

# CULTURAL VALUE OF HERITAGE



Connect to the places and people around us.

Oregon's heritage is the bridge that connects us to the past and opens the way to the future.

**Dave Larkins of the Pacific City Dorymen's Association Heritage Committee wants people to know why Pacific City is unlike any other place on the West Coast.**

For over a hundred years, Pacific City has been home to the largest fleet of dory boats – small fishing boats designed to launch off a shallow beach. If you ever see a dory boat on an American beach, chances are it was designed or built in Pacific City.

The dory boat fleet is more than a collection of boats, it's a family. People take time to get to know their fellow fishers. Out on the water, everyone looks out for each other.

"We don't have a port. We don't have a Coast Guard. So fishing from a dory boat teaches you to put aside your differences, to work together, to come together for the greater good," said Dave.

As people visit Pacific City, however, they may not sense how the dory fleet has influenced the community and made Pacific City a special place to call home. That's why the Pacific City Dorymen's

Association is creating a museum. "There is more to the tradition than just preserving artifacts. It is the way people care about each other here," said Dave. "The museum keeps the fellowship alive."

Pacific City residents, and the tourists who come every year, will help create and promote the museum as a way to show off the unique culture of the area. They want to make sure future generations learn to build community spirit like the dory boat fishers who came before them.



By making sense of the past, we can imagine the world we want to live in and come together to create it.

**Hurtis Hadley has been through lots of changes in his community.** When his family survived the Vanport flood, they lived with relatives before settling in North Portland. Racial prejudice prevented African Americans from living most places in Oregon.

Now, Hurtis sees a new generation of people moving to his neighborhood. His new neighbors arrive without a sense of how important the close-knit community is to the people who have been rooted there for years and without recognizing how they influence the lives of people in that community.

As a member of the advisory board of the Oregon Historical Society, Hurtis joined with Oregon Black Pioneers to put together the Racing for Change exhibit. It connected past experiences of Black communities in Oregon to current challenges caused by rising housing prices and rapidly changing neighborhoods. The exhibit gave visitors an opportunity to understand the community and society around them, and reflect on how they fit into the changes that are happening.

“Racing for Change was a wake up call to get to know each other, to show love and respect for one another. And to ask, what can I do to make things better. Now that I am here, what can I do to create a better quality of life for

everyone,” said Hurtis. Visitors left the exhibit with a greater respect for the Portland Black community, and a desire to understand how they can make things better in their North Portland neighborhood.



Experiencing Oregon's many traditions inspires appreciation for our neighbors, our state, and ourselves.

*Woodburn's Fiesta Mexicana, an Oregon Heritage tradition since 1964.*



When we share stories about our past, we find common ground and build compassion for each other.

*Stories of Southern Oregon, a community history documentation project.*

To learn more about how you can preserve and share Oregon's heritage, visit: [www.oregonheritage.org](http://www.oregonheritage.org).

