wələbʔaltxʷ: The Lushootseed building name selected by the Elders’ Committee meaning Intellectual House

Reminiscent of traditional dwelling and ceremonial structures of Northwest tribes, the University of Washington Intellectual House Longhouse (previously known as the House of Knowledge Longhouse) will be “a home away from home” for all who enter.

Benefits of the Intellectual House
- Enhances recruitment and retention for Native American students, faculty and staff by creating a “home away from home”
- Expected to increase Native American enrollment and graduation rates
- Visibly manifests and symbolizes the importance of Native traditions in the institutional culture
- Provides an educational venue for Native American curriculum and programs
- Contributes to the region’s economic development through partnerships and research with the tribes
- Fulfills a 40-year-old dream

Statistics
- Project will include two buildings with an outdoor gathering circle, and will be built in two phases
- Phase 1 includes a 8,400 gross square foot building which will feature a multi-service learning and gathering space
- Phase 1 project cost is $6.0 million
- Phase 2 includes a 8,400 gross square foot teaching and learning building
- Phase 2 expected project cost is $6.5 million and is subject to completion of fundraising
- Environmentally responsible building with LEED Silver Certification

Project Status
- Design has been completed by the Seattle architecture firm Jones & Jones
- An art plan has been developed by 4Culture to integrate Native art into both phases
- A central and visible site has been selected along Stevens Way (just south of Lewis Hall) near the student dormitories
- An Elders’ Committee and Planning Committee have helped guide the project
- Local tribal communities have donated both materials and funding

Schedule
- Phase I is planned to be open for use at the start of Winter Quarter 2015.
  - Design Development: June 2012 – September 2013
  - Bidding/Award: October 2013 – November 2013
  - Construction: November 2013 – November 2014
  - Occupancy: December 2014

“Native students, faculty, and staff who are at colleges or universities with longhouses say they chose to attend the institution in part because the longhouse served as a welcoming place for them.”

Learn more at www.washington.edu/diversity/hok Email: UWTribeLiaison@uw.edu or lewism@uw.edu Call: (206) 685-8054