



Belmont Building Receives Washington Main Street's Bricks & Mortar Rehabilitation Award

SEATTLE – The Belmont building, owned by Kirk Nesbeitt, Marya Sessions, and Enrique Ferreyros, received the coveted Bricks & Mortar Rehabilitation award at Washington Main Street's Excellence on Main Awards Ceremony on July 20, 2020. The ceremony was held virtually statewide with attendees safely celebrating at socially distanced watch parties.

The Port Townsend building now known as The Belmont has had many lives. It was a saloon up until Prohibition after which it served as a real estate and insurance office, shoe store, confectionery and tobacco shop. Most recently it has housed hotel rooms and a restaurant featuring local seafood with a bar that used by locals as a gathering place. It came to exemplify a busy, multi-faceted waterfront property.

The 1889 Sterming Block, the building's historic name, was built in the High Victorian Italianate style and featured corbeled friezes, straight cornice, and projecting bay windows. However, over a century of use in Port Townsend's busy downtown takes a toll. The building name letters had fallen off the front façade and the brickwork was failing when Nesbeitt, Sessions, and Ferreyros purchased it in 2017. Private funding, in addition to a Port Townsend Main Street Program HUD Revolving Loan, contributed to the building rehabilitation.

"Restoring a Victorian building from the ground up is a huge challenge, with all the headaches and joys you can imagine," said Mari Mullen, Executive Director of the Port Townsend Main Street Program, "Port Townsend's historic character is one its greatest assets, and the Belmont team's investment means a great deal to this community."

Rehabilitation work included re-pointing the brick exterior, copper roofs on the bay window to replace shingles, rebuilt parapets, roof repair, and extensive woodwork on the windows including saving the rope & pulley system. Local firms, including Studio STL and general contractor G. Little, were brought in. The crew updated everything from the basement up, including completely refreshed hotel rooms and a beautiful new deck overlooking the waterfront to replace the storm-worn one.

"This team did a remarkable job honoring the quality craftsmanship of the original building," said Breanne Durham, Washington Main Street Director. "Their rehabilitation restored its elegance and style--the historic Belmont is an architectural gem in Port Townsend."

The Excellence on Main Awards, organized by the Washington State Main Street Program, recognize communities, organizations, and individuals who are helping to achieve economic vitality and build sustainable communities through downtown revitalization and preservation. Washington's Main Street Program is housed in the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and administered, under contract, by the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Bricks & Mortar Rehabilitation award is designed to recognize building owners or programs that positively impact preservation efforts.

###

For more information, please contact Breanne Durham, Washington Main Street Director, at the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation at bdurham@preservewa.org or 206-624-9449.

Local Contact: Mari Mullen, Port Townsend Main Street, at 360-385-7911 or director@ptmainstreet.org.