

HARBORNEST

OWNER | *Amy Flippo*



Amy Flippo, a local realtor and proud owner of Harbornest, is a **pillar of community support** and someone who loves to bring people together. Stepping into her store, visitors are greeted with a warm ambiance that beckons them to sink into the inviting comfort of her leather couch and linger. In addition to offering meticulously curated collections of men's and women's fashion alongside home goods, Amy and her team **regularly host events that spotlight other small businesses** and build community engagement.

Amy's small business plays a vital role in the Gig Harbor waterfront's dynamic fabric, **bridging connections and fostering a sense of belonging among** residents and visitors alike.

In a testament to her commitment to enhancing community spaces, Amy Flippo has been named one of the first recipient of the 2024 Alliance Small Business Grant. With this grant, she plans to **elevate the ambiance** and curb appeal of Harbornest by enhancing its exterior lighting. This improvement not only adds to the aesthetic charm of the area but also encourages shopping and foot traffic during evening hours, aiding in bolstering local commerce.

Amy's initiative highlights her unwavering commitment to enriching the cultural landscape of the Gig Harbor waterfront while prioritizing **unparalleled customer service** and care. This dedication ensures that every visitor to her store experiences a **memorable and delightful encounter**, making Harbornest a destination worth returning to time and time again.

B'S BAGELS

OWNER | *Brittany Erwin*



Brittany Erwin, owner of B's Bagels in Gig Harbor, has become a **well known friendly face within the community** since opening her doors just over a year ago. She brings a little bit of the East Coast out west by crafting small batches of **hand-rolled New York-style bagels** in a cozy and inviting environment six days a week.

Beyond just serving bagels, what sets this establishment apart is its role as a community hub. Whether you're waiting in line, chatting with a neighbor, or reconnecting with an old friend ahead of you, **B's Bagels fosters meaningful connections that strengthen community bonds**, earning it a cherished place as a beloved local Gig Harbor institution.

As a recipient of the 2024 Alliance Small Business Grant, Brittany is always thinking about her community and how she can make a positive, lasting impact. With the grant funding, she **plans to enhance the facade and curb appeal** of her establishment, transforming the outside into a more inviting space for locals and visitors alike.

The project was completed in **May of 2024**, and rejuvenated the streetscape of Gig Harbor, **attracting more foot traffic and bolstering economic vitality**. By investing in the aesthetic charm of her business and the surrounding area, Brittany is not only enhancing the visual appeal of the neighborhood but also contributing to its overall vibrancy and livability for years to come.



GIG HARBOR AUTOMOTIVE

OWNERS | *Brian & Jen Smith*

Gig Harbor Automotive is an **essential cornerstone** of the waterfront district in Gig Harbor. Since 2008, Brian and Jen Smith have guided this small shop, **providing critical services in automotive repairs** and maintenance. Their convenient location offers easy access for both locals and visitors, ensuring reliable and timely car care.

What distinguishes Gig Harbor Automotive is not only their technical proficiency but also the **inviting feeling you get when you walk in the door**, evoking the comforting charm of a small-town community. Whether just passing by or dropping your car off for service, you know you'll be greeted with a friendly wave or smile.



BRIAN & THE GIG HARBOR AUTOMOTIVE TEAM

Recognizing the importance of art in community enhancement, Gig Harbor Automotive has been named a recipient of the 2024 Alliance Small Business Grant.



CURRENT VIEW OF PROJECT SITE



SAMPLE RENDERING OF COMPLETED PROJEECT

With the grant's support, Gig Harbor Automotive plans to spruce up their classic building by **commissioning a mural artist to create a beautiful classic car mural** on their building's side wall, ensuring it catches the eye of both pedestrians and drivers passing by.

Art murals aren't just eye-catching and appealing; **they serve as a visual expression of a small town's unique identity**, reflecting its history, culture, and values for all to see. These one-of-a-kind artworks not only enhance the aesthetic appeal of the community but also **foster a sense of belonging and pride** among residents, making the town more inviting and memorable for visitors.

Gig Harbor Automotive's mural art project is estimated to be completed in the summer of 2024.

HARBOR CENTER

OWNERS | *Gary & Linda Glein*

The Harbor Center building, owned by Gary & Linda Glein, located at 3200 Tarabochia St. in Gig Harbor, **serves as a cornerstone of community** located right on the main street leading to the historic waterfront district.

With Gary's active involvement in the Gig Harbor Waterfront Alliance, including his current role on the design committee, **the Glein's are deeply committed to enhancing the charm and vibrancy of the waterfront district.**

In the pacific northwest, often covered in overcast skies and rain, **lighting plays a pivotal role** in creating a welcoming and inviting atmosphere year-round.



GARY & LINDA GLEIN



JENNIFER SIEVERS, OWNER, SIEVERS REAL ESTATE, TENANT

Well-designed lighting not only illuminates the beauty of the surroundings **but also contributes to safety and visibility for pedestrians and drivers alike.** Additionally, strategically placed lighting can enhance the architectural features of buildings, draw attention to storefronts, and **create a sense of warmth and hospitality,** crucial for attracting foot traffic and fostering economic activity in local businesses.

Recognizing the significance of lighting in promoting community vitality, the Gleins secured a grant to enhance the lighting on their Harbor Center building, **a hub for five local businesses** within the Gig Harbor Waterfront District.

The grant funding allowed for the installation of high-quality, energy-efficient lighting solutions that illuminated the exterior of the Harbor Center building.

By enhancing the visibility and aesthetics of the building, the improved lighting will contribute to a **more vibrant and welcoming streetscape,** inviting residents and visitors to explore the offerings of the businesses housed within.

Through their proactive efforts to enhance lighting infrastructure, the Gleins are not only investing in the success of their own property but also in the overall vitality and appeal of the Gig Harbor Waterfront District as a whole.



HAVEN BEAUTY TEAM, TENANT



PHOTO OF COMPLETED LIGHTING AT DUSK

HAWKINS-POE

OWNERS |

*Jennifer Hawkins Hansen
& Charlie Hawkins Floberg*



COMPLETED VITALITY PROJECT

Nestled in the heart of downtown, Hawkins Poe Real Estate, owned by Jennifer Hawkins Hansen and Charlie Hawkins Floberg, epitomizes a **blend of tradition and modernity**. Their recent purchase and renovation of a historic building in the waterfront district signifies a commitment to preserving the town's historic character while injecting fresh vitality. Having secured an Alliance Grant for a lighted sign as part of their renovation project, **their dedication to community enhancement is evident**.

Their vision extends beyond property to community connectivity. Their building is one of the first to greet residents and visitors as they drive down Pioneer St. towards the heart of the waterfront district. To Jenn and Charlie, **this project wasn't just about aesthetics; it was about creating a welcoming space for friends, clients, and locals to gather**, fostering connections and shared experiences.

In the waterfront district, lighting isn't just functional—it's transformative. It enhances safety, encourages foot traffic, and fosters a sense of belonging. For Hawkins Poe Real Estate, **illuminating their signage and landscape honors the past while embracing the future**.

The waterfront district is fortunate to count Jenn and Charlie among its business and property owners. Their **dedication is instrumental** in preserving Gig Harbor's beauty, vibrancy, and charm for generations to come.

LOCAL WHIMSY

OWNERS | *Caasi Dickens & Salena Ausburn*

If you haven't been to Local Whimsy yet, you are in for a treat! Founded by Caasi Dickens and Salena Ausburn, this unique retail store was born from a **desire to create a space where community members could discover unique, locally crafted products and plants** while indulging in hands-on activities. It's the kind of store that makes you want to grab a coffee and a few friends, hang out and explore a curated selection of quality, on-trend items perfect for all ages.

Despite being open for less than a year, Local Whimsy has quickly established itself as an anchor in the waterfront district. Central to their success is their commitment to fostering community connections through workshops and activities tailored to all ages and interests. From crafting sessions to gardening workshops, Local Whimsy provides a space **where creativity flourishes, and memories are made.**



LOCAL WHIMSY OWNERS CAASI DICKINS & SALENA AUSBURN



NEW SIGN OUT FRONT OF LOCAL WHIMSY

a vital tool for local, small businesses like Local Whimsy to **establish their presence, attract foot traffic, and communicate their identity** to passersby.

In a city filled with competing storefronts, a well-designed and prominently displayed sign serves as a beacon and landmark, guiding potential customers and adding a welcoming feel to the district as a whole.

STITCH-O-ROO

OWNER | *Jenny Czyzewski*

Jenny Czyzewski, the owner of Stitch O Roo & Art Too, a local sewing and art studio in the waterfront district, came up with a **fun idea aimed to boost foot traffic** in Gig Harbor's waterfront district during Restaurant Week in March.

Her event, titled the Starfish Scavenger Hunt, is focused on youth in the local community and **encourages families to explore the waterfront**, its businesses and parks during a typically quieter time.

Kids from Voyager Elementary created approximately 250 colorful clay starfish, which will be hidden in outdoor spaces between March through end of year for participants to find and keep. Finders were encouraged to post photos on social media, **promoting community engagement and exploration.**

Events in small towns, no matter their size, are **essential for building community cohesion** and driving local economies. They bring residents together, fostering a sense of belonging and pride, while also attracting visitors.



JENNY CZYZEWSKI, OWNER, STITCH-O-ROO



Stitch-O-Roo received a small grant from the Alliance to help fund the Starfish Scavenger Hunt. Grants such as these empower businesses to actively contribute to the community's vitality and economic development.

By providing funding for such events, the Alliance Grant program **encourages creativity and innovation among local entrepreneurs**, while recognizing the effort and sharing some of the cost to showcase the Gig Harbor waterfront district's unique character and charm.

Moreover, **investing in events strengthens the sense of pride and ownership among residents**, ultimately contributing to the long-term sustainability and prosperity of our beautiful town.



STARFISH FOR THE SCAVENGER HUNT