

Bainbridge Island Historical Museum
City of Bainbridge Island
2020 Lodging/Tourism Fund Final Report

- BIHM requested LTAC support to fund the additional staff and services needed to expand the Bainbridge Island Pickleball Founders Tournament and establish it as an on-going annual tourism event.
- The project's main objectives were to:
 1. **Expand the Tournament** - Increase tournament attendance and increase overnight stays by tournament attendees in proportion to out-of-town attendance.
 2. **Build Community** - Engage the Pickleball Club, high school students, members of the Senior Center, sponsors, and a variety of other organizations in a fun, shared annual activity.
 3. **Establish a Tradition** - Establish the Bainbridge Island Pickleball Founders Tournament as a signature annual event on Bainbridge Island that mobilizes the community and draws a crowd of visitors from off-Island every year.
 4. **Create a Legacy** - Increase awareness of Pickleball's important historical relevancy to Bainbridge Island, creating a unique identity and legacy for Bainbridge Island.
- Anticipated impact of the project:
 - Increased registrations for the tournament would result in more overnight stays on Island and generate significant new spending in tourism dollars.
 - Expanding the tournament for the 2nd annual would solidify the tournament as a signature event on Bainbridge that would create year over year visitors from off-Island.
 - A larger tournament would lead to a more engaged community with multiple partners around the fun event.
 - Emphasis would be placed on the legacy of Bainbridge Island as the home of Pickleball and the sport as being a significant component of our shared history.
- Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic prevented our organization from being able to hold the 2nd annual Founders Tournament. Given Governor Jay Inslee's Safe Start Reopening plan for Washington, we would not have been legally allowed to hold the tournament in August given our county regulations at that time. Even with a reduced scope, we would not have been able to make the tournament viable and fit social distancing requirements.
- The pandemic was a completely unforeseen circumstance and we were disheartened to have to cancel the tournament. However, the safety and health of our Museum staff, volunteers, community members, and players was our top concern.
- There were a number of purchases made in advance of the tournament, which we are unable to be refunded for. Those purchases will be used in a future 2021 tournament if we are able to

host it. We are requesting that LTAC cover those expenses since they will directly support a future tournament.

Please see attached for:

-JLARC report

-Receipts/invoice for expenses that were non refundable

We regret that we were unable to hold our event this year. We hope that the LTAC understands the unforeseen and devastating impact the pandemic has had on many of our local nonprofits. We look forward to applying to LTAC again in the 2021 cycle.

Please advise if we can provide any further information. Thank you for your support on this project.

Sincerely,
Brianna Kosowitz

Executive Director
Bainbridge Island Historical Museum
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