



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 10/22/2025

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Downtown Bremerton Association Designated as a Washington Main Street Community

Designation effective January 1, 2026

Bremerton, WA — October 8, 2025 — The Downtown Bremerton Association is proud to announce its official designation as a Washington Main Street Community, effective January 1, 2026. The announcement was made at this year's PLACES Conference, Washington's annual statewide event focused on historic preservation and economic revitalization.

The Washington Main Street Program, a program of the Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation and managed by the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, recognizes communities that demonstrate a strong commitment to downtown revitalization, preservation, and economic development. The designation is outlined under WAC 25-50 and marks an exciting new chapter for Downtown Bremerton's continued growth and preservation.

Breanne Durham, Washington State Main Street Program's Senior Program Director says that "the Downtown Bremerton Association has worked hard for this prestigious designation. By building a trusted organization, strengthening partnerships, and inviting the community to participate in Main Street, the DBA is creating long-term stability and success for Downtown Bremerton."

"I'm so proud of what we've built together with our board of directors, volunteers, and our Executive Director Jess Combs, and even more excited about what lies ahead. This "Main Street" status is not just a title, it's the result of years of work, belief, and love for Bremerton's downtown." - Sam Enlow, Board President, Downtown Bremerton Association

As a designated Main Street Community, Downtown Bremerton will gain access to a wide range of benefits and resources, including but not limited to:

- Main Street Tax Credit Incentive Program – Businesses can receive a 75% state tax credit for contributions made to eligible downtown revitalization organizations.
- Community Development Support – The program informs and empowers local leaders how to develop their own strategies for economic growth and civic pride, using local assets and resources.

- The Main Street Approach® – The program educates and encourages the use of a proven, preservation-based economic development model that integrates Design, Economic Vitality, Organization, and Promotion to strengthen downtown districts.
- Access to Grants and Funding Opportunities – Additional state and national resources to support local revitalization projects.
- Connection with a Statewide Network of Communities - The program regularly connects the Downtown Bremerton Association with forty other Main Street Communities across Washington State through networking events and trainings.

What This Means for Downtown Bremerton's Future

Becoming a Washington Main Street Community strengthens the foundation for Bremerton's small business success, attracting investment and support that help entrepreneurs thrive while preserving the district's historic and cultural character. It also fosters deeper connections among local leaders, residents, and visitors—encouraging a shared vision for an active, welcoming, and resilient downtown. Through new resources, partnerships, and funding opportunities, the Downtown Bremerton Association will be better equipped to nurture a lively city center that reflects Bremerton's creative spirit and continues to grow as a place people are proud to call home and eager to explore.

"I'm so grateful to our volunteers, local businesses, and city partners who continue to show up and invest their time and energy into this vision" says Jessica Combs, the DBA's Executive Director, "Becoming a Washington Main Street Community connects us to a broader network and gives us the tools to keep growing with purpose. I'm so proud to be part of this work—the future for downtown Bremerton is looking bright!"

Local Recognition for a Downtown Bremerton Business Owner

Kate Larson, owner of the Ballast Book Company, won this year's PLACES Conference's top award - The Excellence on Main Award! This award recognizes outstanding contribution to community connection and downtown vitality.

Through creative events like midnight book release parties, author talks at local venues, and seven monthly book clubs hosted across multiple downtown businesses, Kate has built meaningful partnerships and brought new energy to the district. Her inclusive programming celebrates self-expression, diversity, and the joy of reading and has strengthened both the cultural and economic fabric of downtown. Even amid economic uncertainty, Kate's leadership and unwavering passion for community engagement have made Ballast a cornerstone of Bremerton's downtown identity.

"Being Bremerton's bookstore is such a privilege. We have an amazing community that truly cares about one another, and this award reflects the fact that folks here show up for each other and support local businesses." - Kate Larson, Owner of Ballast Book Co.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Washington Main Street Program | visit www.preservewa.org
- PLACES Conference 2025 | visit <https://preservewa.org/news-events/places-conference/places-2025/>
- Downtown Bremerton Association and its revitalization initiatives | visit www.downtownbremertonassociation.org
- Information on Chapter 25-50 WAC | visit https://dahp.wa.gov/sites/default/files/WSMSP%20-%20Adopted%20Rules%20WAC25_5_0.pdf

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ABOUT DOWNTOWN BREMERTON ASSOCIATION

We are a community-focused 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the revitalization of our city's downtown core utilizing the Main Street Approach®[®], a nationwide, time-tested framework for community-driven, comprehensive revitalization. We are partnered with the City of Bremerton to manage and curate events and activations for Quincy Square.

Our team of Board Members, Employees, and Volunteers are dedicated to cultivating Downtown Bremerton as the crossroad for connection, community investment, and culture.

We envision Downtown Bremerton as an intersection of art, connections, and heritage - where everyone can find their community.