



Island County COVID Response

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PRESS RELEASE

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New county building on Camano Island wins design award

Because of its innovative design, Island County's new Camano Administration Building was recognized recently by the American Institute of Architects Washington Council.

The AIA Washington Council Civic Design Awards celebrate design excellence in publicly funded projects located in Washington state. The awards recognize the best examples of innovation, sustainability, building performance and overall integration with the client and surrounding community.

The Camano building received AIA Washington's Merit Award, the organization's second highest award for design excellence.

"We are proud of the new Camano Administration Building, not only because it is visually a beautiful building for our public and employees, but also it represents the commitment of the board to deliver equitable services on both islands," said Island County Commissioner Janet St. Clair, whose district encompasses all of Camano Island and north of Oak Harbor on Whidbey Island.

The Camano Administration Building, which is 8,500 square feet, replaced a half-century old, 3,000-square-foot building. The new facility incorporates a large reception area, service counter and collaborative workspaces. The design enables the administrative and Sheriff's departments to better serve the residents of Camano Island.

"The new Camano Administration Building will be an asset to Island County for many decades," said Larry Van Horn, Island County Facilities director. "The community has been very complimentary. They really appreciate the vastly improved parking and access to public services inside the building."

The new building also includes a large public meeting space and conference rooms for community meetings and events. The building uses locally sourced materials, natural ventilation, and daylight to create a healthy and comfortable workplace. A new accessible parking area and related landscape improvements connect adjacent existing buildings to form a civic campus.

Of note, according to Van Horn, the new building was constructed at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, but there were no reported cases on the construction site. He said this can be attributed to the precautions and protocols that were put in place.

Island County commends Seattle-based SHKS Architects and Lynden-based Faber Construction for their outstanding collaboration and leadership on this project.

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