

BURKE MUSEUM
OF NATURAL HISTORY AND CULTURE



CONTENTS

Museum Description	3
Galleries	5
Special Exhibitions	7
Family Spaces	8
Architecture & Landscaping	9
Key Features	
“Guests from the Great River”	14
Grand Atrium	15
“Synecdoche” Mural	16
Cascade Room	17
Off the Rez Café	18
Visit Information	21
Press Contact	22



Photo: Mark Stone/University of Washington



Photo: Dennis Wise/University of Washington

With working labs you can see into,
one-of-a-kind objects all around you,
and galleries filled with curiosity and conversation,
the Burke Museum is a whole new way to experience our world.

Experience six galleries about the people, landscape, plants and animals of the past and present that make the Pacific Northwest—and the greater world—so special.

See the only real dinosaur fossils on display in Washington state alongside views of paleontologists removing rock from recently-discovered fossils.

Appreciate the diverse art of Pacific Northwest Native peoples, and see living traditions carry on with artists and Indigenous researchers studying the collections from across the globe.

Every visit is unique, with people from all backgrounds asking new questions of the 16 million objects in the Burke's collections every day.

**At the Burke,
you see—and feel—a world alive.**



Photo: Dennis Wise/University of Washington



Photo: Dennis Wise/University of Washington

GALLERIES

CULTURE IS LIVING

The *Culture is Living* gallery breaks down traditional museum authority and brings the expertise and knowledge of communities to the forefront. Cultural objects at the Burke Museum aren't tucked away on shelves. They are alive, embodying the knowledge, language, and stories of people and cultures. See hundreds of objects and hear from community members from across the Pacific to find out how museum collections address historic wrongs, invigorate cultural practices today, and inspire the future through universal elements we all share—our connections to the Earth, Water, Air, Community, Childhood, and the Generations before and after us.



NORTHWEST NATIVE ART GALLERY

What is your artistic heritage? Six Pacific Northwest Native artists from across the region answered this question in creating the inaugural exhibit in the *Northwest Native Art* gallery. Featuring both newly-created and historic basketry, carvings, multimedia art, and more, these women bring personal meanings to Native art while embracing the heritage of their ancestors and cultures. In addition to future rotating exhibitions from artists, the gallery is anchored by permanent displays of monumental objects including a 35-foot canoe, welcome figure, totem poles, and house posts.



AMAZING LIFE

Life on Earth is extraordinary. Over 8.7 million species are known to exist today, with more being discovered daily. How did this variety of life come to be, and what happens when human and natural forces change the balance of life? Drawing on specimens from the Burke's biology collections, *Amazing Life* reveals a global life-support system. Every living thing—including you—plays a role in keeping that system functioning. Discover how life has evolved across time and space, how it's still changing today, and how it might change in the future.



GALLERIES

FOSSILS UNCOVERED

Earth's 4.5 billion-year history is a continuing saga of dynamic change. Events from ice ages to splitting continents influenced what survived, how life evolved, and what went extinct. See the only real dinosaur fossils on display in Washington state (including one of the best-preserved *T. rex* skulls in the world), intricate plant fossils that document past patterns of climate change, colossal mammals that roamed Washington state during the last Ice Age, and more in the *Fossils Uncovered* exhibit. Discover how fossils reveal evidence of Earth's transformation over time—and what the future might hold.



OUR MATERIAL WORLD

From the food we put in our bodies to the furniture we put in our homes, human life is shaped by “stuff” all around us—and our stuff reveals surprising truths about our lives. There's a story in all our stuff—even the garbage we leave behind. Archaeologists study this material culture, and use it to understand people and cultures of the past. Find out what happens when we throw our stuff away, when archaeologists do (or don't) dig, how Native peoples across Washington state are using the archaeological record to revitalize traditional food practices today, and more in the *Our Material World* gallery.



TEMPORARY EXHIBITS GALLERY

CRUISIN' AROUND WASHINGTON

Now through October 10, 2021

This bite-sized exhibit takes you on a tour around Washington state as fossils come to life through the art of scientific surrealist Ray Troll. Peculiar-looking fish, gigantic fearsome salmon, and one very unlucky rhino all make an appearance. Utilizing brand new art, as well as old favorites, we are thrilled to be able to offer this compact extension of Troll's work complete with specimens from Burke collections.



LIFE IN ONE CUBIC FOOT

February 12 – July 17, 2022

One cubic foot at a time, this exhibit reveals the biodiversity found in places around the globe. Incredible photos, videos and specimens reveal the breadth of lifeforms found in a cubic foot of land, water or air—providing critical information for conserving our biological heritage by identifying more of the organisms on Earth and figuring out how they live and interact.

This exhibition explores ideas around systems science—the interdisciplinary complexity of systems in nature—revealing that anyone can become a community scientist and do their part to understand the diversity of life in their own areas. Originally developed by the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, this installation will also include new content and Burke specimens highlighting our local environment and ongoing research.





Photo: Dennis Wise/University of Washington



Photo: Dennis Wise/University of Washington

FAMILY SPACES

Climb. Crawl. Look. Touch. Learn! The Burke Museum has a variety of spaces and activities for all ages, from the earliest of learners, to adults who never lost their childhood curiosity.

Two play spaces and two activity alcoves encourage dramatic play, strengthen observation skills, and allow creativity to soar.

Step into the shoes of a researcher studying at a Pacific Northwest beach site in the Field Camp Play Space. Investigate logs, a climbable orca, and a tide pool.

Imagine you're traveling by stepping into a canoe, and then bring your findings from your trip back to the research tent with tools needed to conduct your research!

Kids and adults alike can also dress up like their favorite animals in the Camouflage Corner, and do their best to blend in to different environments.

Hands-on activities, crafts, and touchable collections are available in the activity alcoves on afternoons and weekends with natural and cultural themes changing monthly.

ARCHITECTURE & LANDSCAPING



Photo: Olson Kundig

ARCHITECTURE

Lead architect Tom Kundig of local firm Olson Kundig internalized the Burke's vision to make the new museum building more transparent and accessible. Large areas of glazing maximize transparency and expose the interior experience to the street to connect the Burke to the campus, landscape and city. The design further breaks down traditional museum barriers between public and "back-of-house" spaces, integrating collections and research labs with traditional galleries and enabling visitors and the surrounding community to engage with the process of scientific discovery in a true working museum. A 24-foot-by-20-foot pivoting window wall continues this emphasis on transparency to literally open the Burke to the nature of a new outdoor courtyard.



The Burke Museum, which opened its new building in 2019, serves as a coherent, effective container which allows for flexibility over time. The building's rational scheme holds the complexity of the Burke's activities and collections, both now and into the future.

At its core, the mission of the Burke is to help everyone—curators, visitors, educators and students—make a connection with our natural world in all its complexities. Dual entrances link the museum to both the University of Washington campus and the surrounding community.

The exterior design is rooted in the Northwest. The shed-style roof was inspired by the traditional structures of the Coast Salish peoples, the first peoples of Puget Sound. A sequence of tall, narrow windows reference forests across the Pacific Northwest, and like cedar or fir, the Burke's Scots pine siding will silver with age.

Windows help to frame exhibit objects for both internal and external views, while providing natural light and ventilation. A large central atrium and "smart glass" skylight likewise foster a bright, daylit interior experience, without risking damage to sensitive artifacts. The project is targeting LEED® Gold certification.



Photo: Rachel Ormiston/Burke Museum

LANDSCAPING

Designed by Shannon Nichol of GGN (Gustafson Guthrie Nichol), the landscaping includes a multipurpose courtyard called the “Burke Yard” that serves both parking and outdoor events, fossils from Washington state, and tiered steps perfect for outdoor seating overlooking a sweeping meadow of Camas plants and native grasses alongside the museum. The Camas meadow blooms remarkable purple flowers every spring, and evokes the wild prairie lands that once covered much of Washington, but are now becoming more and more rare. Over 80,000 plants native to the Pacific Northwest make up the exterior landscaping of the new Burke Museum. With over 60 species represented, many started as seeds or seedlings collected across Washington state, with 70,000 plants carefully cultivated over several years by the Native Plant Nursery at Oxbow Farm & Conservation Center in Carnation, Washington. Native plants, a once-ubiquitous but now-declining component of landscapes across Washington, are of great interest to gardeners, scientists, ethnobotanists, Indigenous peoples, and advocates for sustainability and environmental well-being.

KEY FEATURES



GUESTS FROM THE GREAT RIVER

Greets guests as you arrive at the museum's east entrance. Created by Chinook Indian Nation Chairman and artist Tony A. (naschio) Johnson and artist Adam McIsaac, the piece consists of 11 large-scale bronze paddles representing the arrival of a Chinookan canoe carrying cultural heroes of the Columbia River region, and with them the knowledge they embody

Made possible thanks to funding from the Washington State Arts Commission in partnership with the University of Washington, these larger-than-life bronze paddles were hand carved in wood by Johnson and McIsaac, then 3-D scanned and enlarged in scale up to 11 feet, leaving the viewer in awe. The paddles are carved in a variety of Chinook styles and sizes—some of which are hundreds of years old—that are still made and used by communities today. The notch on the top is distinct to the Columbia River and was used to grab hold of cottonwood roots along the river banks.

“People that live here on this land without any knowledge of this information are really missing a big part of what makes this place itself,” Johnson said. “My interest in sharing these stories and teachings is that people will treat the place differently, these aboriginal lands of ours—and the aboriginal lands of our neighbors—if people were to really understand these stories.”



GRAND ATRIUM

Iconic objects of the natural history and cultures of Washington state welcome you to the Burke Museum and University of Washington campus in this soaring, two-story windowed space.

A 10,000-year-old mastodon, a suspended full skeleton of a rare Baird's beaked whale, petrified logs that were once trees that grew in Eastern Washington 15-million-years-ago, and a newly commissioned Coast Salish art piece called "The Weavers Welcome" greet you as you enter the museum.

These monumental beacons show the connections we have to each other and the natural world around us, echo the galleries you'll see during your visit, and prompt you to see the world around you from a whole new perspective.

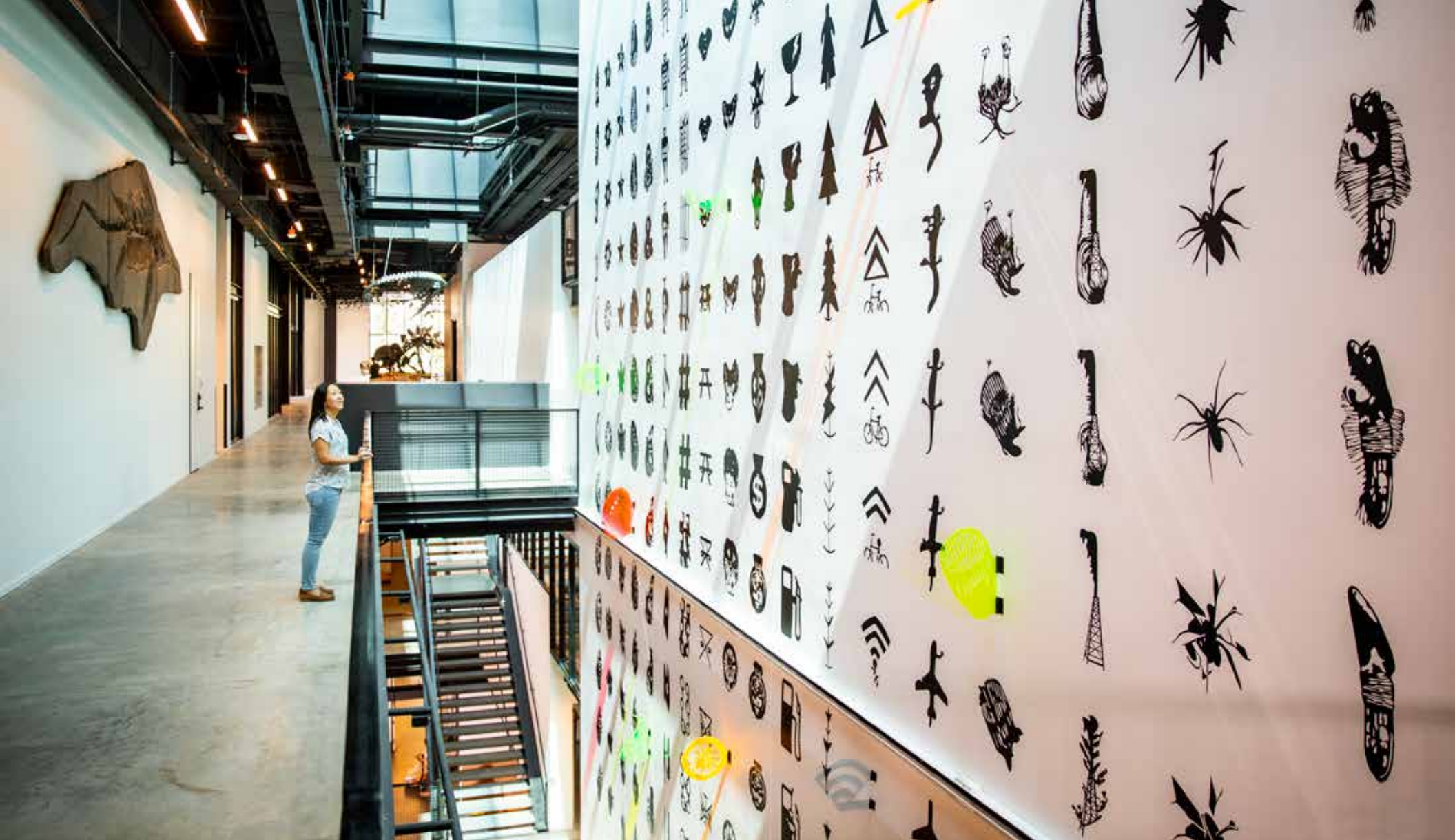


Photo: Dennis Wise/University of Washington

“SYNECDOCHE” MURAL

“Synecdoche,” a three-story mural by artist RYAN! Feddersen, Okanogan and Lakes, anchors the heart of the museum. Comprised of flat black vinyl cutouts and punctuated with colorful 3-D fluorescent acrylic shapes, the mural features motifs from the Burke’s collection and the world at large. The intricate work of Feddersen connects people to nature, museum collections to the outside world, and past to present through a series of transforming images of objects that appear in a continuum of synecdoches.



CASCADE ROOM

The Cascade Room is a place to gather, relax, and enjoy the new Burke Museum along with the legacy of Washington state's oldest museum.

Beautiful floor-to-ceiling windows connect the inside of the museum out to the terraced Camas fields below.

Also enjoy exquisitely carved Boiserie French paneling from 1720 and a 16-foot-tall, recently-restored grand Louis Comfort Tiffany window called "Peacock with Hollyhocks and Morning Glories"—visitor favorites from the Burke's historical collections.

OFF THE REZ CAFÉ

Enjoy delicious, world-renowned fry bread and other foods made of locally-sourced ingredients at Off the Rez Café. The café is the first brick-and-mortar location of Off the Rez, ranked one of the top 25 food trucks in America by Food Network.

Independently owned and operated by Mark McConnell and Cecilia Rikard, Off the Rez is dedicated to sustainability with seasonal menu items. Their tasty food is set in an airy café, with indoor-outdoor dining on a patio made possible by a pivoting window wall.

The pivoting window wall is a massive, human-powered steel and glass kinetic architecture feature operated by turning a hand wheel at an indoor control station that opens the east end of the New Burke café space to the outdoors.

The pivoting window wall was designed by New Burke architect Tom Kundig, and his long-time collaborator Phil Turner, Olson Kundig's gizmologist. Turner Exhibits provided mechanical and structural design, fabrication, and technical direction during installation.



Photo: Brooke Fitts

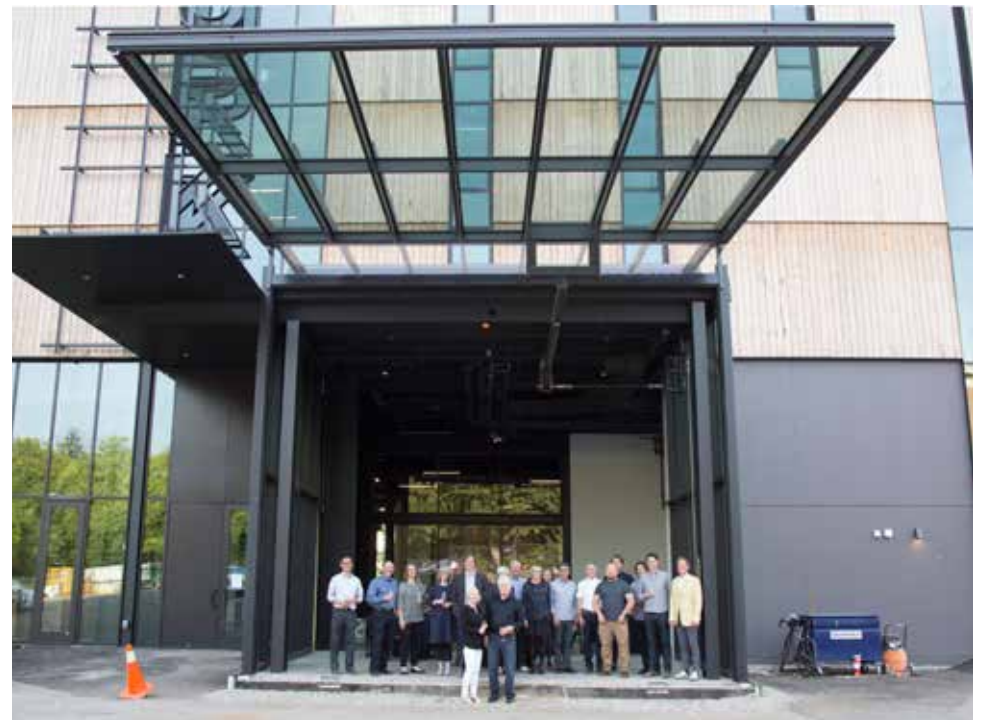


Photo: Burke Museum



OFF THE REZ CAFE MENU

BREAKFAST

SWEET FRYBREAD –

HANDMADE FRYBREAD WITH CHOICE OF TOPPINGS: STRAWBERRY JAM, HONEY, LEMON CURD, NUTELLA, CINNAMON SUGAR AND ROTATING SEASONAL JAMS.

GRANOLA AND YOGURT PARFAIT –

YOGURT PARFAIT WITH ROTATING SEASONAL FRUIT JAM SERVED WITH HOUSE MADE MAPLE GRANOLA WITH PUMPKIN SEEDS AND DRIED BERRIES.

ASSORTED FRESH PASTRY AND BAGELS –

- ASSORTED MUFFIN AND BREADS
- ASSORTED BAGELS WITH CREAM CHEESE OR SMOKED SALMON CREAM CHEESE.

COFFEE AND ESPRESSO BEVERAGES –

DRIP COFFEE

COLD BREW

AMERICANO

ESPRESSO

CORTADO

LATTE/CAPPUCCINO

MOCHA

CHAI

ASSORTED TEAS

LUNCH AND DINNER

INDIAN TACOS – SERVED ON HANDMADE FRYBREAD, GLUTEN FREE TORTILLAS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

CLASSIC CHILI INDIAN TACOS: CHOICE OF **BEEF CHILI**, **CHICKEN CHILE VERDE**, OR **VEGGIE CHILI** TOPPED WITH CHEDDAR CHEESE, ICEBERG LETTUCE, HOUSE MADE CREMA SAUCE & PICKLED RED ONIONS. VEGAN TACOS AVAILABLE.

BBQ PULLED PORK INDIAN TACO: OUR FAMOUS UNIQUE TWIST ON AN INDIAN TACO! 12 HOUR SMOKED PULLED PORK, TOPPED WITH OUR HONEY BBQ SAUCE AND CHIPOTLE CABBAGE COLESLAW.

BRAISED BISON INDIAN TACO: SLOW BRAISED SHREDDED BISON TOPPED WITH CHEDDAR CHEESE, ICEBERG LETTUCE, CREMA & PICKLED RED ONIONS.

WILD RICE BOWLS –

WILD RICE BOWLS: CHOICE OF BRAISED BISON, SMOKED BBQ PULLED PORK OR SEASONAL MIXED VEGETABLES (VEGAN AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST) TOPPED WITH CREMA AND PICKLED RED ONIONS ON A BED OF WILD RICE.

SIDES AND SWEETS –

KALE SALAD: CHOPPED RAW KALE, SHREDDED CARROT, ROASTED BEETS, FETA CHEESE AND TOASTED ALMONDS IN A CITRUS VINAIGRETTE.

SWEET POTATO SALAD: ROASTED SWEET POTATOES, CORN, RED BELL PEPPER, CELERY AND GREEN ONION TOSSED IN DIJON MUSTARD DRESSING.

QUINOA SALAD: HEARTY RED AND WHITE QUINOA MIXED WITH A MEDLEY SWEET CORN, SQUASH, AND SEASONAL ROTATING VEGETABLES SMOTHERED IN OUR ROMESCO SAUCE AND TOPPED WITH PICKLED ONIONS (GLUTEN FREE/VEGAN).

CUPS OR BOWLS OF CHILI: CHOICE OF BEEF OR VEGGIE CHILI TOPPED WITH CHEDDAR CHEESE, CREMA AND PICKLED RED ONIONS.

CHIPOTLE COLESLAW: RED AND GREEN SHREDDED CABBAGE, RADISH AND GREEN ONIONS TOSSED WITH CHIPOTLE MAYONNAISE DRESSING.

SWEET FRYBREAD: CHOICE OF HONEY, CINNAMON-SUGAR, STRAWBERRY JAM, LEMON CURD, NUTELLA, POWDERED SUGAR, OR OUR ROTATING SEASONAL FRUIT JAM SERVED ON HANDMADE FRYBREAD.

NAKED FRYBREAD: JUST OUR DELICIOUS HANDMADE FRYBREAD.

BEVERAGES –

ASSORTED SODA, JUICE, BEER AND WINE AVAILABLE.

VISIT INFORMATION

LOCATION

4300 15th Ave NE,
Seattle, WA, United States

HOURS

Tuesday – Sunday: 10 AM – 5 PM (closed Mondays)

First Thursday of each month: 10 AM – 8 PM

A Burke Museum membership pays for itself in only 3 visits! Create your custom membership starting at \$60. Go to burkemuseum.org/join

ADULT

\$22

SENIOR (62+)

\$20

STUDENT (NON-UW)

\$14

YOUTH (AGES 4–17)

\$14

YOUTH (AGES 3 AND UNDER)

Free

UW STUDENT, FACULTY & STAFF (LIMIT 1 TICKET PER HUSKY CARD)

Free

FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

Free

CONTACT:

ANDREA GODINEZ

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, BURKE MUSEUM

206.616.7538

BURKEPR@UW.EDU

DIGITAL PRESS KIT:

BURKEMUSEUM.ORG/PRESS