

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

September 18, 2024

Agenda Item:	6a	Information
Public Comment Allowed:	Yes	
Topic:	Heritage Division Update	
Presented by:	Matt Rippee, Deputy Director Heritage Division (interim)	

Portland Saturday Market Recognized as an Oregon Heritage Tradition

The Portland Saturday Market enters its 51st year with an Oregon Heritage Tradition designation by the Oregon Heritage Commission. The Portland Saturday Market is the 28th event designated as an Oregon Heritage Tradition in Oregon. Other Oregon Heritage Traditions include the Great Oregon Steam-up in Brooks, Oregon State Fair, Medford's Pear Blossom Festival, the Pendleton Round-Up, and the Woodburn Fiesta Mexicana. Artists Sheri Teasdale and Andrea Scharf started the market in 1974 to establish an open-air market in downtown Portland for creative makers to sell craft items and handmade food and to allow visitors and customers to meet and talk with the makers of the items they were purchasing. The market has over 400 members, generating an estimated \$12 million in gross sales each year and attracting over 750,000 visitors annually. It is a economic engine for Portland's Old Town Chinatown neighborhood and is nationally recognized as the country's largest continuously operating open-air arts-and-crafts market. An Oregon Heritage Tradition must be in continuous operation 50 years or more, demonstrate a public profile and reputation that distinguishes it from other events, and add to the state's livability and identity.



The Portland Saturday Market is recognized as the largest continuously operating open-air arts and crafts market in the country

Coos Bay Recognized as an Oregon Heritage All-Star Community

The Oregon Heritage Commission recently recognized Coos Bay as the state's eighth [Oregon Heritage All-Star Community](#). The designation acknowledges communities that value and support a variety of heritage resources. To receive and maintain the designation, a community must meet 15 of 24 criteria. The Oregon Heritage All-Star program recognizes communities that make the most of their historic resources. By safeguarding important elements of the past, All-Star communities advance "quality of life" and economic objectives while enhancing their unique community character.

Grants awarded to historic property and archaeology projects across the state

The Heritage Division awarded 18 grants totaling \$299,999 for historic properties and archaeology projects. Six of the grants received the Diamonds in the Rough grant, which funds façade enhancements that restore the property's historic character. The other 12 grants were awarded the Preserving Oregon grant that supports the restoration of properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places and archaeology projects. Funded grants include façade restoration projects in Baker City, Independence, Lebanon, The Dalles, Union, and Malheur County, as well as an archaeological project sponsored by the Southern Oregon University Lab to study the Maxville site in Wallowa County. Eleven properties received funding for restoration projects, including the Antelope School, Antelope; Elks Lodge Building, Medford; Santiam Pass Ski Lodge, Linn County; and Rock Creek Cemetery, Clackamas County.



Maxville staff, and archaeological professors and students at the former Maxville headquarters

City of Dallas Featured on Oregon Public Broadcasting

The listing of the Dallas Downtown Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places garnered a lot of interest in the press. Dallas is a Certified Local Government, one of the National Park Service programs operated by the State Historic Preservation Office. The project was funded in part by a grant associated with the program. Establishing the district was a goal of the City and the Dallas Downtown Association, which has participated in the Oregon Main Street Network for several years. The media's interest in the nomination led to an invitation to discuss Oregon Main Street program on Oregon Public Broadcasting's Think Out Loud.



[Downtown Dallas earns national historic designation](#)

After more than 20 years of revitalization efforts by city leaders, the city's downtown district was recently added to the National Register of Historic Places.

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Oregon Heritage Commission Releases Report on Harmful Content in Museum Collections

The Oregon Heritage Commission released the report *Addressing Harmful Content in Collections* prepared by Rose Paquet, Ph.D., to understand the scope of harm, trauma, and triggers that can occur to visitors, staff, and volunteers when engaging with institutional records and collections and how organizations are addressing harmful content in their collections. The [report](#) is available on the agency website, under “Preserve, Technical Resources, Additional Resources.”

Caity Abrahms Joins Oregon Heritage as the National Register Program Coordinator

Caity Abrahms joined the Heritage Division in July as the new National Register Program Coordinator. Caity holds a Master of Science in Historic Preservation from the University of Oregon, and she has seven years of experience in cultural resource management and preservation planning in the public and private sectors. She has also worked as an adjunct at the University of Oregon, where she taught a course in National Register nomination. She is passionate about increasing the inclusivity of the National Register, and she is honored to have the opportunity to coordinate the program in Oregon. Outside of work, Caity enjoys reading fiction, playing cribbage, and exploring public lands and communities across the state. Caity replaces Robert Olguin who served in the position for 5 years before being recently promoted to the Cultural Resource Analyst position, which reviews development projects under federal and state cultural resource laws.



Caity Abrahms at the John Day Fossil Beds

Oregon Heritage/SHPO State Commissions/Committee quarterly highlights

The Heritage Division houses four State Commissions and Committees: the Oregon Heritage Commission, the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries, the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation, and the Historic Assessment Review Committee. These groups meet throughout the year. The following is an update on recent Commission/Committee business from June and July:

[The State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation](#) (SACHP) met on June 21 in Salem. Business included:

- Tours included the [Oregon State Hospital Museum of Mental Health](#) and [Lee Mission Cemetery](#).
- Approval of the 2024 Preserving Oregon and 2024 Diamonds in the Rough grant recommendations. To see approved grant projects and upcoming grant opportunities, visit the agency [website](#).
- Presentation on the [Oregon Women's History Project](#)
- The committee reviewed the following property nominations for the National Register for Historic Places with the noted Committee actions.
 - J.L. Elam Bank, Milton-Freewater, Umatilla County – Recommended with Revisions
 - Black Historic Resources in Oregon Outside of Portland, 1788-2002, Multiple Property Document – Recommended with Revisions
 - Gorman House Amendment, Benton County – Recommended with Revisions
- Next SACHP meeting, October 2024

[Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries](#) (OCHC) met on July 18 in La Grande. The meeting included the following:

- A presentation by the Cemetery Association of Oregon (CAO). The CAO is a professional association for cemetery operators and has been an excellent ongoing partner of the OCHC. CAO provides technical advice, access to operating resources, and legislative action.
- OCHC is addressing the need to preserve and make available historic cemetery records. Small nonprofit organizations manage most of Oregon's historic cemeteries and have limited records

management capacity. At this meeting, the OCHC approved an update to the existing position paper, Records Preservation. In addition, the commission members brainstormed content for a cemetery records-themed guidance document that will eventually become a new Oregon Heritage Bulletin.

- The meeting's site visit highlighted the Hilgard Cemetery. The cemetery was established with the timber town of Hilgard near La Grande and is an excellent example of the issues historic cemeteries face in the northeast part of the state.

[Oregon Heritage Commission](#) (OHC) met July 21-22 in Coos Bay. Business included:

- Local tours that included the [Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, Siuslaw Indians](#) Tribal Hall and Lagñauwiiyat'as, True History Gallery, [Oregon Coast Historical Railway](#), a tour of Front Street, and the Marshfield Sun Printing Museum.
- Designation of the Portland Saturday Market as an [Oregon Heritage Tradition](#) event.
- Update on the [2024 Oregon Heritage Vitality Study](#).
- Presentation on Addressing Harmful Content in Collections: A Report for the Oregon Heritage Commission to understand the scope of harm, trauma, and triggers that can occur in institutional records and collections and how organizations address harmful content in their collections. Rose Paquet, PhD prepared the report.
- Approval of the FY25 Oregon Cultural Trust Partner Funds Grant Recommendations, including the 2026-2030 [Oregon Heritage Plan](#) planning process and grants for the Oregon Heritage All-Star Communities.
- The Oregon Heritage Commission currently has four vacancies and is seeking those engaged in the heritage preservation field from the following regions: Portland, Mid-South Willamette Valley, Southern, and Central.

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