

May 26,2010

To: The Port of Everett
P.O. Box 538
Everett, WA 98206

Re: Public Comment on the Collins Building
For the Public Meeting on June 5, 2010



www.maritimefolknet.org

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to support Historic Everett and the Everett Maritime Museum in their proposal to renovate the Collins Building as a maritime museum and farmers' market. We especially want to point out the need to include a small performance space in the plans.

A small auditorium, seating around 80 to 120 people, is a vital part of any community. Located adjacent to a maritime museum, it would allow the citizens of Everett to experience and participate in the music and stories that are rooted in the history of our region.

Here are some of the educational programs that could take place in a small auditorium:

- Maritime music concerts
- Participatory chantey sings
- Fisher poet gatherings
- Presentations on maritime history & preservation
- Community concerts & theatre

The Northwest is home to a strong maritime music scene. These songs connect the public to the cultural roots of the region by celebrating our past – and present – connection to the water. A small auditorium in the Collins Building would provide a place where local musicians could be identified and express themselves.

With the growth of recorded music, there are fewer opportunities for ordinary people to participate in music. Chantey sings give the opportunity for anyone to lead a song or just join in the chorus. This is not only fun, but creates a sense of community.

An auditorium space in the Collins Building need not have fixed seats in a formal arrangement. Folding chairs could be arranged to fit the event. What is needed are good acoustics, a small stage, and most importantly, the correct electrical power for sound and lights.

Maritime Folknet is a non-profit organization with the mission of encouraging maritime culture throughout the Northwest, especially songs and stories of life and work on the water. We realize that one of the factors that prevents the full expression of our maritime heritage is a shortage of appropriate venues throughout the region. At this time, Everett is not reaching its potential as a place where citizens can connect with their maritime heritage, partly due to a lack of community performance spaces.

The stories and songs of the past, and the life stories of those who work on the water, can inspire those of all ages and walks of life. A maritime museum and auditorium in the Collins Building could make a change for the better in the lives of ordinary people. We are willing to support the

Everett Maritime Museum by helping them create their own self-sufficient maritime educational performance programs in the newly renovated space.

We have found that the authenticity of the venue plays a large role in attracting the public to cultural events. The Collins Building, with its distinctive architecture and historical connection to the Everett waterfront, would make an ideal venue for a maritime museum and performance space. We urge you to support the renovation of the Collins Building to include the Everett Maritime Museum and a small auditorium.

Sincerely,

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