

FACT SHEET



Photo Credit T. DiChiara

Orcas Landing

The Orcas Landing County marine facility, once a defunct fueling station, has been repurposed into an inviting public space and marine interpretive area. The County integrated local sculptural art in form of boulder seating and water drop paving, interpretive signage, and native plantings in the overlook area, a marine educational bulletin board near the dock, a steel kelp forest and crab in eelgrass along the wall leading down to the dock, and a significant Coast Salish designed and inspired mural greeting those arriving at the Island by canoe, boat or ferry.

Nature - Inspired Design

The re-development of the site was spear-headed by the County's Environmental Resources Division, who brought together staff from Public Works and Facilities, contract artists, and community volunteers. The vision was to create nature-inspired design elements and art, that would connect the community and visitors to the marine waters, diverse lands, and the cultural heritage of the Islands.

Two interpretive panels commissioned by the MRC, provide visitors with both ecological and cultural perspectives. One panel shares a view of life below and above the water, highlighting the diversity of species in the Islands. The other panel shares the traditional Coast Salish reef net fishing practices, once common in the Islands, as guided by Patti Gobin of the Tulalip Tribes. The Coast Salish mural "Preservation" ties the community together in its interpretation of the past, present and future of life in the Islands.



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Both residents and visitors to Orcas Island are now met with a powerful Coast Salish mural – Preservation: for those before us and those to come.

Artist Acknowledgements

- Zacharaya Leck – Orcas Island based blacksmith who completed the Kelp Forest and crab in eelgrass over along the wall.
- Bruce Myers – Sculpturer who completed the boulder seating and paving murals in the overlook area
- Larry Eiffert – Artist/interpretive expert who completed the two interpretive signs on the overlook
- Beth and Mark Gasser and Carl Davis – MRC volunteers who created the interpretive bulletin board.
- Brian Perry, Sam Barr, Sarah Folden and Erin Licata – Designed and painted the Coast Salish Mural.
- Kendra Smith, Environmental Stewardship Director who managed the effort, kept the funds flowing and the ideas and art coming.

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