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## Arctic Club, 2 museums win preservation awards

By JOURNAL STAFF

During its 35th anniversary celebration last week, Historic Seattle handed out its first preservation awards to seven groups.

The Arctic Club Hotel, Northwest African American Museum and the Wing Luke Asian Museum were named best adaptive reuse projects. Renovation and expansion of the Magnolia Library won in the stewardship of public buildings category. Top Pot Doughnuts won for helping preserve the character of downtown and the Wedgwood, Queen Anne and Capitol Hill neighborhoods.

Historic Seattle also honored the community partners who preserved the Queen Anne Seventh Church of Christ, Scientist, and the team that published "Seattle Architecture: A Walking Guide to Downtown."

Historic Seattle plans to present awards annually.

### Arctic Club

Since it was completed in 1927, The Arctic Club Hotel, now run by Doubletree, has gone from social club to office building to a 120-room hotel. Originally designed by Seattle architect A. Warren Gould, the building is distinguished by 27 molded walrus heads that wrap around the third-floor exterior. Its most notable feature is the Northern Lights Dome Room, which has a stained-glass ceiling.

Historic Seattle honored Rob Brewster, Bill Lawson, Chris Ashenbrener, The Hotel Group, Weaver Architects of Seattle, interior design firm Candra Scott & Anderson, and Chevron Tax Credit Investments for turning the building into a hotel. The remodel cost \$30 million.

### African American Museum

The Northwest African American Museum is housed in the former Colman School on the Interstate 90 lid. Plans to turn the school into an African American cultural center date back to 1981. Historic Seattle officials said the evolution of the project benefited from the efforts of Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle President and CEO James Kelly, design firm DKA of Seattle and project architect Rico Quirindongo, and Carver Gayton, the museum's first executive director.

The 1909 school, which had not been maintained for decades, had a leaky roof and toxic materials, and was unreinforced, load-bearing masonry.

Today, the \$22.6 million museum is the centerpiece of a complex that has 36 apartments for low- to middle-income residents on the top two floors.

Historic Seattle honored Housing Resources Group, Homestead Capital, The Rafn Co. and Leajack Construction.

### Asian Museum

The Wing Luke Asian Museum raised \$23.2 million to rehabilitate the historic East Kong Yick Building in Seattle's International District/Chinatown neighborhood for a permanent home.



Photo courtesy of Historic Seattle  
The Northern Lights Dome Room is the Arctic Club Hotel's most notable feature.

Nearly 175 Chinese laborers pooled their resources to build the West and East Kong Yick Buildings in 1910 for housing, businesses and a social center for Asian immigrants.

The museum opened a year ago. Historic Seattle officials say Ron Chew, the museum's former executive director, provided the project's vision. Wells Fargo Community Development, HomeSight, Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects, MarPac Construction and The Collins Group also were honored.

### **Magnolia Library**

Snyder Hartung Kane Strauss Architects and Graham Contracting Ltd., were honored for what Historic Seattle said was a "respectful rehabilitation" and addition to the Magnolia Library. The original architect was the late Paul Hayden Kirk, a mid-century modernist. The project cost \$4.4 million.

### **Top Pot**

Top Pot partners Michael and Mark Klebeck and Joel Radin founded Top Pot seven years ago. With backgrounds as general contractors, the Klebecks built the spaces themselves. Each store is designed to complement the existing structure and historic elements of the buildings. Historic Seattle said the shops allow neighbors to gather in spaces with historic architectural character.

Historic Seattle also named Tina Randolph, Russ Rasmussen, Matt Shoudy and Reclaimed Vintage Custom Neon.

### **Queen Anne church**

Preservation of the Seventh Church of Christ, Scientist on Queen Anne was lengthy and took some unexpected turns. The Queen Anne Historical Society's Landmarks Preservation Committee appealed a decision by the city to allow demolition of the building, and nominated the church for the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation's 2007 Most Endangered Historic Properties List.

That generated publicity, but the appeal was ultimately denied.

The key to saving the structure was an appeal by church neighbors, attorneys Jorge Baron and Tyler Crone, which affected the developer's timeline and budget. That appeal, along with the involvement of Chris Moore, field director of the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, resulted in the sale of the property to Seattle Church of Christ.

### **Walking guide**

Author Maureen R. Elenga and photo editor Rogers Williams won an award for their work on "Seattle Architecture: A Walking Guide to Downtown." The Seattle Architecture Foundation published the guide, and a gift from Cary M. Stitt funded the project.

The guide offers up-to-date reviews of more than 360 buildings.