays noon to 3pm



BRINGING VISIBILITY TO GIG HARBOR'S
CROATIAN HERITAGE
AND RICH MARITIME HISTORY



MEET ME AT THE NETSHED

Regrettably, we are closed for the 2020 season due to Covid 19.

We remain optimistic that our activities will begin again in 2021.

We welcome any opportunity to continue in our volunteer service to the City.

For more information, contact the Foundation Secretary, at (253) 549-6734