

# Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

June 12, 2024

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<b>Agenda Item:</b>	7a	<b>Information</b>
<b>Public Comment Allowed:</b>	No	
<b>Topic:</b>	Heritage Division Update	
<b>Presented by:</b>	Matt Rippee, Deputy Director Heritage Division (interim)	

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## Oregon Heritage Conference a Success

Oregon Heritage hosted the first in-person Heritage Conference since 2018 in Forest Grove, April 17 - 20. Nearly 270 participants filled downtown and surrounding areas, making connections, experiencing the local heritage, and learning loads. The conference theme was “Make Space,” and sessions explored many topics, from organizational succession planning to relationship development.



## Oregon Heritage Awards Dinner and Presentation

The conference featured plenary speaker Matika Wilbur from the Swinomish and Tulalip Tribes and founder and photographer of Project 562, a documentary project dedicated to changing how we see Native America. She is also a filmmaker, writer, and podcast host. Plenary speakers Martha Barnette and Grant Barrett, hosts of A Way with Words, the popular radio show and podcast about language, and the Oregon Heritage Excellence Awards, featuring awards to Kim Moreland for her work supporting documentation and designation of properties related to Black history in Oregon and Maxville Site preservation work were also highlights. The conference also offered networking opportunities, including informal conversation sessions and the Opportunity Hall. Participants identified their favorite sessions in the evaluations, which included Learn, Land, Love: Rooting History for Care in the Land from Five Oaks Museum, Oral History Workshop, Black Preservation: Bridging the Gap, Succession Planning Conversation, Legacy of Native American Boarding Schools in Oregon, Oregon’s Kitchen Table, Making Space for Collective Support of and Advocacy for Heritage. One comment for the Make Space (and Time) for Valuing and Engaging Diverse Partners session noted, “I learned so much about how each group is different and how we need to learn the needs and values of those organizations we want to work with, I could have listened to them for hours.”

Oregon Heritage thanks our local partners, the Friends of Historic Forest Grove, the City Club of Forest Grove (the local Main Street organization), the City of Forest Grove, the Cornelius/Forest Grove Chamber of Commerce, and our nine sponsors. Special thanks to all the Heritage staff and to OPRD staff who worked or informed content at the conference: Lisa Sumption, Caleb Aldridge, Jodi Bellefeuille, Nicole Fox, Katie Gauthier, Helena Kesch, and Luke Parsons.

### **New Staff at the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office**

Heidi Shewchuk is the new Heritage Division Program Assistant, providing critical support to the Preservation and Compliance Bureaus at the SHPO. After 20 years of operating a successful blacksmith shop, she joins the team specializing in creating and preserving artistic, ornamental, and architectural ironwork. Heidi's lifelong love of history propelled her to return to academics at midlife, and she graduated from Portland State University with honors in History and Anthropology, focusing on historical archaeology and ancient Roman and Viking Age history. Heidi is firmly committed to preserving and promoting Oregon's diverse Historical and Cultural heritage. She is proud to be able to serve the people of Oregon through her role at SHPO. In her off hours, she is refreshed by recreating in Oregon's countryside, lifting heavy weights in the gym, herding her beloved cats, and celebrating at various cultural heritage events.



Aspen Kemmerlin joined as the new Special Projects Archaeologist with seven years of experience in the private industry and Georgia SHPO. Aspen holds a Master of Arts in Anthropology from Georgia State University with a concentration in Archaeology and Museum Anthropology. She is interested in Precontact and Contact-era archaeology and is extremely passionate about increasing the accessibility and inclusivity of archaeological education, specifically at the university level. Outside archaeology, Aspen enjoys hiking and camping with her son, fly fishing, and gardening. As a new resident of Oregon, she looks forward to exploring new public lands with her son, husband, and two dogs.



Kirsten Lopez is an Oregon archaeologist with experience focused here in the Pacific Northwest over the last 13 years. Her work has spanned compliance archaeology, laboratory methods and management, museum collections and conservation, museum and parks education, and public outreach. A mother of two, she enjoys games, reading, fiber arts, and spending time outside, whether gardening, hiking, or exploring new spaces with her family locally or abroad, connecting with communities in place.



**Prepared by:** Kuri Gill, Oregon Heritage Grants & Outreach Coordinator  
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