

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

November 15, 2023

Agenda Item:	7a	Information
Public Comment Allowed:	Yes	
Topic:	Heritage Division Update	
Presented by:	Ian Johnson, Associate Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer	

Oregon Main Street Conference Held in Independence

The Heritage Division hosted the 2023 Oregon Main Street Conference in Independence from Oct 4 to 6, with a record attendance of 208. Main Street Founder Mary Means delivered a keynote on the organization's history and its impact over nearly 25 years in revitalizing downtowns. The opening session featured the Excellence on Main Awards, celebrating the best on Main Street over the previous year. Attendees participated in breakout sessions, walking tours, and networking opportunities. Special thanks to Helena Kesch for moderating the Open Door panel at the conference's conclusion, which discussed inclusivity in local main street programs and downtowns. Kudos to the staff members, including Joy Sears, Robert Olguin, Cam Amabile, Katie Henry, Kuri Gill, and Chrissy Curran, as well as staff in Information Services and Financial Services for their support with conference registration, including Genesis Castillo, Francis Doubrava, Rebecca Jasso, Bill Dahl, Jessica Dietzen, Randy Fisher, Bob Devyldere.



Oregon Main Street Conference, Independence

Oregon Heritage Hosts Joint Commissions Meeting in Enterprise and Wallowa

The Heritage Division hosted a joint meeting of its four commissions in Enterprise and Wallowa from October 18 to 20. Participating Commissions included the Oregon Heritage Commission, State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation, Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries, and Historic Assessment Review Committee. The joint meeting began with a welcome and presentation at the Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland Longhouse. Commissioners were also welcomed by Richard Wandschneider from the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture. Events included tours of downtown Enterprise and Wallowa, the Wallowa History Center, and the Maxville Site, a significant early-twentieth-century logging town with a substantial African American population recommended at the joint meeting for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. During joint sessions, commissioners discussed potential nominees for the Oregon Heritage Excellence Awards, the creation of the Oregon Heritage Vitality Report, and the use of remote sensing methods for documenting historic cemeteries. The joint meeting

identified opportunities for collaboration among the commissions and how best to bring the programs of the Heritage Division to Oregon's communities in support of community-driven heritage preservation efforts.

Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Host History and Culture Summit

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde (CTGR) held their first History and Culture Summit on October 4 and 5 at the Chachalu Museum and Cultural Center in Grand Ronde, Oregon. The event brought together cultural resource professionals, government personnel, tribal members, and archaeologists from the Oregon State Historic Preservation office. Over two days, participants attended presentations, breakout sessions, panel discussions, museum tours, and site visits covering traditional use areas and current Grand Ronde projects. They also discussed innovative projects like the collaboration with Oregon State University to document and preserve the Tumwata Village site and the associated Blue Heron Paper Mill using advanced remote sensing and photogrammetry techniques. Panel discussions focused on topics such as the traditional and current use of fire and collaboration with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. CTGR senior archaeologist Michael Lewis shared his work on conducting pre and post-fire surveys, and the University of Oregon Professor Gabe Sanchez spoke about his work on the Oregon coast in the Seaside area. The event allowed staff to develop professionally and create and strengthen professional relationships with their peers and an important agency partner.

Heritage Division Launches Statewide Effort to Document Women's History

Oregon Heritage recently selected Northwest Vernacular to develop a plan for a statewide Multiple Property Document (MPD) addressing women's history in Oregon for submission to the National Park Service. The company will also create a statewide context for the document. MPDs establish why a group of historic properties is eligible for recognition and simplify the documentation needed to list individual properties in the National Register. The project aligns with the Heritage Division's goals in Oregon's statewide preservation and heritage plans to broaden the representation of Oregon's history in its recognized historic places. The project began this fall with exciting conversations about the consultants' research and ideas for organizing the MPD with staff and at the joint Heritage Division commission meeting in Enterprise. Staff will separately contract for writing the MPD and an individual property nomination for submission to the National Park Service.

Prior Action by Commission: none

Action Requested: none

Attachments: none

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Landscape Architects Elizabeth Lord and Elizabeth Schryver. Lord and Schryver's Salem Home and design studio is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of their professional contributions to the field of landscape architecture.