

# ANNUAL REPORT

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2022 SCHOOL YEAR

*October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022*



# STAFF & BOARD

## Board of Directors

**Sonja Mathews**, President; Management Consultant and Retired Senior Executive  
**Kathleen Brooker**, Vice President; Historic Preservation Consultant  
**Bob Hartman**, Board Secretary, Alum 2020; Retired attorney with the United States Environmental Protection Agency  
**Richard Schwarz**, Board Member; Treasurer, CEO of SAFE Boats International (joined 3/2023)  
**Jane Guiltinan**, Board Member; retired Dean of Naturopathic Medicine at Bastyr University (joined 11/2022)  
**Angela Hewitson**, Board Member, Alum 2017; Maritime Community Development Specialist at the Northwest Maritime Center  
**Linda Newland**, Board Member; Maritime Attorney and Former School District Administrator  
**Sean Sanders**, Board Member, Alum 2017; Consulting Veterinary Neurologist and Neurosurgeon (completed term 11/2022)  
**Lynn Schwarz**, Board Member; Retired Executive Coordinator in the biotech industry  
**David Blessing**, Board Member Emeritus as of December 2021, Alum 2003; Nuclear Power Engineering Consultant  
**Michael Delagarza**, Board Member Emeritus as of March 2023, Alum 2004; Business Manager at Champion Video Productions

## Instructional Staff \*

**Ace Spragg**, Education Director  
**Sean Koomen**, Boatbuilding Lead Instructor  
**Bruce Blatchley**, Boatbuilding Instructor  
**Leland Gibson**, Boatbuilding Instructor  
**Tucker Piontek**, Boatbuilding Instructor  
**Korey Ruben**, Boatbuilding Instructor  
**Kevin Ritz**, Marine Systems Lead Instructor  
**Jordan Primus**, Marine Systems Instructor  
**Tyler Johnson**, Marine Systems Instructor  
**Piper Howeth**, Prothero Intern  
**Steve Wittman**, Prothero Intern

## Additional Staff \*

**Betsy Davis**, Executive Director  
**Jim Argites**, Shop and Facilities Manager  
**Heidi Blehm**, Admissions and Student Services Manager  
**Mo Gibson**, Facilities Crew Member  
**Beverly Moore**, Librarian  
**Kristin Potter**, Administrative Assistant and Visitor Services  
**Antonio Romero**, VetCorps Member  
**Christina Ruben**, Deputy Director and Student Affairs Manager  
**Alle Schene**, Finance Manager  
**Katie Whalen**, Financial Aid Officer

\* as of September 30, 2022

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Tyler heard about NWSWB as a shipwright's apprentice and volunteer on the Tall Ship *Elissa* at the Galveston Historic Seaport in Texas. After completing both the wooden boatbuilding and marine systems programs at NWSWB, he became a systems technician at the Port Townsend Shipwright's Co-op. Since then, he has worked on hundreds of vessels including commercial fishing boats, historic and classic yachts and sailboats, and recreational vessels. He brings a wide range of skills to share with students including woodworking, composites, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, hydraulics, metalworking, and rigging.



Photo © Elizabeth Becker

**Tyler Johnson**  
Marine Systems Instructor  
Class of 2018 & 2019  
tyler.johnson@nwswb.edu

*"Learning about construction, repair, and refit methods of a boat's hull made me curious about marine systems and how they work together to keep us safe out on the water."*

Originally from Florida, Christina began her professional life as a microbiologist but fell in love with the community and natural beauty of the Olympic Peninsula when her husband was attending NWSWB (class of 2013). She joined the Boat School team in 2015 as the Development and Communications Manager, focusing on donor relations, fundraising, and digital communications. She now enjoys problem solving and supporting incoming and enrolled students and graduates as Student Affairs Manager. Christina is passionate about wooden boats, horses, off-grid living, chicken-breeding, and child-rearing.



Photo © Elizabeth Becker

**Christina Ruben**  
Deputy Director and  
Student Affairs Manager  
christina@nwswb.edu

*"No two days and no two students are the same at Boat School. I love the shared focus on craftsmanship that draws people from all over the world to this unique learning environment."*

Tucker's relationship with boats started young with canoes and fishing boats on the rivers of Oregon and lakes of Wisconsin. A degree in Industrial Design took him into the architecture and stop-motion animation industries for the next decade. In 2016, he studied boatbuilding at NWSWB and has been honing his craft ever since. A year at Turn Point Design gave him opportunities to learn resin infusion techniques and composite mold-making on aerospace and marine products. He gained traditional shipwright experience over several years at Haven Boatworks before becoming a boatbuilding instructor at NWSWB in 2022.



Photo © Elizabeth Becker

**Tucker Piontek**  
Boatbuilding Instructor  
Class of 2016  
tucker.piontek@nwswb.edu

*"This isn't some mathematical science where you run the formula and it has the exact same answer every time. We're teaching students how to think through problems. They aren't just learning techniques. They're learning to trust what their hands and the wood are telling them."*



# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Yes, 2022 was another year of COVID precautions, but the energy behind those masks was noticeably upbeat as students in both the Boatbuilding and Marine Systems programs applied themselves to learning new skills. We welcomed Tucker Piontek and Korey Ruben as new Boatbuilding instructors this year — and appreciated a return of veteran shipwright and longtime Boat School instructor Ray Speck to a part-time mentoring role. Tyler Johnson became the third Marine

Systems instructor as we extended the 6-month program to 9 months for this Fall.

The Boat School encourages new instructors to keep learning and practicing their craft at the highest level, while sharing their knowledge and experience with the next generation of boat builders. The Boat School's unique hands-on learning experience relies on these instructors who understand the craft and how to teach adult learners with different levels of experience and learning styles. Charles Jahn had this in mind when he commissioned a traditional Nordic Folkboat to be built by students at NWSWB. "Seeing images of Ray Speck teaching lapstrake planking is what this building experience is

all about — passing on a lifetime of knowledge to another generation of builders."

During 2022, the staff and board decided to add a Director of Education to the team, to help instructors have more time to focus on their students and support instructors as they learn how to teach students from wide-ranging backgrounds. Through a nationwide search, we were delighted to find our top candidate, Ace Spragg, right here in Port Townsend, who joined the team in the Fall.

The school has strong interest from prospective students and the maritime business community is keenly interested in hiring graduates. Yet access to the school and subsequent employment can be limited for prospective students when lack of money is a barrier to attendance. 2022 marked a year in which the community support of the scholarship program grew tremendously, and we've been able to administer nearly \$90,000 in scholarship dollars for this school year; students also received about \$70,000 from outside scholarships. This was only possible because our long-time Business Manager Katie Whalen chose to move to a new dedicated role as Financial Aid Officer, while she concurrently trained our new Finance Manager Alle Schene.

Leadership continuity is a high priority for the Boat School. Staff members who joined us in 2022 hit the ground running — with skilled and generous mentoring from colleagues. We look forward to building on that strong foundation as the organization celebrates 43 years of teaching and preserving craftsmanship.

*Betsy Davis*

# LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Sometimes it takes more than a good navigation chart to stay on mission. That's when guiding principles come into play. Ours are relevance and sustainability.

When we talk about relevance, it's responding to changes in the work environment so that students in our boatbuilding and marine systems programs learn to use the equipment, materials, and best practices they'll encounter in the workplace.

When we talk about sustainability, it's making sure the organization is healthy and thriving in perpetuity. Scholarships are a big part of that. With 80% of our students relying on some sort of financial aid, we want to ensure that money is not an obstacle to getting a Boat School education. We made huge progress on this front in 2022, with \$90,000 in scholarship dollars available for the incoming class.

In order to remain strong, relevant and thrive for 43 more years we've hired a new Director of Education Ace Spragg to help us learn how to best sustain the school's unique hands-on learning environment while ensuring instructors continue their professional development as

educators. We've flexed into the digital space with our Learning Management System and are using this technology to shore up our institutional knowledge and help with informational access and retrieval to help students, instructors, and staff.

There will always be challenges — we can't wish COVID away by taking careful precautions — but we will stay the course through these disruptive times by focusing unwaveringly on making decisions that support what is good for our students and staff, and is relevant to our mission.



*Sonja Mathews*

## MISSION

*To teach and preserve boatbuilding and marine systems skills while developing the individual as a craftsman.*

# PROVIDING QUALITY EDUCATION & JOB PREPAREDNESS

NWSWB programs are accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Career Schools and Colleges ([www.accsc.org](http://www.accsc.org)) and are licensed by the State of Washington Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board ([www.wtb.wa.gov](http://www.wtb.wa.gov)).

## CLASS OF 2022

Haven Boatworks — Port Townsend, WA  
Port Townsend Shipwrights Coop — Port Townsend, WA  
ACI Boats — Port Townsend, WA  
Schooner Creek Boat Works — Portland, OR  
Comox Marine & Woodworking — Comox, British Columbia  
Marine Spill Response Corporation — Port Angeles, WA  
Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding — Port Hadlock, WA  
Confluence Marine Systems — Port Townsend, WA

*Several students went on to open their own businesses, and eight students are continuing their education at NWSWB in the Boatbuilding or Marine Systems program.*

## FAST FACTS: CLASS 2022

- Students from 18 different states/countries
- 29 graduated with Boatbuilding Associate of Occupational Studies Degree
- 17 graduated with Marine Systems Program Diploma (no spring class to prepare transition from 6-month to 9-month program)

## CLASS OF 2022 DEMOGRAPHICS

Total enrolled: 53      Ages: 19-68  
Boatbuilding students: 35      Number of Veteran students: 8  
Marine Systems students: 18

### Gender breakdown over all programs:

Men: 38  
Women: 12  
Non-binary/third gender: 3

### Gender breakdown per program:

Boatbuilding	Marine Systems
Men: 27	Men: 11
Women: 6	Women: 6
Non-binary/third gender: 2	Non-binary/third gender: 1

*One of the things I find appealing about this industry is that people push themselves to do the best they can. We're not building tract houses. We're doing this work because we like it and that goes a long way.*

—Steve Wittman  
Prothero Intern  
NWSWB



Sammi Rosenthal  
Port Townsend  
Shipwrights Coop  
Port Townsend, WA



Brandon Garms  
Confluence Marine  
Systems  
Port Hadlock, WA



Ben Knight  
Schooner Creek Boat  
Works  
Portland, OR



Piper Howeth  
NWSWB  
Port Hadlock, WA



Wendy Apfel  
ACI Boats  
Port Townsend, WA



Raphael Brouillette  
Comox Marine &  
Woodworking  
Comox, British Columbia

## WHERE DID THE CLASS OF 2022 COME FROM?

Alaska	1
California	5
Colorado	2
Delaware	1
Florida	1
Hawaii	1

Illinois	2
Louisiana	1
Michigan	1
New Mexico	2
New York	1
North Carolina	1

Ohio	1
Oregon	3
Utah	1
Virginia	1
Washington	26
Canada	2

# PRESERVING AND DEVELOPING CRAFTSMANSHIP

Education at the Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding is hands-on and real-world — designed to replicate a working boatyard, but with closer supervision and the time to practice each skill to develop competency and confidence. “We’re not building kit boats,” says Boatbuilding Instructor Leland Gibson. “We spend 2,000 hours teaching students how to build complex boats with no compromise as to quality or craftsmanship.”

## POULSBO BOAT GETTING A FEEL FOR DIFFERENT ENGINES

Students in the Marine Systems program practice installing a 2-cylinder diesel engine and its components in a Poulsbo boat and then swapping it out with an Electric Yacht QuietTorque 10.0 engine. They have the opportunity to operate the boat with each of the engines installed, to get a feel for the differences. Originally constructed by students in the boatbuilding program at NWSWB, the Poulsbo is now used as a teaching platform for students in the Marine Systems program — one step in the progression from theory to bench work in the shop to hands-on experience powering and repowering vessels of different types and levels of system complexity.



## ZERO-EMISSIONS WORKBOAT KEEPING LOCAL WATERWAYS FREE OF WASTEWATER

*Clean Bay*, a zero-emissions workboat built by students at NWSWB, began providing free pump-out services to recreational mariners in Port Ludlow Bay in May 2022. The boat’s conception, construction, and use are all tied to the Olympic Peninsula. Local naval architect Tim Nolan created the design to look like a traditional Northwest workboat, Turn Point Design created all of the CNC forms from which students at NWSWB constructed the boat, and the Port Ludlow Marina manages operations. An electric propulsion system, lithium-ion battery banks, solar panels, and an advanced impressed cathodic corrosion protection system contribute to the boat’s green footprint. The project came together through a collaboration with local marine businesses, private donors, and state agencies around a common goal of promoting environmental stewardship.



## DOUBLE-ENDED TROLLER FIRST-EVER BUILD IS THE IDEAL TEACHING BOAT

Students in the class of 2022 worked on the first-ever build of a 24’ double-ended troller, inspired by classic fishing boats of the Northwest, by east coast designer Jim Mattison. “It’s a good teaching boat because it has a little bit of everything in a relatively compact package,” says Boatbuilding Instructor Leland Gibson. “It’s got a well-thought-out interior and it’s got a pretty complicated super structure, consisting of pilot house and coach roof. Boats of this size are great because students get a well-rounded idea of how the whole boat goes together.” The hull was built by students in Leland’s shop. The cabin was built by students in Bruce Blatchley’s shop. Students in the Marine Systems program will install the engine and a full systems array.



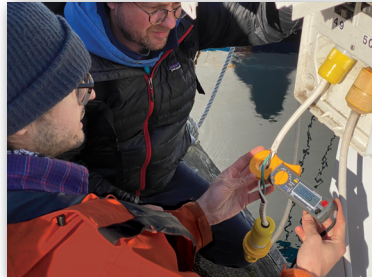


# BRINGING VITALITY TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Boat School brings vitality to the local community by preparing the next generation of boatbuilders and systems technicians for living wage employment in the marine trades and by contributing to initiatives that support the common good.

## Applying Boat School Training to Improve Safety at Local Marinas

An investigation into stray electrical current at the Boat Haven boatyard this year led to a joint initiative between the Jefferson County Public Utility District (PUD) and the Port of Port Townsend. They contacted Kevin Ritz, Lead Instructor of Marine Systems at NWSWB, to assist in their investigation — a perfect opportunity for students to apply Boat School training to address a real-world problem. Eron Berg, Port of Port Townsend Executive Director, described the effort as a great collaboration. “We really appreciated the Boat School staff and students working with the PUD to help the Port understand what’s happening electrically in our marinas. Stray current is a big deal and the findings of this effort will help us improve conditions at both Boat Haven and Point Hudson.”



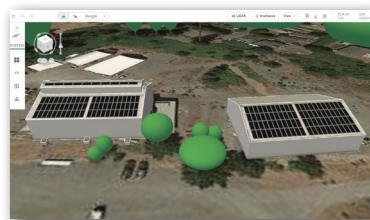
## Serving Those Who Served

Since 2016 the Boat School has been designated as a “Veteran Supportive Campus” by the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs. In 2021, the agency once again awarded the school a VetCorps member position to serve as a resource to military veterans, who typically account for 25 to 30 percent of the student body. Antonio Romero (right) was selected to fill the role again for the 2022-2023 school year. Antonio, who served in the U.S. Coast Guard before attending the Boatbuilding program at NWSWB, observes that “the school has done a phenomenal job of laying the foundation, educating themselves, and building a veteran supportive environment. I feel privileged to be part of that.”



## Investing in Clean Energy

With major funding from the Institute for Law and Systems Research, led by Alice Anda and James Ward, the Boat School installed solar panels on the Hammond Shop and Marine Systems Building. According to Hans Frederickson, President of Cascadia Solar: “With 164 solar modules providing a rated capacity of over 80 kilowatts, NWSWB will have one of the largest solar power systems in Jefferson County. This system will offset 99% of the upper campus electrical usage. Besides providing power for the next 25 years, the system will deliver significant utility bill savings. We appreciate the leadership of local organizations like NWSWB, showing the way towards a sustainable future.”



## PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Preserving Craftsmanship and Ensuring Relevance

NWSWB has established an independent Program Advisory Committee as a means to provide the school with an external review of its programs. The Committee meets at least twice a year and is composed of appropriately qualified representatives external to the institution (i.e., non-school employees) who can provide a meaningful review of the school’s programs and supporting resources and materials. We are proud to have broad representation resulting in energetic discussions and practical suggestions for improvement.

**Tammy Anstatt**, Marine Systems Manufacturer Representative, Derema Group

**Marc Adams**, Factory Field Representative, Derema Group

**Ann Avary**, Director, NW Center of Excellence for Marine Manufacturing & Technology

**Steve Bamsberger**, Marine Systems Manufacturer Representative, Jack Park Company

**John Mark Barrett**, Marine Systems Manufacturer Representative, Imtra Corporation

**Eron Berg**, Executive Director, Port of Port Townsend

**Chris Bergnoli**, Member-Owner, Port Townsend Shipwrights Co-Op

**Cort Corino**, Service Manager, Jefferson Beach Yacht Sales

**Brandon Davis**, Owner, Turn Point Design

**Sarah Fiske**, Marine Operations Specialist, Washington Sea Grant

**Jim Franken**, Owner, James J. Franken Inc.

**Stephen Gale**, Owner, Haven Boatworks

**David Jackson**, Marine Surveyor, Pacific Rim Marine Surveyors

**Charlie Johnson**, President, JTB Marine Corporation

**Michelle Hollingsworth Koomen**, Research Professor, Gustavus Adolphus College

**David King**, Former Port Townsend Mayor, Retired CFO Townsend Bay Marine

**Dieter Loibner**, Editor at Large, *Professional Boatbuilder Magazine*

**Scott McEniry**, Marine Systems Manufacturer Representative, Power Products LLC

**Jake McFaddin**, Lead Boatbuilder, Schooner Creek Boatworks

**Dan Newland**, Owner, Pegasus Aeromarine Inc.

**Peter Proctor**, Owner, Proctor Boat Company

**Gordon Sanstad**, Boatbuilder and Former Boatbuilding Instructor at Seattle Central Community College

**Heron Scott**, Executive Director, Port Townsend School of Woodworking

**Chris Sanok**, Member-Owner, Port Townsend Shipwrights Co-op

**Jim Tolpin**, Founder, Instructor, and Author, Port Townsend School of Woodworking

# FINANCIALS

NWSWB successfully completed another year with a net positive result and growth of assets. The school made long-term investments in programs and facilities to promote future sustainability. Tuition revenue is now on an upward trend following COVID's closures. Contributions remained strong with gifts and grants from individuals, businesses, foundations, and government. 73% of the school's overall expenses went directly to programs, 21% to Administration, 5% to Fundraising, and 1% to property expenses.

OPERATING REVENUE							
	9/30/2022	9/30/2021	9/30/2020	9/30/2019	9/30/2018	9/30/2017	9/30/2016
Tuition	866,643	329,266	564,144	\$675,543	\$833,533	\$707,552	\$1,059,093
Donations including COVID Relief	1,195,422	1,441,372	1,633,597	1,158,249	594,618	732,761	310,077
Boat Projects	44,131	71,525	22,607	63,195	134,572	130,286	135,414
Retail Sales and Rental Income	56,676	37,286	45,278	34,598	29,067	18,569	21,715
In-Kind Revenue	9,995	117,616	4,000	8,540	14,759	17,400	24,618
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,172,867</b>	<b>1,997,065</b>	<b>2,269,626</b>	<b>1,940,125</b>	<b>1,606,549</b>	<b>1,606,568</b>	<b>1,550,917</b>
OPERATING EXPENSE							
Program Service	1,288,164	973,076	783,797	997,368	1,087,662	1,035,060	1,013,060
Administration	390,962	247,308	280,137	310,212	292,506	248,094	291,366
Fundraising	104,941	93,467	119,038	82,202	89,090	116,611	73,817
Other - Rental Property	14,007	15,828	7,665	13,092	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,798,074</b>	<b>1,329,679</b>	<b>1,190,637</b>	<b>1,402,874</b>	<b>1,469,258</b>	<b>1,399,765</b>	<b>1,378,243</b>
<b>Change in net assets from Operating Activities</b>	<b>374,793</b>	<b>667,386</b>	<b>1,078,989</b>	<b>537,251</b>	<b>137,291</b>	<b>206,803</b>	<b>172,674</b>
OTHER REVENUE AND EXPENSE							
Amortization	0	0	0	0	(426)	(1,024)	(1,022)
Depreciation	(140,328)	(120,163)	(91,105)	(73,570)	(61,975)	(56,054)	(59,603)
Interest Expense	(60,472)	(120,170)	(56,595)	(83,301)	(72,765)	(49,295)	(44,450)
<b>Total Other Revenue and Expense</b>	<b>(200,800)</b>	<b>(240,863)</b>	<b>(147,700)</b>	<b>(156,871)</b>	<b>(135,166)</b>	<b>(106,373)</b>	<b>(105,075)</b>
<b>Total Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>173,993</b>	<b>426,523</b>	<b>931,289</b>	<b>380,380</b>	<b>2,125</b>	<b>100,430</b>	<b>67,599</b>
<b>Net Assets - beginning of year</b>	<b>3,173,862</b>	<b>2,747,339</b>	<b>1,816,050</b>	<b>1,435,672</b>	<b>1,433,547</b>	<b>1,333,117</b>	<b>1,265,518</b>
<b>Net Assets - end of year</b>	<b>3,347,855</b>	<b>3,173,862</b>	<b>2,747,339</b>	<b>\$1,816,052</b>	<b>\$1,435,672</b>	<b>\$1,433,547</b>	<b>\$1,333,117</b>

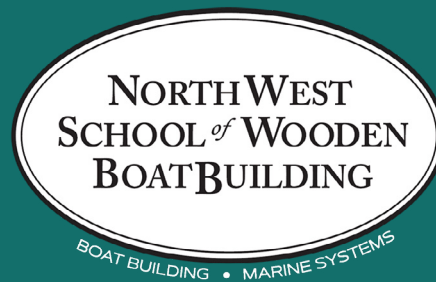
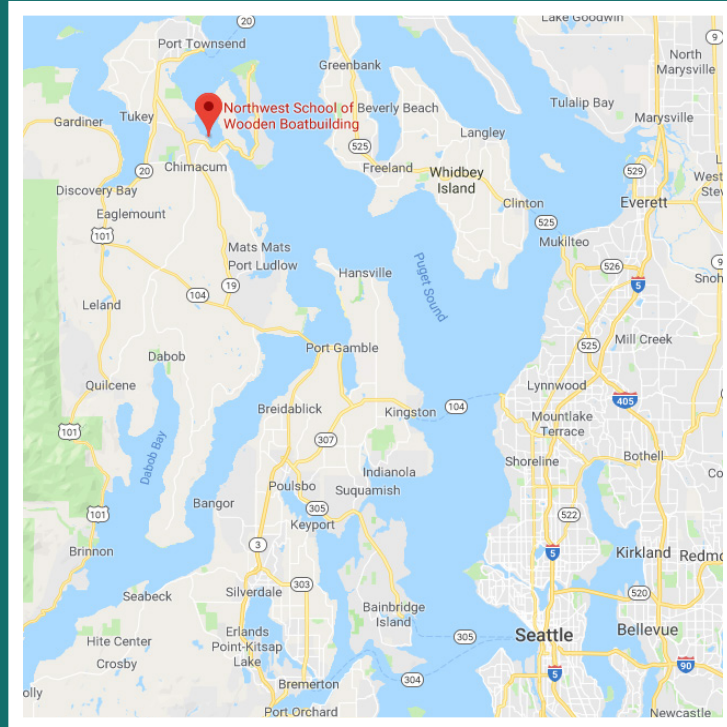
The Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding engaged Wersen Nonprofit CPAs LLC to conduct an independent audit of our financial statements for the year ending September 30, 2022. They reported an unmodified opinion — i.e., the best audit opinion an organization can receive — over our financial statements. If interested, please contact us for a copy of these independently audited financial statements.



NWSWB is deeply committed to non-profit transparency and accountability and has achieved the GuideStar Platinum Level Profile as a demonstration of that commitment. GuideStar is the world's largest source of information about non-profit organizations (the GuideStar database contains a profile for every tax-exempt nonprofit registered with the IRS) and a leader in advancing transparency in the non-profit sector. To be awarded the GuideStar logo, NWSWB provided all requested information on the non-profit profile page. You can search for information about any non-profit at [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org).

# WHERE WE ARE

Learn about all that's happening at the Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding by signing up to receive our free monthly electronic newsletter. You may also want to join one of our virtual Admissions Open Houses. Sign ups for both are on our website at [www.nwswb.edu](http://www.nwswb.edu).



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Port Hadlock Heritage Campus  
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The Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC). The Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC) is a recognized accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education. Learn more at [www.accsc.org](http://www.accsc.org).



The School is also licensed under the Private Vocational Schools Act, Chapter 28C.10 RCW of Washington State. [www.wtb.wa.gov](http://www.wtb.wa.gov)

The Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit institution. Tax ID 91-1122839.