



2023 year in review

Letter from our President

Dear Reader,

I am so truly grateful for the amazing community that surrounds OMA. Whether you attended our conference in Bend, signed up for a webinar, joined us at a meet up, or read our newsletter, I want to say THANK YOU for being a part of it!

This has been a record year for us and we cannot do it without you. Looking ahead to 2024, there is a lot on the horizon to get excited about. The board will be reflecting on [OMA's mission and goals](#) to update our strategic plan. We will enrich Oregon's communities with [streamlined programs and events](#). And our work will continue to engage the entire state through our offerings and [advocacy](#). Read on for details of our accomplishments in 2023.

Your support of OMA helps us strengthen connections throughout our community. As we prepare for the new year, [we ask that you consider making a meaningful donation](#) to empower Oregon's museums to thrive.

Thank you for your support and consideration. We look forward to what we will accomplish together in 2024!

Sincerely,
Peter Kukla



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Our Board of Directors changed and grew

We have a strong Board of Directors, with many new faces this year. [Meet the Board.](#)

- Two of our board members left: Katie Williams (Vice President, served six years) and Zachary Stocks (served three years)
- We welcomed five new board members: Natascha Adams, Heather Christenbury, Stacy Nalley, Lydia Heins, Val Van Alstyne
- We voted in two new members of the Executive Committee: Ariel Peasley (Secretary) and Stacy Nalley (Vice President)

Plans for 2024

We will conduct strategic planning in Spring to develop a new 5-year plan.



OMA Board of Directors, from left: Stacy Nalley, Peter Kukla, Natascha Adams, Val Van Alstyne, Heather Christenbury, Amanda Coven, Ariel Peasley, Katie Williams, Eleanor Sandys, Lydia Heins. Not pictured: Janice Crane, Jennifer Fang

We continued with webinars and increased our in-person meet ups

In 2023 we presented the following programs:

- [4 Webinars](#) with 130 registrants
- 1 Listening session for museum-adjacent professionals
- [5 In-person meet ups](#): Portland, Eugene (2x), Independence, Corvallis

All of our webinars are recorded and [available on our website](#), free for members to view and only \$5 for non-members.

We had two sponsors for our webinars: [Historical Research Associates](#) and [Indow](#).

Plans for 2024

We hope to bring back our in-person workshop for 2024. Stay tuned for more info.



March 2023 meet up in Portland

We presented our first in-person OMA conference since 2019

Our 2023 Annual Conference, *Bending the Rules*, was held in beautiful Bend. We presented one preconference workshop, Conversation with Funders, 12 sessions, a keynote speaker, and fun evening activities. We had 93 registrants, the largest attendance for an OMA conference to date.

We couldn't have done it without our local museum collaborators. On Sunday the [Deschutes Historical Museum](#) hosted the OMA board meeting, conference registration, preconference Workshop, and walking tours of Bend. The [High Desert Museum](#) opened their museum to attendees for our evening reception on Monday.

We conducted an evaluation and found that overall, respondents enjoyed the sessions and keynote speaker, and learned something to help them take concrete steps.

We had nine sponsors, for a total of \$7,000 in sponsorships (see page 2 in the program). Thank you sponsors!

- [See the program](#)
- [See the slides](#)
- [See the evaluation results](#)

Plans for 2024

We will hold our 2024 Annual Conference in Coos Bay September 8-10 at [The Mill Casino Hotel](#). The 2024 conference will feature preconference activities and two full days of presentations, an increase from previous conferences of one and a half days.



We advocated for the Oregon museums community

In 2023 we boosted our advocacy work by writing letters to legislators, adding resources to our advocacy section of the website, and conducting a funding needs survey.

We sent strongly-worded letters to:

- The House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business supporting HB 2459 for additional COVID recovery funds
- The full Oregon Legislature expressing disappointment with how little support the Arts and Culture sector received in the 2023 session

We added resources to our [advocacy webpage](#), including a new feature: [Request a letter of support from OMA](#). This is good for your museum and business grants and for directing OMA's attention to local issues.

In conjunction with Representative Kevin Mannix's office, **we conducted a funding needs survey** in late 2023. Thank you to the museums that responded. We received 65 responses from 21 counties identifying a total of \$56 million in needs. Two-thirds of identified needs came from outside of the Portland metro area. Over 80% of the needs identified were for staff or facility support. While we are finalizing next steps in the legislative process, the information we collected will be invaluable to share in aggregate on other advocacy fronts.

Does this work excite you? Volunteer with the advocacy committee and help us advance Oregon's museums. Complete our [volunteer application](#) to join today.

Behind the scenes

Our fantastic Board and Executive Committee have instituted some changes behind the scenes:

- We updated our financial systems to more accurately reflect our income and expenses
- We changed the Administrative and Communications Coordinator position from contractor to employee and increased wages to better support cost of living

Jobs

Coos History Museum

- [Museum Office Manager](#)

High Desert Museum

- [Assistant Director of Philanthropy](#)

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry

- [Outdoor Education Program Supervisor](#)
- [Community Learning and Research Associate](#)

Grants

National Endowment for the Humanities

- [Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Museums](#) Deadline January 11
- [Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections](#) Deadline January 12

Oregon State Capitol Foundation

- [Exhibit Sponsorship Program](#) Deadline January 31

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