Voices from the Harbor
Layers of Meaning:
a community mapping project and self-guided tour

What gives you a sense of belonging on the Harbor?

What places are significant to you and why?

How do they contribute to Harbor identity?

We invited Harbor residents to explore these questions by participating in an online community mapping project. We then created this self-guided tour from their entries. We organized the tour by theme - Transitions, Mentors, Friends, and Neighbors, and Belonging. Explore one theme or them all!

Add your stories along the way on our map: http://areg.is/2oFamu7

Learn more about Voices from the Harbor at: https://sites.evergreen.edu/
Transitions

Our lives and communities are always evolving. Sometimes these transitions usher in unexpected gifts and welcome change. Other times we mourn the loss of what once was. Explore how people on the Harbor experience transition, within their personal and community life.

What significant transitions have you gone through in your life?

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Seaport Landing  
N Custer St, Aberdeen

“Seaport Landing will be a mixed-use waterfront center and a home port for the tall ships Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain. As a centrally located destination attraction and visitor information center, Seaport Landing will serve the entire region, engaging visitors and encouraging them to explore and discover Washington’s Pacific Coast and Olympic Peninsula. Seaport Landing will blend a diverse small business base with arts, heritage, recreation and dynamic education opportunities that educate and engage members of the community and its visitors.”
Old AJ West Bridge

“Concrete remnants of the AJ West Bridge that use to span the Chehalis River and connect East Aberdeen with South Aberdeen and Cosmopolis. In the background is “Think of Me” hill – where the old cigar billboard use to be. The cigar billboard is gone – and people wonder where the name of the hill came from. The old bridge supports are still there – and people wonder what they were a part of. There’s mysteries all over the Harbor…”

What remnant of the past are you most interested in?

Old Finch Farms Drainage Ditch
804 W Schley St, Aberdeen

Listen to Lou Messmer’s memories of growing up in the neighborhood and exploring this ditch: https://vimeo.com/214957814

What did you grow up exploring?

An Important Place in My Recent History
721 S West Blvd, Aberdeen

“This was the house my parents and I were buying! Situations happened and we had to leave it behind, Yet, there were some positive aspects of this loss, it was the beginning of my here and now!”

What unexpected gifts have you received from loss?

Grays Harbor Hospital East Campus
202 E 8th St, Aberdeen

“This is the first place I worked at in my field of study chemical dependency.”

Where was your first job? What did it feel like on your first day?
Breaker Sculpture
1300 Simpson Ave, Aberdeen

“This is the tribute to the Weatherwax High School that was built in 1909 and burnt down in 2002. The old handcrafted blocks of sandstone from the high school’s façade were thoughtfully saved from the rubble by city staff after the fire. They were eventually put to use by sculptor Adam Kuby and placed at the curve on Simpson Avenue in 2013.”

What are your memories of Weatherwax High School?

The old Grays Harbor Paper site
520 23rd St, Hoquiam

“This is the last place I worked. After it’s shut-down, I started on my new journey to an education, and hopefully on to a more stable job!”

How have you experienced the industry change? What new opportunities have emerged for you?

Should We Park in the Bedroom or the Kitchen?
2506 Sumner Ave, Hoquiam

“The world revolved around that house on Sumner Ave. So when it was gone, it was devastating.”

There used to be a house next door to Fairway Grocery where long-time resident, Doreen Parker, spent her childhood. Listen to Doreen’s story about her connection to this place: [www.vimeo.com/213898729](http://www.vimeo.com/213898729)

How have you experienced the built environment change? What places do you miss? What new places do you love?
Mentors, Friends, Neighbors

Our relationships matter. They help us live with laughter and joy and they help us find strength and courage to persevere during times of struggle. Explore how people on the Harbor find strength and support in their mentors, friends, and neighbors.

Who has been a positive influence or support in your life?
As you explore this theme, share your stories on our map: [http://arcg.is/2oFamu7](http://arcg.is/2oFamu7)

1 Liberty Tavern
509 E Schley St, Aberdeen

The Liberty Tavern was a social and labor center for the Croatian community in Aberdeen. In 1917 the Liberty was built by Tony Tesia, Frank Franich, and a group of twenty-two other Croatian immigrants as a co-op in Bay City or South Aberdeen next to the Bay City Lumber Mill. John ‘Bronco’ Tesia took over the business in 1954 and operated the Liberty Tavern until his death in 2004. Bronco was a well-respected local historian and his tavern was full of historical artifacts. It was placed on the Washington Historic Register in 2001. Because the tavern was built on logs and too dilapidated to repair, it was demolished shortly after his death. (Photo and description credit: Washington State Archives)

What do you remember about The Liberty Tavern?

2 Pioneer Park
214 S Tilden St, Aberdeen

“Pioneer Park – High School ball-games. Where relationships start that last a lifetime.”

What are your memories of Pioneer Park? What places are associated with important friendships?
Out or In?
Grays Harbor College, 1620 Edward P Smith Dr, Aberdeen

“When my kids were in preschool, I realized I needed to be their voice. I decided I wanted to go to school. I did what I had to do to make it happen. I worked two jobs, went to school full-time and took care of my kids.” Listen to Jen Gillies story about the impact Grays Harbor College had on her life: [https://vimeo.com/215124398](https://vimeo.com/215124398)

*How have you seen Grays Harbor College have an impact? Who has been an important mentor in your life?*

Port of Grays Harbor
28th Street Boat Launch and Landing
2801 John Stevens Way, Hoquiam

“When my friends and I were young the viewing tower at the 28th St. boat launch was like our own private clubhouse.. We used sneak out at night and lay on the top deck watching the stars, talking, and escape whatever troubles we were dealing with for a while.”

*Where do you go to connect with friends?*

Rotary Log Pavilion
1739 Sargent Blvd, Aberdeen

“The 11-acre complex is located on the Chehalis river at the East entrance to the city. The rotary log pavilion is at the entrance of the park, along with a giant bronze statue. The park is great for taking a scenic walk and then relaxing on the viewing dock. The park has a nice playground for children to play on, along with picnic tables, and accessible fishing. Another highlight of the park is the annual splash festival followed by a firework show each independence day.”

*What special memories do you have of this park?*

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Belonging

What holds us here? What gives us a sense of connection to this place called The Harbor? Explore the places that cultivate a sense of belonging.

What holds YOU here?
As you explore this theme, share your stories on our map: http://arcg.is/2oFamu7

Looking Through the Log
Aberdeen History Museum, 111 3rd St, Aberdeen

“The photo shown is a whimsical reference to the more than ten thousand artifacts found at the Aberdeen Museum of History. This facility is an asset to the community in that it publically displays our past, and its connection to today’s life in Grays Harbor. The “log” story is just one of many untold stories that can and need to be shared with the general public to represent this area’s identity, progress, its good and not so pleasant past history, and how through learning we can gain a better understanding of how to be a better community. For those reasons the museum has a strong significance to its contributions to this community, and its identity.”
Old American Beech Tree
410 N I St, Aberdeen

“This is an American Beech – not native to this region. It must be one of, if not the oldest and largest American Beech in the Pacific Northwest. Someone planted this tree (perhaps Sam Benn?), perhaps in the late 1800s – it could be as much as 150 years old. I wonder if anyone knows the story of its origins… This tree is an “immigrant” species – it came here from somewhere else. It’s lasted a long time, endured through the seasons, and the fire that destroyed the old high school that used to be nearby this site. It’s a beautiful representation of resilience.”

Do you know the story about this tree? What natural places are special to you and why?

Avid Volunteer
St. Mary Church, 306 E 3rd St, Aberdeen

“I started volunteering at Feed the Hungry in 1999, from being involved at St. Mary’s Church. Everyone is three questions from tears. Some of them don’t talk, but that’s okay. I just love them, I really do.” Listen to Mary Ann Quigg’s connection to this place in Aberdeen: https://vimeo.com/214962426

Where do you volunteer? What inspires you to give back and how does it help you feel connected to the community?

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Sam Benn Park  
400 Hanna Ave, Aberdeen

“This park as shown in the picture is almost 46 years old. This picture was taken on July 13th, 1971 with my mom, Rosemary and myself Chrysal Beckley at the age of 2 months. Sam Benn Memorial Park was founded in the 1920’s. It has been the go to park for many years and was voted the Twin Harbors Most Popular Park in 2012.”

What early memories do you have of family outings? Where did you go and what did you do?

The House on Cherry St.  
Cherry Steet, Aberdeen

“On Cherry Street we were the workers.” Meander down Cherry Street in Aberdeen while listening to a story from a local resident who reflects on her memories growing up here. Follow this link to listen: vimeo.com/213888090

What neighborhood memories are special to you?

A Blue Collar Kaleidoscope of the Eisenhower Era  
2301 Simpson Ave, Aberdeen

“The world was a different place for kids in the 1950s. In Aberdeen’s mud-puddled west end we hung out together in a vast pack of roaming kids.” State Historian, John Hughes, reflects on his experiences growing up in this house in Aberdeen’s west end: https://vimeo.com/214960102

What house did you grow up in? What were your memories there?

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