



# The Culture of Oregon

Cultural Development Plan for the State of Oregon



## Joint Interim Task Force on Cultural Development

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Cultural Plan and Report  
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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The development of a new Oregon Cultural Trust and Fund will work to:

- Protect and stabilize Oregon's cultural resources, creating a solid foundation for the future.
- Expand public access to and use of Oregon's cultural resources and enhance the quality of those resources.
- Ensure that Oregon's cultural resources are strong and dynamic contributors to Oregon's communities and quality of life.

The Oregon Cultural Plan proposes:

**A new governance structure for publicly funded statewide cultural entities:**

- The Task Force has recommended that the Secretary of State coordinate efforts to link the efforts of the state's cultural agencies and partners. With the agencies maintaining their independent governance and status, this new collaboration will facilitate partnership to address cultural development initiatives in a cohesive, coordinated fashion not previously possible through independent efforts. It will strengthen the cultural partner agencies' ability to speak in a unified voice about cultural value and needs, and bring higher visibility to the work underway. This coordination will also facilitate the building of a broad, statewide coalition of individuals and organizations with an interest in culture, and it will increase the cultural agencies' capacity to leverage public and private funds for cross-cutting programs and initiatives advancing culture in Oregon.
- The Task Force recommends that a representative citizen advisory board be appointed to provide guidance and oversight for the granting programs and actions undertaken by the Trust.
- Staff for the Oregon Cultural Trust will be within the Secretary of State's office.



### **New revenue sources for the Oregon Cultural Trust Fund:**

- A new Cultural Trust Fund with a 10-year goal of \$218 million will be developed and designed as a fundamentally public initiative. The two primary revenue sources for the Trust are the establishments of tax credits for corporations and individuals and the conversion of existing state assets to the Trust Fund. A special "culture" license plate will be designed and offered to Oregonians; its value is both as a revenue source and "flag" for Oregon's culture. The existing public funding sources for the cultural partner agencies (Oregon General Funds and Lottery Funds) will remain in place. The first year of the Trust Fund operation may be partly devoted to building local cultural plans, developing infrastructure and generating the initial funding for the Trust Fund principal.
- In addition, the Trust Fund will seek grant funding from outside Oregon, particularly from major philanthropic sources, to address far-reaching cultural development initiatives.

### **Three equal fund distribution mechanisms from the Oregon Cultural Trust:**

- Community Cultural Participation Funds will provide, by formula, a minimum annual allocation to Oregon counties and the nine federally recognized tribes to support local and regional cultural projects and collaborations that respond to the vision and goals of the Trust. This funding mechanism will stimulate and support local cultural planning processes and projects. The Task Force has proposed a funding formula that takes into account both population and geography. Cultural coalitions will be developed as options for local fund distribution and for the creation and monitoring of local benchmarks that relate to the overall Trust benchmarks for culture.
- Cultural Development Funds will provide competitive grant funds to address both operating and capital needs for the stabilization and preservation of cultural resources, including physical structures, financial capitalization and organizational capacity.
- Supplemental funding to the Cultural Partner Agencies [Oregon Arts Commission, Heritage Commission, Historical Society, Council for the Humanities, State Historic Preservation Office] to support partnerships and collaboration as well as underfunded existing programs. This Trust funding will not supplant existing funding to these agencies. A portion of these funds will require collaboration between two or more partner agencies.

### **Measuring the benefits of Culture to Oregonians**

Baseline data will be collected in the first year to assess cultural participation and access, the financial condition of cultural organizations, and quality of life factors linked to cultural development. The Task Force envisions that the Cultural Plan will result in greater participation in and appreciation of culture in Oregon. The plan will support and measure the increased use of cultural assets as tools to enrich citizens' lives, to encourage life-long education and to promote knowledge of our state. The plan is designed to strengthen the connections between Oregon's cultural resources, community and economic development, and the citizenry.





## Cultural Partner Agencies

### Oregon Arts Commission

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 350  
Salem, Oregon 97301-1284  
(503) 986-0082  
(800) 233-3306 tollfree within Oregon  
(503) 986-0260 fax  
Email: oregon.artscomm@.state.or.us  
Website: <http://art.econ.state.or.us>  
Norm Smith, *Chair*  
Christine D'Arcy, *Executive Director*

### Oregon Council for the Humanities

812 SW Washington Street, Suite 225  
Portland, Oregon 97205  
(503) 241-0543  
(800) 735-0543 tollfree  
(503) 241-0024 fax  
Email: och@oregonhum.org  
Website: [www.oregonhum.org](http://www.oregonhum.org)  
Charles Walker, *Chair*  
Christopher Zinn, *Executive Director*

### Oregon Heritage Commission

1115 Commercial Street NE, Suite 1  
Salem, Oregon 97301-1002  
(503) 378-4168, extension 299  
(503) 378-6447 fax  
Email: heritage.info@state.or.us  
Website: [www.oregonheritage.org](http://www.oregonheritage.org)  
David Ellis, *Chair*  
Bill Hanable, *Manager*

### Oregon Historical Society

1200 SW Park Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97205-2483  
(503) 222-1741  
(503) 221-2035 fax  
E-mail: orhist@ohs.org  
Website: [www.ohs.org](http://www.ohs.org)  
Dennis Ferguson, *Chair*  
Norma Paulus, *Interim Executive Director*

### State Historic Preservation Office

1115 Commercial Street NE, Suite 2  
Salem, Oregon 97301-1012  
(503) 378-4168 ext. 231  
(503) 378-6447 fax  
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Website: [www.prd.state.or.us/about\\_shpo.html](http://www.prd.state.or.us/about_shpo.html)  
Hazel L. Patton, *Chair, State Advisory  
Committee on Historic Preservation*  
Christopher Rumbaugh, *Chair,  
Oregon Pioneer Cemetery Commission*  
Jim Renner, *Chair, Oregon Historic  
Trails Advisory Council*  
James Hamrick, *Deputy State Historic  
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Oregon Folklife Program, Oregon Historical  
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*Page 5: African basket by Amere Gebremeskel,  
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Oregon Historical Society*



In rural Oregon, our culture still echoes in special persons and places: still reverberates amidst our hills, along our back roads, within our small towns. Are we listening?

—Shannon Applegate, Author & Historian