

**Oregon Heritage Commission**  
April 22, 2020—APPROVED MINUTES  
GoTo Meeting Online

**Commissioners:** Chelsea Rose, Matias Trejo de Dios, Chrissy Curran, Laura Ferguson, Rosemary Johnson, Todd Kepple, Amit Kobrowski, Larry Landis, Anne Levant Prahl, Kimberly Moreland, Jennifer Patterson, Kerry Savage, Layne Sawyer, Carole Astley, Michelle Woodard

**Staff:** Beth Dehn, Kuri Gill

**Public:** Janice Crane (Cascade Locks Museum), Aili Shreiner (Oregon Cultural Trust), J.S. May (Cultural Advocacy Coalition), Tim Hecox (Oregon Museums Association)

**1. Call to Order (9:03 a.m.)** Chelsea Rose

**2. Introductions** All

**3. Approval of Agenda** All  
Kepple moved to approve the agenda. Moreland seconded; approved.

**4. Approval of Minutes from January 13, 2019** Chelsea Rose  
Johnson moved to approve the January 13 minutes. Moreland seconded; approved.

**5. Public Comments**  
Janice Crane, Executive Director of Cascade Locks Museum shared the difficulty she experienced in accessing the federal programs intended to assist nonprofits and museums. Thanked the Commission for the work they're doing and asked for any and all support in accessing additional resources.

**6. OPRD Response to COVID-19** Chrissy Curran  
Curran shared a brief overview of how Oregon Parks and Rec is responding to COVID19, the Heritage Commission's home agency. The update included an explanation of Parks funding streams, impact on employees in the field, the agency operations center, and a framework for reopening parks.

**7. Oregon Heritage Response to COVID-19** Chrissy Curran & Kuri Gill  
Gill shared that Oregon Heritage staff have been responding to COVID19 by canceling the Heritage Conference, attending Regional Solutions meetings, connecting with heritage networks in the state, and attending partner meetings. She noted that Oregon Heritage's role is to provide support and funding to heritage orgs, and with the speed at which things are changing, it is challenging. As a state agency Oregon Heritage also has less agility or structure to pivot as quickly as the private sector or foundations.

Curran discussed the COVID-19 Impact to Heritage statement Oregon Heritage circulated to statewide partners to make sure Heritage is represented at decision making tables and is articulating the value of heritage in community recovery. She also outlined commissioners' roles in advocacy.

**8. State Level COVID-19 Response Efforts**  
Each group shared information about statewide conditions and response efforts underway.

- A. Oregon Cultural Trust- Aili Schreiner** reported that the Trust is working on an Emergency Cultural Relief Fund that could allocate up to \$10M of permanent fund to relief. This is 1/3 of the permanent fund, dependent on legislative approval. An advisory committee and staff are working on grant guidelines to ensure equitable distribution of these funds. Schreiner also reported OCT is delaying the application deadline for FY209 Cultural Development Grants and is accepting changes requested to the FY20 grants through an internal waiver process. She suggested that OCT could benefit from additional impact data from the Heritage Commission, particularly on the impact of FTE retention and operational needs of heritage organizations, as well as participation in federal relief programs.
- B. Cultural Advocacy Coalition- JS May** talked about CREF funds, encouraged membership, talked about the license plate legislature. The CAC encourages all cultural organizations to share their stories more broadly, particularly how organizations have made adaptations, partnered with other community groups, stepped up to the challenge, and changed delivery methods. This is a time to continue to establish the value of culture.
- C. Travel Oregon- Michelle Woodard** reported that TO is gathering stories, statistics, and creating toolkits to manage the impact of COVID. They are looking at a possible 40% loss in revenue already for this year as no occupancy tax is being collected. They are looking to possibly reframe their medium and small grant programs towards recovery efforts. Recovery efforts are being planned now- they are already meeting with Parks to coordinate marketing when parks re-open. Would like to know more impact stories from heritage.
- D. Oregon Main Street Network- Kuri Gill** Reported that the Oregon and National Main Street programs have taken a leadership role in coordinating with businesses, cities, and counties to respond to COVID and use their networks to advocate for emergency funding, problem solve immediate needs such as keeping restaurants in business with take out, and innovative strategies to support one another. Oregon's Main Street program is looking to develop and collect data on the comparative value of Main Streets in this time of crisis compared to those communities without this network.
- E. Oregon Museums Association- Tim Hecox** reported that museums are not well represented in the federal stimulus response as they do not have state government infrastructure to represent the variety of museums (arts, science, children's, etc.). From national data their affinity associations have been collecting, Oregon infers that our museums are losing about \$386k/day in revenue. OMA would like to work more with the Heritage Commission on advocating for museums and heritage organizations that don't fit into the current federal relief buckets.

## 9. Commissioner Field Work Reports

All

**Patterson-** Reported that State Library is holding 3-4 sessions weekly for libraries to come together. State employee services remain uninterrupted. The talking book and braille library will discontinue mailing materials due to plastic cases not being safe. Many libraries are doing curbside pick-up and stories online. Patterson also reported that the CARES Act allocated \$50M to IMLS for disaster response, \$30M is granted to state programs, and \$380,000 of that will come to Oregon. The Library is working on criteria for how those funds can be granted and used. They are not for operations; more for digital inclusion, broadband access, and related technical needs. Partnerships among libraries and museum would be considered.

**Landis-** Reported that Higher Education is closed and the focus is digitization of instructional materials. At OSU Library, the focus is remote reference and continued outreach. Landis also reported that Benton County Historic Resources Commission is working on Historic Preservation Month activities, and the Century Farm and Ranch Program is thinking ahead to how they can hold an award ceremony online, if in-person at the State Fair isn't possible in August.

**Sawyer-** Reported that the State Archives closed on March 16. They are working on putting their 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment exhibit on a social media platform. Also working on keeping a “plague diary.”

**Kobrowski-** Reported that the Department of Education is creating guidance for schools with a pass/no pass system and looking ahead to what school may be like next year, including distance learning. Current focus is also on providing meals.

**Astley-** Noted that in her role at Travel Oregon, they’re trying to figure out how to handle events in the short and longer term. Had to cancel the tourism conference but moving forward with an October event for outdoor recreation in Welches. Earlier in the meeting she thanked the Commission for all the great opportunities over the past 14 years and introduced Michelle Woodard from Travel Oregon who will be replacing her.

**Woodard-** Added that this is an important time to remember the value and importance of working together.

**Curran-** In addition to her earlier reports, noted that some projects are continuing as normal. She’s still trying to move special assessment with historic properties forward and is working on a 14K person survey to get data. Also announced that Kuri Gill is the new manager of the Outreach Team, and other internal reorgs of the Heritage Division.

**LeVant Prah-** Reported that the Education Team is working hard at OJMCHE. Over 200 people attended a virtual Remembrance Day and read the names of Holocaust victims online rather than in person. Oral histories and exhibits are on hold, but they are working on videos that show highlights of the collection and putting content in their outward facing windows.

**Ferguson-** Noted that the High Desert education team is working hard to support *stay at home* learning. She also noted that internet is not strong in all regions of Oregon.

**Kepple-** Reported that Klamath County Museums is experiencing some survivors guilt, but will feel the impact of COVID19 when tourism tax revenue begins to decline. They are focusing on doing more with social media, but are conscious of the quality of resources they’re creating.

**Johnson-** Reported that fundraising events for the Scandinavian Heritage Park are on hold. Clatsop County Museum is calling volunteers weekly to check in on them and collecting stories on how people are living through these times. She noted that there aren’t good “people stories” that were collected during the Spanish plague.

**Savage-** Reported heritage orgs in Eastern Oregon are working on surviving. Not many orgs received assistance through the Payroll Protection Plan-- CASA may have. The Baker County Library tried the drive through option. Crossroads Carnegie Art Center is working on and NEA grant.

**Trejo de Dios-** Reported that his employer Oregon Health Authority is busier than ever. The Instituto de Cultura is advocating for resources- particularly emergency resources—that are needed in the Spanish language. He emphasized how hard COVID is hitting some Spanish speaking populations such as recent immigrants who work in service industry jobs and who may not have immigration status. Additionally, the Instituto is publishing 2<sup>nd</sup> Anthology of Poetry.

**Rose-** Reported that the archaeology field is cancelling field work and putting together COVID safety plans to avoid and unnecessary risk. She is also interested in the material culture of a pandemic and is writing an article for the Jefferson Journal about watching birds nest outside her new office window and seeing them use Clorox wipes in their nest construction.

## 10. Form COVID-19 Response Committee

Chelsea Rose

Rose called on Dehn and Gill to see if a committee was needed to take next steps on the conversations brought forward. Dehn said she had direction. Gill requested commissioners send Dehn any surveys or data samples they find. No committee was formed.

## 11. Oregon Heritage Traditions

Beth Dehn & Committee

The Great Oregon Steam-up in Brooks, Oregon submitted an Oregon Heritage Tradition application, which was reviewed by the Traditions Committee on April 8 and unanimously brought forward to the Commission for a vote. Dehn made a brief presentation on the tradition, which began in 1970 with the mission of educating the public about the history of machines and the role they played in modern technology and quality of life. The event takes place over two weekends each summer and draws over 15,000 visitors. Kepple moved to designate the Great Oregon Steam-up a Heritage Tradition. Johnson seconded; approved unanimously.

## **12. Oregon Cultural Trust Funds**

Beth Dehn & Chelsea Rose

- A. **FY20 Project Updates-** Dehn reported on progress and financial projections for the three services the Commission accepted for use of the FY20 Cultural Trust Partner Funds.
- B. **Form FY21 Review Committee-** Rose called for volunteers to serve on Cultural Trust FY21 review committee. Sawyer, Rose, and Ferguson volunteered.

## **13. Heritage Plan Updates**

Beth Dehn

Dehn reported that this week would have been the big release of the 2020-25 Heritage Plan. Because of changing conditions and the impact of closures on heritage non-profits, the Outreach Team is reassessing when and how to roll-out the Plan. Because goals include access, value, and best practices, the Plan will initially be presented as a framework for recovery from COVID19 impacts. When heritage orgs and nonprofits return to a “new normal,” staff will revisit the evaluation cohort component of the Plan.

## **14. Adjournment (12:00 p.m.)**

Next meeting locations:

- A. June 8, 10-11 a.m., Museum Grant Approval Call
- B. August 3, 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. John Day or Online
- C. November 2, 9 a.m. -2 p.m. TBD: South Coast