



FACT SHEET

Hope In Hard Times: Washington During The Great Depression

Overview

This February, the Washington State History Museum will launch *Hope in Hard Times: Washington During the Great Depression*. A collection of art, photos and everyday objects from the Depression era, centering on a collection of paintings by artist Ronald Debs Ginther, this exhibit shows parallels between the Great Depression and our present-day economic crisis. *Hope In Hard Times* brings to life the story of how Washingtonians triumphed over adversity during the Great Depression and worked together for change.

Dates

The *Hope in Hard Times* exhibit opens on February 20, 2012 and will run through November 4, 2012 at the Washington State History Museum. For information on accompanying programs and special events during the exhibit, please visit www.washingtonhistory.org.

Collection Highlights

Artifacts and images from the *Hope in Hard Times* collection include:

- Paintings and sketches by Ronald Debs Ginther, one of the **most complete visual records of the Great Depression**, along with a collection of his personal belongings.
- A **billy club** used during the 1934 "Battle of Smith Cove," where 1,200 strikers were teargassed on Seattle's Piers 40 and 41 by police attempting to maintain order.
- **Tenino scrip**, the nationally famous cash substitute used in Tenino, Washington after the Citizens Bank of Tenino failed in 1931.
- A **baseball and mitt** from 1930-1939, a period in which attendance of American sport was down by 40 percent. Team owners looked for ways to survive the loss of revenue, like offering free admission to women and generating income with the first live radio sports broadcast.
- A **first aid kit** used by Civil Works Administration personnel, a short-term program administered by state governments that provided work for many men throughout the winter of 1933-1934.

Why Now?

The financial crisis of the late-2000's, commonly referred to as the Great Recession, is considered by many to be the worst financial disaster since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Americans are still battling the repercussions of home foreclosures, banks in jeopardy, losing jobs, being underemployed and struggling for financial security. With protests and demonstrations making headline news, our current situation is often compared to the Great Depression, adding to the timeliness of the *Hope In Hard Times* exhibit. This unique opportunity allows the Washington State History Museum to both educate and inspire by explaining what happened during this era and how it is different than our present-day economic position.

Key Personnel

- Director of Marketing and Communications, **Scott Schoenen**
- Hope In Hard Times Curator and Education Specialist, **Gwen Perkins**
- Executive Director, Washington State Historical Society, **Jennifer Kilmer**

Washington State History Museum
1911 Pacific Avenue
Tacoma, WA 98402
Toll-free 1-888-BE THERE (1-888-238-4373)

Hours of Operation
Monday & Tuesday: Closed
Wednesday – Sunday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
www.washingtonhistory.org

Rates

General Admission

Historical Society Members:	FREE
Adult (18 & over):	\$8
Senior (60+):	\$7
Student (6-17 yrs):	\$6
Military:	\$6
Child (5 and under):	FREE

Bring a box or can of food to the museum for FREE admission on Opening Day, Monday, February 20. All food donations benefit [Northwest Harvest](#). Donations are appreciated throughout the remainder of the exhibit to support Northwest Harvest.

Companion Exhibit

A companion exhibit, **Hope in Our Times**, will feature images from students in the digital photography classes at Key Peninsula Middle School, marking the first student photography exhibit at the Washington State History Museum. This heartfelt exhibit allows visitors to enter the world of hope through a teen's perspective with more than 20 images created by the students with an accompanying artist's statement depicting how each image represents a symbol of hope. The photographs give each teen a voice to share their vision of the world and their personal symbols of **Hope in Our Times**.

About the Washington State History Museum

People of all ages can explore the Washington State History Museum through interactive exhibits, theatrical storytelling, high-tech displays and dramatic artifacts. Guests learn about Washington state's unique people and places, as well as their impact on the country and the world. Designed by Charles Moore and Arthur Andersson, the 106,000 square-foot museum building stands proudly on Pacific Avenue in Tacoma. Operated by the Washington State Historical Society, the museum boasts soaring spaces and dramatic archways that invite guests into a history experience full of colors, textures, sights, and sounds. The Washington State Historical Society has been dedicated to collecting, preserving, and vividly presenting Washington's rich and varied history since 1891.

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