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Introduction

The Clackamas County Cultural Plan for Arts, Heritage and Humanities is a call to action for increasing support for local culture and a vehicle for distributing the Oregon Cultural Trust's Community Cultural Participation Grant funds. The Plan includes an assessment of the strengths and critical issues facing arts, heritage and humanities in Clackamas County and specific goals, actions and benchmark indicators of success.

Background & Context

As part of the Oregon Cultural Trust's founding legislation, each Oregon county and the nine federally-recognized Tribes were asked to establish a Cultural Coalition and to create a plan for local distribution of Cultural Trust dollars. The first Clackamas County Plan for Arts, Heritage and Humanities, created in 2004, was the result of an eighteen-month investigative process engaging 180 citizens in interviews, forums and focus groups. Since the 2004 Plan was approved and the Cultural Coalition began its work, it has become clear that the Coalition's highest purpose and wisest use of limited resources is to nurture, support and invest in the efforts of others through granting funds for their work.

The Coalition: Who We Are

Allocating Cultural Trust funds in the form of grants is the Coalition's primary function. However, the Coalition strives to nurture and brighten the cultural scene throughout Clackamas County. Members represent a diverse landscape geographically and organizationally including music, education, art, dance, writing, heritage, business and celebratory events. The Coalition endeavors to encourage support and participation in our culture, which is, everything that revives the human spirit.

Clackamas County Environment

Clackamas County encompasses a diverse scenic landscape from the dense forests of magnificent Mt. Hood to the lush farmlands of the Willamette Valley. Geography separates us, but it is the very thing that creates a rich landscape of ideas and imagination. How we integrate our cultural riches and how we see and hear each other are continuing challenges. As population increases, the impact on the landscape, public infrastructure and cultural life will become key issues.

Whenever you bring like-minded people together, you can address some of the big problems. People who are active in culture and humanities tend to look optimistically to the future and problem solving.





COALITION VISION

*Through our work, and the work of others,
Clackamas County will be a place where:*

Arts, heritage and humanities are broadly acknowledged, integrated and valued for their contribution to building communities and bridging understanding among diverse people.

Cultural participation is truly accessible and is the norm, not the exception.

Culture is supported by a strengthened network of organizations, leadership, professional management and partnerships.

Community investment is sustained through a mix of public and private planning, decision-making and funding.

Education encourages all students to integrate cultural richness into life-long learning.

Newcomers and visitors are welcome, bringing their energy, ideas and resources.

A treasure trove of ideas, experiences and teachings shape and inspire individuals and families to participate and join in cultural opportunities throughout their lives.

*Our “culture” is the sum of the places and activities
in our lives that define who we are... our heritage, our
arts, our parks and wilderness areas, our many
festivals, all our rivers and the various other elements
in our communities which we love and would not want
to do without.*





STRENGTHS & CHALLENGES

Cultural Involvement

Strengths

- Most communities have cultural centers.
- The county is home to a large population of creative practitioners, historians and abundant cultural assets.
- Many people participate in culture through direct creation, audience involvement, volunteering and donating funds.
- Work of the Coalition to date has seeded support for many communities, individuals and organizations throughout the County.

Challenges

- Increased leadership in arts, heritage and humanities is needed to sustain and expand local culture.
- Arts, heritage and humanities programming within the K-12 school system is mostly unmet in many county schools, and K-12 education is key to valuing local culture, increasing cultural participation and building leadership.
- Continued financial support is an ongoing necessity and diversification of revenue sources is needed.

Demographics and Diversity

Strengths

- County population is growing in both urbanized and rural areas.
- County demographics report increased numbers of people who speak a language other than English bringing new cultural richness and opportunities to the area.

Challenges

- Increased population impacts cities and the land. The ongoing need for protection of rural and wild lands, intrinsic to the county's cultural life, is vital.
- The health of local culture and of cultural institutions with increased demand for arts, heritage and humanities programs is directly linked to the strength of public infrastructure, including schools, libraries, parks, roads and public transportation (i.e. when infrastructure is challenged, such as by the loss of federal timber dollars, local culture is also threatened).
- Inclusion of non-English speaking people in community cultural life, and sharing their cultural heritage, is essential to the health and diversity of communities.

Clackamas County Governance

Strengths

- The County has made a strong commitment to sustainability with three interlocking elements: economic, social/cultural and environmental.
- Through the County's Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, the links between arts, heritage and tourism are recognized and supported.
- Cultural tourism and the arts industry are strong economic drivers in the county.

Challenges

- Cultivate cultural representatives to participate and engage with county planning processes and the Board of Commissioners.
- Identify the local networks and partners needed to sustain cultural activities through effective resource coordination.



Clackamas County Cultural Plan for Arts, Heritage & Humanities 2012-2016



2012-2016 GOALS, ACTIONS, INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

Goal: Increase funding to and support of culture in Clackamas County

Action: Advocate with County Commissioners and other elected officials.
Indicator of success: Public funding to culture increased.

Action: Promote contributions to the Cultural Trust.
Indicator of success: Giving increased from county individuals and businesses to Oregon Cultural Trust.

Action: Annually assess and review funding priorities.
Indicator of success: Critical issues identified and addressed.

Goal: Increase participation in arts, heritage and humanities

Action: Seed partnerships, collaborations and communication between organizations.
Indicator of success: Increased number of grant applications proposing partnership-based projects.

Action: Encourage individuals in imaginative expression and promote collaboration with varied organizations.
Indicator of success: Increased individual participation and organizational partnerships.

Action: Encourage cultural study, appreciation and participation by students of all ages.
Indicator of success: Increased curricular and extracurricular participation and partnerships in arts, heritage and humanities.

Goal: Improve communication about and awareness of Coalition's work

Action: Ensure that Coalition purpose and function is clear and widely known.
Indicator of success: Outreach broadened to cultural organizations, businesses, artists and individuals throughout the County yields an increase of new grant applicants.

Action: Track county-wide cultural achievements.
Indicator of success: List of accomplishments published annually.

Goal: Ensure the Coalition represents the cultural diversity in Clackamas County

Action: Recruit new representatives to the Cultural Coalition.
Indicator of success: At least two new Coalition members added.

Cultural activities and assets are so important to our communities. They provide opportunity for education, civic engagement, tourism, and economic development.



Clackamas County Cultural Plan for Arts, Heritage & Humanities 2012-2016



2013 FUNDING PRIORITIES

(not listed by any priority order)

Heritage & History

Preserve & protect heritage and history, tell and build upon the stories of Clackamas County.

Creative People & Organizations

Strengthen and support arts, heritage and humanities organizations and individual artists, performers, writers, historians and scholars.

Public Art

Weave public art into the fabric of communities in public and private development.

Participation in Arts, Heritage & Humanities

Promote gathering places, and develop audiences of all ages to celebrate and participate in cultural activities, promote community building and economic development.

K-12 Education and Lifelong Learning

Infuse arts, heritage and humanities within the K-12 education system for all students to experience. Engage every citizen of Clackamas County with opportunities for lifelong learning through a diverse range of cultural activities.

Cultural Tourism

Encourage travelers from outside Clackamas County to experience the County's unique history, heritage, arts, humanities and other cultural activities. Connect visitors with the County's rivers, parklands, forests and natural landscapes through cultural events, activities and development that revitalize and inspire.

*We need to honor the unique qualities
of all our communities.*



Clackamas County Cultural Plan for Arts, Heritage & Humanities 2012-2016



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional Information and forms are updated annually and the most current information can be found online at www.clackamasulturalcoalition.org.

Grant Guidelines and Application

Project Grant Guidelines - <http://www.clackamasulturalcoalition.org/guidelines.htm>

Project Grant Application - <http://www.clackamasulturalcoalition.org/application.html>

Project Grant FAQs - <http://www.clackamasulturalcoalition.org/faqs.htm>

Special Opportunity Grant Guidelines - <http://clackamasulturalcoalition.org/specialop.html>

Special Opportunity Grant Application - <http://clackamasulturalcoalition.org/specialopapp.html>

Prior Awards

Project Grants - <http://www.clackamasulturalcoalition.org/previous.html>

Special Opportunity Grants - <http://clackamasulturalcoalition.org/specialophistory.html>

Cultural Coalition Organization

-Coalition Mission

-Role

-Structure

-Member Roster

-Planning Process

<http://www.clackamasulturalcoalition.org/about.htm>

Cultural Plan Artwork

Cover

Belluschi Pavilion

“Perennial” by Aaron Hussey

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Drummers

Wilsonville Art (Clock) Tower by Jerry Werner

“moontrap” by Lee Kelly

Linocut print by Jonnel Covault

“Tournament” Exhibit by David Eckard

“Leaf Dance” by Carol May & Tim Watkins

“Mosaic Cake” by Anna Meyrick & Hera Community School

“Ariel” performance at Clackamas Repertory Theatre

ArtBack’s Mural in a Weekend - Estacada Summer Celebration

Historic Oregon City - Photo Restoration by John Klatt

Interior Pages

T.W. Sullivan Power Plant by Christopher B. Mooney

Staged! Theatre in a Weekend Project

Molalla Timber Mural Project by David S. Gordon

“1776: Reading & Discussion Series” by Canby Public Library

Close-up view of “Wetland Window” by Devin Laurence Field

