



MAIN STREET

St. Helens Main Street Alliance

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2022 Main Street Revitalization Award - Klondike Hotel & Tavern

St. Helens, OR –

The Historic Saint Helens Hotel Annex building, locally known as The Klondike, has been awarded a \$200,000 state revitalization grant from the Oregon Main Street Revitalization Grant Program to preserve, restore and update this important historic structure. The grant will be administered by the St. Helens Main Street Alliance, who vetted 7 possible applicants in the St. Helens area and selected the Klondike project for a final application.

Oregon Heritage, a division of Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, awarded 28 Revitalization Grants worth a total of \$5,000,000 to Oregon Main Street Network organizations across the state for building projects that encourage economic revitalization and historic preservation. Funded projects range from façade improvement to basic facilities and housing with awards ranging from \$23,850-\$200,000.

The Revitalization Grants seek to fund community revitalization that will lead to private investment, job creation or retention, establishing or expanding viable businesses, or creating a stronger tax base through the improvement of properties in designated downtown areas statewide. The program also requires that at least 50 percent of the grant funds go to rural communities, which includes St. Helens.

The Klondike building's funded proposal includes critical foundation and structural repairs, updated and repainted facade and eaves, restoration of the original hotel office and stairway, new restaurant porches, new dedicated restaurant entrance and signage, and improved exterior lighting fixtures. The award of the grant will help fulfill a long-standing need in our community to reactivate this maintenance-deferred property to support additional economic activity, visitor destinations, and eventually, a viable hotel business in the Riverfront District. The work will follow the guidelines set by the Secretary of the Interior's Historic Rehabilitation Standards.



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The building is at a key intersection between the historic downtown district of Saint Helens and the former Veneer Mill's 25 acres of riverfront property, now owned by the city, and slated for new residential and business development.

The 1909-built Historic Saint Helens Hotel Annex is comprised of 24 boarding house rooms on the top two floors and a hotel office space and dining room on the main floor, currently re-formatted as a restaurant and bar that closed after several decades in 2018.

"We are thrilled that the St. Helens Main Street Alliance was able to partner with the Klondike's owner, Holcombe Waller, to bring this state funding to a centrally located destination that has long been a part of our city's history. We are poised for rebirth in our commercial core and these upgrades will be a visible sign that it's time to reinvest in downtown St. Helens," said Erin Salisbury, President of the St. Helens Main Street Alliance.

"Taking on the restoration and reactivation of the Klondike building is a daunting project; and the award of this funding is a huge leg up for our plans to open both the interior and exterior restaurant spaces this year, and, eventually, the upstairs hotel rooms down the road," says property owner Holcombe Waller.

Our local program, the St. Helens Main Street Alliance follows the Main Street Approach™, an asset-based economic development strategy. It is a comprehensive, incremental approach to sustain and enhance historic downtowns and traditional commercial neighborhoods based on the district's unique heritage and attributes. Main Street organizations are locally driven, funded, organized, and run.

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