



Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Oregon Heritage Commission

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

Commission Members:

Rosemary Johnson (Chair); Kerry Savage (Vice Chair); Maureen Flanagan Battistella; Randall Melton, Libby Provost; Chrissy Curran, State Historic Preservation Office; Ross Fuqua, State Library of Oregon; Amit Kobrowski, Department of Education; Larry Landis, Higher Education Coordinating Commission; Mary McRobinson, Oregon State Archives; Kerry Tymchuk, Oregon Historical Society; Michelle Woodard, Travel Oregon

July 21-22, 2024

Coos Bay City Hall

500 Central Ave, Coos Bay

Concurrently held via Zoom

MINUTES

Sunday, July 21, 2024

1:30pm

Local tours

Volunteers assisting with the tour included Cricket Soules, Patti Phillips, Steve Greif, Heidi Sause, David Engholm, Tom Baake, George Tinker, Lionel Yost.

Monday, July 22, 2024

9:00am

Business Meeting

Members Present: Rosemary Johnson (Vice Chair); Maureen Flanagan-Battistella; Kerry Savage; Randall Melton, Libby Provost; Buzzy Nelson, State Library of Oregon; Department of Education; Larry Landis, Higher Education Coordinating Commission; Kim Gorman, Oregon State Archives; Mary McRobinson, Oregon State Archives, Kerry Tymchuk, Oregon Historical Society; Michelle Woodard, Travel Oregon

Staff Present: Katie Henry, Commission Coordinator; Kuri Gill, Oregon Heritage Grants & Outreach Coordinator; Ian Johnson, Associate Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Public: Rose Paquet, PhD, Harv Schubothe

Meeting Notes

Meeting brought to order at 9:00am.

1. Commission Business

Action

- a. Approval of Agenda
 - i. Commissioner Flanagan Battistella, moved to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Commissioner Melton seconded the motion. Motion carries;
- b. Review of the April 17, 2024 meeting minutes.
 - i. Commissioner Landis requested clarification in his Commissioner update that the funding is for much broader than historic preservation and includes colleges,
 - ii. Provost moved to approve the meeting minutes with the addition of Commissioner Landis' clarification. Commissioner Savage, seconded the motion. Motion carries

2. Public Comment

Information

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

3. Oregon Heritage Update

Information

- a. Gill informed the commission about staffing updates.
 - i. Matt Rippee, Oregon Heritage Division Director, is now also overseeing a variety of other programs and Divisions within the agency. Aspen Kemmerlin and Kirsten Lopez have joined the Divisions' Compliance team as archaeologists. Robert Olguin, National Register Coordinator, has been promoted to Cultural Resource Analyst. Caitlyn Abrahms has been hired as the new National Register Coordinator. Heidi Shewchuck has been hired as the Heritage Division Program Assistant.
- b. Kerry Tymchuk gave an update on Oregon's plan to recognize the Nation's semi-sesquicentennial. Henry will be serving on the 250th Commission on behalf of the Heritage Commission.
- c. Henry advised that board member recruitment is still underway.

4. Report on Addressing Harmful Content in Collections

Information

- a. Rose Paquet, PhD. museum and cultural heritage consultant, public scholar, artist, Cofounder and Co-director of *The Inluseum*, gave an overview of the report authored for the Commission's considerations. This report reviews the scope of harm, trauma, and triggering that can occur in institutional records, examples of research and remedial projects taking place on a national level, including contemporary language guides, resources, and case studies, and Oregon-specific efforts to address harm. The report concludes with actions the Commission can take on; adoption of a position on cultural humility, formulation of guiding principles and values, setting realistic expectations, consultation of existing resources, and relationship building.

- b. Discussion was had about considerations to have when requests for removal of content is received, governments and universities approaches and partnerships, and the position and perception of libraries, archives, and museums.
- c. Chair Johnson requested the next meeting include time to determine next steps the commission can take after considering the report recommendations.
- d. The Commission thanked Dr. Paquet for their report.

5. MentorCorps Annual Report

Information

- a. Henry gave an overview of the annual report.

6. Heritage Tradition Application – Portland Saturday Market

Action

- a. The Commission received an application from the Portland Saturday Market for the Oregon Heritage Tradition designation. Discussion was held about the event and designation criteria. The event being juried and throughout the year as opposed to seasonal, only not being held during January and February, is a unique application.
 - i. Commissioner Flanagan Battistella moved approve the application.
 Commissioner Melton seconded the motion. Motion carries.

7. Break

8. Heritage Organization Activities

Information

- a. Harv Schubothe, Main Street manager for Coos Bay Downtown Association, President of the Greater Bandon Association, and Board Member for Restore Oregon spoke to the Commission about how impactful being a Heritage All Star Community has been for Coos Bay's community, economy, and historical preservation.
- b. Cricket Soles, Coos Bay resident, spoke to the area's unique community and strong cross-organizational relationships.
- c. Gill provided updates on activities, and in-activity, of Certified Local Governments, All Star Communes, MentorCorps, and Mainstreet programs.
- d. Melton commented on the tours from the previous day noting that there were three heritage excellence awards winners as part of the tour.
- e. Flanagan Battistella expressed thanks for the tour.
- f. Johnson appreciated the look towards the future on the work that is in progress.
- g. Cricket Soles, member of the public, stated that the heritage community designation was a reason for the heritage interests to communicate and coordinate.

9. Commissioner Reports

Information

- a. Chair Johnson; Astoria's Maritime Museum is about to break ground on a major expansion. Their Regatta is coming up and their Scandi-Fest was held in June. They are working on their disaster resilience plan.
- b. Melton shared that there are relationships being built between local museums and tourist organizations. The Wildhorse Powwow was just held and the Pendleton roundup is around the corner.

- c. Nielson gave an update on Norwest Digital Heritage. The University of Idaho will soon be a contributor to the collection. Their organization is working on getting a backup aggregation system setup. Grants recently awarded included; the Independent Publishing Resource Center in Portland to digitize and catalog their Zine collection, the Maggie Osgood Society in Lowell to create a digital repository, the Springfield Public library to help digitize a portion of their photo collection, and to the CTUIR for purchasing a new microphone reader. The University of Oregon has hired a Coordinator, Justin Spence, to assist in digitizing tribal newspapers and other important documents.
- d. Savage recently went to see archaeologist Chelsea Rose talk about the Kam Wah Chung history and sites.
- e. Provost encouraged everyone to engage with The Van Port Mosaic and learn more about their memory activism.
- f. Flanagan-Bastistella had no report
- g. Landis reports that Oregon State University has a new collection; Edith Yang Papers, 1940-2009. She was the first woman of color to be licensed as an architect in Oregon and has a variety of structures in Benton County. Additionally, the University of Oregon's Necroarchivos de las Americas: An Unrelenting Search for Justice, will be opening soon.
- h. Gorman states that State Archivist, Stephanie Clark, will be serving on the 250th Commission.
- i. Associate Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Ian Johnson, reported on current events within the State Historic Preservation Office, including new or updated listings on the National Register of Historic Places.
- j. Woodward has been working with Travel Oregon team members to highlight Heritage All-Star and Traditions Communities. They were able to add all of the Heritage Traditions to their events calendar and now has substantially more information up on traveloregon.com.

10. Tribal Relationship Building Committee Update

Information

- a. Melton provided an update to recent discussions from the Committee. The Committee has met four times. Overarching questions considered include how can the commission support the heritage work of the tribes, how does this engagement benefit the tribes, how do we keep the Commission on the path of action, how can we be intentional moving forward with action vs. statement, and how can the Commission support non-native organizations that are partnering with tribes and caring for native cultural materials.
- b. Additional discussion points included how to do this work with and not for tribes, connection of resources to heritage organization in this work, compensation, continued education, funding and grant priorities, meeting and workshop locations, how mentor corps program can support tribal priorities, representation and recruitment for Commission positions.
- c. Possible actions include having a lense of tribal interests in Commission work and discussions, encourage Commissioners to be aware of tribal interests and news of interest related to this work, and the committee recommends the Commission consider a resolution to affirm this work.

- d. Johnson noted that is has really moved on beyond the land acknowledgement conversation that initiated the conversation.
- e. Henry asked Commissioners about the idea to work on a resolution and Provost commented that the resolution is more action based and moves beyond the lack acknowledgement.
- f. Johnson things it would be a good idea but wants to see what the content would be. Melton commented that the intent was to make sure that the Commission supported a possible resolution. Landis agreed but suggested multiple options for the Commission to consider and to have it embedded in the new heritage plan.
- g. Provost asked if there were other action items that resonated with Commission and Johnson asked a questions clarifying compensation. Melton clarified that compensation was related to non-native organizations compensating tribes for involvement in projects.
- h. Provost asked Henry about bylaws and positions relating to tribal interests. Henry informed the Commission that there is a position related to tribal interests in statute and Gill affirmed that there can be review of bylaws, processes, internal processes that we can review with tribal relationships in mind and can be considered for review and adjustment.
- i. Woodard asked about outreach for the five open positions. Henry affirmed that vacancies are considered for this work but emphasized the need for long term relationship building being the primary goal.
- j. Provost asked for this work to be on the agenda for the next meeting.

11. 2024 Oregon Heritage Vitality Study Update

Information

- a. The Institute for Policy Research and Engagement project team presented issues and recommendations resulting from the 2024 Oregon Heritage Vitality Study.

12. 2026-2030 Oregon Heritage Plan

Information

- a. Henry discussed the upcoming process for the 2026-2030 Oregon Heritage Plan

13. FY25 Oregon Cultural Trust Partner Funds Grants

Action

- a. The Oregon Cultural Trust Partner Grant sub-committee presented the recommendations for to the Commission.
 - i. Commissioner Savage moved to accept the recommendations as presented. Commissioner Flanagan Battistella seconded the motion. Motion carries;

14. Commission Planning Calendar

- a. Johnson brought up a schedule conflict for the next meeting and asked for possibility of moving the meeting back a week. It was decided that the next meeting will move to Nov. 3-4 in Pendleton.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm