



Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Oregon Heritage Commission

The Oregon Heritage Commission is a group of leaders from across the state that works collaboratively to champion resources, recognition, and funding for preserving and interpreting Oregon's past. Founded in 1995 by the Legislature, the Heritage Commission is comprised of nine gubernatorial appointments and nine ex-officio members. The Commission is designated in [ORS 358.570-595](#) as the primary agency for coordination of heritage activities in Oregon.

Commission Members:

Rosemary Johnson (Chair), Kerry Savage (Vice Chair), Maureen Flanagan-Battistella, Randall Melton, Libby Provost, Jamie Marroquin, Katee Withee.

Advisory Members:

Chrissy Curran, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer; Ross Fuqua, State Library of Oregon; Amit Kobrowski, Department of Education; Larry Landis, Higher Education Coordinating Commission; Mary McRobinson, Oregon State Archives; Kerry Tymchuk, Oregon Historical Society; Michelle Woodard, Travel Oregon

Monday, January 27, 2025

Zoom

MINUTES

Monday, January 27, 2025

9:00 am

Business Meeting

Members Present: Rosemary Johnson (Chair), Kerry Savage (Vice Chair), Maureen Flanagan-Battistella, Randall Melton, Libby Provost, Jamie Marroquin, Katee Withee. Advisory members: Ross Fuqua, State Library of Oregon; Larry Landis, Higher Education Coordinating Commission; Mary McRobinson, Oregon State Archives; Kerry Tymchuk, Oregon Historical Society; Michelle Woodard, Travel Oregon; Ian Johnson, SHPO

Staff Present: Katie Henry, Commission Coordinator; Kuri Gill, Oregon Heritage Grants & Outreach Coordinator; Mary Newcomb, Administrative Assistant

Public: Catie Boucher, Elissa Bullion, Jennifer Fang

Meeting Notes

Meeting brought to order at 9:03am.

1. Commission Business

Action

- a. Approval of Agenda

- i. Commissioner Provost, moved to approve the meeting agenda as submitted. Commissioner Melton seconded the motion. Commissioners Johnson, Savage, Marroquin, and Withee voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Flanagan Battistella was absent at the time of the vote.
 - 1. Motion carries; 6 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.
- b. Review of the November 3-4, 2024, meeting minutes will take place at the May 5, 2025, business meeting.

2. Public Comment

Information

- a. Chair Johnson called for public comment related to items not on the agenda.
 - i. None.

3. Tribal Relationship Resolution

Information

- a. The Tribal Relationship Building Sub-Committee members are Libby Provost, Randall Melton, Jamie Marroquin, Katie Henry, Kuri Gill.
- b. The Sub-Committee decided to pursue drafting a resolution showing a commitment to work on building Tribal relationships. The Sub-committee has divided the discussion based on the two sections of statements within a resolution:
 - “Whereas” statements are the reasons for the resolution, the sub-committee approached these as the why the Commission is doing this based on the conversations at the sub-committee level and Commission level over time.
 - “Therefore” statements are the actions that the Commission wants to take moving forward.
- c. An outline of these two types of statements has been presented to the Commission for consideration to make sure that the Commission discusses and agrees on the outline of statements so the sub-committee can then work on draft language.
- d. Discussion was had about land acknowledgement, “Federally recognized” vs Indigenous, reparative language descriptions and resources, other groups with similar and complimentary efforts, adding statements to highlight the individuality of each tribe, and intended use of the statements.

4. Oregon Heritage Update

Information

- a. Commission Coordinator, Katie Henry, informed the Commission of staffing and program updates.
 - i. The 2026 Heritage Plan – The request for proposals is open and will close February 5th. More information about a chosen consultant will be at the next meeting.

- ii. The 2024 Heritage Vitality Study – Entities have approached staff wanting to know how they can engage. Commissioners will receive an updated list of stakeholders to review and add to.
 - iii. The 2025 Oregon Heritage Virtual Summit will take place, April 17-18, 2025. The Non-Profit Association of Oregon is partnering with Oregon Heritage on the program. Topics will include recent studies about the decline of Non-Profit advocacy. Registration will open in early February.
 - iv. America 250 Oregon Commission – A website will be launching in February that will assist in giving guidelines for organizations becoming an official event, timelines, official events, and exhibits. These Commission meetings are open to the public.
 - v. Workday Support for Commissioners – There have been challenges. Staff ask that the Commissioners not hesitate to reach out when they encounter issues or questions.
 - vi. Public Meeting Law – Board and Commission staff participated in a webinar on public meeting law provided by the Oregon Ethics Commission. We will be working on adjusting some things in order to make sure we are following these laws.
- b. Kuri Gill, Oregon Heritage Grants & Outreach Coordinator gave a Legislative update about bills OPRD is tracking because of their projected impacts, as well as grant opportunities.
 - i. Grants open now: Preserving Oregon, Diamonds in the Rough, Oregon Museum Grant, Historic Cemeteries. Workshops are available online and applications close in the Spring.

5. Commissioner Reports

Information

- a. Chair Johnson, Astoria; Utilizing grants received, she has been working on the North Coast's heritage disaster resiliency plan.
- b. Vice Chair Savage, Baker City; Continues to work on an insurance coverage issue that has impacted a local Heritage organization.
- c. Commissioner Battistella, Medford; no update.
- d. Commissioner Marroquin: Recommended the OHS.org website for more 250th information.
- e. Commissioner Melton, Pendleton; Nápt Tananáwit, Láxs Níšayčt, or Two Cultures - One Community Powwow is taking place February 28 - March 2, 2025, in Pendleton.
- f. Commissioner Provost, Portland; Acknowledged the financial hardships for heritage organizations and staff. The Five Oaks Museum in Washington County is temporarily closed.

- g. Commissioner Withee, John Day: Dates have been chosen for the Archaeology Roadshow and will be sent to Katie Henry for disbursement.
- h. Ian Johnson, Advisor, Associate Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer; His programs are now fully staffed after 9 hires last year, and they added 14 places to the National Register of Historic Places in 2024.
- i. Larry Landis, Advisor, Higher Education Coordinating Commission; no update.
- j. Mary McRobinson, Advisor, Oregon State Archives; no update.
- k. Kerry Tymchuk, Advisor, Oregon Historical Society; Recommended OHS.Org for more information about tour he is on with Megan Lallier-Barron.*
- l. Michelle Woodward, Advisor, Travel Oregon; A lot of interest from the heritage community about grants available through Travel Oregon. This past fall, she assisted with workshops and events held in Central Oregon that emphasized heritage projects.
- m. Ross Fuqua, Advisor, State Library of Oregon: Northwest Digital Heritage is close to 1 million harvested records from institutions in Oregon and Washington. New collections are coming from small organizations and libraries.

Meeting adjourned at 10:36am.

Commission Planning Calendar

- 1. May 4-5, 2025** – Location to be determined; Eugene or Coburg
- 2. May 27, 2025** – Virtual; Museum Grant Approval
- 3. July 27-28, 2025** – Location to be determined
- 4. October 26-27, 2025** – Location to be determined
- 5. January 26, 2026** - Virtual