Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

June 12, 2019

Agenda Item: 8a  
Topic: Heritage Division Update  
Presented by: Christine Curran, Deputy SHPO

Oregon Main Street Program Awards Over 5 Million Dollars in Grants, Program Coordinator Honored.

Oregon Heritage awarded 30 matching grants worth $5,244,261 to Oregon Main Street Network organizations across the state for building projects encouraging downtown economic revitalization. Projects include facade improvements, housing, and seismic upgrades, with awards ranging from $56,731-$200,000. Upper floor and downtown housing projects receiving funding fill both a local housing need and enhance the local economy by putting vacant space back into productive use. The City of Coos Bay received $200,000 for eleven new apartments; $200,000 in Cottage Grove for six apartments and retail upgrades; $149,751 for four new apartments in Klamath Falls; $200,000 for four new apartments in Tillamook, and; $200,000 towards 10-12 new units in Woodburn. Many of the participating communities hosted well-attended public events to celebrate the projects. In Lakeview, the Main Street organization hosted a community celebration with a free lunch provided by a local food truck to acknowledge the funded grant to purchase the historic Alger Theater. The grants and events have been widely reported by local media, as well as regionally in the San Francisco Chronicle and nationally by the Associated Press.

Main Street Program Coordinator, Sheri Stuart was recently recognized by Governor Kate Brown as a 2019 Public Service Ambassador. The honor recognizes “individuals who consistently promote positivity in the workplace and exemplify what it means to be ‘ambassadors of public service.’” Sheri was recognized for her pivotal role in directing the growth and development of the program and its wide-ranging reach and positive impact throughout the state, as well as her drive, organizational abilities, and as an “example of that one person working tirelessly behind the scenes to make a huge difference.”

Stuart was one of five OPRD employees nominated as either a Public Service Ambassador or recognized for their commitment to state service. The other nominees/recognized employees: Jodi Bellefeuille, Recreation Trails Grant Program Coordinator; Sabrina Hay, Lead Contracts Coordinator; Randy Fisher, Network Systems Analyst; and Guy Rodrigue, Manager of Silver Falls State Park.
Oregon Heritage Summit Held in Medford, April 25 – 26th.

Oregon Heritage hosted its second Oregon Heritage Summit in Medford, April 25-26. Over 120 attendees from historical societies, museums, Main Street organizations, and landmark commissions dove into the topic “The Culture of Board Engagement” to learn tools and strategies for building stronger, more capable heritage organization starting with their own board of directors. Attendees left with knowledge of board roles and responsibilities, and inspiration to implement best practices.

As part of the Summit, Heritage Programs held the 12th Annual Oregon Heritage Excellence Awards. The award recognized individuals, organizations, and businesses for their outstanding efforts in conserving and developing Oregon’s heritage. Awards are given to those who go above and beyond expectations, make the most of available resources, and serve as models to others in the state, often utilizing new ideas and approaches. A total of 98 individuals, projects, businesses, and organizations have been honored.

In 2019, seven awards were presented:

-- **Building a Better Community: The Canby Women’s Heritage Trail**, the first heritage trail in the state to focus on accomplishments of women, with a multi-layered approach to community engagement.

-- **Cultural Resources Department of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde**, for 30 years of dedicated work as a department to preserve and celebrate the Tribe’s cultural history, recently culminating in the *Rise of the Collectors* exhibit.

-- **David Dittman**, for reporting an archaeological find on private land and going above and beyond expectations to engage the public.

-- **Ann & Owen Nicholson**, for their critical role in providing Nehalem Valley Historical Society with a museum and archive.

-- **Kylie Pine**, for going above and beyond her professional capacity as curator at Willamette Heritage Center to impact the community through teaching, volunteer work, board service, and publications related to local history.

-- **Richard & Judith Wagner**, for extraordinary research, writing, and community engagement related to Coos Bay and North Bend history.

-- **Salem Depot**, an excellent preservation project spearheaded by the Oregon Department of Transportation that overcame challenges, worked across agencies, and merged multiple modes of transportation to rehabilitate an historic building.
Laurelhurst Historic District in Portland Listed in the National Register of Historic Places

The National Park Service listed the Laurelhurst Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places in March. The listing is the result of a successful multi-year locally-led education effort spearheaded by the neighborhood association. Outreach included meetings, newsletter articles, websites, and a very successful historic house tour in fall 2018, among many other efforts. Only 14 owners objected to the listing. The District includes approximately 1,300 houses and Laurelhurst Park, and is significant as Portland's only residential subdivision that captures the planning principles of the “City Beautiful” era. The neighborhood is also notable for its examples of early 20th century American domestic architecture. The “City Beautiful” era was an American planning movement during the 1890s and 1920s that emerged from the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago. The movement attempted to create places that visually encouraged civic pride and engagement in the urban landscape through architecture and design.

Prior Action by Commission: none

Action Requested: none

Attachments: none

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