Executive Summary

Community input from the Cannery open house shows strongest support for uses that create broad public benefit, reinforce local identity, and keep the site active for both residents and visitors. The highest dot-vote totals clustered (in order) around a Museum / Educational Center, a Pool, and marine-oriented uses including a Small Boat Center, marine trades training, and aquaculture or habitat restoration. Event and community space also ranked strongly, indicating widespread interest in the Cannery functioning as a long-term civic and public-serving asset rather than a single-purpose commercial site.

Across dot voting, written comments, and stakeholder input, several consistent themes emerged: preservation of the Cannery's historic character, expansion of marine education and hands-on learning, creation of flexible community gathering space, and prioritization of uses that serve local residents while still supporting tourism. Environmental stewardship is a dominant cross-cutting priority, including strong emphasis on protecting Jackson's Beach as a largely undeveloped public shoreline, incorporating habitat restoration, and minimizing impacts such as lighting and shoreline disturbance.

Tribal and commercial fishing input introduces a critical working-waterfront, cultural, and economic dimension. The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community emphasized the historical significance of the site and strongly advocated for the inclusion of commercial moorage and fishing gear storage to meet pressing regional needs. Local commercial fishing stakeholders reinforced this perspective, identifying specific infrastructure gaps including commercial moorage for resident and transient vessels, gear storage, cold/freezer capacity, and equitable boat launch access. Collectively, this input highlights the importance of evaluating water-dependent uses that support both Tribal interests and the working maritime economy.

In parallel, the Lummi Nation has advanced a comprehensive and place-based vision centered on a Lummi-led heritage center and modern longhouse at the Cannery site. The Lummi Indian Business Council emphasizes that the site sits within a historic Lummi village and homeland, and presents a rare opportunity to restore cultural presence, tell the full history of the islands, and reestablish connections disrupted by the development of the commercial fishing industry. The proposal frames the Cannery not just as a redevelopment site, but as a place for cultural restoration, education, and stewardship, with potential to create year-round employment, strengthen public access with meaning, and anchor long-term Tribal partnership through government-to-government collaboration.

Friends of the San Juans expressed strong support for this direction, reinforcing the importance of Tribal partnership, cultural interpretation, and environmental education.

They specifically support collaboration with the Lummi Nation and highlight the opportunity to integrate Indigenous knowledge with environmental learning, creating a unique model that connects cultural heritage with stewardship of the Salish Sea ecosystem. This perspective aligns environmental priorities with cultural leadership and strengthens the case for a place-based, education-driven use of the site.

A notable contextual factor is that the Art RFP was discussed during the same open house, and that topic appears to have carried into Cannery responses. Community members clearly value art and cultural expression, with recurring interest in public art, artist space, and integration of art into the site. This should be interpreted as a meaningful signal of community interest, while recognizing that some feedback likely reflects crossover from the Art RFP rather than a primary Cannery land-use priority.

An additional community vision reflected in the submitted Cannery use material comes from Salish Sea Sciences, which outlines a mission-oriented concept for a multi-use education and outreach campus centered on scientific research, ecological restoration, cultural understanding, and public engagement with the Salish Sea. The proposal includes near-term ideas such as classrooms, an interpretive center, office and locker space, accessible paths, sustainable landscaping, renewable power, and potential small-dock access, along with longer-term concepts including wet-lab and aquaculture research space, visiting team housing, gathering or museum space, and a commercial kitchen. While this material is advocacy-oriented rather than a formal Port proposal, it reinforces the broader pattern in public feedback favoring education, marine science, habitat restoration, cultural interpretation, and flexible community-serving uses over narrowly commercial redevelopment.

At an executive level, the input points toward a mixed-use future centered on education, recreation, heritage, community use, environmental stewardship, and marine engagement, with limited support for purely industrial or narrowly commercial concepts. Stakeholder input further indicates that the most viable path forward will need to carefully balance four core elements:

1. *Strong public-serving and educational uses,*
2. *Protection of shoreline, habitat, and environmental quality,*
3. *Meaningful Tribal partnership and cultural interpretation, and*
4. *Consideration of working-waterfront functions that support regional fisheries.*

This summary is intended to reflect the input received for Commission review. Following that review, staff will look to the Commission for direction on any next steps it would like pursued.

Cannery Open House and Art RFP Response Comment Cards

Cards were made available for attendees to write their thoughts or what they thought we may have missed. Each number represents the feedback we received on a single card.

1. Jackson's beach restroom light shines in houses, Night Sky Lighting
2. Jackson's beach, Night Sky Lighting
3. Food trucks skills building, teaching, mentorship, jobs
4. Espresso/juice bar, Preservation of historical vibe, No more art!, Beach clean-up, Recycle center drop off
5. Marine outreach and Education Center for Salish Sea Sciences, UW Friday harbor labs, high school students to volunteer. Open water flow through tanks for aquaculture habitat restoration including a tank for eel grass rack/transplants opportunistically collected from beach walkers. Transplants used for citizen science based eelgrass conservation program. Would be a great location to harvest eel grass on beach and drop it off in tank at Cannery! AKA seagrass strolls initiative!
6. Event Center, low-cost "local goods" restaurant -farm to table, senior activities, open all the time hands on kids and adult touch tanks sensory activities.
7. Regardless of the use of the cannery building, Jackson's beach should remain as is, undeveloped, available for picnics, swimming and quiet enjoyment of the shore. It's especially important to have a public beach near town
8. Boat rental and water activity rental
9. Any use that serves the community not tourists under the use that serves both example saltwater pool, etc. We don't need T-shirt shops etc. not a Monterey cannery row! A museum, small aquarium and the like would serve tourism and the local community
10. Note on the Options: Dry Storage and Small Boating Center. This does not tell anyone what this option really offers, a place for Islanders and visitors to take small boats out - sailboats, kayaks, etc. to learn, race and be engaged with our local

marine environment. Instead it opens with two of the dullest words in the English language. "Dry Storage" it makes me think of boxes of worn out seasonal clothes or old magazines. I'm concerned this great idea will get filtered out early due to a lack of community enthusiasm because of the inaccurate phrasing on the input sheets. I really hope that doesn't happen

11. Needs to be profitable! Not a drain on port finances

12. Marine educational and resource centers and community hub science hub

13. Have planning with major community input. Like the library did you can decide what way the space be used. But it is a very creative way to go. * Where the current housing is upstairs. Make move affordable housing we desperately need it working people really have a hard time living here. I am semi retired and can't afford to live here anymore. I will move off the island in 2027. Sadly after living here almost 50 years. * I believe our community could use a big meeting space. Sit down theater style movable seats so it can be used as a banquet space. If there was a banquet kitchen for caterers to work out of, (not a full kitchen cooking like the kitchen at brickworks, but bigger) *The other space would be a multi use for marine or maritime slash fishing museum sailing out of island way sustained for at least 100 years by boat only transportation to America we could also have a gift shop there. * Put solar on that huge roof

14. Additional pavilions for shade rain shelter along the beach like 2-5 more. * More designated fire pits. * More parking to the South of volleyball courts (large flat area with separate access road) under utilized public benefit space. * Boat rental, kayak rental. * Better swimming beach here for kids like cascade lake, with safe space identified for swimming. * Large event gathering space. None really exists near water with facilities. * Retail and firewood, sunscreen, hats, sunglasses, things you need near and on the water. *Electricity or a food truck vendor. * Better parking stripped for more efficiency

15. The restaurant needs the large deck to view the sunset and Dinner Island. A small boat center is very important

16. Cannery Night Sky Lighting

17. No matter what, I prioritize the preservation of the cannery as long as it is saved and opened to the public. I'm happy considering my family's history with the fishing industry and the fact that it is the only cannery left in the San Juans, I would love to see its rich history being recognized

18. Mixed-use, aquarium, cafe and rental of paddle boards etc. Family friendly for locals plus tourists
19. Please convene another session like this one, as the uses for the cannery site are narrowed down from blue sky to a few choices before the commission chooses
20. Please consider the habitat approach when deciding on any modification
21. Trade training welding building in cooperation with UW research office employment restaurant with dock access
22. Tear down the cannery and let Mother Nature heal. Jackson's Beach has given its all and deserves a rest
23. Please consider combining art efforts from different artists particularly Kevin Roth's statues, The Alchemy Arts proposal along with Christie's glass works for the cannery, it would be gorgeous
24. Schools and training centers for marine ecology and biology. Art museum for island art
25. Similar to what communities have done in Sweden and Norway a large community sauna with glass views towards the water likely a separate structure from the cannery, it would complement the saltwater pool. All great for locals
26. Boat houses for small sailboats, canoes and rowing rigs, no engines. *Wildlife exhibit and biological museum education center *Salish Sea museum *Artist studio space.
27. The heated sea water pool is a fantastic idea. It would provide employment, tourism and local enjoyment for all.
28. What are your plans to help OPALCO with the supply of "base load" 50-100 megawatts to all of our electrical network. Floating nuclear reactor, small scale are being built where you would place one or two. Most are not pressurized water but melted metal or molten salt. B.P.A. is going away. Our river will one day flow free!

Raw Data from the Cannery Open House

These numbers represent the dot votes accumulated for the 17 future uses of the Cannery.

Dry Moorage /Small Boat Center	44
Museum /Educational Center	78
Event / Community Space	41
Boating/Sailing/Marine Trades School	44
Aquaculture/Mariculture/Habitat Restoration	44
Ferry Landing	2
Retail Sales (Art Coffee, Etc..)	10
Barge Landing + Container Crane	10
Housing	1
Fish and Meat Market	11
RV / Campground	14
Pool	54
Desalinization Plant	17
Cold Storage	4
Aquarium	20
Restaurant	23
Tribal	9

Tribal Commentary and Interest

My name is Brett Lizotte, Harbormaster for the Swinomish Tribe in La Conner/Anacortes. I am writing you in response to the recent press release from the Port of Friday Harbor about the Jackson Beach Cannery planning effort and upcoming town hall. As you know, San Juan Island has important historical significance to the Swinomish. With that, both the Tribal Senate and the community strongly advocate for commercial moorage and crab pot/fishing gear storage to be included in the Port's plans for the cannery and accompanying parcel. Representing the Port of Swinomish, I also implore the Port to consider this in their planning efforts. Commercial moorage and gear storage is a critical need for the entire region and is the primary influence on our planning/construction efforts in the Swinomish Channel.

If you believe it would be helpful, Fred Cayou (Swinomish Port Authority Chairman) and I are willing and able to attend the public open house to present. Do we need to sign-up to do a presentation? I realize the Press Release says "informal discussion" but I wanted to be on the safe side and reach out. I thank you for your time and I am dedicated to making an effort to strengthen the ties between our two Ports.

Respectfully,

Brett Lizotte
Harbormaster
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
11406 Moorage Way
La Conner, WA 98257

Good afternoon Todd, Port Commissioners, and Staff, I, having been a customer of the Port for 50 years or more, a commercial fisherman, and resident of Friday Harbor, would like to present a few recommendations/ideas for the Port to consider.
On behalf of myself, and my fellow commercial fishermen, treaty or non-treaty, I would like to see these ideas implemented or highly considered as a benefit to us and to the overall community.
Number one:
Commercial fishing moorage slips for resident fishermen and a dock for transient fisherman where they could raft, etc.

Number two:
Gear lockers for commercial fishermen where we can store nets, traps, supplies, etc. as other ports such as Anacortes, Bellingham, and Seattle.
Number three:
A freezer van or something similar where we can store salmon, seafood, bait, etc.
Number four:
A boat ramp that doesn't exclude commercial fisherman.
My father, Charles H. Nash (Port Commissioner for 27 years), always thought the idea to purchase this property was a very sound and logical idea. He had commercial fishermen in mind when he mentioned this idea in port meetings several years ago. Also, being the great visionary that he was, he thought the charter fleet would be a flourishing part of the Port economy.
I thank you very much for considering my ideas.
I consider the Port a big part of my life and I am very grateful for the many years I have been able to moor my boats, and use the facilities.
Sincerely yours,
Charles G. (Nick) Nash

LUMMI INDIAN BUSINESS COUNCIL
2665 KWINA ROAD • BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON 98226 • (360) 312-2000

June 4, 2026

Board of Port Commissioners Port of Friday Harbor
PO Box 889 Friday Harbor, WA 98250

Re: A Lummi-Led Heritage Center and Modern Longhouse at the Jackson Beach Cannery

Honorable Commissioners,

The Lummi Nation writes in strong support of a partnership with the Port to transform the former JJ Theodore Cannery into a Lummi-led heritage center and modern longhouse on Griffin Bay and to ask that an authentic Lummi vision sit at the table from the start, through genuine government-to-government consultation.

The Lummi have belonged to these islands since time immemorial. Our villages stood across all the San Juans Islands including, San Juan, Orcas, Lopez, and Shaw and our reef-net grounds ringed these waters. When the Treaty of Point Elliott was signed in 1855, fourteen Lummi representatives signed it, among them Hwu-lah-lakq, whom the settlers called Thomas Jefferson, held a reef-net ground off Fisherman's Bay in these islands. The Treaty did not end our presence here; the commercial fishing industry set out to erase it.

Beginning in the 1890s, corporate fish traps were sunk across our reef-net grounds, ruining the locations our families had held for generations. When the Lummi took the Alaska Packers Association to federal court in 1897 to defend those grounds, the court turned us away. By taking our **sxwole** (reef net), our technology, our access, the industry cut us from the very heart of our economy, our governance, and our spiritual life, where the salmon were welcomed as our **sheyelh** (older sibling). Our island villages were homesteaded by others, our fisheries seized, and for the better part of a century our people were cut off from the reef net almost entirely. We did not choose to leave these islands or abandon our homelands; we were removed from them by disease, by the reservation, by the traps and the canneries, and by a law that shielded the taking. The cannery on this beach is not itself the hand that took our fisheries; it rose later, a branch of the same industry, standing adjacent to that removal rather than at its root. But that nearness is exactly why it is the right place to tell this history honestly, and in full.

But our story does not end in removal. We are coming home. Guided by the vision of our ancestors and our elders, who welcome us back to these waters, we are bringing our children to these shores, relighting the **sxwole**, and returning ceremony to this place. A modern longhouse and heritage center at the cannery would anchor that homecoming for good so that within our own children's lifetime, the generations to come inherit an unbroken, living connection to who they are.

LUMMI INDIAN BUSINESS COUNCIL
2665 KWINA ROAD • BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON 98226 • (360) 312-2000

San Juan Island is Lummi land and Lummi water. We have never left. Our ancestors remain here, in great number, to this day, and we have never relinquished our responsibility to care for this place. And so we extend our hand to the whole island community to all who have made their homes here as respected guests. Sit with us. Learn the true history of this place. Walk with us along these beaches and through this land, sea, and cultural landscape in a way that honors the old people who still dwell here.

Such a center also serves the Commission's own goals: it creates year-round, living-wage jobs in interpretation and stewardship for the seasons when tourism ebbs; it opens the Griffin Bay waterfront to the public with real meaning; and it places the restoration of these shorelines in partnership with the people who have cared for them the longest. Only here, and only with the Lummi Nation, can the Port steward something truly singular, historic, and rooted in right relations.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with the Commission and the community, and to begin this work together.

With Respect,

Chairman, Tony Hillaire

Lummi Indian Business Council

Friends *of the* San Juans

Dear Port of Friday Harbor Commissioners,

Friends of the San Juans appreciates the opportunity to provide additional comments regarding the future of the Jackson Beach Cannery property.

Earlier in the public process, we submitted a comment letter supporting the educational and scientific vision proposed by Salish Sea Sciences. At the time, we were unaware of the proposal being developed in partnership with the Lummi Nation. Having since learned more about that vision, we would like to express our strong support for the Port working collaboratively with the Lummi Nation to establish a cultural heritage center and longhouse at the Jackson Beach Cannery site.

As an organization whose mission is to bring nature and people together through science, education, policy, and community engagement, Friends of the San Juans recognizes the importance of environmental learning that includes the voices, histories, and knowledge of Indigenous peoples. We are committed to supporting Tribal sovereignty, strengthening Tribal partnerships, and elevating Indigenous knowledge and leadership in conservation, stewardship, and environmental education throughout the Salish Sea region. We believe that supporting Tribal leadership and creating opportunities for cultural education are essential components of meaningful stewardship in the San Juan Islands.

Jackson Beach is not simply a waterfront property; it is a place with deep cultural significance and history. Long before the cannery was established, this area was part of a vibrant Lummi village and homeland. Yet many residents and visitors know little about the Indigenous history of this place or the enduring relationship between the Lummi people and the islands. Too often, Tribal stories, perspectives, and contributions have been left out of how we interpret and share the history of the San Juan Islands.

The Jackson Beach Cannery property presents a rare and meaningful opportunity to change that. A Lummi cultural heritage center and longhouse would create a permanent place where islanders and visitors could engage directly with the history, culture, art, language, and living traditions of the Lummi people. It would foster understanding, strengthen relationships, and provide educational experiences that cannot be replicated elsewhere.

We also believe there may be meaningful opportunities for the cultural center to incorporate environmental learning and interpretation that highlights the lands, waters, and ecosystems that have sustained Northern Straits Salish communities since time immemorial. If appropriate and desired by the Lummi Nation, shared educational spaces or exhibits that connect cultural heritage with the ecology of the Salish Sea could provide visitors with a deeper understanding of the relationship between people and place. This approach would create powerful opportunities to learn not only about the history and living traditions of the Lummi people, but also about the natural systems that continue to support Indigenous communities and all who call these islands home.

www.sanjuans.org PO Box 1344, Friday Harbor, WA 98250 360-378-2319

While there are many worthy ideas for the future use of the cannery property, we believe the Lummi proposal is uniquely suited to this location because of its historic and cultural connection to the site itself. The opportunity to support Tribal-led interpretation, cultural revitalization, and community gathering at a former Lummi village site is both compelling and appropriate. It would honor the history of the land while creating a space for learning, reflection, and connection for generations to come.

We encourage the Port of Friday Harbor to work closely with the Lummi Nation to explore and advance this vision. We believe it represents a powerful opportunity to acknowledge the past, strengthen relationships in the present, and create a lasting legacy for the future.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to an inclusive community-driven planning process.

Sincerely,

Jess Newley

Jess Newley, Community Science and Education Director

Friends of the San Juans

Salish Sea Sciences

MISSION-ALIGNED ORGS & FRIENDS (TIME-SENSITIVE)!

The Port of Friday Harbor (POFH) is seeking public input regarding future uses of the cannery property at Jackson's Beach.

(1) Please provide POFH with comments **by May 29.** POFH input link: https://www.portfridayharbor.org/jackson-beach-cannery/#:~:text=Cannery%20Comments,Captcha (you may have to copy and paste the link for it to work).

(2) Please attend the public meeting **on June 4th** at 5:30pm at the Mullis Center.

(3) Please read our draft proposal below and participate!

THE SALISH SEA CENTER

The JJ Theodore Cannery at Jackson's Beach sits at the heart of the Salish Sea. One of the last such facilities in the region, the cannery today is a spectacular symbol of a century of development and industrial resource extraction throughout the region. The former factory now sits vacant, and the property has been recently acquired by POFH. The Port is soliciting public input for its future. The following outline describes a vision for its use and we solicit your input and (hopefully) support. We have approached several of you informally, and we seek to build a strong coalition of local organizations to advocate for this vision.

Opening the cannery for public engagement through scientific research, ecological restoration, cultural understanding, education, and recreation is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to better connect residents, researchers, and visitors with the Salish Sea.

Salish Sea Sciences, a local educational organization, which for nearly 15 years has connected local scientific and culturally significant organizations for the benefit of high school students, is seeking partners to imagine and lead the rebirth of the cannery property.

Suggested multiple-use facility for education/outreach/engagement:
Outdoors

- Beach access by human-powered watercraft; possibly a small dock
- Landscaping demonstrating sustainable, Indigenous cultivation
- Renewable power
- Compostable toilets for outdoor day-use
- Accessible interpretative center and paths with benches and viewpoints throughout

Indoors

- Two classrooms
- Storage lockers and office space
- Wet lab with multiple benches
- Aquaculture research center (e.g., pinto abalone)
- Apartments for visiting scientific and educational teams (longer-term plan)
- Gathering/events space/museum with artifacts of extraction & restoration (longer-term plan)
- A commercial kitchen (longer-term plan)

Salish Sea Sciences • PO Box 326, Friday Harbor, WA 98250 • 360 622-9883 • www.salishseasciences.org • cgrauman@salishseasciences.org

According to the POFH website: "There is a fair bit of work to be done to adjust the property zoning to allow the maximum possible uses. Changing to the correct land use designation takes time… However, public input about what islanders would like the property to become will make the planning process much more efficient and hopefully produce viable ideas that can be incorporated into future plans."

At Salish, we believe that nearer-term ideas for facilities, including the classrooms, interpretive center and small dock, lockers, and office would be in high demand for local non-profit organizations, and could come into use while longer term plans evolve. The aquaculture/wet-lab facility would be a research lab (in the old canning room) with seawater piped in and up to five benches for use by research scientists and their students.

POFH is open to ideas from the community, and we feel that this concept should resonate with the Port, fill an important need for the community, and mesh well with existing facilities.

Please feel free to call me, set up a time to meet, or reply with comments on this .doc. Do add your org or initials to the filename! Please find a PDF attached as well.

With all best,
Caroline

Caroline C. Grauman-Boss, Executive Director

Salish Sea Sciences

Salish Sea Sciences brings motivated high school students together with scientists and other professionals whose work is to learn from and protect the Salish Sea, its creatures, and its people. In this context, our mission is: 1) grow a community of critical thinkers, 2) bring innovation to public engagement in science, 3) raise awareness of science as a career path, and 4) advance a more diverse cohort of investigators.

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