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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Port Angeles Main Library to host model of Billy Frank Jr. statue August 19-24, visitors welcome

Artist Haiying Wu's final statue will be cast in bronze and installed at National Statuary Hall in 2025

Port Angeles, WA – The North Olympic Library System (NOLS) will host a model of Nisqually tribal leader and activist Billy Frank Jr. from Monday, Aug. 19, to Saturday, Aug. 24, in the Port Angeles Main Library, 2210 S. Peabody St. The model is a copy of the clay model made by renowned Chinese American sculptor Haiying Wu as he developed his vision for a statue of the late Nisqually leader. Wu is developing this model into an 11-foot tall clay statue, which will be cast in bronze before installation at National Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C. The model's tenure in Port Angeles represents a special opportunity for the public to see Wu's craftsmanship up close and experience history in the making.

"The Library is honored to host this model sculpture of Billy Frank Jr. and informational posters to help visitors learn about his key role in advocating for Native American rights and tribal sovereignty," said Noah Glaude, NOLS Executive Director. "It provides an opportunity to reflect on the impact of historical and contemporary issues faced by Indigenous peoples." A Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission meeting held in Port Angeles the week of Aug. 19 has provided the opportunity for the model to travel to the area and for local residents to view the model.

Billy Frank Jr., born on March 9, 1931, was a Nisqually tribal member. He fought tirelessly to ensure that the United States government would honor the promises made in the treaties with Washington tribes. His unwavering commitment to the fight against racism and abuse has had global influence. In 2015, he was posthumously awarded the presidential medal of freedom by President Barack Obama.

Members of the public are invited to view the model during the library's open hours, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Learn more about the statue project at arts.wa.gov/billy-frank-jr.

About Nisqually Indian Tribe

The Nisqually Indian Tribe is a sovereign nation located on the Nisqually River with more than 800 enrolled tribal members. The tribe employs 1,500 tribal and non-tribal people in government and its enterprises under their Medicine Creek Enterprise Corporation. The tribe has worked to protect and restore the land throughout their traditional territory from Mount Rainier to the mouth of the Nisqually River and continue to do that work just as Billy Frank Jr. did throughout his life. For more information, visit nisqually-nsn.gov.

About ArtsWA

ArtsWA is the Washington State Arts Commission, a state government agency established in 1961. ArtsWA works to be a catalyst for the arts, advancing the role of the arts in the lives of individuals and communities throughout the state. Programs include Art in Public Places, Arts in Education, Grants to Organizations, and other special projects. For more information, visit arts.wa.gov.

About NOLS

The North Olympic Library System (NOLS) is a junior taxing district providing public library services to all of Clallam County, Washington. In addition to the Port Angeles Main Library, NOLS has branch locations in Clallam Bay, Forks, and Sequim, as well as a Bookmobile to expand access to library services. NOLS' mission is to nurture imagination, connection, and understanding, to improve lives and strengthen community. For more information, visit nols.org.