

# Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

February 25, 2025

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<b>Agenda Item:</b>	7a	<b>Information</b>
<b>Public Comment Allowed:</b>	Yes	
<b>Topic:</b>	Heritage Division Update	
<b>Presented by:</b>	Matt Rippee, Deputy Director for Field and Community Services	

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## 2024 Year in Review:

The Oregon SHPO accomplished significant work with federal, state, and local government agencies and many partners across the Heritage Community. The *2024-2033 Oregon Historic Preservation Plan* and *Oregon Heritage Plan* guides the Division's projects and initiatives. Highlights from 2024 include:

- Issued 256 archaeology permits, commented on 2,017 development projects, and signed 15 Memorandum of Agreements and 5 Programmatic Agreements under federal and state cultural resource laws.
- Processed surveys for 165,380 acres, documenting 1,161 historic sites. Of these, 848 were archaeology sites, and 313 were built sites.
- Listed 14 properties in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Awarded \$664,553 in grants for historic cemeteries, museums, historic property and archaeology projects, and in federal pass-through funds for Certified Local Governments.
- Partnered with the State Library of Oregon and State Archives to host the Oregon Scenic Images collection online, making over 60,000 photos of Oregon's natural and built environments available on Northwest Digital Heritage (NWDH). NWDH is expected to surpass 1 million records in February 2025.
- Released reports, including the *2024 Oregon Heritage Vitality Study Report*, *Oregon Women's Labor History Context*, and the *Report on Addressing Harmful Content in Collections*.
- Hosted the 2024 conference in Forest Grove, the first in-person conference since 2018, and offered workshops on collection care basics.
- Designated Coos Bay as a Heritage All-Star Community and recognized Portland Saturday Market as an Oregon Heritage Tradition.



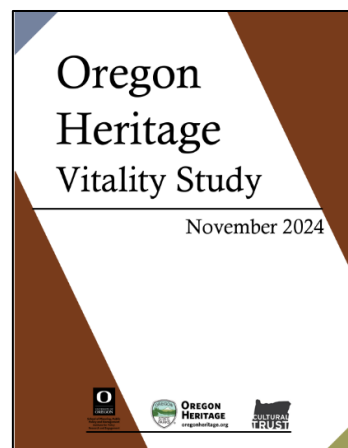
Oregon Heritage Awards Dinner and Presentation at the 2024 Oregon Heritage Conference



The Portland Saturday Market is recognized as the largest continuously operating open-air arts and crafts market in the country

## Study identifies risks for Oregon's heritage organizations and recommendations

The Oregon Heritage Commission's *2024 Oregon Heritage Vitality Study Report* identifies key issues affecting the operational vitality of Oregon's heritage organizations and offers six recommendations to support the sector's health. This study updates the 2010 *Oregon Heritage Vitality: The Challenge of the Past for Oregonians Today and Tomorrow* report, addressing contemporary challenges Oregon's heritage organizations face. These organizations include Tribal, federal, state, and local governments, museums, historical societies, historic cemeteries, Main Street organizations, libraries, archives, genealogical societies, and others preserving and sharing Oregon's history. The first recommendation suggests forming a workgroup of heritage leaders and professionals to explore solutions for improved advocacy, better statewide and regional service coordination, increasing funding, and advancing statewide policy recommendations. Additional recommendations focus on communication, promoting the value of heritage, expanding funding options, fostering community connections, and addressing facility and operational needs.



## Hughes Flying Boat (H-4 Hercules) Relisted in National Register of Historic Places

Oregon's State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation recommended the Hughes Flying Boat (H-4 Hercules) for nomination in October 2023. The National Park Service (NPS) added the aircraft to the National Register on October 15, 2024.

The H-4 Hercules, also known as the "Spruce Goose," is nationally significant for its association with Howard R. Hughes, Jr., a pivotal figure in American aviation, and for serving as a research platform for innovative systems later standardized in large aircraft. This one-of-a-kind prototype flew only once, on November 2, 1947, and was used from 1947 to 1953 to test aviation innovations like Duramold wood composite construction and redundant fire suppression and flight control systems. It remains the largest seaplane, wooden aircraft, and propeller-driven plane ever built. After its flight, the plane was housed in Long Beach, California, until 1992, when it was disassembled and moved to McMinnville. Listed in the National Register in 1980, the National Park Service delisted the aircraft after it was moved without the agency's approval. Reassembled in 2001, it now serves as the centerpiece of the Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum and is the only individually-listed aircraft in Oregon.



**Hughes Flying Boat**  
Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum

### Three Federal Grants Completed

Oregon Heritage, through the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), successfully wrapped up three major federal grants.

#### *Oregon Historic Theater Subgrant Program*

This five-year project, funded by the National Park Service's Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program, aimed to revitalize rural communities through historic preservation. With \$665,000 in funding, eight theaters were rehabilitated, and all were added to the National Register of Historic Places:

- Alger Theatre, Lakeview
- Cameo Theatre, Newberg
- Dallas Cinema, Dallas
- Egyptian Theatre, Coos Bay
- Granada Theatre, The Dalles
- Liberty Theatre, North Bend
- OK Theatre, Enterprise
- Rex Theater, Vale

The grants leveraged nearly \$600,000 in matching funds, and these projects will benefit an estimated 1.7 million people over the next five years. Special thanks to Robert Olguin and Genessis Castillo for their contributions.



**Alger Theatre, Lakeview  
Before (top) and After (bottom)**

#### *Oregon African American MPD*

This five-year project developed a tool to list properties tied to Black history in the National Register of Historic Places. Funded by a \$30,000 National Park Service Underrepresented Communities Grant and matched by Oregon Cultural Trust partner funds, the project strengthened relationships with Oregon Black Pioneers and the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History. Thank you to Robert Olguin, Val Ballestrem, Caity Abrahms, and Genessis Castillo for their work.

#### *Bureau of Land Management Cooperative Services Agreement*

This three-year project supported SHPO's compliance bureau during a critical period of layoffs and high demand, partly due to the 2020 wildfires. The \$239,000 grant improved coordination, project review, and report digitization. Thanks to the Finance team, Ian Johnson, and Aspen Kemmerlin for their excellent management of this grant.

**Prepared by:** Katie Henry, Oregon Heritage Commission Coordinator  
Kuri Gill, Oregon Heritage Grants & Outreach Manager  
Ian P. Johnson, Associate Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer