



STURGEON BAY
Historical Society Foundation, INC

P.O. Box 827 · Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Door County Granary – Frequently Asked Questions

The Sturgeon Bay Historical Society Foundation is open to answering all questions and encourages transparency surrounding the goals and benefits of the Door County Granary project. Please direct questions to Project Manager Nicole Matson at 920-241-6819 or nicole@doorcountgranary.org or SBHSF Board President Laurel Hauser at 920-493-0572 or lduffinhauser@gmail.com.

1. What is the Door County Granary?

Also known as the Teweles and Brandeis Grain Elevator, built in 1901, the Door County Granary is being repurposed as a public space on its original site in the heart of Sturgeon Bay within the newly developed west waterfront park. The Door County Granary is the last remaining structure of the turn-of-the-20th century agricultural economy that transformed Sturgeon Bay into a year-round community. Its presence on the westside waterfront tells a story that weaves together outlying farms, Great Lakes shipping, the Ahnapee and Western Railway, and the Shipping Canal – many of the pieces that made Door County the unique place it is today. According to Door County Historian George Evenson, “Door County was built on agriculture.”

2. Who owns the Door County Granary?

The Granary is owned by the Sturgeon Bay Historical Society Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. It sits on public land owned by the State of Wisconsin and managed by the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands. The land is leased to the City and sub-leased to SBHSF.

3. Who will benefit from the Door County Granary? How will it be used?

Residents of Door County and the State of Wisconsin and visitors to the area all benefit from the Door County Granary being located on public land held in trust by the State of Wisconsin for its citizens per Wisconsin’s Public Trust Doctrine. The grain elevator will be open to the public as a fully interpreted agricultural museum, without charge. It will also provide public gathering space, a kiosk for our local, state and national trail systems, and offer public bathrooms for the west waterfront park. It will be available for private rentals and community events. As the last-standing wooden elevator on the Great Lakes, the Door County Granary has local, regional and national significance and will be an impressive landmark for all to see.

4. How is the Door County Granary project being funded?

The Door County Granary is funded 100% through private donations and grants, at no expense to the City or its taxpayers. A long list of donors includes many residents of Sturgeon Bay, Northern Door County and beyond. With a limited staff, the Door County Granary project relies on volunteers generously donating their time to advance the project. Funding has been focused on saving the building after it was partially dismantled in 2018, returning it to its original location, developing design plans with esteemed architectural team LA DALLMAN, working in compliance with the City and the State Historic Preservation Office, installing new underground pilings and a new foundation, refurbishing original old-growth wooden features, all to restore the building to its former prestige.

5. Who will maintain and operate the Door County Granary long-term?

SBHSF is responsible for completing, operating, and maintaining the Door County Granary. SBHSF's resources from volunteers and private donors has supported the work to restore the Granary to date. An operational plan and budget have been developed for future sustainability based on comparable venues in Door County. Income from private donations, rental revenue and other sources will cover the cost of operations, as is the case with other non-profit organizations in Door County like Third Avenue Playworks, the Miller Art Museum, Write On Door County, Crossroads at Big Creek, The Ridges Sanctuary, the Door County Maritime Museum, etc.

6. How was the public involved in the decision to include the Door County Granary in the west waterfront development plan?

In 2018, an Ad hoc West Waterfront Planning Committee was created to make recommendations to the City Council. Ten members met over a 10-month period and actively solicited public input through a survey, public meetings and two well-publicized community input forums held at Sturgeon Bay High School. The Ad hoc committee unanimously agreed on a plan to recommend to the Plan Commission and Council that included the Door County Granary. Public input was again sought before the City of Sturgeon Bay Common Council unanimously approved the West Waterfront Plan in August of 2019.

7. When will the Door County Granary project be completed?

Multi-million-dollar projects are complex and take time. The Door County Maritime Museum, Third Avenue Playworks, the YMCA, and many other structures are examples of large capital projects that took many, many years to complete. The Sturgeon Bay Historical Society could not start fundraising in earnest until it had a signed development agreement and a state-approved sub-lease from the City and methane-mitigation approval from the DNR. The sublease was signed in late 2020 and the DNR permit approved in early 2022. Fundraising for the project is ongoing. Also, as with other construction projects, the high cost of construction and supply chain issues have caused unanticipated delays. Unlike new construction, the Door County Granary is a historical restoration project which requires creativity, collaboration, and regular problem-solving to fully realize an authentic representation of what once was a working grain elevator. Without cutting corners, the Granary's construction team will be restoring the building step by step. This relies on the completion of certain areas before other areas can be addressed. The development agreement with the City calls for the project to be largely completed by April 30 of 2023.

8. Who is a part of the construction team?

Greenfire Management Services is the general contractor responsible for construction. Greenfire hires sub-contractors, such as Immel Construction, to help complete the work on site. LA DALLMAN, an award-winning architecture team, brings professional technical design experience, and Beane Engineering, as the structural engineer, ensures the Granary's integrity long into the future. SBHSF's construction team collaborates weekly with these professionals to continue the goal of authentically preserving the building while maintaining safety, a logical progression of activity, and responsible management of donor funds.

To find out more, visit www.doorcountygranary.org