

Northwest, and will leave your meeting attendees feeling rejuvenated and inspired. BY PEYTON SCHELLER

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The Point Hotel

CONTEMPORARY DESIGN IN A WOODLAND SETTING

The Point Hotel in Kingstons, Washington, is the newest economic venture of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe. Opened in November 2016, the boutique hotel sits adjacent to the tribe's Casino and Event Center, and is five minutes from another S'Klallam-owned event venue, Heronswood Garden, providing meeting planners with multiple options for an event.

The architecture, interior and landscaping of the four-story Point Hotel is infused with Native design that begins at the parking lot entrance with a steel sculpture of standing paddles, a symbol signifying welcome in S'Klallam culture.

The building's low-lying wood exterior, surrounded by Northwest landscaping, was inspired by the tribe's House of Knowledge, its first longhouse built in the last 100 years. The newly completed outdoor Spindle Whorl Courtyard features an expansive terrace embedded with a concrete design portraying two whales and five story poles carved by Northwest tribal artists.

Inside, Native art is everywhere from the red whale carving behind the lobby desk and the nearby tribal archive display to the photographs and art on the walls of the 85 king and double queen guest

rooms, eight corner suites and larger Players Suite. Each sleekly decorated room is equipped with WiFi, a luxurious bathroom and flat screen TV.

The hotel's light and airy first floor meeting room opens onto the courtyard. The 3,000-square-foot room has full audio-visual capacity and can seat up to 100 in a classroom-style arrangement.

For larger events, the 8,000-square-foot Event Center accommodates up to 600 attendees. With a stage and full sound and lighting system, the room has been used for concerts, weddings, benefit dinners and large meetings.

On and off-site catering is available through Market Fresh Banquets and Catering, a joint venture of the hotel and the tribe.

Nearby, the fifteen-acre Heronswood Garden can be used by groups as a stand-alone or complementary venue space. The botanical gardens, filled with exotic plants gathered by globe-trotting horticulturist, Dan Hinkley, has three distinct outdoor settings available for ceremonies or receptions.

Hinkley's former home, located in the middle of the property, has been remodeled for use as a wedding and meeting space. The main room, overlooking a lushly landscaped garden, can seat 15 to 20 people with additional informal seating located throughout the one-story house. It's a striking setting for a board retreat or small meeting.

The uniquely designed Point Hotel and Heronswood are located ten minutes from the Kingstons Ferry on scenic Kitsap Peninsula. BY ANN RANDALL

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Centralia Square Grand Ballroom & Hotel

RENOVATED 1920S VINTAGE HOTEL AND BALLROOM

Situated across the street from George Washington Park in downtown Centralia, Washington, the Centralia Square Grand Ballroom & Hotel offers guests comfortable amenities in a vintage setting. For the 2014 renovation, the owners utilized quality materials to refurbish the facility. Their goal was to restore the building's decor and architectural details to be reminiscent of the 1920s. The Grand Ballroom & Hotel radiates the charm and exuberance of the Roaring Twenties paired with modern-day conveniences such as indoor electricity, plumbing and WiFi.

The formal and sophisticated 2,800-square-foot grand ballroom accommodates up to 300 people. The high ceilings with antique crown molding date back to a period of flamboyance and

festivities. The long rectangular room is the ideal setting for formal meetings, weddings and other events requiring a spacious and open venue.

On the second floor, the Parkview Terrace wraps around the side and back of the building to overlook the charming downtown streets of Centralia. This outdoor space, boasting iron railings and umbrella tables, sets the stage for garden parties reminiscent of a lost era. The 1,200-square-foot terrace holds 49 people.

The downstairs east and west banquet halls can be joined together to offer a large space of 1,600-square-feet, accommodating up to 120 people. The two halls can be used separately with each room holding 60. Parking is free in the large lot behind the hotel.

The hotel with 16 guest rooms sits in a quiet section of town. Bathroom facilities vary between rooms, some having marble showers, and others having half-foot tubs. TVs are non-existent in rooms, giving guests the opportunity to step back in time and participate in the long-lost activities of reading, writing and pursuing the old-fashioned art of conversation.

Berry Fields Cafe serves breakfast and lunch, and The Branch Bar & Public Room is open for happy hour and dinner. Both restaurants cater, but event planners are free to hire any food services contractor.

Centralia is centrally located halfway between Seattle, Washington, and Portland, Oregon, offering an eclectic array of activities both inside and out. Exceptional dining and museum opportunities abound in both cities, and outdoor options include visiting Mt. Rainier, Mt. St. Helens, and even the beach, which is only a 90-minute drive away. According to owners Neil and Jodi White, the Central Square Grand Ballroom & Hotel offers "downtown elegance and small-town prices." BY TRACY BEARD

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