

The Oregon Heritage Excellence Awards recognize individuals, businesses and organizations for outstanding efforts on behalf of Oregon heritage, drawing public attention to these efforts, and raising the quality of heritage-oriented activities. Awards will be presented during the 2022 Oregon Heritage Conference April 27-29. The awards are presented by Oregon Heritage, a division of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department that houses the Oregon Heritage Commission and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office.

The Oregon Heritage Excellence Awards honor those that have made the most of available resources and skills and are given for exceptional and meritorious work by organizations, businesses or individuals. Nominations are encouraged for organizations and projects of all sizes and heritage purposes and for volunteers and professionals from all heritage sectors. The Sally Donovan Award for Historic Cemeteries will specifically be awarded for excellence in work preserving Oregon historic cemeteries.

Action over and above the ordinary call of duty is an award prerequisite. Special consideration is given to the development of new ideas, approaches and innovations. The mere fulfillment of routine functions does not justify an award. Previous award winners will be honored a second time only if their new work represents a major improvement above the level for which they were previously honored. View past award winners and projects [here](#).

NEW! This year we are adding a category for standout volunteers in heritage organizations. We recognize that volunteers are the backbone of heritage preservation work in Oregon and want to celebrate those standout volunteers that have contributed their time and skills to help your organization persist and thrive. This new category gives us a chance to help you celebrate your standout volunteer at the state level with a certificate and inclusion in a compilation video of all those submitted.

Nomination Deadline and Package

The deadline for nominations is **January 27, 2022, 11:59 p.m.** Nominations will be submitted online using our grant application system.

- ✓ Apply on our grant application system: <https://oprgrants.org/>
- ✓ Instructions for the online application process:
<https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/OH/pages/awards.aspx#one>

For More Information

For questions and more information, contact Katie Henry, Oregon Heritage Coordinator, at katie.henry@oregon.gov or (503) 877-8834.

OREGON HERITAGE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Criteria and Nomination Information

For Awards to Individuals:

**please keep in mind the new category added, Standout Volunteer, for individuals that may not fit the criteria below but have contributed greatly to your heritage organization this year.*

Criteria:

- A. For exceptional, meritorious and extraordinary work over an extended period or at the conclusion of a distinguished career. This work must be on behalf of Oregon heritage and raising the quality of heritage-oriented activities.
- B. For action above and beyond the ordinary call of duty.
- C. Special consideration given for development of new ideas, approaches and innovations. The mere fulfillment of routine functions does not justify an award.
- D. Have made the most of available resources and skills.

Nomination:

The nomination form for individuals includes five questions:

- 1) What heritage activities has the individual has taken part in? Describe the individual's role.
- 2) How has the individual gone above and beyond the ordinary call of duty? How have their efforts exceeded those of others in the organization or community?
- 3) How have the individual's activities improved the organization and the community?
- 4) How has the individual made the most of available resources and skill?
- 5) Did the individual utilize any news ideas, approaches or innovations? Please describe.

Supporting Material:

Supporting material is encouraged along with the nomination form information. Such material should reinforce the merits of the individual being nominated. Material to support the nomination could include:

- Up to three letters of critical testimony or support. Letters should be from individuals or organizations that have substantial knowledge of the accomplishments of the person being nominated.
- Samples of and/or documentation of the individual's work or works.
- The individual's resume or curriculum vitae.
- Photographs showing the nominated person and demonstrating their work. Digital photographs are preferred.

For Awards to Organizations or Businesses:

Criteria:

- A. For exceptional, meritorious and extraordinary work over an extended period on behalf of Oregon heritage and raising the quality of heritage-oriented activities.
- B. For action over and above the ordinary call of duty.
- C. Special consideration is given to the development of new ideas, approaches and innovations. The mere fulfillment of routine functions does not justify an award.
- D. Makes the most of available resources and skills.
- E. Previous award winners will be honored a second time only if their new work represents a major improvement above the level for which they were previously honored.

Nomination:

The nomination form for organizations or businesses includes five questions:

- 1) What is the organization's mission and main focus? Describe its programs, staff, and audience/market.
- 2) How has the organization or business gone above and beyond the ordinary call of duty? Outline the projects and activities of the organization or business related to heritage.
- 3) How does the organization or business benefit, respect and preserve the local community and its heritage?
- 4) How has the organization or business made the most of available resources and skill?
- 5) Were any news ideas, approaches or innovations used by the organization or business? Please describe.

Supporting Material:

Supporting material is encouraged for submission with the cover sheet and nomination information. Such material should reinforce the merits of the organization or business being nominated. Material to support the nomination could include:

- Samples of and/or documentation of programs, exhibits, projects, publications, and website, as appropriate.
- Copies of the organization or business's last two annual reports, strategic plan, or other documentation that shows the organization or business's accomplishment both financially and programmatically.
- Resumes of key personnel.
- Up to three letters of critical testimony or support. The letters should be from individuals not affiliated with the organization or business, but who have substantial knowledge of the activities being nominated. The letters should address the organization or business's activities and how it benefits, respects and preserves the local community and its heritage.
- Photographs showing the nominee's activities. Digital photographs are preferred.

For Awards to Projects:

Criteria:

- A. Exceptional and meritorious work by organizations, businesses or individuals on behalf of Oregon heritage and raising the quality of heritage-oriented activities.
- B. For action over and above the ordinary call of duty.
- C. The development of new ideas, approaches and innovations.
- D. Make the most of available resources and skills, and accomplish a high degree of authenticity.
- E. Mere fulfillment of routine functions does not justify an award. For example, building preservation projects must exhibit a high degree of conservation or restoration of original design and materials, with an emphasis on authenticity. A preservation project that involves considerable new design, materials and construction, though perhaps meritorious as an adaptive-use project, will likely not meet this standard of authentic preservation.

Nomination:

The nomination form for projects includes five questions:

- 1) What are the project's goals, objectives, and final products?
- 2) What are roles of the various participants involved?
- 3) How does the project benefit, respect, and preserve the community and its heritage?
- 4) How has this project made the most of available resources and skills, while accomplishing a high level of authenticity.
- 5) Were any unique challenges and/or unusual obstacles faced during the project? Describe any new ideas, approaches, and innovations used.

Supporting Material:

Supporting material is encouraged for submission with the cover sheet and nomination information. Such material should reinforce the merits of the project being nominated:

- Up to three letters of critical testimony or support. The letters should be from individuals not affiliated with the project, but who have substantial knowledge of the activities being nominated. The letters may address the quality of the work; any new ideas, approaches, and innovations made to complete the project; and how it benefits, respects and preserves the local community and its heritage.
- Resumes or curricula vitae of key personnel.
- Samples of and/or documentation of the project including brochures, publications, progress reports, websites, etc.
- Photographs showing project work and the completed project. Digital photographs are preferred.

For Recognition of Standout Volunteers:

This is a new, non-competitive category for heritage organizations to nominate an outstanding volunteer to get statewide recognition for their contributions to the successes of the organization. All volunteers nominated will be featured in one volunteer appreciation video to be presented at the Excellence Awards event during the 2022 Oregon Heritage Conference. All volunteers nominated will be given a certificate. Given the non-competitive nature of this category, those nominated will not be provided a complimentary ticket to any in person events associated with the conference and the award presentation.

Criteria:

- Only one volunteer per heritage organization allowed for nomination

Nomination:

- Describe the impact this volunteer has had on your heritage organization and/or your heritage preservation efforts.

Supporting Material:

- Provide at least one photo of the volunteer