

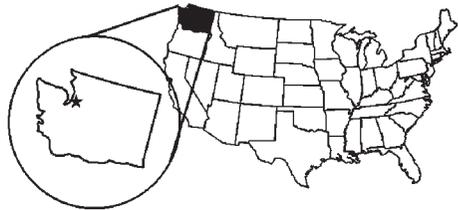
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON



Population Rank: U.S. # 23
Washington # 1

Proportions: 11:15 (usage)

Adopted: 16 July 1990 (official)



DESIGN: Seattle's flag has an elaborate design in two colors. The field is a teal blue/green—a dark aquamarine, “the color of Puget Sound at dusk”, according to the ordinance of adoption. From the top half of the hoist on a white background run four equally-spaced teal stripes, generally horizontal, but slanted slightly upward and ending in a curved shape resembling a hook. The top stripe is 3.5 units in length on a field of 11 by 15 units. Each of the stripes below decreases in length one-half unit. The width of the stripes is .5 units; the bottom edge of the top stripe is 2 units from the top edge of the field, and the stripes are approximately 1 unit apart.

Emanating from below the “hook” of each of the top three stripes is a teal ribbon that undulates toward the center of the flag and intertwines with the others to form a sort of wreath around the center of the flag, averaging about 8 units in diameter, all on white. Within this wreath, which appears to be cast from the foam of surf, is a stylized rendition of the city’s seal, in its center a profile of Chief Seattle, facing the hoist. Around the chief’s head are two teal curved bands that appear to be cut ribbons, about the same width as the hoist stripes, one from his chin to the top of his head, and the other beginning lower at the back of his head, and extending beyond his neck. Together these form a stylized “S”. Around this figure, in teal letters beginning about 9 o’clock and ending at 3 o’clock, is **CITY OF GOODWILL**. Dots at 8 and 4 o’clock separate the remainder of the legend, **SEATTLE**, which curves from 7 to 5 o’clock.

SYMBOLISM: Chief Seattle, leader of the local Suquamish tribe, is known best for giving his name to the city and for his 1854 speech defending the preservation of nature. His profile also represents other Native Americans of the region. “City of Goodwill” was chosen as the city’s nickname at the same time as the flag was adopted. The design suggests Seattle’s location as a port city.

HOW SELECTED: The council adopted a city flag and nickname in preparation for the Goodwill Games (an international athletic event) and Goodwill Arts Festival to be held in Seattle in 1990.

DESIGNER: Councilmember Paul Kraabel.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The central seal design is much like one proposed for a new city flag in 1976 designed by the David Strong Design Group, but never adopted.

FORMER FLAGS: Few cities have made so many unsuccessful attempts to adopt a city flag as Seattle before 1990.

In 1962 and 1964 various council members called for a city flag. A Seattle designer, William Werrbach, created two designs, but neither was adopted. In 1968, local flag enthusiast Dr. Willard Goff designed

a flag, but council rejected it as too contemporary (it showed the Space Needle and a supersonic transport). In 1976 Mayor Wes Uhlman recommended the flag designed by the David Strong Design Group for commemoration of the United States bicentennial, but the council declared its agenda too busy to consider it. The following year council member Phyllis Lamphere promoted the idea of adopting a city flag once again, but she finally gave up, saying that her efforts “didn’t excite anyone”. There the matter rested until 1990 when the current city flag was finally adopted.



In 1943, Councilman Frank McCaffrey designed and had manufactured a city flag that he presented to the council, although it was apparently unofficial. Very similar to Washington’s state flag, it has a green field of 3 by 5 units with the city’s

seal in gold in the center. The seal shows a profile of Chief Seattle toward the hoist, • CITY • OF • SEATTLE • curved over his head, and 1869 centered below it. Surrounding this portion is ring that declares over the top half, CORPORATE • SEAL • OF • THE as a preface to the city’s name below.

In the lower half of the ring are two dolphins, one on either side facing the lower center point, where two fir cones are shown. The dolphins, according to the seal’s designer, James A. Wehn, symbolize Seattle as a center of deep-water commerce; the fir cones represent the Evergreen State (Washington’s nickname). (The seal was adopted 13 January 1937.) McCaffrey’s flag was known as “Council’s Flag”, and hung in council chambers for at least two decades.



About 1934 Mayor Charles L. Smith presented an unofficial city flag to the Nile Temple of the Shrine Legion of Honor (a Masonic marching body) and the Shriners used it for years to represent the city at their national meetings. This flag,

apparently one of a kind, is 5:7 in proportions. The white field has a narrow blue border. In the center of the field is a frontal portrait of Chief Seattle, presumably in natural colors, surrounded by a white ring edged in gold on which **CHIEF** curves above and **SEATTLE** curves below, all in gold. Emanating from the top of the band is a gold flourish extending to either side. Across the top of the flag is a broad heraldic ribbon, white and edged in gold, with **CITY OF SEATTLE** in gold, "OF" smaller than the other words. Centered below the ribbon and immediately above the gold flourishes is the legend, in smaller gold letters, **INCORPORATED 1869**. Centered at the bottom in larger gold letters is **WASHINGTON**. Whether city officials may ever have used the flag is unknown.

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