

# Sand Man Historic Tug



## Overview

The Sand Man tugboat is on local, state and federal historic registries and has been in our Boatworks facility for over three years. The nonprofit that owned the vessel, the Sandman Foundation, has dissolved and left the Port with an over \$30,000 delinquent storage payment. In July of last year, we initiated the public auction process on the vessel and no bidders emerged. At that time, the Port assumed ownership of the vessel.

## Proposal for Preservation

Due to the state of deterioration, it will never be seaworthy again and has passed the point of any sort of realistic restoration. We are currently evaluating a proposal from the Historic Maritime Foundation, ([historicmaritimefoundation.org](http://historicmaritimefoundation.org)), on an alternative path for preservation.

With guidance from the City of Olympia's Historic Preservation Officer and Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, we are exploring the concept further with a subcommittee of the Heritage Committee.

## Key Elements of Proposal

### Salvage and Reuse of Historic Components

- Important elements of the vessel—such as the engine, masts, wheelhouse—would be carefully removed and preserved.

### Public Display and Interpretation

- Selected artifacts could be installed within the community, with interpretive signage that tells the story of the Sandman and Olympia's maritime history.

### Archival Preservation

- The vessel would be documented through historical records, storytelling and digital preservation. This ensures the Sandman remains accessible to future generations

### Organized Distribution Process

- Artifacts would be inventoried and distributed to historic preservation entities, prioritizing local organizations that can preserve or actively use them.

# More Info

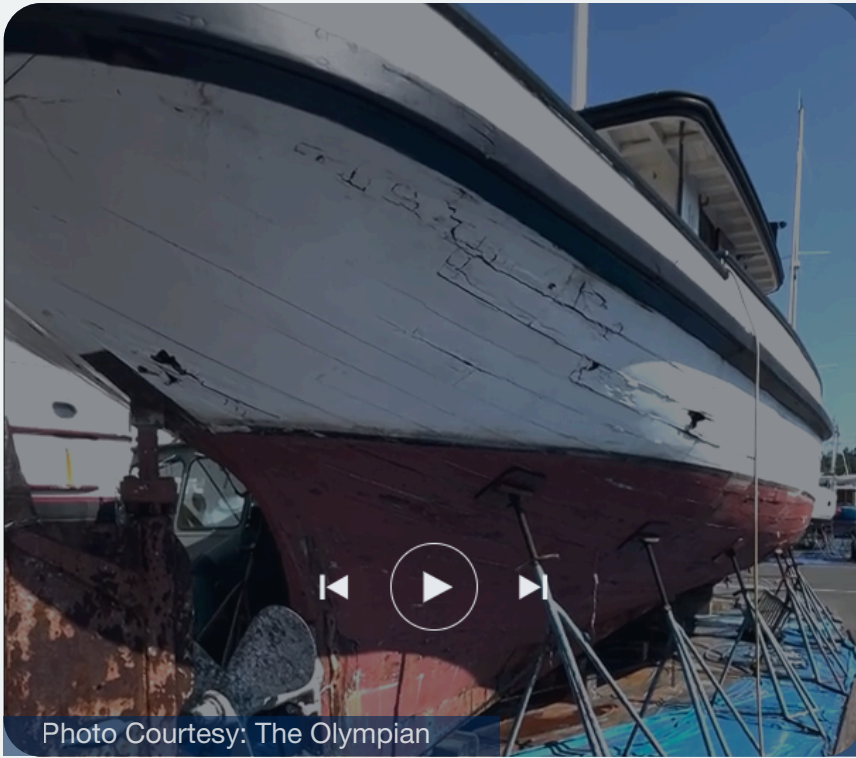


Photo Courtesy: The Olympian

[No bidders emerge for historic tugboat that used to host tours on Olympia's waterfront](#)

The Olympian | July 24.2025



Photo Courtesy: Harbor Days

[Olympia committee considers delisting Sandman tugboat from historic register](#)

The Jolt | April 23.2026

