



# 2021 Olympia Preservation Award Nomination

*Olympia's Preservation Award supports the Heritage Commission's goal of recognizing excellence in the rehabilitation of historic objects, buildings, structures, sites and districts, as well as new construction in historic areas (OMC 18.12.055).*

## PERSON MAKING NOMINATION:

| Name          | Contact Details | Date of Nomination |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Ken House     |                 | 2-9-2021           |
| Garner Miller |                 |                    |

## NOMINATION TYPE:

Person

Organization

Project

Building

Other:

## CATEGORY OF NOMINATION:

Preservation

New Construction

Education

Scholarship

Other: Placemaking

## NOMINEE:

| Name           | Address                        | Phone/Email  |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Alicia Elliott | 6326 Cedar Flats Rd SW Olympia | 360-915-8039 |

## SIGNIFICANCE OF NOMINATION:

*Brief summary of the significance of the person, organization, project or building. This text will be used by the City of Olympia in preparing and presenting the award at the City Council meeting. Attach additional pages as needed.*

This award recognizes Alicia Elliott's innovative actions that blend placemaking with historic preservation in a prominent block on Olympia's Westside. Alicia's 2012 vision to create a neighborhood center and gathering place on the site of the former Rowland Lumber building at the corner of Harrison and Division led to creation of West Central Park. Building on this success, she acquired and restored nearby historic homes including the 1892 era McIntyre House, now Marie's Bed and Breakfast, the adjacent Adams House, and the house that is Phoebe's Pastry Cafe. In less than a decade Alicia has created new public green space, preserved historic sites, sparked economic development and promoted sustainable development that is a testament to what one person can accomplish and an example for others to follow.

I have attached information to support my nomination, including documents, images, & other recognitions.

For a project nomination, I have included "before" and "after" photos.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – PROVIDE AS APPLICABLE**

**PROPERTY OWNER FOR BUILDING/PROJECT BEING NOMINATED** (if different from above):

| <b>Name</b>    | <b>Address</b> | <b>Phone/Email</b> |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Alicia Elliott |                |                    |

**ARCHITECT / CONSULTANT FOR PROJECT BEING NOMINATED** (if different from above):

| <b>Name</b>                        | <b>Address</b>              | <b>Phone/Email</b> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Jeffrey Snyder, Architect          | 218 ½ 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave W | 360/786-1775       |
| Robin Healy of Greenland Solutions |                             |                    |

**BUILDING DETAILS:**

|                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Address</b>                     | <b>Historical Name</b>            |
| 123 North Cushing Street           | McIntyre house                    |
| <b>Year Built</b>                  | <b>Year Rehabilitated</b>         |
| 1892                               | 2018                              |
| <b>Original/Early Owner</b>        | <b>Original Architect/Builder</b> |
| J.R. McIntyre, Carpenter           | same                              |
| <b>Original Use</b>                | <b>Current Use</b>                |
| residence                          | Bed & Breakfast/Inn               |
| <b>Heritage Designation Status</b> | <b>Other Information</b>          |
| Listed on local heritage register  |                                   |

*Attach additional pages as needed*

## 2021 Heritage Award Nomination

### **Honoring Alicia Elliot for Placemaking through Historic Preservation and Restoration of the McIntyre House**

This award recognizes Alicia Elliott's innovative actions that blend placemaking with historic preservation in a prominent block on Olympia's Westside. Alicia's 2012 vision to create a neighborhood center and gathering place on the site of the former Rowland Lumber building at the corner of Harrison and Division led to creation of West Central Park. Building on this success, she acquired and restored nearby historic homes including the 1892 era McIntyre House, now Marie's Bed and Breakfast, the adjacent Adams House, and the house that is Phoebe's Pastry Cafe. In less than a decade Alicia has created new public green space, preserved historic sites, sparked economic development and promoted sustainable development that is a testament to what one person can accomplish and an example for others to follow.

Alicia Elliott's vision from 2012 has led to the restoration and adaptive reuse of buildings listed on the Olympia Historic Register and creation of a micro business and residential community. She has set an example of what can be done with historic buildings through adaptive reuse, restoration, careful remodeling and the addition of sensitively planned new construction. Her overall project may be unique in Olympia and certainly is a role model for combining historic preservation, community planning and contemporary use.

Alicia meticulously and thoroughly restored the J.R. McIntyre House at 123 Cushing Street NW after she purchased it in 2016. The home is individually listed on the Olympia Register of Historic Places. The restoration project, completed in 2018 and overseen by Robin Healy of Greenland Solutions, includes adaptive reuse of the 1892 home. It is now Marie's Bed and Breakfast. In addition to the rehabilitation of the house, the grounds were renovated and special care was taken to preserve an historic English oak tree on the site that was threatened by removal. Two new residential buildings were built onsite by Chris Ruef of Altis Construction in a style that complements the Queen Anne architecture of the original home. Their new construction, and the adaptive reuse of the structure, makes the restoration project more economically viable and helps ensure the long-term preservation of the historic home.

The McIntyre House restoration and adaptive reuse is part of a larger, multifaceted project and vision of Ms. Elliott's. Her vision extends to most of the block between Cushing Street, Black Lake Boulevard, Harrison Avenue and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW. For example, she purchased the neglected 1920s era rental house at 106 Division and rehabilitated the structure. It now houses Phoebe's Pastry Café.

Alicia also bought the John and Elsie Adams house at 135 Cushing Street NW. Like the McIntyre House, the Adams House, built in 1900, is individually listed on the Olympia Historic Register. She plans to rehabilitate and enlarge the house to use as office space or a rental, under the review by the Historic Commission and with the assistance of architect Jeffrey Snyder. Here again, care is being taken to preserve the remains of an historic orchard and an original outbuilding.

In addition, Alicia contracted with Altis Construction to build the Parkside Café in a style to compliment, highlight and reflect the architecture of the block. She terms the design of the Café building as a "sign of respect" for the older structures on the block. The new building, also designed by Snyder, includes shop and restaurant space. It is intended to make the block more attractive to local residents and visitors. Ms. Elliott compliments Mr. Snyder's attention to detail, knowledge of local codes and interest in historic architecture.

Ms. Elliott's original interest in the block developed when she purchased the site of the Rowland Lumber Company in 2012. The land had been considered for construction of a gas station and convenience stores following demolition of the historic lumberyard building in 1997. Instead, she created a large public park space and donated the land to 501C3

non-profit corporation. The resultant West Central Park is committed to maintaining a green, vibrant, walkable neighborhood and a resilient, connected community. Traditional and historic crafts such as apple pressing, blacksmithing and carpentry have been demonstrated in the Park and at Marie's. Following the purchase of the lumberyard site, Alicia noticed the great historic architecture on the remainder of the block and began to acquire additional properties. She says that she drew inspiration for the overall project from the successful neighborhood business districts created in Portland that include historic buildings.

Ms. Elliott has been attentive to details that contribute to the success of this neighborhood redevelopment. She arranged to have the alley on the block vacated when she noticed it was being used by drivers evading traffic lights at high speed. The alley is now a pedestrian space connecting the various businesses on the block.

Ms. Elliott's vision has led to the preservation and restoration of historic buildings and the creation of a setting that promotes their appreciation and long-term survival, as well as improved public access and community green space where none existed before.