



## COVID-19 update from OMA

Dear Oregon,

Our lives have been turned upside down by the COVID-19 epidemic and subsequent closures and restrictions. While OMA does not have an office to close, our board members work at museums and organizations like yours, that are making difficult decisions to ensure the health and safety of their community.

You have likely received a great deal of advice and resource lists, so we will keep our updates specific to OMA and the needs and issues we've heard from the Oregon museum community.

This email will cover:

- OMA updates
- Connecting with OMA colleagues
- Moving meetings, trainings, and collections online
- Advocating for nonprofit relief funding
- COVID-19-related funding
- A short list of COVID-19 and museums resources

### OMA Updates

The Spring Workshop, [\*Moving Forward with NAGPRA\*](#), will not take place on April 22, 2020 as part of the Oregon Heritage Conference in Corvallis that was cancelled.

The May 11, 2020 workshop in Bend is also cancelled. It will be rescheduled for a later

date in the fall.

Our Board of Directors in-person strategic planning retreat scheduled for April 3 will be rescheduled at a later date. We will still meet for a few hours on April 3 via Zoom web conference to get a jump start on planning.

## Connecting with OMA colleagues

Have you subscribed to the OMA member forum? Now is a great time to use the forum to ask questions, connect with colleagues, get support, and share resources. We know folks are concerned about employees, income loss, fundraising needs, and many other issues facing museums throughout Oregon. [Join and get connected now.](#)

Check out the [OMA facebook page](#).

## Moving online

It's more important than ever to begin, refine, or increase your online presence. COVID-19 has brought into focus even more, the need to provide online access to our audiences.

- [Tips and tools for running virtual events](#)
- Nonprofit Learning Lab: [How to lead better online trainings](#), March 26, 27, 31 and in April.
- Tip: As phone and internet lines are being used at unprecedented levels, access can be affected. Schedule meetings to start 15 or 45 minutes past the hour rather than on the hour. Carrier networks are less congested at these times.
- [Digital collections: A future for small museums](#), free webinar plus links to resources, from Connecting to Collections Care.

## Advocacy

Your legislators need to hear directly from you that they must include museums in COVID-19 relief and economic stimulus. Let them know how COVID-19 is affecting your institution and how your museum is adapting to serving your communities. [Read tips and more from AASLH.](#)

- Contact your elected officials. [AAM Advocacy alerts.](#)
- [Find your Oregon state legislator.](#)

To make a better case for relief, make sure your museum is tracking operating losses due to the current COVID-19 crisis, including incurred costs (such as for extra cleaning materials). Contribute to efforts to track the losses of arts and cultural institutions nationwide:

- Americans for the Arts: [5-Minute Survey: The Economic Impact of Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) on the Arts and Cultural Sector](#)

## COVID-19 funding

The [Oregon Community Recovery Grants](#) program of the Oregon Community Foundation, will provide funds to nonprofit organizations in Oregon that are particularly affected by the outbreak of COVID-19.

## COVID-19-specific museum resources

- [American Alliance of Museums](#)
- [NonProfit Association of Oregon](#)
- [Washington Nonprofits](#)

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