

Subject to Change

Oregon Heritage Conference

STORIES, CULTURE, PLACE - WEAVING COMMUNITY HERITAGE

WOODBURN, APRIL 29 – MAY 2, 2026

The Oregon Heritage Conference brings together people who share a common passion for Oregon’s heritage and history to share insights, understand connections, develop relationships, learn new ways to address issues and opportunities, reinforce the value of the work, and leave energized to keep moving forward.

Designed to be interdisciplinary and cross-pollinating, the conference focuses on all sectors of cultural heritage, such as historic preservation, museums, archives, libraries, Main Streets, historic cemeteries, archaeology, Tribes, genealogy, public history, and local, state, federal government.

Communities are complex and varied, how they are viewed by visitors and residents is informed by the long history of human experience in that place and their own experiences. The 2026 Oregon Heritage Conference will explore the intersection of stories, culture and place to develop community heritage. This heritage is the anchor for participation, economic development, connection, and possibilities for a vibrant and healthy community.

April 29, 2026

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION CHECK-IN SITE – WOODBURN HISTORICAL MUSEUM, 455 N FRONT STREET

WORKSHOPS

8:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Grantsmithing 101 Workshop

Deb Vaughn and Dawn Smallman, Travel Oregon

After convening a grant review panel, one of the common phrases from participants is “I wish I’d known what this conversation was like before I wrote my grant!” Travel Oregon’s Investments Team is giving you the opportunity to do just that: In this session, participants will take on the role of grant reviewers by reading three grant proposals and comparing them to a scoring rubric. Participants will break into small groups, discuss their observations and make a (mock) recommendation for funding. The session will include a facilitated reflection on the process and how to apply learnings to writing future grant applications.

Chemeketa Community College, 120 E Lincoln

Accomplishing State & Federal Repatriation in Small Organizations

Elissa Bullion, Legislative Commission on Indian Services

Dawn Marie Alapisco, Oregon State University, Director of the NAGPRA Office

This workshop will help small organizations (such as museums and community colleges) understand their legal



obligations for repatriation of Ancestors and belongings under state and federal laws. The presenters will cover how to identify individuals and belongings that are subject to repatriation, how to initiate consultation with appropriate Tribes and other required parties, and how to implement best practices for an ethical and appropriate repatriation process.

Woodburn City Hall, 270 Montgomery Street

Illuminate the experience - A Hands-On Museum & Gallery Lighting Workshop with ERCO

Daniel Rory Harvey, ERCO

This workshop is being coordinated by Oregon Museums Association and is not included in Heritage Conference Registration. Register for this workshop [here](#).

Join ERCO for a free-flowing, hands-on workshop exporting how modern lighting technology and conservation come together in museums and galleries. Test tools, share challenges, and discuss real-world solutions - from glare and flexibility to preservation and visitor engagement. An open, collaborative session designed to spark ideas and deliver practical takeaways, regardless of institution size.

Masonic Building, 145 Aurthur Street

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Understanding Audiences and Strengthening Heritage Work

Emily Jacobs, Story Quilters, LLC

In this interactive, fast-paced workshop, you'll explore how to think more intentionally about the audiences you want to reach—and why some stories resonate while others fall flat. Together, we'll look at how heritage organizations can take a fresh lens to both the tangible and intangible elements of their work, focusing on what you want people to care about, remember, and feel connected to.

Through discussion and hands-on exercises, you'll gain practical tools for aligning the stories you steward with the motivations and interests of different audiences. Walk away with new tools on how to make your sites more relevant to the different audiences who are coming and how to align the stories you care about with why your audience is coming.

Woodburn City Hall, 270 Montgomery Street

Growing What Works: Sustainable Fundraising for Small and Mid-Sized Museums

Catherine Diaz, Columbia Play Project, and Patrick Sampson, Cogeo

This workshop is being coordinated by Oregon Museums Association and is not included in Heritage Conference Registration. Register for this workshop [here](#).

This 3-hour workshop offers a practical framework for small and mid-sized museums to build fundraising capacity that is realistic and mission-driven. Designed for organizations with limited staff and resources, the session explores how fundraising and organizational development must grow together in order to be sustainable.

Participants will examine the distinct purposes and requirements of annual fundraising and capital campaigns. Through real-world examples, including a case study from Columbia Play Project, an emerging children's museum, the workshop will highlight strategies that help museums move beyond short-term survival toward long-term financial stability and community support.

This interactive session will include guided discussion, practical exercises, take-home resources, and time for reflection and Q+A. Participants will leave with a clearer understanding of how to right-size fundraising efforts, align



board and staff roles, and build internal systems that support current operations and future vision.

Chemeketa Community College, 120 E Lincoln Street

Planning accessibility and inclusion in the face of opposition

Katy Menne, Learner Centered Strategies

This workshop is being coordinated by Oregon Museums Association and is not included in Heritage Conference Registration. Register for this workshop [here](#).

With access and inclusion under attack, organizations need to get creative on how to continue DEAI (diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion) work with less or no funding. Focusing on free or nearly free options that can be rolled out within a few months, this session is designed to be collaborative. Participants should bring a computer or phone with access to the internet.

Bungalow Theater, 455 N Front St, Woodburn, OR 97071

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

TOURS

9:00 AM – 11:00 PM

Preserving Stayton

Steve Poisson and Wendy Stone, Santiam Heritage Foundation

Aaron Frichtl, Revitalize Downtown Stayton

Learn about the first whole block in Oregon to undergo a facelift using a Main Street Revitalization Grant involving multiple property owners. Tour the Historic 1903 Brown House, which was saved from demolition in 2000 and has finally completed rehabilitation in 2025. And make a stop at the Hobson-Gehlen Building which was rehabilitated using a variety of grants and incentives.

Meet-up location, 425 N First Avenue, Stayton (37 minute drive from downtown Woodburn)

Transportation is on your own.

1:00 PM – 3:00PM

PCUN/Capaces Tour

The visit will include Centro de Servicios Para Campesinos, PCUN, Radio Poder, and Capaces Leadership Institute. And then travel to the FHDC Nuevo Amanecer to tour that site and other sites.

Meet-up location: PCUN/Capaces 300 Young Street, Woodburn

MEETINGS

8:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Oregon Heritage MentorCorps Meeting – Mentors only

Mentors will meet for networking and training.

Woodburn Public Library, 280 Garfield Street

8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Oregon Cultural Trust County & Tribal Coalition Meeting – Coalition Members only



Coalition members will meet.

Mt. Angel Festhalle, 500 Wilco Hwy, Mt. Angel

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Oregon Main Street Network – Open to Accredited, Designated and Affiliated Main Street organizations only

Oregon Main Street Network organizations will meet for a quarterly network meeting.

Chemeketa Community College, 120 E Lincoln Street

Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries – Open to the Public

The commission will hold its regular meeting to discuss needs and resources related to historic cemeteries.

Woodburn Public Library, 280 Garfield Street

4:45 PM – 5:45 PM

Groundbreaker Plenary! The Next Assignment: Why the Future Will Ask More of Us

Monica Rhodes

We are entering unfamiliar futurescapes where the past is unstable, contested, and uncertain. It always was, but now we can no longer pretend otherwise. As artificial intelligence rewrites authenticity, climate instability reorients our communities, and people demand a stronger voice in how their stories are told, preservation must fundamentally transform. Fifty years from now, we will measure our success, not by how faithfully we defended boundaries, but by the possibilities we dared to open.

Mt. Angel Festhalle, 500 Wilco Hwy, Mt. Angel

5:45 PM – 7:00 PM

Experience Downtown Mt. Angel: Heritage Shop Hop

Hosted by Discover Mt. Angel

While you're in Mt. Angel for the Oregon Heritage Conference, we invite you to step outside the Festhalle and into the heart of beautiful downtown Mt. Angel.

Local businesses will stay open late to welcome conference attendees to a special **Heritage Shop Hop**. Enjoy a relaxed stroll through our walkable downtown filled with locally owned shops, boutiques, restaurants and bars, and gathering spaces.

Mt. Angel is known for its rich cultural heritage, vibrant small business community and the Mt. Angel Oktoberfest. This is your opportunity to experience firsthand how a historic downtown can remain both authentic and economically thriving.

Participating businesses will be offering Exclusive one-night-only specials, samples and tastings, Meet the Owner moments and history of Mt. Angel. Pick up your **"Passport to Mt. Angel"** and collect stamps as you explore. Visit five or more participating locations and you'll be entered to win a curated gift package featuring products and gift cards from our local businesses.

Everything is just a short walk from the Festhalle, no car required.

Downtown Mt. Angel



7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Oregon Heritage Excellence Awards

Join us as we recognize individuals, organizations, and projects for outstanding heritage efforts in Oregon!

Mt. Angel Festhalle, 500 Wilco Hwy, Mt. Angel

Transportation from conference hotels will be provided.

April 30, 2026

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION CHECK-IN SITE, SNACKS & MEET-UP SPACE

Woodburn Historical Museum & Bungalow Theater 455 N Front Street

8:15 AM – 8:45 AM

NETWORKING MEET-UP | BUILDING INTERGENERATIONAL COMMUNITIES

Stacey Triplett, AARP Oregon

Grab your coffee & join AARP Oregon’s Engagement Director for an open conversation about how to better engage across generations and build a livable community that fosters volunteerism, creative thinking, and community passion. Bring stories of what works well in your community, ask questions, or learn about resources from AARP to improve your practices.

Woodburn Historical Museum, 455 N Front Street

OREGON HERITAGE RESOURCE FAIR

11:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Organizations will share resources and networking opportunities during breaks most of the day. Oregon Humanities will be recording for the podcast *This Place*. Come share your community story.

Woodburn Historical Museum, 455 N Front Street

OMA RESOURCE FAIR

11:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Organizations will share resources and networking opportunities during breaks most of the day.

Masonic Building, 145 Aurthur Street

SESSIONS

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Shaping the Big City: How Urban Rail Transformed Portland

Leesa Gratreak and Brandon Geiger, organization

Authors of a historic context and Multiple Property Document developed for the City of Portland are excited to share their research findings. Brandon Geiger and Leesa Gratreak would share how the city is documenting the stories and



places shaped by the development of Portland’s urban rail, including its expansive streetcar and interurban networks, and a discussion of the city’s next steps in developing a programmatic agreement to address remnants of the historic network.

Woodburn Area Chamber of Commerce, 124 W Lincoln Street

Highlighting Heritage Stories in the Media

Moderator: Chris Havel

Panelists: Kevin Harden, Independent; Capi Lynn, Statesman Journal; Greg Nibler, Fox 12

The work of heritage sector is important and positively impacts communities. In this Q & A session, you will hear from journalists working in media who have covered heritage work around the state. Learn about how to engage with media, make a compelling case for coverage, and ensure people are aware of your good work.

Bungalow Theater, 455 N Front Street

Countering Erasure: When Community Archives Become Living Memorials

Laura Lo Forti and LaVeta Gilmore Jones, Vanport Mosaic

Tracy Drake, Reed College

Armando Manalo, Upswell

Kelly Bostworth, Oregon State University

Community archives reveal stories that monuments do not. Alongside survivors and descendants, Vanport Mosaic has created a living memorial from a decade of oral histories about Vanport, Oregon's World War II-era second-largest city, erased by the 1948 flood. We share ways to activate archives for public memory, including an immersive audio walk that amplifies a chorus of voices where no physical traces remain. Learn approaches for memorializing silenced histories while preserving complexity and multivocal memory.

Woodburn City Hall, 270 Montgomery Street

Strategic Doing: Skills for Leveraging Collaboration

Aniko Drlik-Muehleck and Josh Bruce, University of Oregon – Institute of Policy Research & Engagement

Collaboration is essential for heritage organizations—but it can be challenging to turn good ideas into real action. If you’ve ever sat through meetings that go nowhere or watched promising efforts stall, you’re not alone. This interactive workshop introduces Strategic Doing, a practical framework for navigating complex collaborations and producing tangible results. Aniko and Josh will guide participants through core skills to help you link, leverage, and align your organization's and community’s assets. Walk away with tools to move from talk to action—and keep momentum going.

Woodburn Public Library, 280 Garfield Street

10:15 AM – 10:45 AM

Break – Take some space for snack, rest, walk, connect, shop, whatever you need to get to the most of the conference!

Woodburn Historical Museum & Bungalow Theatre, 455 N Front Street



SESSIONS

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Weaving a Regional Tourism Approach: North Marion Tourism Collaborative

North Marion Tourism Collaborative Board Members: Sam Kaluf, Chair (Bauman's Gardens), Stacy Palmer, Member (Silverton Chamber of Commerce), Ann Shultz, Member (Le Petit Bistro), Jamie Zamrin, Support Staff (City of Woodburn)

The North Marion Tourism Collaborative (NMTC) serves as the regional Destination Management Organization (DMO) and is a leader in tourism development and marketing in North Marion County. NMTC serves 10 communities in North Marion County, including Donald, St. Paul, Aurora, Hubbard, Woodburn, Gervais, Mt. Angel, Silverton, Scotts Mills and the unincorporated community of Brooks. NMTC recently became a 501(c)(6) organization and is actively building its financial and operational capacity through creative partnerships across the region with both private and public entities. Learn how these North Marion communities came together to collaborate on marketing, promotion of tourism activities, destination development and opportunities in the region.

Woodburn Area Chamber of Commerce, 124 W Lincoln Street

Leveraging Preservation Tools and Technical Assistance for Your Community

Nicole Possert, Restore Oregon

Jennifer Sandy, National Trust for Historic Preservation

Sue Densmore, Friends of the Oregon Caves & Chateau

Nora Harris, Restore Oregon

Come and discuss ways to leverage your local historic assets, connections, and preservation efforts both statewide and nationally. Restore Oregon's free technical services, Preservation Together, includes a free Preservation Toolkit and our signature Oregon's Most Endangered Places advocacy and promotional support program. In 2025, the Friends of the Oregon Caves & Chateau leveraged this statewide program to secure listing on the National Trust's 11 Most Endangered Places list. Find out how and more ways to collaborate and connect!

Bungalow Theatre, 455 N Front Street

Task Force on Oregon Tribal Cultural Items: History, Goals, Impact and YOU

Brenda Meade, Chairman, Coquille Indian Tribe and Co-Chair, Task Force on Oregon Tribal Cultural Items

Danny Santos, Co-Chair, Task Force on Oregon Tribal Cultural Items

Breice Edwards, Manager, Historic Preservation Office, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Dawn Marie Alapisco, NAGPRA Office, Oregon State University

Nicole Yasuhara, Museum Director, Oregon Historical Society (moderator)

In January 2024 Governor Kotek issued Executive Order 24-06, reestablishing the Task Force on Oregon Tribal Cultural Items. In addition to surveying state agencies, public universities, and community colleges, the Task Force will soon ask K-12 school districts, museums, cities, and counties to join us in this endeavor. Join members of the Task Force as they discuss this important work, describe the goals and methods for collecting information, and answer questions.

Woodburn City Hall, 270 Montgomery Street

Standards of Excellence: Your Roadmap to Successful Nonprofit Management

Sarah Spangler, Nonprofit Association of Oregon

The Standards for Excellence program, recently adopted by NAO, provides a structured approach for nonprofits to use to build capacity, accountability, and sustainability in their organizations. This session will cover the program's Ethics



and Accountability Code, give participants time to complete a guided self-assessment, and allow them to develop a personalized action plan or small goals to advance their organization's excellence.

Woodburn Public Library, 280 Garfield Street

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM LUNCH – TAKE TIME ON YOUR OWN FOR THE BREAK!

OMA Lunch Networking

Join Oregon Museums Association for a lunch networking conversation.

Disaster Preparedness - Metropolis Marketplace, 347 N Front Street, Woodburn

Emerging Museum Professionals – K Bron Brewing, 237 N Front Street, Woodburn

1:30 PM – 2:45 PM

SESSIONS

Keep it Together through Continuity in Your Organization

Amy Tracewell, Director of Master of Nonprofit Leadership Program, Pacific University

James K. Phelps, ACFRE, JKP Fundraising, LLC

Many organizations are facing leadership transitions and staffing changes, yet still treat succession and continuity planning as a low priority or informal “someday” project. This session introduces a practical framework that distinguishes between emergency succession, departure defined transitions, and longer term leadership development. Participants will map critical roles, understand knowledge transfer gaps, and explore right-sized tools such as interim leadership plans, simple checklists, and a vital information inventory covering governance, finances, operations, and key relationships. Attendees will leave with a concise outline for their own continuity and succession plan, plus actionable next steps to take back to their boards and staff.

Woodburn Area Chamber of Commerce, 124 W Lincoln Street

Energy Efficiency and Historic Preservation

Maria Robinson, Outreach Manager Mid-Willamette Valley & Coast, Energy Trust of Oregon

Energy efficiency and historic preservation can be harmonized by implementing sustainable retrofits that respect the original character of a building, utilizing its existing sustainable features, and undertaking repairs that minimize impact on historic materials. Energy Trust of Oregon will share information about programs and incentives available for businesses and property owners offering support for achieving energy efficiency and sustainable practices. These programs may identify energy measures such as envelope improvements, HVAC and lighting upgrades, and renewable strategies that complement the historic design of a building.

Bungalow Theatre, 455 N Front Street

10 Steps to an Accessible Institution

Heather Pressman, Achieving Access

This presentation offers comprehensive yet approachable guidance to creating welcoming and accessible museum. From building advisory councils and training staff, to designing accessible exhibits, programs, and digital resources, participants will learn practical, low-cost strategies that make a real impact. Learn why accessibility matters and how every museum, regardless of size or budget, can take meaningful steps. Attendees will leave with concrete ideas, resources, and the beginnings of an action plan to help them along in their accessibility journey. The first part of this



session will cover ten steps museums can take to become more accessible, and in the second half, participants will have the opportunity to get hands-on and do an activity to help them prioritize where they might be able to start or take the next step. Woodburn City Hall, 270 Montgomery Street

Demystifying the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Heritage

Robert Becker, Keizer Heritage Foundation
Lydia Heins, Coos Art Museum

This session reframes AI as a practical, behind-the-scenes assistant that supports collection stewardship, volunteer coordination, grant writing, and strategic planning. Using hands-on examples from the Keizer Heritage Museum and Coos Art Museum, this session demonstrates how AI can streamline routine tasks, improve collection record management, and support the many roles heritage professionals juggle daily. Attendees will leave with responsible strategies for integrating AI into their workflows, helping to ensure limited resources stay focused on the mission-driven work that matters most.

Woodburn Public Library, 280 Garfield Street

2:45 PM – 3:15 PM

Break – Take some space for snack, rest, walk, connect, shop, whatever you need to get to the most of the conference!

Woodburn Historical Museum & Bungalow Theatre, 455 N Front Street

SESSIONS

3:15 PM – 4:30 PM

Oregon’s Farmworker Movement Approaches 50 years--Looking Back and Ahead

Reyna Lopez, Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN)
Maria Elena Guerra, Farmwork Housing Development Corporation (FHDC)
Joaquin Lara Midkiff, Dean's Fellow in the Department of History at Stanford University
Larry Kleinman, co-founded Willamette Valley Immigration Project in 1977 and PCUN in 1985
Jaime Arredondo, Capaces

Did you know there’s a farmworker movement in Oregon and that it turns 50 years in 2027? Join us for a conversation with leaders representing three generations of this movement. The panel will explore the origins of the movement, the work today, and their dreams for the next 50 years.

Woodburn Area Chamber of Commerce, 124 W Lincoln Street

How to Get into the Tourism Pipeline

Tori Middelstadt, Willamette Valley Visitors Assoc.;
Cecilia Suvagian, Travel Oregon Database Information Specialist

Oregon tourism is a multi-billion-dollar industry as Oregonians, out-of-state, and international visitors visit and recreate in the splendor of Oregon. Heritage tourism is increasingly recognized as a powerful draw as historic sites and museums welcome locals and travelers. In this session, participants will hear from tourism industry experts about how the Travel Oregon structure is tiered from the state to local levels.

A Travel Oregon specialist will talk about programs heritage organizations can participate in as well as direct you to resources to ensure your heritage sites and events are included in Travel Oregon’s visitor facing channels (e.g.



TravelOregon.com, print visitor guide, etc).

The director of the Willamette Valley's Regional destination marketing and management organization (RDMO) will help you understand the layer of tourism and how to find and work with your RDMO and local destination marketing/management organizations.

Bungalow Theatre, 455 N Front Street

Preserving Oregon's Heritage: 2025 Accomplishments and What's Next (formerly SHPOlooza)

Ian Johnson & SHPO Staff, Oregon Heritage, State Historic Preservation Office

What does a State Historic Preservation Office do, and why does it matter? In this session, Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) staff share highlights from their 2025 work under the *Oregon Historic Preservation Plan, 2024–2033*, and explain how that work guides future priorities. The presentation covers grants, surveys, National Register listings, compliance, planning, digitization, and partnerships, showing how preservation policy becomes action across the state. It also points to key trends in recent data and discusses challenges and opportunities ahead. The session is designed for all experience levels, offering a clear introduction for newcomers and useful perspective for experienced professionals.

Woodburn City Hall, 270 Montgomery Street

Dates to Doorways: A Practical Toolkit for Milestones, Reflection and Engagement

Emily Jacobs, Story Quilters Consulting

This year the United States marks its 250th anniversary—an inspiration for heritage and tourism practitioners to treat milestones as more than just a date on the calendar. To meet this moment, the Oregon Heritage Commission partnered with Story Quilters, LLC to create *Dates to Doorways*, a free downloadable toolkit to help organizations plan milestone moments with intention. In this session, you'll get an introduction to the toolkit, real-world examples, and practical ideas for special programming, community engagement, collections/archives, and fundraising/marketing. Whether you are celebrating your 10th anniversary or 100th, this session is not to be missed!

Woodburn Public Library, 280 Garfield Street

TOURS

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Woodburn Historic Treasures Tour

Downtown Advisory Review Subcommittee (DARS)

Tour two of downtown Woodburn's historic treasures—the Historic City Hall and the Masonic Building. These beautifully restored landmarks reflect Woodburn's rich history and the vision our forefathers had for building a strong and vibrant community. Both buildings have recently undergone significant restoration, preserving their historic character while revitalizing them for modern use. During the tour, we will share the story behind these projects, highlighting the successful collaboration between public and private funding partners that made their restoration possible.

Meet at: Bungalow Theater, 455 N Front Street

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Mt. Angel Abby Tour



The Benedictine monks of Mount Angel Abbey founded their community in 1882, having come from the Abbey of Engelberg in Switzerland. Situated on a hilltop overlooking Oregon's Willamette Valley, the monks of Mount Angel weave together a place of prayer, hospitality, education, and reflection deeply rooted in the Rule of St. Benedict. Join us for a tour of this historic monastery offered by those who know it best.

Meet at: Mt. Angel Abbey, 1 Abbey Dr, St Benedict, OR 97373

Self transport is required to this tour site. The Abbey's café will be available to attendees for purchasing refreshments & light fare after the tour.

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Grand Ronde Tour

Briecce Edwards, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Join the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's Tribal Historic Preservation Office team on a tour sharing their cultural heritage work.

Meet at: Bungalow Theater, 455 N Front Street

Transportation provided by Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

1:30 PM – 2:45 PM

Woodburn Cultural Tour

Woodburn Public Arts and Murals Committee

Experience the rich history and vibrant culture of downtown Woodburn through its beautiful murals and public art. Begin your visit at the Downtown Plaza—the heart of the community—where you can learn about its origins and the meaning behind its thoughtful design. As you explore, stop by locally owned shops to discover the cultural influences that shape Woodburn's identity. Meet the business owners, hear their stories, and support their work by shopping their unique products.

Meet at: Bungalow Theater, 455 N. Front Street

3:15 PM – 4:30 PM

Defensible Space Assessment & Settlemier House Tour

Rachel Mauch, Community Wildfire Forester

Denise Berkshire, Tillamook Forest Center

Settlemier House Board Members

As wildfire continues to threaten populated areas in the wildland-urban interface, taking efforts to protect heritage institutions' sites and facilities is crucial preparation for preventing disaster. Join wildland fire & interpretive center professionals for a walkthrough assessment at the historic Settlemier House, to learn best practices for hardening your facility against disaster. Following the exterior assessment, board members of the Settlemier House will lead folks through a brief tour of the home.

Meet at: Settlemier House, 355 N Settlemier Avenue

WOODBURN RECEPTION! WOODBURN'S WORLD BERRY JAM

4:45 PM – 6:00 PM



Join in for an unforgettable evening celebrating Woodburn’s history as the World Berry Center of the Willamette Valley! This lively reception brings the flavors and cultures of North Marion's communities in one vibrant location. Hosted in the beautifully restored Woodburn Historic City Hall, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this special setting offers the perfect backdrop to experience the region’s rich heritage in a whole new way. We invite you to enjoy delicious flavors of Mexican, Russian, and American inspired bites, alongside regional wine, craft beer, and cider. Catch up with colleagues, take a photo at our berry-themed selfie wall, and experience the agricultural roots and cultural diversity that make this region so special.

Historic City Hall, 550 N First Street, Woodburn

OPTIONAL EVENING ACTIVITIES

7:00PM – 9:00 PM

Consider This – Labor, Farmworker Organizing, and Histories of Indigenous Communities in Oregon – open to the public

Oregon Humanities

Joaquín Lara Midkiff moderates this conversation with three panelists with deep experience and commitment with this topic and the region. The conversation will illuminate the many ways that the mid-Willamette Valley has been home to powerful farmworker and solidarity movements that transformed the lives of migrant laborers and reshaped Oregon's political and economic landscape.

This conversation is part of the Oregon Humanities 2025–26 Consider This series, Beyond 250, and is presented in partnership with the [2026 Oregon Heritage Conference](#).

Mt. Angel Theater Studio, 220 E Charles Street, Mt. Angel
Transportation on your own.

Register with Oregon Humanities to reserve free tickets on their [calendar page](#).

Oregon Museums Association Reception

Mingle with colleagues while exploring exhibits at Woodburn Museum and enjoying appetizers from Luis’s Taqueria. Each attendee will receive one drink ticket. Registration is requested, but no additional fees to attend. RSVP for this event [here](#).

Woodburn Historical Museum & Bungalow Theatre, 455 N Front Street

May 1, 2026

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION CHECK-IN SITE, SNACKS & MEET-UP SPACE

Woodburn Historical Museum & Bungalow Theater 455 N Front Street

NETWORKING MEET-UP: FEDERAL ACTIONS AND POLICY LANDSCAPE

Facilitator: Sarah Spangler, Nonprofit Association of Oregon

Connect with folks for an informal chat to discuss impacts of and response to federal actions and policy landscape.



Woodburn Historical Museum, 455 N Front Street

SESSIONS

9:30AM – 10:15 AM

Discovering Opportunities to Share Your Story

Darrell Jabin, Oregon's Traveling Historian

This is a group discussion on potential resources that organizations may not have considered to tell their story. This would include media (videos, local newspapers and radio, social media, etc.), other organizations (business groups, service clubs, retirement facilities, genealogy groups) and new topics (including the community's heritage, place and culture) to expand interest and reach new audiences.

Woodburn Area Chamber of Commerce, 124 W Lincoln Street

Architecture as Access: Weaving Culture, Place, Story

Mark Johnson & Plamena Milusheva, Signal Architecture + Research

Heritage is a verb—the act of carrying forward histories—and as such, it needs access points. From a small community museum to a vast state park, heritage prompts us to tell compelling stories of culture and landscape. We'll work through two projects to explore how architecture creates access and fosters connection—activating community voice, remaining deeply place-based, and finding the right thing, in the right place.

Bungalow Theatre, 455 N Front Street

Incorporating Heritage in Community Disaster Planning

Melissa Graciosa, University of Oregon Institute for Policy Research and Engagement

Join this interactive session exploring lessons learned from Oregon communities that have developed disaster resilience plans for their heritage resources. Since 2019, Oregon Heritage and the Institute for Policy Research and Engagement have partnered with seven communities from across the state to build community disaster resilience plans for heritage resources, each reflecting their community's unique histories, programs, capacities, and partnerships. Session presenters will highlight how these communities worked together to catalogue their resources, identify vulnerabilities to hazards, and find practical strategies for protecting their cultural and historic assets. Attendees will gain insight into the common challenges and key ingredients that helped participating communities move from ideas to action. The session will also lead participants in an activity to begin—or strengthen—their own planning efforts by connecting them with tools and guidance from the state Community Disaster Resilience for Heritage Resources Guidebook.

Woodburn City Hall, 270 Montgomery Street

10:15 PM – 10:45 PM

Break – Take some space for snack, rest, walk, connect, shop, whatever you need to get to the most of the conference!

Woodburn Historical Museum & Bungalow Theatre, 455 N Front Street



SESSIONS

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Failing Forward

Jason Schneider, Civic Possible

What if failure wasn't something to fear but a tool for insight, alignment, and growth? In this interactive, story-driven session, we'll explore how to reframe failures as shared learning opportunities. We'll unpack different types of failure, practice identifying root causes, and work with tools to better understand ourselves and our community partners. You'll walk away with practical ways to foster psychological safety and curiosity, turn setbacks into collaboration, and identify what's in your sphere of influence. This session is perfect for civic changemakers, cross-sector teams, and anyone ready to reframe some of the challenges of our collective work.

Woodburn Area Chamber of Commerce, 124 W Lincoln Street

Evolving Places: Adaptive Reuse of Historic Buildings for Museums

Jessica Schmitt, Peter Meijer Architect

Daniel Toole, Daniel Toole Architecture

This session will focus on how museums adapt historic buildings to support heritage, resilience, and community vitality. Using Oregon case studies alongside broader architectural examples, the session will explore how historic structures can evolve to meet contemporary needs while retaining their cultural significance. Preservation Planner Jessica Schmitt will discuss how local Oregon museums reuse historic buildings to strengthen community identity and address challenges such as seismic upgrades, climate change, accessibility, and rehabilitation. Architect Daniel Toole will discuss recent museum architecture that builds on the heritage of place through the creative transformation of historic buildings across a range of contexts, demonstrating how adaptive reuse enables these structures to continue serving their communities.

Bungalow Theatre, 455 N Front Street

Creating a Healthy Volunteer Culture

Jill Nishball, Oregon Parks & Recreation Department

Carlie Childs, Oregon Parks & Recreation Department

Volunteers are the heart of most organizations, regardless of size or budget. Regional Program Coordinators for Oregon Parks & Recreation Department will deliver a crash course on volunteer management 101 and how to develop a healthy volunteer culture at your site, creating a community between staff and volunteers driven by mission & purpose.

Woodburn City Hall, 270 Montgomery Street

12:00 AM – 1:30 PM LUNCH – TAKE TIME ON YOUR OWN FOR THE BREAK!

OMA Lunch Networking

Join Oregon Museums Association for a lunch networking topic!

School Programs – Metropolis Marketplace, 347 N Front Street, Woodburn

Accessibility – K Bron Brewing, 237 N Front Street, Woodburn



SESSIONS

1:30 PM – 2:15 PM

Using Public Engagement to Tell a Community's Story

Fred Evander, City of Independence

Meredith Petit & Travis North, City of Corvallis

Public engagement often positions City and agency officials as the experts. But what if outreach focused on learning from the community instead? This session explores how two communities listened first—inviting residents to share their lives and their stories—and how the process helped shape a deeper community narrative.

Woodburn Area Chamber of Commerce, 124 W Lincoln Street

Urban Renewal Supporting Community Culture

Dana DeKlyen, Assistant Director of Urban Development-City of Salem

Charlie Mitchell, CECD, Economic & Community Development Director-City of Dallas

James Graham, CECD, Economic Development Manager-City of Oregon City

Urban renewal is a planning and redevelopment tool used to revitalize blighted or underdeveloped downtown areas by funding projects like new façade improvements, building improvements, infrastructure improvements, and historic preservation through tax increment financing. Learn how communities throughout Oregon have utilized this tool in their downtowns.

Bungalow Theatre, 455 N Front Street

Enhancing Access to Oregon's Diverse Stories in Historic Oregon Newspapers

Elizabeth Peterson & Justin Spence, University of Oregon Libraries

This presentation will provide an overview of the Oregon Digital Newspaper Program (ODNP) and its recent work to digitize publications from several Oregon Native American communities and other underrepresented groups. Presenters will discuss how ODNP has worked with Oregon tribal members, the State Library of Oregon, and other community partners to identify titles for digitization to enhance broad representation of Oregon's diverse history in its online database Historic Oregon Newspapers.

Woodburn City Hall, 270 Montgomery Street

Meeting People Where the Story Lives: Reimagining the Lewis & Clark Trail for Today's Heritage Traveler

Richard Hunt & Alisha Hamel, Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance

The Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance (LCTA) is forging new ground in how national heritage stories are discovered, experienced, and sustained. Through the Lewis & Clark Trail Experience (LCTE), LCTA is rethinking what it means to engage audiences across landscapes, communities, and platforms—meeting people where they are and inviting them into deeper relationships with place, history, and culture.

Woodburn Public Library, 280 Garfield Street

2:15 PM – 2:45 PM

Break – Take some space for snack, rest, walk, connect, shop, whatever you need to get to the most of the conference!



Woodburn Historical Museum & Bungalow Theatre, 455 N Front Street

SESSIONS

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

Easy ways to plug into America 250: Programs, Partnerships, and Practical Ideas for Oregon Organizations

Kerry Tymchuk, Oregon Historical Society

Tara Cole, Oregon Historical Society

With the Semiquincentennial just months away, museums and heritage organizations across Oregon are looking for realistic ways to participate in America 250 without overextending limited staff or budgets. This session introduces Oregon 250 and highlights a range of ready-to-use programs, exhibitions, digital projects, and other initiatives that organizations can easily adapt for their communities. Rather than starting from scratch, attendees will learn how to tap into existing resources and shape them to fit their own sites, collections, and audiences. The session will also include time for idea-sharing and brainstorming, helping participants identify simple, meaningful ways to engage their communities for the Semiquincentennial.

Woodburn Area Chamber of Commerce, 124 W Lincoln Street

Small Projects, Smart Strategies: Using Historic Tax Credits Well

Jessica Engeman, Continuum Preservation Consulting

Historic tax credits can be powerful tools—but they can also feel complex and overwhelming. This session offers a practical look at how owners and project teams can assess feasibility, make better early decisions, and approach preservation incentives with greater confidence. Especially geared toward small and mid-sized projects, the session breaks the process down into approachable concepts and decision points, with an emphasis on early screening, smart planning, and realistic expectations—so participants can better understand where tax credits add real value and avoid common missteps that cost time and momentum.

Bungalow Theatre, 455 N Front Street

Weaving Place, Space, and Stories Through Collaborative Student Tours

Ariel Peasley, Oregon Jewish Museum & Center for Holocaust Education

Elissa Dingus, Japanese American Museum of Oregon

Different cultural museums in Old Town Portland combine forces to facilitate field trips for students across Oregon. As small and “hidden” spaces, we want to share both the practical and educational benefits of working together and supporting each other and how others can do the same. This collaboration makes it possible for us to host more students so that we can share the overlapping and interwoven histories and experiences represented in our museums.

Woodburn City Hall, 270 Montgomery Street

Addressing Harmful Content in Collections: OSU's Special Collections & Archives Research Center Reflects on Anti-Racist Description Work

Natalia Fernandez, OSU Special Collections & Archives

Reading the 2024 “Addressing Harmful Content in Collections” report by Dr. Rose Paquet was an opportunity for the OSU’s Special Collections and Archives Research Center (SCARC) to reflect on its work over the past six years. It was a



way for us to continue educating ourselves on this subject (an essential part of this journey) and a good checkpoint to ensure that SCARC's work is in line with best practices. This presentation will share SCARC's processes for engaging in reparative description work within the framework of the five steps of the report's conclusion and recommendations. The aim is to share our practices and strategies for how we began and continue to engage in this work in the hopes that it may assist other repositories in beginning or continuing their own journeys. Woodburn Public Library, 280 Garfield Street

TOURS

9:30 AM – 10:15 AM

Aurora Colony Alternate Materials for Building Preservation Site Visit

Joy Sears, Restoration Specialist with Oregon SHPO; Jennifer Burns, Executive Director of Aurora Colony Museum

Meeting the Secretary of Interior Standards while meeting modernization needs can be challenging to say the least. The Old Aurora Colony museum and surrounding historic district serve as the backdrop for discussing just this concept. Join SHPO Restoration Specialist, Joy Sears, to visit a site that has made use of alternate building materials.

Meet at: Old Aurora Colony Museum, 15018 2nd St NE, Aurora, OR 97002

Self-transport to site required.

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Aurora Historic Walking Tour and Lunch

Brian Asher, Aurora Mayor

Whether you're a history enthusiast, architecture lover, or simply curious about Oregon's early settlements, the Aurora Historic Walking Tour offers an engaging and immersive glimpse into the people and places that helped shape the region. So step back in time with city leaders and discover the remarkable story of Aurora.

Meet-up location: Old Aurora Colony Museum, 15018 2nd St NE, Aurora, OR 97002

Self-transport to site required. You will be walking over a mile throughout Aurora. Following the tour, lunch will be hosted by the City of Aurora. After lunch, a self-guided opportunity will be available to all participants at the Aurora Colony Museum by displaying your conference badge.

Meet at: 110 Main St NE, Aurora, OR 97002, Aurora Public Restrooms adjacent to Mill Creek Market. Park in the gravel lot on 2nd & Main, or street parking on NE Main.

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Aurora Colony XRF Demo & Collections Tour

Averie Foster, OSHA Occupational Health Consultant ; Jennifer Burns, Executive Director of Aurora Colony Museum

The Old Aurora Colony Museum's collection is housed in an offsite building in town, specifically built with the collection in mind. It holds historic quilts, period clothing, and other ephemera which could have toxic health consequences. Our collections often hold traces of arsenic, lead, and other materials that can only be assessed through specialized equipment. Join OACM Executive Director Jennifer Burns and OSHA Occupational Health Consultant Averie Foster for a tour of the collections space & a demonstration of XRF testing on suspect collections items. Averie will speak to the different types of toxins, how to safely handle and store known or suspect materials, and demonstrate testing and free assessments that OSHA offers to all Oregon museums.



Meet at: Old Aurora Colony Museum, 15018 2nd St NE, Aurora, OR 97002

Self-transport to this site is required.

1:30 PM – 2:15 PM

Belle Passi Cemetery Tour

Join the sextant of Historic Belle Passi Cemetery for a guided tour of this local cemetery. Belle Passi, "represents an important piece of Oregon's pioneering history, providing a final resting place for those who helped shape the region. Though it is relatively small and quiet today, it stands as a testament to the diverse cultural and historical influences that helped build the foundations of the local area."

Meet at: 997 Belle Passi Road, Woodburn, Oregon 97071

Self-transport to this site is required.

3:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Woodburn Art Center/Glatt House Gallery Reception

Linda Chatfield, President, Woodburn Art Center

To wrap up the conference, all are invited to the Woodburn Art Center and Glatt House Gallery, for some refreshment and tour, and a bit of art fun. The Glatt House, ca. 1875 was built by the Casey family after settling the 340 acres in 1854. It has been adapted for reuse and is an art landmark for Woodburn. The Art Center is in its 60th year!

2551 N Boone's Ferry Road

MEETINGS

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Oregon Heritage Commission Meeting – open to the public

Join the commission for a regular meeting. Public comment is welcome.

Woodburn Public Library, 280 Garfield Street

May 2, 2026

WORKSHOP

10:00 AM – 3:45 PM

Historic Cemetery Marker Assessment, Cleaning & Repair Workshop

Dave Pinyerd and Bernadette Niederer, Historic Preservation Northwest

Join us at Belle Passi Cemetery in Woodburn, for a hands-on (or observation if preferred) workshop including a cemetery preservation overview, how to evaluate, clean, level, reset and repair markers. Wear layers and work clothes if you plan to participate. Bring lunch, drinking water, gloves, and a chair if you want a place to sit. All other materials are provided.

Included with full registration or offered as a stand-alone workshop.

Belle Passi Cemetery, 997 Belle Passi Rd NE, Woodburn



1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Practice Intensive Level Survey for Cemeteries Workshop

Evan West, Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, Oregon Heritage

Join the SHPO survey and inventory coordinator for this unique opportunity. Attendees will practice navigating the challenges of surveying historic cemeteries including how to properly document buildings and structures, monuments and other historic objects, as well as known and potential archeological resources. Participants will practice photography, site measurements, and onsite documentation of information among other skills. Bring your walking shoes, this is not a lecture. This is your chance to learn about Intensive Level Survey by doing it!

Included with full registration or offered as a stand-alone workshop.

Belle Passi Cemetery, 997 Belle Passi Rd NE, Woodburn

