



Preserving Historic Barns in King County, Washington

Historic barns are highly visible icons of King County's heritage. They are essential elements of our rural landscapes, conveying both a sense of place and traditional building methods, but many of these cherished community landmarks are threatened. Changes in farming technologies, high maintenance costs, and development pressures contribute to the challenges many property owners face as they strive to preserve their historic barns, and in many cases, their rural way of life.

King County's Historic Preservation Program is pleased to announce that it is re-launching the Barn Again Historic Barn Preservation Program, which was last funded in 2008. The goal of this program is to provide funds for the stabilization and rehabilitation of historic barns and outbuildings that are historically associated with the working life of a farm, as well as community gathering places associated with agricultural organizations, such as grange halls.

Up to \$250,000 will be awarded this spring in the first of two competitive grant rounds. Another round will occur in 2017. This program is funded through King County and 4Culture's Building for Culture Initiative, which leveraged early payoff of Kingdome debt to provide significant funding for cultural facilities and historic properties throughout the county.

To be eligible for funding, buildings must be over 40 years old, located in King County, in need of substantial repair, and still convey their historic character. Grant awards are anticipated to be in the range of \$5,000 to \$75,000 for projects that extend the life of the building and retain historic features. Eligible projects include repairs to roofs, foundations, walls, structural frameworks and building systems.

Grant guidelines and application forms are posted on King County's website at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/property/historic-preservation.aspx>. **Applications are due May 2, 2016.** Staff with King County's Historic Preservation Program will be conducting free public workshops during which they will provide a step-by-step overview of the application process and help applicants think through viable scopes of work.

Workshops are scheduled as follows:

- March 29, 12:30 p.m., Carnation Library, 4804 Tolt Ave, Carnation
- April 5, 12:45 p.m., Vashon Library, 17210 Vashon Hwy SW, Vashon Island
- April 12, 12:30 p.m., Black Diamond Library, 24707 Roberts Dr, Black Diamond

For more information about this program, please contact Todd Scott, King County's Preservation Architect, at todd.scott@kingcounty.gov or (206) 477-4545.



King County

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