Greetings from OMA

Winter/Spring 2013

On behalf of the OMA Board, I want to extend a very Happy New Year!

After having an outstanding 2nd Annual OMA Museum Conference in Ashland in October at the Schneider Museum of Art, we are extremely enthused to be entering 2013 with new goals to help serve you, our members, with your museum needs.

As part of our goal to represent all of Oregon, we added several new board members this past year. If you have not already met them, I would like to welcome Ann Craig with the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History, Kathleen Daly of the Brigadier General James B. Thayer Oregon Military Museum in Clackamas, Amy Drake of the Southern Oregon Historical Society, and Erika Leppmann of the Schneider Museum of Art in Ashland. We are always interested in members who are passionate about Oregon museums and in taking a hands-on approach to the continuation of OMA growth. Please contact the executive board if you are interested in becoming an At-Large Board Member.

Remember that your membership expires each December. Renew now, as you do not want to miss out on the many great opportunities OMA has planned this year! Your membership will grant you access to stipends for conferences and workshops. It will also give you discounts and updates on the upcoming OMA Annual Museum Conference and educational workshops throughout the year!

Your membership is how OMA can offer these great opportunities. Without your support we cannot continue to be a growing statewide association that is striving to meet your museum needs! Please renew today to ensure your full membership benefits.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the OMA Dispatch; it contains updates from museums throughout the State of Oregon, as well as great articles written by your peers. If you are interested in submitting an article or have any topic ideas we would love to have them! (Contact information can be found on the back page.)

Stay tuned for announcements regarding upcoming dates for state educational workshops! Wishing you a successful 2013!

On behalf of the OMA Board,

Heather Bouchey - OMA President

Oregon Jewish Museum Launches Innovative Programming

By Annie Prah, Oregon Jewish Museum

Programming at the Oregon Jewish Museum took a turn toward the experimental in 2012. Under the direction of Program Coordinator Sandra Preston and with a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, we embarked on a series of programs designed to introduce those elusive 18-35 year olds to what the museum has to offer. In addition to our regular lectures, concerts, book readings, films, and moderated discussions on subjects connected to our current exhibitors, we launched, developed, and tested playground, an experimental program of six events, guest curated by young Portland arts professionals with a specific connection to the talent highlighted in each event.

Heeb Remixed, the first event in the new series, was a night dedicated to emerging Jewish musicians and songwriters. Folk-pop band WEINLAND guest-curated the line-up and headlined at local east-side club Holocene for a night of exploring Jewish culture through music and food. Interactive boards created discussion amongst the energetic crowd, as they discussed what Jewish cultures mean.

Membership renewals are due! See page 7 for more information.

If you are interested in submitting a 500 word article of professional, scholarly, or political relevance to Oregon museums and museum professionals, please contact the Editor. All submissions will be screened by the Editorial Board. Deadline for the Summer/Fall 2013 issue is May 31, 2013.
It's time to renew your OMA membership!

All OMA annual memberships - institutional, individual, and corporate - expire on December 31, at the end of the calendar year. In an effort to reduce paper waste and postage fees, OMA has sent membership renewals via email this year. If you didn’t get this email or you are unable to renew via email, please let us know! Either fill out the form at right, or contact one of us directly (our information is on the back page).

Benefits include: The Dispatch, OMA’s published newsletter; E-Dispatch, OMA’s monthly email newsletter of museum news and events; the Online Guide to Oregon Museums, full-color published rack card, and discounts on registration to the OMA Annual Conference and other professional development and workshops. Each member is entitled to one vote at OMA business meetings.

Any other questions regarding membership? Contact us at: oregonmuseums@gmail.com. Thanks for all you do to support Oregon Museums!

Cultural Heritage Experiences Major Factor in Traveler Decisions

By Oregon Heritage Commission

Cultural and heritage experiences are important factors in attracting travelers to visit Oregon. Once here, these cultural heritage travelers spend nearly 60 percent more than the national average for cultural heritage travelers.

Those are two of the findings in a recent study of cultural heritage travelers organized by the Oregon Heritage Commission. The Oregon Cultural Trust provided funds for the study, while Travel Oregon provided technical assistance.

“Museums have been supported for years that their work was important for their communities and for the tourism industry,” says Kyle Jansson, coordinator of the Oregon Heritage Commission. “This study proves that cultural heritage travelers spend hundreds of dollars for lodging, restaurants, transportation, and other services, and that means jobs for Oregonians.”

The study, conducted by Mandala Research LLC, showed that Oregon’s cultural heritage travelers spend nearly 60 percent more per person than cultural heritage travelers do nationally. These travelers contributed an estimated $19.6 billion to the state economy on their most recent trip to the state, according to the study’s findings.

A cultural heritage traveler is defined as “a person who travels to experience the places, people, activities, and things that authentically represent the past and present, including cultural, historic, and natural resources.” This means they visit museums, heritage sites, arts venues, state and national parks, beaches, and other places also enjoyed by Oregonians.

A far higher percentage of Oregon travelers than those elsewhere said cultural heritage activities were important to their decision to visit Oregon. Once here, these cultural heritage travelers spend nearly 60 percent more than the national average for cultural heritage travelers.

The report concluded that it is important for Oregon to capture the past sense of place and to weave this iconic place into the future. A complete copy of the report is available at http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/HCD/OHC/Pages/Tourism.aspx.

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 or Corporate Member

OMA Dispatch Winter/Spring 2013

Meet the Board: Member-at-Large, Amy Drake

At the 2011 Oregon Museums Association Conference in Philomath, Amy Drake was elected to the OMA board as a Member-at-Large. Let’s get to know her a little better.

Amy attended Grinnell College in Iowa, where she earned a BA in History. After graduation, Amy was awarded a fellowship at Historic Deerfield in Massachusetts, where she studied early New England history and material culture. In 2009, Amy spent a year interning with the Gaston County Museum of Art and History in Dallas, North Carolina, where she helped develop exhibitions, complete a collections inventory, and run educational programming.

In 2011, Amy earned her MA in History Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program (CGP), in Cooperstown, New York. While attending CGP, Amy completed a thesis on cultural and social reactions to the popularization of women bicycling in the 1890s. Included in the curriculum were numerous projects and internships at the Mystic Seaport, Fenimore Art Museum, and The Farmers’ Museum.

Amy has been the Curator of Special Projects at the Southern Oregon Historical Society in Medford since July 2011. Through this position, she directs the History: Made by You program, creating community-focused traveling exhibits, and the Technical Assistance Program, offering technical support to heritage nonprofits in Southern Oregon. In 2012, Amy was elected onto the Ashland Historic Railroad Museum board.

Amy brings an enthusiastic and young perspective to the board. It is not only exciting to have her amongst the ranks, but to have her as a part of the Oregon museums community.

Mark Your Calendar!

Conferences and Workshops:
- Textile Preservation Workshop - Clackamas, April 4
- Oregon Heritage Conference - Portland, May 9-10
- OMA Annual Conference - TBIA, Spring 2014

Additional free workshops offered by the Oregon Heritage Commission:

The preliminary workshop schedule is:
- Coos Bay, April 15-16
- Medford, April 18-19
- Philomath, April 22-23
- Bend, April 29-30
- Portland, May 9-10
- Pendleton, May 14-15
- Astoria, May 16-17

The Institute of Museum and Library Services awarded the Oregon Heritage Commission a $241,000 grant to assist with establishing an Oregon Heritage MentorCorps and to expand trainings for archives, libraries, and museums.

Collections care, collections management, and emergency preparedness were three of the most important trainings desired by cultural heritage organizations in the state.

Attendees may attend one or both days of the workshops. The first day will be devoted to collections care and management; the second day to emergency preparedness.

Registration information will be available at the Oregon Heritage Commission website www.oregongentertainment.org

Membership Renewals

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):
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- ___ Museum Institution
- ___ Museum-related Business or Corporate Member

OMA Dispatch Winter/Spring 2013

OMA Annual Conference - Schneider Museum of Art, Ashland

This year’s conference was a huge success! We could not have done it without these wonderful sponsors:

Meet the Board: Member-at-Large, Amy Drake

Thank you all for your generous support!
The Museum Textiles Service (MTS) created a vacuuming worksheet that is available online. Although the use of a screen is no longer common practice, I prefer its use and actually recommend it. What’s key is the consistency of making sure it’s securely made. The screen keeps your textile from sucking up into the vacuum and allows you to get very close to the textile without coming into direct contact. It is important that you avoid touching your textile with the hose. Making a screen is cheap and easy. Buy an 18 inch square of nylon screening from your local hardware store. With a sewing machine, sew natural or white bias tape, well tight, around the cut edges to protect your textile from the screen’s abrasive ends. Voilà! You have a vacuuming screen. An alternative is to use plexiglass or chemically treated acrylic (irreversibly) damage. What can be hung? Anything else in good condition. Just be sure to use padded hangers. They are super cheap and easy to make. What’s more, many clothing stores will donate plastic hangers – perfect for this project! If you would like detailed instructions for making padded hangers, please let me know. My handouts are ready! For hanging pants and skirts, trouser hangers should be instead of draping the garment over the crossbar of a regular hanger. The key is to place a piece of ethafoam or polyfelt along the waistline or yarns. The weave of the fabric, and not through the individual threads sucking up into the vacuum and allows you to get very close to the textile without coming into direct contact. It is important that you avoid touching your textile with the hose. Making a screen is cheap and easy. Buy an 18 inch square of nylon screening from your local hardware store. With a sewing machine, sew natural or white bias tape, well tight, around the cut edges to protect your textile from the screen’s abrasive ends. Voilà! You have a vacuuming screen. An alternative is to use plexiglass or chemically treated acrylic (irreversibly) damage. What can be hung? Anything else in good condition. Just be sure to use padded hangers. They are super cheap and easy to make. What’s more, many clothing stores will donate plastic hangers – perfect for this project! If you would like detailed instructions for making padded hangers, please let me know. My handouts are ready! For hanging pants and skirts, trouser hangers should be instead of draping the garment over the crossbar of a regular hanger. The key is to place a piece of ethafoam or polyfelt along the waistline or yarns. The weave of the fabric, and not through the individual threads.
Through the Lens
Focused on the history of film as a creative medium. Curated by local filmmaker and host of The Pedal Powered Talk Show, Bous Frankel, the evening at the Mission Theater celebrated the work of four young, local Jewish filmmakers. Each showed two clips of their work, while Frankel moderated a lively conversation with the filmmakers and the audience about their work.

Outside the Box
Focused on Lacey Schwartz’s story about her life growing up in a typical upper-middle-class Jewish household in Woodstock, New York. Lacey grew up with loving parents and a strong sense of her Jewish identity. At the age of 18, she was told that her biological father was not the man who raised her, but a black man with whom her mother had had an affair. Through clips from her upcoming documentary of the same name and her discussion with the audience, this frank look at race and identity lead to a powerful discussion in the OJM auditorium.

Sukkah PDX
Was so successful this fall that the Museum plans to repeat the call for creative submissions next year. This juried architectural design competition and festival was guest-curated by Coren Rau. Rau worked with Sandra Preston and a jury of architects, artists, and designers to turn the OJM parking lot into a curated collection of sukkahs—a temporary shelter or hut, traditionally built in the fall during the Jewish holiday of Sukkot. Explicitly fragile and permeable, these shelters bring to the fore ancient questions of protection, enclosure, transience, and the very different needs of older generations.

The museum will be...