

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. Chemeketa Community College, 120 E Lincoln

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

9:30 AM – 12:00 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 – 4:00 PM

Grand Ronde Tour

Briece Edwards, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Description

Meet-up location,

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

Downtown Mt. Angel Reception Activities

Downtown Mt. Angel businesses are open and welcoming you to explore and shop before settling down for the awards!

Downtown Mt. Angel, See flyer!

5:45 PM – 7:00 PM

Oregon Heritage Excellence Awards

Join us to recognize wonderful heritage work 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

Person, Organization

Description

Woodburn Historical Museum, 455 N Front Street

OPPORTUNITY HALL

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

Person, organization

description

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 topic!

Location

1:30 PM – 2:45 PM

SESSIONS

Keep it Together through Continuity in Your Organization

Person, organization

description

Woodburn Area Chamber of Commerce, 124 W Lincoln Street

Energy Efficiency and Historic Preservation

Person, Organization



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, PGE and Pacific Power has programs and incentives available to business and property owners offering guidance for achieving energy efficiency and sustainable practices. Programs may include conducting energy audits, eliminating air leaks, making targeted upgrades to windows and HVAC systems, and exploring both passive and active sustainable technologies 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

TBA

Person, organization

description

Woodburn Area Chamber of Commerce, 124 W Lincoln Street



TBA

Person, Organization

Description

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

TBA

Person, Organization

Description

Woodburn Public Library, 280 Garfield Street

TOURS

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Woodburn Historic Treasures Tour

Person, organization

Description

Meet at :

12:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Mt. Angel Abby Tour

Person, organization

Description

Meet at :

1:30 PM – 2:45 PM

Woodburn Cultural Tour

Person, organization

Description

Meet at: location



3:15 PM – 4:30 PM

Settlemer House Tour & Defensible Space Demo

Person, organization

Description

Settlemer House, 355 N Settlemer Avenue

WOODBURN RECEPTION!

4:45 PM – 6:00 PM

Description

Location

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

Description

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

Person, organization

Description

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!

Location

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

Person, Organization

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

Self-Publishing Local History

Gus Frederick, Silverton Country Historical Society

Several decades ago, the publication of a book required a serious outlay of big bucks, a willing publishing house, or both. Over the years, new digital tools have allowed pretty much anyone with the proper software tools to self-publish anything they want. Making use of “Print On Demand” services, it is now easier than ever for authors to publish quality works. The caveat of course depends on the author/publisher's knowledge of the use of those tools. Despite these advances, books do not write themselves! This short presentation will provide an overview of the creation of a book using those tools in conjunction with the Lulu Print on Demand service.

Woodburn Public Library, 280 Garfield Street

TOURS

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Aurora Colony Museum



Person, Organization

Description

Location

1:30 PM – 2:15 PM

TBA

Person, Organization

Description

Location

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

TBA

Person, Organization

Description

Location

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