

## APPENDIX B: CITY OF BELLINGHAM MANAGEMENT ENTITIES

The primary roles of the **Bellingham Historic Preservation Commission** are to identify and actively encourage the conservation of the city's historic resources by:

- initiating and maintaining a register of historic places and reviewing proposed changes to register properties;
- raising community awareness of the City's history and historic resources; and
- serving as the City's primary resource in matters of history, historic planning, and preservation.

The Commission also reviews and makes recommendations on development proposals located in specified historic design review districts such as the Fairhaven Design Review District. While not involved directly in cultural heritage tourism promotion, Historic Preservation Commissioners may conduct a variety of research and education activities to promote historic preservation, which ultimately serves a cultural heritage tourism role by encouraging the maintenance and restoration of the city's historic buildings, sites, districts, structures and objects, all serving to enhance Bellingham's authenticity and sense of place.

**The Bellingham Arts Commission** serves as an advisor and advocate for the enhancement and integration of the arts in the community, and seek to provide opportunities for an enriched and diverse cultural experience. They also serve to:

- Raise public awareness of the need to integrate aesthetic aspects of design into the cityscape.
- Establish and maintain communication systems within the arts community so that activities can be identified and coordinated among public and private agencies, organizations, and individuals concerned with the arts.
- Develop a broad base of financial support for local arts and artists through public agencies and private donations and through a "percentage and/or a per capita for the arts" program.
- Develop strong relationships with the City of Bellingham, including the Mayor, Council members and City departmental representatives, serving as consultative resource on matters of aesthetic and artistic importance.
- Contribute to the economic vitality of the community by working with Planning and Community Development, the Tourism commission, The Port of Bellingham and other agencies, businesses and organizations to integrate arts into the downtown / waterfront areas and all public projects throughout the City.
- Advise the City on art acquisitions, historic landmarks, and citywide art issues.

The **Bellingham Tourism Commission** is responsible for giving recommendations to the Mayor and City Council regarding policies, programs and activities which enhance the tourism and visitor industry within the city and the surrounding area, and to report annually on progress. A Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) of the Commission advise the Mayor and City Council on the appropriation of the annual investment of lodging tax revenues. LTAC members include three representatives from the hotel industry, three representatives of agencies that qualify to use lodging tax, and is chaired by the City Council Finance Committee Chair.

As outlined in their 2011-2016 Strategic Plan, Tourism Commission goals include:

- 1) Community Development: as needed, discuss and make recommendations to the City to advocate for the protection and enhancement of tourism assets in various City planning documents that address issues within the Bellingham city limits (e.g. master plans, neighborhood plans, economic development plans, waterfront/shoreline plans, etc.).
- 2) Economic Development: encourage and advocate for the growth and development of diverse tourism businesses that reflect the community's values and assets.
- 3) Legislative Advocacy: work to assure that the best interests of Bellingham's tourism industry are represented in the consideration of any legislation that could directly or indirectly affect that industry.
- 4) Funding Sustainability: recommends and supports programs that ensure the continued sustainability of the lodging tax revenues.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cob.org/documents/planning/boards-commissions/tourism/strategic-plan.pdf>