



April 2022 newsletter

OMA news

May webinar: **Creating a virtual tour for your museum**

Monday, May 23, 2022 - 12-1:30 pm

Join [Visiting Media](#) (True Tour) for a webinar on creating a virtual tour for your museum. We'll review the benefits of virtual tours, how to plan for it, what to include, and how to integrate it into your museum's online presence.

Hosted by OMA board member Zachary Stocks.

- OMA members - \$15
- Non-members - \$25

[Register now](#)

Repatriation and restitution

Benin celebrates the return of its looted treasures

Priceless treasures stolen by the French army over a century ago have finally been returned to the African nation.

"At first glance, it seems to be just another day in Cotonou, Benin's largest city. Motorbike-taxis are everywhere, filling the streets of the country's economic capital with dust and noise. But inside the swanky presidential palace, something seismic is taking place: over a century after they were looted by the French army, 26 treasures that once belonged to the nation have gone on display to the public."

[Read about the emotional celebrations.](#)

Repatriating ancestral remains to Hawaii



Lawyer Edward Halealoha Ayau led the delegation. © SPK / [photothek.net](https://www.photothek.net) / Felix Zahn

"A delegation representing the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) repatriated a total of 58 *iwi kūpuna* (ancestral Hawaiian skeletal remains) from four institutions in Germany and one in Austria that were stolen over 100 years ago from Hawai'i.

The repatriation of the *iwi kūpuna* is the culmination of many years of research, coordination and communications between OHA and European museum, anthropologic and academic institutions. These *iwi kūpuna* were collected from Kaua'i, Moloka'i, Maui and Hawai'i Island during a time of colonial violence, and were horrendously dehumanized for study without the consent of their families. The return of the *iwi kūpuna* to their one *hānau* (homeland) allows for healing and restoration of dignity, so they may finally rest peacefully."

- [Read the article from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.](#)
- [Read the article from *Smithsonian Magazine*.](#)

New guidance available for return and restitution of items from university museums and collections

University museums should reconsider holding items that were acquired illegally or unethically, according to new guidance from the [International Council of Museum's](#) committee for university museums and collections.

The "[Guidance for Restitution and Return of Items from University Museums and Collections](#)" is intended to inform and support universities regarding requests for the return of items from their museums and collections. The document emphasizes the need to involve other stakeholders and says the guidance is not intended to supplant laws or other formal frameworks that may be in place.

[Find out more.](#)

Museum news

Volunteer appreciation week is April 17-23

If you need some inspiration for some ways to appreciate the folks that help keep your organization going or spend some time focusing on your volunteer program, Oregon Heritage has some resources.

- [Template for thank yous to volunteers and social media posts](#)
- [Ideas for socially distanced acts of appreciation](#)
- [Study on the value of volunteers](#) - "The work volunteers do within heritage organizations is indispensable to the preservation of Oregon's heritage."

Oregon Black Pioneers offers K-12 lesson plans



*Mrs. Jeannie Gay reads to a group of children. Mrs. Gay taught school in West Linn.
Photo OSU Oregon Digital collection.*

In response to a clear community need, Oregon Black Pioneers (OBP) consulted with teachers to develop multi-day lessons for elementary, middle, and high school grade levels. All are designed to align with state social studies and ethnic studies curriculum standards, and were made using materials from OBP's research collections.

[Visit OBP's Education page](#) to learn more about each of these lessons, and request them for your classroom today.

National Snapshot of COVID-19 Impact on United States Museums

American Alliance of Museums began a survey in June 2020 to assess the overall impact of COVID-19 on museums' financial condition. Over 700 museum directors responded to the survey on behalf of their organizations, representing a broad cross-section of the field in geography, size, and discipline. Some of the findings from the survey fielded December 8, 2021-January 20, 2022 include:

- Since March 2020, on average, museums were closed to the public for 28 weeks due to the pandemic.
- In April of 2021, only 44% of museums had reported that they did not furlough or lay off any staff since the start of the pandemic. As of this survey, nearly three-quarters (73%) of responding museums report that they have been able to retain or restore all of their staff.
- Over the past two years, museums also reached out in new ways to support needs in their communities. 39% of respondents intend to maintain facilities or programs they created to support online learning or schooling based in the museum, and 18% intend to maintain initiatives such as food banks or wellness programs, they created to meet other community needs.

[Read the report.](#)

2022 Oregon Heritage Conference: The Power of Heritage

April 27-29, 2022 - Virtual

Attend the [2022 Oregon Heritage Conference](#) to explore ways in which heritage preservation empowers communities, uncovers untold stories, preserves history in the making, creatively engages audiences, and proves its value.

- [See the preliminary schedule.](#)
- [Register now.](#)

Jobs

Confluence

- [Indigenous Emerging Artist/Educator Fellowship](#)
-

Clackamas County Historical Society

- [Executive Director](#)
-

Lane County History Museum

- [Museum Receptionist, part-time](#)
-

Newell Pioneer Village

- [Museum Coordinator](#)
-

Hoffman Center for the Arts

- [Executive Director](#)
-

Oregon Folklife Network

- [Program Coordinator \(limited duration\)](#)
-

Oregon Black Pioneers

- [Letitia Carson Legacy Project Intern](#)

Grants

Meet the Funders events

- April 12 - Southern Oregon
- April 14 - Portland Metro/Willamette Valley
- April 19 - Central/Eastern Oregon
- April 21 - Oregon Coast

[Register here.](#)

Trailblazers Foundation Fund

[Grants support underserved youth and their families.](#) Deadline April 28, 2022.

Carpenter Foundation

[Grants for Josephine and Jackson counties.](#) Deadline April 29, 2022.

Oregon Cultural Trust

[Cultural Development Grants.](#) Deadline May 6, 2022.

Oregon Heritage

[Diamonds in the Rough grant.](#) Deadline May 10, 2022.

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Mailing address: P.O. Box 8604, Portland, OR 97207 **Email:** connect@oregonmuseums.org

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