



# Oregon Museums a s s o c i a t i o n *Dispatch*

Volume 33, Number 1

Winter/Spring 2010

## President's Message

Like many of our museum members across the state, OMA is in a period of transition. While change is always wrought with some discomfort, it is also an amazing opportunity to reevaluate what OMA offers to its members and how we can improve. With the upcoming Western Museums Association meeting in Portland this fall, OMA is excited to find ways to involve museum professionals from across the state in this rare professional development opportunity. We are also looking at ways to better market our museums to both in-state and out-of-state visitors.

I invite you to join us in Eugene this April at our Spring Meeting where we will focus on how our museum community can make opportunities out of the challenges presented by the current economic and cultural climate. The meeting will include a keynote address by Oregon's First Lady, Mary Oberst, presentations by University of Oregon Museum Studies graduate students and a panel discussion featuring several member organizations undergoing significant transition periods.

2010 looks to be a promising year for Oregon museums and we are thrilled you've joined us in making it a success!

Gardner Chappell  
OMA Board President

### Mark Your Calendar!

**OMA Meeting**  
*Facing Challenges, Creating Opportunities*  
Eugene, April 11-12, 2010

**Western Museums Association Meeting**  
*75 Years: Reflecting on the Past, Envisioning the Future*  
Portland, October 18-21, 2010

## University of Oregon Museums Host Spring Meeting

### Happenings at University of Oregon Museums

#### The Museum of Natural and Cultural History

UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History is expanding to safeguard Oregon's ancient treasures. "Every year we're learning more about Oregon's rich history," Jon Erlandson, Museum Director said, "and in the process more and more collections are generated. We have run out of secure space to accommodate these collections. Without this new facility, we would have been forced to stop accepting many important discoveries from federal and state lands in Oregon, a reversion to the 19th century when many Oregon artifacts and fossils were shipped off to museums in other states or countries."

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held this past fall, following the announcement of a \$500,000 lead gift from the Roseburg-based Ford Family Foundation for adding a public galleria to the new collections wing and for remodeling the existing collections vault for educational purposes.

"We are proud to help improve public access to the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History," said Norm Smith, Ford Family Foundation president. "A sense of place and history is a foundation for community building. The stories of our region's rural history are available through the museum's facilities, faculty and outreach."

*(continued page 4)*



Rendering of the Museum of Natural and Cultural History's new expansion.  
Image Courtesy of The Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

The University of Oregon  
Welcomes the  
 **Oregon Museums**  
association

April 11-12, 2010  
Eugene, Oregon

*Facing Challenges, Creating Opportunities*

*Meeting Agenda*

Sunday, April 11 at the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History

- 1:00-4:00      **OMA Board Meeting**
- 5:00-6:00      **Reception**
- 6:30            **No Host Dinner** at McMenamins, North Bank, 22 Club Road

Monday, April 12 at the University of Oregon Many Nations Longhouse

- 8:00-8:30      **Conference Registration**
- 8:30-9:30      **OMA Members Forum & Meeting**, including elections
- 9:30-10:00     **Coffee Break**
- 10:00-10:45   **Keynote Address: *Is There a Museum Culture Crisis?***  
Mary Oberst, Oregon's First Lady
- 10:45-11:00   **Break**
- 11:00-12:30   **Panel Session: *New Museum Studies Research by Emerging Professionals***  
Phaedra Livingstone, Assistant Professor of Museum Studies, University of Oregon, Moderator  
Amanda Garcia, "Opportunities and Challenges: Using digital technologies in small museums with limited resources"  
Megan Blankenship, "Controversial Exhibitions and Your Museum"  
Britney Whiting-Looze, "Collections as Communication: Deaccessioning and Public Trust"  
Elizabeth White, "Rights and Responsibilities: Housing cultural objects in museum settings"  
Laura Harrison, "Interactive Tools to Enhance Children's Meaning Making in the Art Museum Setting"
- 12:30-1:30     **Lunch**
- 1:30-3:00      **Panel Session: *Museum Responses to the Culture Crisis***  
Kyle Jansson, Coordinator Oregon Heritage Commission, Moderator  
Allison Weiss, Southern Oregon Historical Society  
George Vogt, Oregon Historical Society  
David Porter, Clackamas Heritage Partners  
Peter Booth, Mission Mill Museum  
Connie Nice, The History Museum of Hood River County
- 3:00-4:30      **Museum Tours**  
Museum of Natural & Cultural History: Collections, Pam Endzweig  
Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art: *Amazonia* exhibit, Jill Hartz

*Mail In Registration Form on Page 6*

For driving directions, lodging suggestions and more conference information see pages 6-7

## Oregon Museums Association Annual Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2009  
Oregon Museum Association General Meeting  
Des Chutes Historical Museum

The meeting was called to order by OMA President Kyle Jansson.

Kelly Cannon-Muller welcomed the conference and presented background information about the Des Chutes Historical Museum.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Steve Greenwood gave the following financial report:

Checking	\$ 15,018.75
Savings	\$ 2074.12
Petty Cash	\$ 3.40

The significant costs include printing and distribution of the brochures, web site maintenance and the newsletter.

### Announcements:

- Kyle Jansson outlined the guidelines and implementation process of the IMLS grant received by the Oregon Museum Association.
- OMA will provide a set of *AASLH Collections Bookshelf* books that may be borrowed by OMA members.
- OMA is encouraging a paperless distribution for the Dispatch and asked for help to do the monthly Dispatch email. Alice Parman volunteered to assist in that process.
- Gardiner Chappell announced that OMA is looking for a host institution for the next general meeting, March 2010. He also asked for input on topics to be considered and advice on the number of meetings OMA should sponsor each year.

### Election of Officers

The nominating committee presented the slate of officers for 2009-2010.

President	Gardner Chappell
Vice President	Bob Hart
Secretary	Mark Tolonen
Board	Keni Sturgeon
Board	Lori Erickson
Board	Sara Swanborn

Alice Parman moved that the proposed slate of officers be accepted by acclamation. There was a second and the vote to accept was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Gloria Rasmussen*

Currently, plans are moving forward for the next two stages of the expansion: Fundraising has begun for the estimated \$2 million needed for phase two, the remodeling of the museum's existing collections vault to create a new exhibit hall dedicated to the natural and geological history of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, and seeking authorization from the state Legislature to raise \$4.75 million from state, federal and private sources for phase three, which is the creation of a second new wing containing an archaeological research center. The goal is to bring the museum's laboratories--now scattered across campus--into a single complex, making services more efficient and facilitating interdisciplinary collaboration.

The museum's collections and research divisions work closely with Oregon's Native American tribes in studying Oregon's history, the repatriation of human remains, and the preservation and interpretation of important heritage sites. "This museum has a long history of collaboration with Native peoples as it has been a most diligent steward of our most treasured and guarded cultural items," said Jason Younker, a member of the Coquille tribe and cultural anthropologist at the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York. "It is because of the UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History's exemplary stewardship and reputation that Native peoples are excited about this project and the future collaboration that will most certainly take place in the magnificent repository that will be located on this site."

Located near historic Hayward Field, the UO museum houses collections from around the world. It is most famous for its collection of the world's oldest shoes, the 10,000-year-old Fort Rock sandals, and hundreds of baskets made by members of the Pacific Northwest's Native American tribes and more than 50,000 significant fossils from a variety of contexts and time periods. The museum's 50 staff members actively engage in archaeological and paleontological research in Oregon, the Pacific Northwest, and beyond, including cutting-edge work on the coastal migration theory and the peopling of the Americas, historical archaeology, climate change and human impacts on natural ecosystems.

#### The Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art

The University of Oregon's art museum opened its doors to the public in 1933. Designed by Ellis F. Lawrence, UO Dean of Architecture & Allied Arts at the time, the museum was built to house the Murray Warner Collection of Oriental Art—more than 3,700 works of art given to the University by Gertrude Bass Warner.

One of six museums in the state of Oregon accredited by the American Association of Museums, the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art (JSMA) is a premier Pacific Northwest

visual arts center, and features exhibitions, significant collections of historic and contemporary art, and offering educational programs that support the university's academic mission and the diverse interests of its off-campus communities.

The JSMA offers both permanent collection galleries and special exhibitions. You will always find on view selections from their Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Pacific Northwest, and American art and Orthodox icon collections, as well as new acquisitions and works selected by curators and faculty for courses and research. JSMA special exhibitions and masterworks-on-loan programs expand the reach of the collection, support university and community initiatives, and explore timely themes.

The Schnitzer has begun a self-study for AAM re-accreditation and are implementing a recently developed strategic plan that prioritizes curricular collaborations, diversifying and building audiences, and designing a comprehensive evaluation process aimed at effectively using our resources to assure a strong and vibrant museum.

The winter season kicked off on January 16, with *Amazonia*, a photographic exhibition that directs attention to aesthetic, ecological and sustainability issues. This is the premier of this traveling show and the publication of a major book—and with them a means of sharing the importance of environmental responsibility and preservation to sustain our world.

Even the smaller exhibitions have big themes and cover new territory. Look for a rare installation of media art by Nam June Paik, a retrospective of the art of Clinton Hill, and the annual K-12 exhibition NewArt Northwest Kids. And mark your calendars now for the May 15<sup>th</sup> opening of a provocative exhibition of Polaroid photographs by Andy Warhol and Gus Van Sant, organized by Larry Fong, curator of American and regional art.



Gallery view, The Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art

## A Merger of Opportunities:

### Mission Mill Museum and Marion

### County Historical Society

By Keni Sturgeon

By an overwhelmingly positive vote of both Boards, as well as the Membership, Mission Mill Museum and Marion County Historical Society (MCHS) unified January 1, 2010 to form the Willamette Heritage Center. The merger is the latest, logical step in cementing a strong, supportive relationship of shared history and geographic space that has continued between the two organizations since 1964, when the Mission Mill Museum Association was created, due in part to the efforts of MCHS.

Out of our initial discussions, a new and exciting vision has been born: "to become a premier regional history museum and research center." Much of what has made both of these heritage organizations well-respected continues. Mission Mill Museum, a trusted steward of some of Salem's most significant historic treasures, has long desired to become a premier history museum. Marion County Historical Society, long established as a great historical resource, is also striving to reach the next level of becoming a leading heritage institution.

What changes as we move forward is the creation of a "heritage center." Unification allows both organizations to achieve their goals by creating one unified, stronger institution. As a result, this new heritage center will be better prepared to provide improved cultural and heritage services to the Salem-area community and the Willamette Valley. At the same time, the new heritage center will be better able to promote cultural and heritage tourism to Salem and weather the financial challenges we find facing cultural organizations today.

Advantages of the merger are many: a joining of missions and visions; combined goals to collect, interpret and educate people about regional history; expanded educational programming, research capacities, collections and exhibits; and combined publications. Unification provides a very promising future for the combined Museums as the new Heritage Center takes shape.



#### Did You Know?

There are 3 great ways for OMA members to share and learn about what's happening in Oregon Museums:

**Dispatch:** Bi-annual printed newsletter. Send articles and professional development opportunities by June 1 for the Summer/Fall edition and January 10th for the Winter/Spring edition.

**E-Dispatch:** A monthly email newsletter highlighting special events, grant opportunities, scholarships, awards, meetings and workshops. Submissions must be received by the 25th of each month.

**OMA Website News:** Member announcements and professional opportunities. No submission deadline.

Send submissions to [info@oregonmuseums.org](mailto:info@oregonmuseums.org)

## Professional Development Briefs

### CONFERENCES

#### **National Council for Public History Conference**

"Currents of Change"

March 10-14

Hilton Portland & Executive Tower, Portland.

Register Online: <http://ncph.org/cms/>

#### **Oregon Heritage Roundups**

April 9, Oregon City

April 22, Jacksonville

April 29, La Grande

Register Online:

<http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/HCD/OHC/Conference.shtml>

Contact: Kyle Jansson, [heritage.info@state.or.us](mailto:heritage.info@state.or.us), (503)986-0673

#### **MVVMA Conference**

"Volunteer Management: Get Your Ducks in a Row!"

May 12-13, 2010

Salem Conference Center, Salem.

<http://www.mvvma.org/conference.html>

Contact: Mid-Valley Volunteer Managers Association, [register\\_mvvma@comcast.net](mailto:register_mvvma@comcast.net)

### WORKSHOPS

#### **Visitor Studies Association Regional Workshop**

March 16, 2010

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, Portland

Register Online at: <http://www.visitorstudies.org/>

#### **Board Development 101**

AASLH Online Workshop

Anytime between May 3-28 (5-10 hours)

Registration Deadline: April 26

<http://www.aaslh.org/BoardDevelopment.htm>

Contact: Bethany Hawkins, [hawkins@aaslh.org](mailto:hawkins@aaslh.org), (615)320-3203

### GRANTS

#### **OR Cultural Trust Cultural Development Grants**

DUE: May 14, 2010

[www.culturaltrust.org](http://www.culturaltrust.org)

Contact: Kimberly Howard, [Kimberly.howard@state.or.us](mailto:Kimberly.howard@state.or.us), (503)986-0088

#### **Oregon Museum Grants**

DUE: May 17, 2010

<http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/HCD/OHC/museum.shtml>

Contact: Kyle Jansson, [heritage.info@state.or.us](mailto:heritage.info@state.or.us), (503)986-0673

#### **NEH Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions**

DUE: May 18, 2010

<http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/pag.html>

Contact: NEH Division of Preservation Access, [preservation@neh.gov](mailto:preservation@neh.gov), (202)606-2930

For more information on programs and opportunities like these visit: [www.oregonmuseums.org](http://www.oregonmuseums.org)



Spring 2010 Meeting Registration Form
April 11-12

HOSTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON MUSEUMS, EUGENE

To help us plan for enough materials, please indicate all events you plan to attend. If you are sending more than one attendee from your organization, please fill out separate forms. REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 2nd.

Name
Organization
Address
City
Phone
Email

- Meeting Registration Fee, OMA members \$15.00
Meeting Registration Fee, non-members \$20.00
Sunday Board Meeting
Sunday Reception, Museum of Natural and Cultural History (included in Registration Fee)
No Host Dinner at McMenamins, North Bank, 22 Club Road (for reservation purposes)
Lunch \$10.00 Roast Beef Turkey Ham Vegetarian (indicate preference)

Total Enclosed: \$ Do you need a registration receipt? Yes No

Please make your check, payable to the Oregon Museum Association, and send it with this form to:
OMA, PO Box 1718, Portland, OR 97207
Please write "OMA registration" on the lower left corner of the envelope.

Questions? Call the Lane County Historical Society at 541-682-4242 or email:
info@oregonmuseums.org.

Conference Schedule is Located on Page 2.

Addresses:

McMenamins: North Bank (No Host Dinner, Sun. April 11, 6:30) 22 Club Road, Eugene, OR 97401

Many Nations Longhouse
1630 Columbia Street, Eugene, OR 97403

Museum of Natural and Cultural History
1680 East 15th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97403

The Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art
1430 Johnson Lane, Eugene, OR 97403

Driving Directions

From the North: I-5 South, take Exit 194B onto I-105 West. Take Exit 2, keep left and follow the signs to the UO. Proceed in the left lane over the Ferry Street Bridge, exiting onto Broadway, which becomes Franklin Boulevard. Follow Franklin Boulevard to Agate Street. Turn right onto Agate and right again onto East Thirteenth Avenue. Proceed to the Information Kiosk.

From the South: I-5 North, take Exit 192. Merge onto Franklin Boulevard. After merging, get in the left lane and follow Franklin Boulevard through three lights. (Look for a "UO Next Left" sign as you drive west on Franklin Boulevard.) At the fourth light, turn left onto East Thirteenth Avenue. Proceed two blocks to the four-way stop sign at Agate Street. Continue straight ahead to the Information Kiosk.

From the Coast: Highway 126 East until it becomes West Eleventh Avenue. Follow West Eleventh Avenue to Garfield Street and turn left. Take Garfield to West Seventh Avenue and turn right. Get in the right lane and follow West Seventh Avenue until it becomes Franklin Boulevard. Get in the right lane and follow Franklin Boulevard to Agate Street. Turn right onto Agate and right again onto East Thirteenth Avenue. Proceed to the Information Kiosk.

From the East: Highway 126 West through Springfield which becomes I-105 in Eugene after you cross over I-5. Take Exit 2, and follow the directions from that point for "From the North."

## OMA Membership Information

Have you renewed your membership for 2010?

All membership renewal and application forms are available on the OMA website: [www.oregonmuseums.org](http://www.oregonmuseums.org).

If you need a paper copy of the membership application or renewal form please send the following information to:

Oregon Museums Association  
PO BOX 1718  
Portland, OR 97207

### Membership Application Request Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to (check one):

- Become a member  
 Renew my membership

I would like to join as a (check one):

- Individual/Student/Volunteer  
 Museum Institution  
 Museum-related Business/Services Corporate Member

Questions about membership?

Contact us at [info@oregonmuseums.org](mailto:info@oregonmuseums.org)

## Places to Stay in Eugene near ufo:

For more information on lodging visit the Travel Eugene website:  
<http://www.travellanecounty.org/eugene/>

Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites  
2117 Franklin Boulevard, Eugene, OR 97403  
(541) 342-1243  
[www.hiexpress.com](http://www.hiexpress.com)

Campus Inn  
390 East Broadway, Eugene, OR 97401  
(541) 343-3376  
[www.campus-inn.com](http://www.campus-inn.com)

Best Western: New Oregon Motel & Greentree Inn  
1759 Franklin Boulevard, Eugene, OR 97403  
(541) 683-3669 & (541) 485-2727  
[www.bestwesternoregon.com](http://www.bestwesternoregon.com)

Secret Garden Bed & Breakfast  
1910 University Street, Eugene, OR 97403  
(541) 484-6755  
[www.secretgardenbbinn.com](http://www.secretgardenbbinn.com)

## 2009 In Review at LCHSEGM

By Bob Hart

The advent of a new year is always a good time for retrospection. The economic downturn in 2009 forced a reduction in staff; the museum eliminated its educator position, effective with the new fiscal year on July 1st. It also demanded other budget reductions as projected revenues would decrease.

The brighter side of things was celebration of the sesquicentennial year of Oregon's statehood. The museum began OR 150 with a year-long exhibit, "Changing Demographics: The People of Lane County." This exhibit began with community involvement. Our most active partner turned out to be the University of Oregon through Dr. Lynn Stephen, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, whose contacts within the Latino community proved invaluable and influenced the largest portion of the exhibit. This exhibit was the museum's first attempt at a bilingual exhibition and production of an accompanying catalog. The opening reception was grand. Salsa music, Latino and soul foods, dignitaries and families intermingled in joyful celebration.

Our photographic conservation efforts continued for a second year with the nitrate negative project, which continued to garner funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust and The Oregon Heritage Commission. The project became a "live" exhibit in July and project images began to go online as of November. At the current rate of production, a project completion date for the 20,000 images is projected for mid-October 2011.

Possibly the most important event was among the last of the year. In early December an exploratory meeting of community and Historical Society board members took place to begin discussion of a new Lane County Historical Museum facility. More meetings will follow, with the eventual formal appointment of a New Museum Committee.

We look forward to 2010 being better than its predecessor and our next major exhibition, opening in May, "Tie Dye and Tofu: How Mainstream Eugene Became a Counterculture Haven."



Magician Paul Reffstrup and his lovely assistant Rozella Mock perform November 10th at the Historical Museum Coalition of Lane County's 2009 Passport to the Past program. Reffstrup, of Eugene, is perhaps the oldest professional magician in the country at age 94! Photo by Mark Tolonen.



P.O. Box 1718, Portland, OR 97207-1718  
www.oregonmuseums.org | info@oregonmuseums.org



### Board of Directors

#### President

**Gardner Chappell '10**, (541) 957-7007, gchappel@co.douglas.or.us  
Director, Douglas County Museum of Natural & Cultural History, Roseburg

#### Vice President

**Bob Hart '11**, (541) 682-4242, director@lanecountyhistoricalsociety.org  
Executive Director, Lane County Historical Society & Museum, Eugene

#### Immediate Past President

**Kyle Jansson '10**, (503) 986-0673, kylej53@minetfiber.com  
Coordinator, Oregon Heritage Commission

#### Secretary

**Mark Tolonen '11**, (541) 929-6230, mark@bentoncountymuseum.org  
Curator of Exhibitions, Benton County Historical Society and Museum, Philomath

#### Treasurer

**Steve Greenwood, '10**, (503) 886-1102, steve.m.greenwood@wellsfargo.com  
Curator, Wells Fargo History Museum, Portland

**Lori Erickson '11**, (503) 797-4582, lerickson@omsi.edu  
Curator, Oregon Museum of Science & Industry, Portland

**Keni Sturgeon, '11**, (503) 585-7012, kenis@missionmill.org  
Curator, Mission Mill Museum, Salem

**Sara Swanborn '11**, (503) 363-4714, SHSwanborn@salemart.org  
Director, Bush House Museum, Salem

**Gloria Rasmussen '10**, (503) 306-5251, Gloria.Rasmussen@ohs.org  
Education & Public Programs Manager, Oregon Historical Society, Portland

## OMA Dispatch

Post Office Box 1718, Portland, OR 97207 info@oregonmuseums.org

The newsletter of the Oregon Museums Association, *Dispatch*, is published two times a year: Winter/Spring and Summer/Fall. Oregon Museums Association is a statewide membership organization serving the needs of museums and related institutions, large and small, across Oregon. OMA holds meetings and workshops around the state, advocates for the interests of its members in legislative and other matters, publishes a biennial *Guidebook To Oregon Museums*, and hosts [www.oregonmuseums.org](http://www.oregonmuseums.org). Historic houses, aquaria, interpretive centers and sites, zoos, heritage sites - all are potential members of OMA. OMA is a nonprofit organization; contributions are tax deductible. OMA provides scholarships to members for professional development. OMA is an affiliated state organization of the Western Museums Association. Send news about your museum to [info@oregonmuseums.org](mailto:info@oregonmuseums.org). Digital files are preferred, but hard copy can be sent to PO Box 1718, Portland, OR 97207.

Summer/Fall Issue Deadline: June 1, 2010

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