

Discover Art in Friday Harbor



A catalog of public art
presented by the
Friday Harbor Arts Commission
and the
Town of Friday Harbor

Revised
July 2023

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Discover Art in Friday Harbor

The Town of Friday Harbor embraces art in all forms—visual, literary, and performing. We are proud to provide opportunities for island residents and visitors to enjoy the arts as well as participate in them.

Visual artwork is on display at the San Juan Islands Museum of Art (SJIMA) and at the many galleries throughout town. In addition, the Town of Friday Harbor and community offer free access to over twenty pieces of public art. To assist with the public's enjoyment of this art, the Friday Harbor Arts Commission has published a brochure with walking map to guide you to each of these pieces. The brochure is available at Town Hall and the Chamber of Commerce and may be downloaded from the Town website. This catalog has been created to provide additional details on each of the works.

Literary works are celebrated through writing groups, book clubs, and author events hosted by the library and local bookstore. San Juan Island Library sponsors a monthly Open Mic for writers, a Literary Salon book club, and writing workshops as well as reading clubs for children and teens. Poetry gardens may be found throughout the town.

Performing arts experiences are provided year round at the San Juan Community Theatre and include plays, musicals, dance performances, chamber and choral music, school musical productions, and touring artists. They also stream live performances of London's National Theatre, the Metropolitan Opera, and the Bolshoi Ballet. Island Stage Left presents live theater at indoor and outdoor venues. Free outdoor concerts are held throughout the summer at the Historical Museum and Port of Friday Harbor. First-run films are shown at the Palace Theatre. Documentaries are highlighted at the annual three-day Friday Harbor Film Festival with audience favorites replayed throughout the year. Outdoor movies are shown in the summer at the San Juan County Fairgrounds, and San Juan Island Library regularly offers classic movie weekends.

The Friday Harbor Arts Commission

The Friday Harbor Arts Commission (FHAC) was formed in 2014 when Mayor Carrie Lacher appointed eight members, including one youth member, to advise the Town Council on the selection, acquisition, placement, and stewardship of public art. The Commission sees art in all forms as essential to the quality of island life and has made it their mission to support excellence, vitality, accessibility, and diversity in local arts. The Commission is committed to securing public input on proposed installations and working collaboratively with other island organizations and individuals. If you are interested in commenting on or participating in the FHAC's mission, please contact Town Hall at (360) 378-2810 or julie@fridayharbor.org.

Friday Harbor's Public Art



Staff

photos

1. **Popeye**

Sculpture by Matthew Gray Palmer, San Juan Island, WA
Located at the Port of Friday Harbor's Fairweather Park

This life-size granite sculpture by Matthew Gray Palmer was commissioned by the Port of Friday Harbor and the Michael Temcov Family Foundation in 2005 to honor the Port's official resident harbor seal and mascot who is easily recognized by her white left eye. The statue includes a mother-of-pearl inlay in the left eye and sits on a shale base.



San Juan Islands Visitors Bureau photos

2. **Interaction**

Carving by Susan Point, Vancouver, British Columbia
Located at the Port of Friday Harbor's Fairweather Park

Renowned Canadian Musqueam artist Susan Point created this contemporary Coast Salish sculpture of carved and painted red cedar house posts accented with copper, bronze, and silver. The piece was purchased with donations from multiple organizations and individuals and is considered the first public acknowledgement of the island's tribal heritage.



Ruth Offen photo



Diane Martindale photo



Ruth Offen photo

3. Welcome Wall

Mural by Chinmayo and Beth Spadafora, San Juan Island, WA
Located at the end of the Spring Street Landing pier on Front Street

Artists Chinmayo and Beth Spadafora, along with 350 school children and adults, created this tile mural in 2000 as part of the Port of Friday Harbor's 50th year celebration.



Ruth Offen photo

4. Old Growth

Sculpture by Micajah Bienvenu, San Juan Island, WA
Located at the Cannery Landing Building at the foot of the ferry lanes on Front Street

Micajah Bienvenu's abstract stainless steel sculpture was installed in 2014 in front of what was then his working studio.



Diane Martindale photos

5. World War I Monument

Carved stone by Puget Sound Marble and Granite Company, Seattle, WA
Located in Memorial Park at Spring and Front Streets

This granite monument and fountain was one of the first of its kind in Washington state when it was created by the Puget Sound Marble and Granite Company of Seattle in 1921. The Women's Study Club of Friday Harbor conducted a two-year fundraising campaign to support the installation of this permanent monument to honor the nine servicemen from San Juan County who died during World War I.



Staff photo

6. Mural

Mural by Mike Scott, San Juan Island, WA
Located behind American Legion Post 163 on First Street, facing the harbor

Artist Mike Scott's abstract work, completed in 2016, was inspired by the American flag and created as a tribute to our enlisted men and women.



Staff photo



San Juan Island Inn Collection photo

7. **Connected**

Mural by Lindsay Carron, Los Angeles and AK
Located at the Whale Museum on First Street

In 2016, Alaskan artist Lindsay Carron created the mural *Connected* depicting resident orcas Wave Walker (L-88), Alki (J-36), and Notch (J-47) chasing Chinook salmon as they in turn follow forage fish through a forest of bull kelp.



Matt Pranger photo



Farhad Ghatal photo

8a. **Edward Warbass and Bob**

Sculpture conceived and created by bronze artist Gareth Curtiss, Shelton, WA and Fortine, MT
Located at the First Street entrance to Sunshine Alley

In October 2020, the Town installed its second commissioned art piece—a bronze sculpture of one of the town's founders and more storied citizens, Edward Warbass, reading the local newspaper on a bench with his faithful dog, Bob, at his side. Details and photographs of the creation and installation are posted under the FHAC on the Town's website.



Diane Martindale photo

8b. Haida Wood Carving

Carving by unknown artists, British Columbia

Located behind Coldwell Banker San Juan Islands, Inc. at First Street and Sunshine Alley

In June 2017, the logo for San Juan Properties Inc. real estate and development company, which had been in storage since the company joined Coldwell Banker in 1984, was restored and returned to its original location on the real estate office now owned by the founders' son. It is believed the piece was carved in the 1960s by Haida natives in British Columbia.



Ruth Offen photo



Staff photo

9. Fluke

Sculpture by Micajah Bienvenu, San Juan Island, WA

Located at First and A Streets

Micajah Bienvenu's polished aluminum sculpture of a whale's tail sits high on a rock outcropping at the top of the ferry hill. Originally displayed at Roche Harbor Resort, this 180 pound piece was installed in 2013 after over 30 residents and businesses funded its purchase and donated it to the Town.



Marie DiCristina photo

10. ***Witness the Beauty***

Mural by Jake Wagoner, Kirkland, WA

Located in Sunken Park, above the ferry lanes between First, B, and Nichols Streets

The island's indigenous cedar waxwing bird is the centerpiece of this Jake Wagoner mural commissioned by the Town and installed in 2016. This was the first piece the Town acquired with the assistance and oversight of the Friday Harbor Arts Commission. The piece was refurbished by the artist in fall 2021.



San Juan Islands Sculpture Park photo



Ruth Offen photo



11. ***Shared Axis***

Sculpture by Scott Sayers, Bellingham, WA

Located at 95 Nichols Street

Artist Scott Sayer's abstract piece was purchased from the San Juan Islands Sculpture Park by property owner Richard Smith and installed in 2014.



Staff photos

12. **PIG**

Sculpture by Matthew Gray Palmer, San Juan Island, WA

Located at Brickworks on Nichols Street and Sunshine Alley

This charming sculpture was created and donated by Matthew Gray Palmer at the request of the San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild in 2015. The brick-like pattern, inspired by “The Three Little Pigs,” pays tribute to the historic site of Friday Harbor Brick and Tile Company. This piece recognizes a pig as the one casualty of the island’s famous Pig War and gives a this-little-piggy-went-to-market nod to the local farmer’s market which is held here Saturdays spring through fall.



Ruth Offen photo

13. **100 Years of Commercial Fishing in the San Juan Islands**

Mural by Annie Howell-Adams, San Juan Island, WA
Located at Ace Hardware on Nichols Street

Artist Annie Howell-Adams created this heritage mural depicting a way of life that was once the heart of the island’s economy. The 14 aluminum panels were installed in 2010—coincidentally coinciding with the largest sockeye salmon return in 100 years.



Robert Stavers photo



Journal of the San Juan Islands photos

14. Carved Stone Pieces

Carved sculptures by Tom Small, San Juan Island, WA

Located in Breezeway Park at the intersection of Spring and Second Streets

Artist Tom Small's functional stone art works were installed in May 2017 for the opening of the town's newest public park. The bench and chair were created from locally-sourced granite boulders. The table is of olivine from the foothills of Mt. Baker, sixty miles to the northeast.



Staff photo



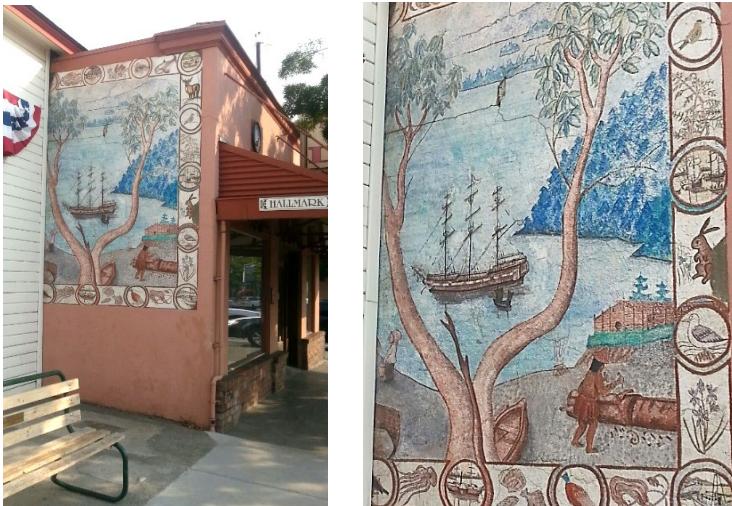
Lanny Little photo

15a. Drug Store Mural

Mural by Lanny Little, Bellingham, WA

Located at Friday Harbor Drug on Spring Street

To the left of the front entrance of Friday Harbor Drug hangs an unnamed mural from 1996 that depicts the interior of the original pharmacy as it appeared in 1927. Artist Lanny Little based his painting on an old photograph from Al Nash, Jr., that includes several of the original owners who opened the store in 1920.



Staff photos

15b. *For Love of an Island*

Mural by Tom Brudenell, British Columbia
Located at Friday Harbor Drug on Spring Street

Also left of the store entrance is a 1972 mural partially covered during a building remodel. Painter, muralist, and then Shaw Islander Tom Brudenell guided islanders of all ages and artistic talents in designing and painting a collaborative “peoples’ mural” during the centennial celebration of the peaceful arbitration of the Pig War. Artists included Bill Cox, Ines Robertson, Cass Nielsen, Scott Lowe, Kay Eichert, Joyce Wampler, Jack Benedict, and Ed and Hedda King.



Staff photos

16. *Paired Owls and Red Fox*

Sculptures by Georgia Gerber, Whidbey Island, WA
Located at Second and West Streets

The two bronze sculptures were acquired in 2019 for the Town of Friday Harbor’s art collection to represent a celebration of island wildlife. They were previously displayed at San Juan Islands Sculpture Park at Roche Harbor.

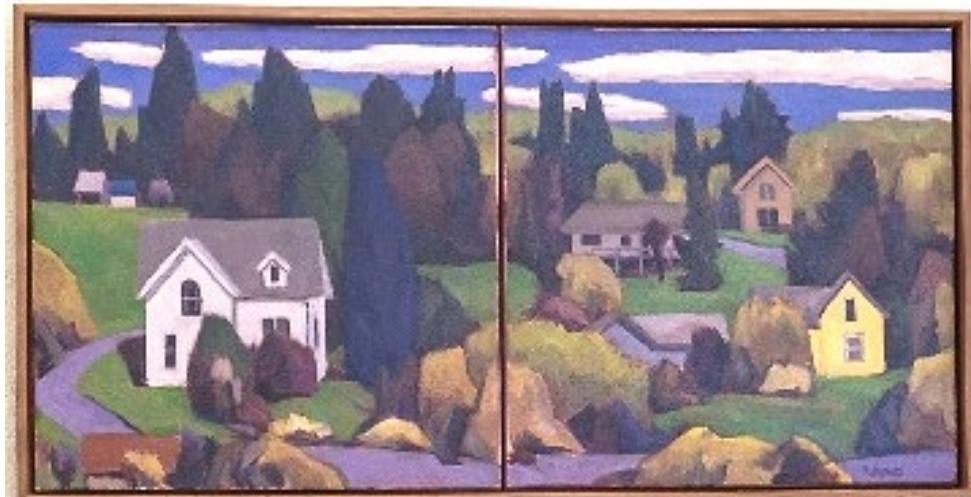


Staff photo

17a. ***Friday Harbor***

Painting by R.W. See, San Juan Island, WA
Located inside Town Hall at 60 Second Street

R.W. See's oil painting is one of two paintings awarded first place in a "Paint the Town" competition sponsored by Waterworks Gallery in 2009 in celebration of Friday Harbor's centennial year.



Ruth Offen photo

17b. ***Malcolm and Argyle***

Painting by David Ridgeway, Bellingham, WA
Located inside Town Hall at 60 Second Street

Artist David Ridgeway was an Orcas Island resident in 2009 when his diptych oil painting was one of two pieces awarded first place in Waterworks Gallery's "Paint the Town" competition sponsored in celebration of Friday Harbor's centennial year.



Staff photo



Ruth Offen photo



Staff photo

18. *Dancing Fool V*

Sculpture by Micajah Bienvenu, San Juan Island, WA

Located at San Juan Community Theatre, Second Street and Blair Avenue

This steel sculpture by Micajah Bienvenu was a gift to the San Juan Community Theatre from several island residents in 2006. The two benches were later donated by a benefactor and the artist.



Staff photo



Ruth Offen photo

19. *Birdbath*

Sculpture by Tom Small, San Juan Island, WA

Located at San Juan Island Library on Guard Street

This Tom Small stone sculpture was commissioned in 1997 by Mary Ann Rock and her sister Valena Dismukes and dedicated to the memory of their parents Mary and Colbert Broussard. The handprints and footprints are those of the artist's daughters.



Robert Stavers photo



Ruth Offen photos

20a. **Mural**

Mural by Thomas Christopher Haag

Located at Surina Business Park on Malcom Street

One-time island artist Thomas Christopher Haag (aka detach) created this fanciful mural in 2013. It was inspired by a once-in-a-lifetime celestial event—the appearance of the massive comet ISON—and pictures a mythological character against the backdrop of a futuristic cityscape. The artist also painted around the doorway leading to what was formerly his gallery and working studio.



Ruth Offen photo



Robert Stavers photo

20b. **Mosaic**

Mosaic by Steve Benito and Dan Lobue, San Juan Island, WA

Located at Surina Business Park on Malcom Street

In 2010, Steve Benito and Dan Lobue of Friday Harbor Tile designed and handcrafted tiles for a mosaic around the doorway of what was then the company's workshop.



Traci Wilson photo



Ruth Offen photo

21. *Puddles and totem poles*

Sculpture by Tom Pemberton, San Juan Island, WA

Located at Friday Harbor Elementary School on Grover Street

In 2002, Leisha Holmes' art students worked with local artist Tom Pemberton to add their touches to his life-size bronze sculpture of children in the rain now installed near the school's main entrance. The school also displays murals, tile mosaics and plaques, and totem poles created by artists Chinmaya, Beth Spadafora, Leisha Holmes, Debbi Fincher, Jane Buck, Jeanine Earnhart, Jack Clay, and numerous students and supportive parents and teachers.



Street view with LED lighting



Farhad Ghatan photos

22a. *Fintastic*

Sculpture by Micajah Bienvenu, San Juan Island, WA

Located at The Friday Harbor Grand Bed and Breakfast on Blaire Avenue

Local artist Micajah Bienvenue's *Fintastic* uses stainless steel, acrylic, and LED lighting to pay homage to our threatened resident orcas.



Matt Pranger photo

22b. *A Living Island*

Mural by artists Josh Bennett and Cory Anderson, Poulsbo, WA
Located on Blair Avenue near the Spring Street intersection

The Town's third commissioned art piece is a 235 foot mural installed in August 2021. The artists pay a joyful tribute to the often overlooked, smaller members of the island's ecosystem.



Ruth Offen photo

23a. *Beeku*

Sculpture by Anthony Howe, Orcas Island, WA
Located at Peace Island Medical Center, top of Spring Street

Orcas Island artist Anthony Howe's kinetic stainless steel mobile was installed for the 2012 opening of the island's medical center. This is one of four sculptures on the grounds and one of over 140 original art pieces—mostly by island artists—donated to the new hospital. Howe is world renowned for creating the two-ton kinetic glass and metal wind sculpture framing the 2016 Summer Olympic cauldron in Rio de Janeiro.



Ruth Offen photo

23b. *Convergence*

Sculpture by Royce Meyerott, San Juan Island, WA

Located at Peace Island Medical Center, top of Spring Street

Artist Royce Meyerott gifted this granite monolith with water feature from his private collection for the medical center's opening in 2012.



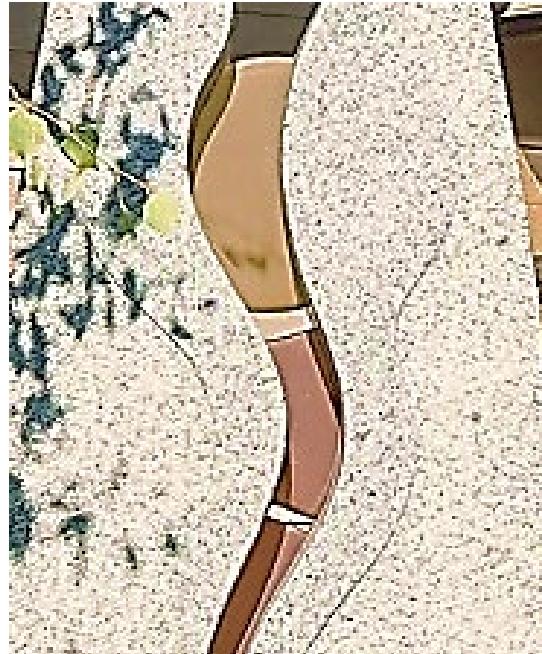
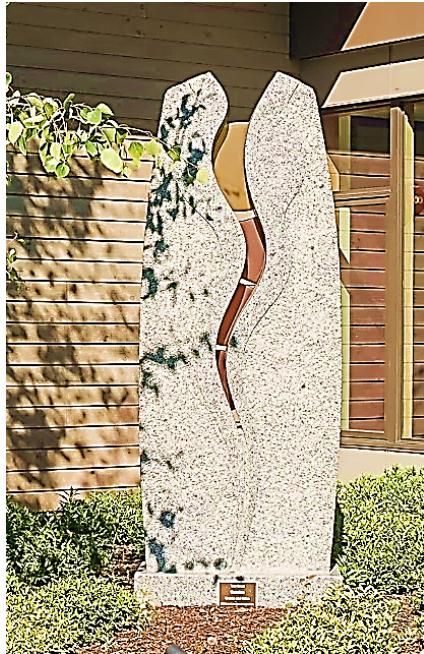
Ruth Offen photo

23c. *Stone Hinge*

Sculpture by Royce Meyerott, San Juan Island, WA

Located at Peace Island Medical Center, top of Spring Street

This granite slab sculpture is one of two sculptures created by Royce Meyerott for his private collection and donated to the new medical center.



Ruth Offen photo

23d. ***Sunrise***

Sculpture by Tom Small, San Juan Island, WA

Located at Peace Island Medical Center, top of Spring Street

Artist Tom Small created this granite and glass monolith for the medical center's opening.

Other Public Art

The town offers many more opportunities to enjoy public art including an extensive collection of works by local and northwest artists on display inside the Peace Island Medical Center. Privately-owned permanent and rotating collections of public art may also be viewed inside the library, community theatre, museums, and multiple island galleries, businesses, and restaurants.

Temporary Art Installations



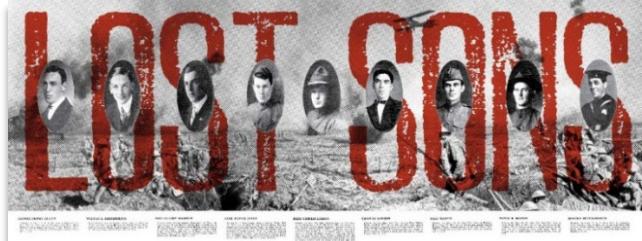
San Juan Island Inn Collection photo

Valspar

Mural by Lindsay Carron, Los Angeles and AK

Previously located at the Whale Museum on First Street, 2015-2019

In 2015, Alaskan artist Lindsay Carron created *Valspara*—a colorful rendering of a giant Pacific octopus painted on the storm drain in front of the Whale Museum. This temporary installation was covered during a 2019 road repair project.



We Gave All That We Could

Six-piece mural coordinated by the Town of Friday Harbor

Previously located at Breezeway Park, Spring and Second Streets, 2017-2018

In 2017, the Town of Friday Harbor commemorated the 100th anniversary of the nation's entry into World War I with a look back at our island's contribution to the war effort. The Town's Historical Preservation Coordinator, Friday Harbor Arts Commission, and local graphic artists collaborated on the installment. The full installation may be viewed on the Town's website.



Marjorie Walker: Artist, Bohemian, Islander

Six-piece mural coordinated by the Town of Friday Harbor

Previously located at Breezeway Park, Spring and Second Streets, 2018-2020

In 2018, the Town of Friday Harbor honored late artist and islander Marjorie Walker—considered the island's first professionally trained artist—by presenting a timeline of her life using photographs and select works of art. The Town's Historical Preservation Coordinator, Friday Harbor Arts Commission, and a local graphic artist created the display with considerable assistance from the community members who knew her. Full installation and a detailed essay may be viewed on the Town's website.

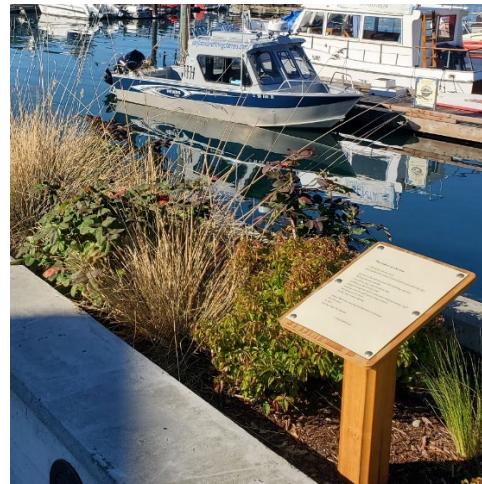


Taylor Bruce photos

Welcome to Friday Harbor

Mural by Rain Gao and Yutong Du, Spring Street International School
Located on the Island Air building at Friday Harbor Airport, 2019-2022

In 2019, a mural by two 12th grade students was created on wood flooring from a decommissioned Aeronautical Services de Havilland Otter donated by Mayor Farhad Ghatan (left).



Staff photos

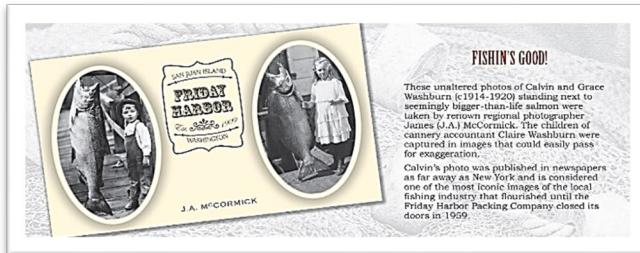
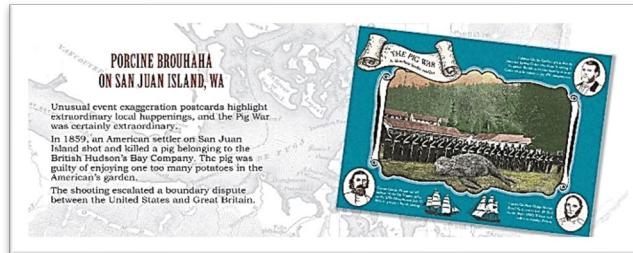
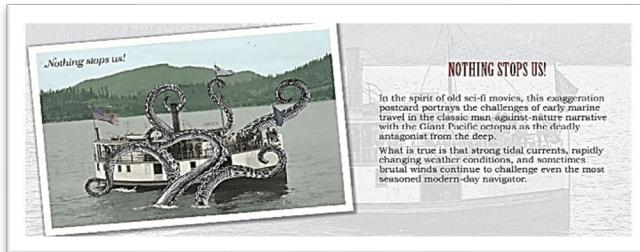
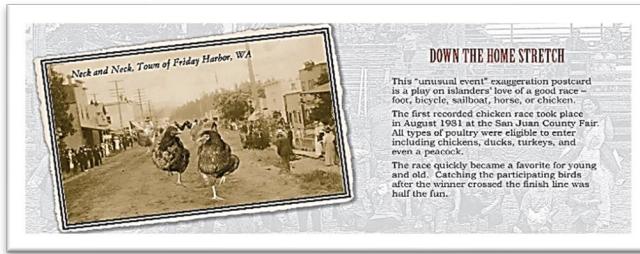
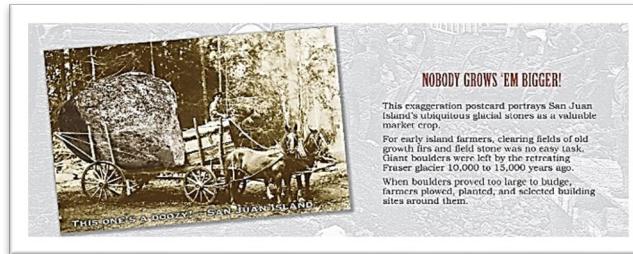
Farhad Ghatan photo

Friday Harbor Poetry Gardens

Located at the San Juan Community Theatre, Mullis Community Senior Center, US Post Office, and waterfront at Spring Street Landing, 2020-2023

In 2020, four “poetry gardens” were created as a two-year installation to celebrate the works of local poets. Thirty poems were selected from 270 entries in a county-wide poetry contest conceived by a FHAC member and produced in partnership with the Town of Friday Harbor, local poets, and poetry lovers. Books of the winning poems were available at Town Hall courtesy of a generous arts donor.

In 2023, the original 30 poems were replaced with winning entries in the FHAC’s second county-wide Poetry Gardens Contest. Once again, a book of these poems is available at Town Hall courtesy of the Town. More information is posted under the FHAC on the Town’s website. The original poem plaques were relocated to the San Juan Islands Sculpture Garden where they continue to be enjoyed as an installation titled *The Poetry Circle*.



There's a Story Here: Exaggeration Postcards Imagined

Six-piece mural coordinated by the Town of Friday Harbor

Previously located at Breezeway Park, Spring and Second Streets, 2022-2023

In 2022, the Town of Friday Harbor's Historic Preservation Coordinator presented this collection of 1900's-inspired exaggeration postcards created using archived photos and the creative skills of a local graphic artist. The collection includes one of only two original postcards uncovered in the Town's research of this genre. The full installation may be viewed under the FHAC on the Town's website.

We stand in history

English Camp 1908 and 2022

The First Ones

"...humans have navigated this rugged landscape for thousands of years. These lands are a refuge of scientific and historic treasures and a classroom for generations of Americans."

President Barack Obama, March 2013

"The native perspective presents longstanding cultural traditions, deeply rooted in belief systems, and awareness of the world around us."

Julie Stein, American archaeologist

The land shapes our story

"...the sheep flocks are, from necessity, placed in the natural prairies of the Island; which are distant from each other, and connected by roads, or formed with much labour, through the forest."

James Douglas, Chief Factor of Hudson's Bay Company, Fort Victoria, January 1857

A peaceful resolution

"A delicate state of affairs, but in good safe hands, on both sides. A perfectly good feeling exists between our military and the British naval officers."

"Letters from San Juan Island," August 19, 1859

Where cultures cooperate

"Indigenous wives occupied a middle ground between people of alien cultures...White women provided their sewing, home-making skills, and knowledge of natural medicines. Indigenous midwives delivered settlers' babies and taught them how to cook local food stuffs... and were often mediators when disputes arose."

Constance Wellman, Author and independent historian

History comes alive

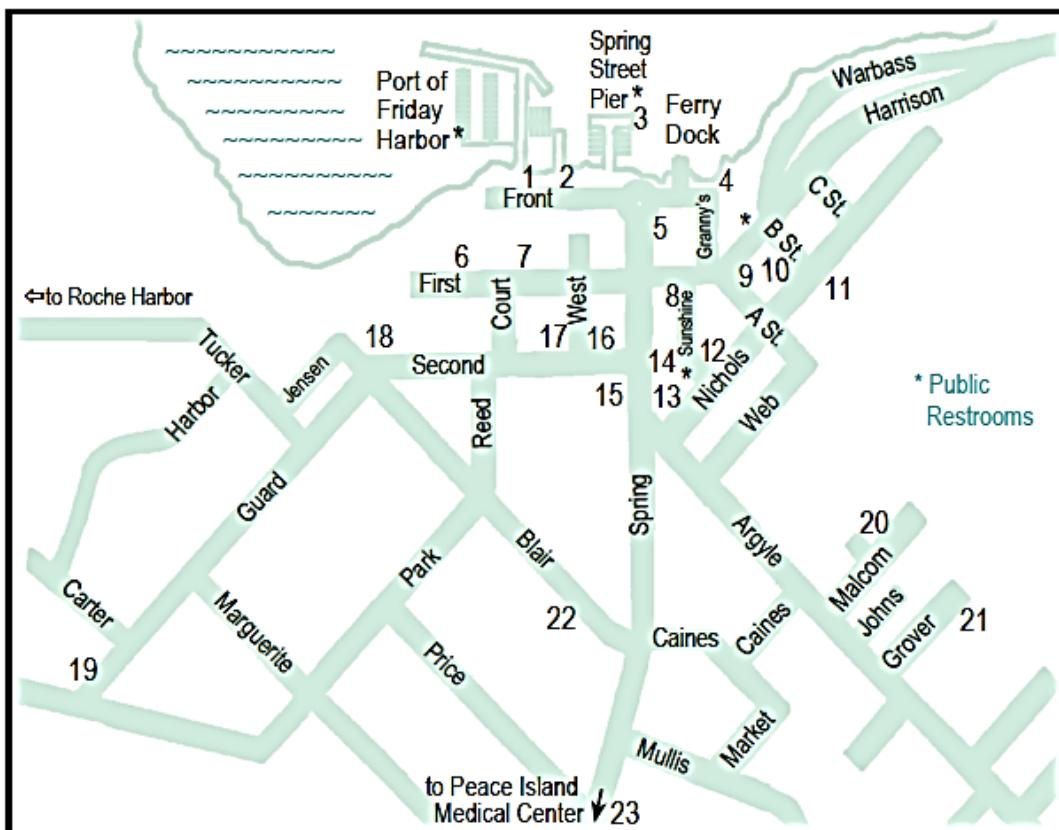
Traveling along the trail and honoring its legacy is a journey through time.

The Old Military Road

Six-piece mural created by the Old Military Road Trail Committee in coordination with the Town of Friday Harbor
Located at Breezeway Park, Spring and Second Streets, 2023-2024

In 2023, the Old Military Road Trail Committee created this installation to celebrate the commemorative trail that follows a Hudson's Bay Company sheep run that became a vital military road between American and English Camps during the Pig War (1859-1872). The full installation may be viewed under the FHAC on the Town's website.

Town of Friday Harbor



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