

COAST SALISH STYLE LONGHOUSE

at Western Washington University

VISION

In partnership and close collaboration with Coast Salish tribal nations and the Western Native American Student Union, Western Washington University (WWU) seeks to build a traditional Coast Salish style longhouse in honor of the historic importance of place that it occupies and in acknowledgement of the University's responsibility to promote educational opportunities for Native students. WWU requested \$4.9 million in the state's 2021-23 capital budget for the construction of the Coast Salish-style longhouse and secured \$4.5 million with the provision the university would raise the balance of the funds.



BUILDING DESIGN

- The longhouse will reflect traditional Coast Salish architecture and design.
- The longhouse will support Native students by providing a gathering and ceremonial space to promote cultural exchange and understanding.
- Longhouse structure will include a gathering hall, indoor and outdoor kitchens, and student lounges.
- The University will assemble a group which will include Native students, faculty, staff, alumni and tribal community members who will advise on the design for the longhouse.

BACKGROUND

The vision for a Coast Salish longhouse on WWU's campus originated from the Native American Student Union, as Native students sought to find ways for the University to address current and historical issues faced by American Indian students on WWU's campus. The newly created WWU Office of Tribal Relations is committed to building the Longhouse as an integral cornerstone in support of their mission.

- Pursuing justice and equity in its policies, practices and impacts for advancing a deeper understanding and appreciation for the sense of place.
- Pursuing the academic, personal and professional success of its Indigenous students, faculty and staff.
- Building and sustaining beneficial working relationships with the Coast Salish people and expanding Western's strength in academia to serve the current and future needs of tribal communities.

While the Tribal Relations Department has been very successful in their mission and outreach, not having a cultural center for meetings, workshops, educational seminars, and cultural gatherings has hindered their ability to fulfill their mission.



To learn more about how you can support the creation of WWU's longhouse, please visit the project website at:

www.edu/tribal-relations/longhouse

WWU is an equal opportunity institution. To request this document in an alternate format, call (360) 650-3110.

