



June 2020 newsletter



Responding to racism

The Oregon Museums Association stands in solidarity with those protesting for the Black Lives Matter movement and institutional change, and encourages our members to take action for racial justice and serve as catalysts for social change in the communities they serve.

Examples from Oregon museums addressing inequality and racism in their programming:

- [Racing to Change: Oregon's Civil Rights Years](#). Presented by Oregon Black Pioneers and hosted by the Oregon Historical Society.
- [Southern Rites](#). Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education
- ["Expectation and Exclusion: An Introduction to Whiteness, White Supremacy, and Resistance in Oregon History,"](#) by Dr. Carmen Thompson. Free article from the *Oregon Historical Quarterly* Winter 2019 special issue.

Please send other examples to connect@oregonmuseums.org for potential inclusion in our July newsletter.

National resources for museums taking action for racial justice:

- Many communities are discussing reshaping police forces; one thing museums can consider is to [divest from police contracts](#).
- Museums As a Site for Social Action (MASS Action) offers a [readiness assessment and toolkit for creating greater equity within the museum field](#).
- Visitors of Color offers a ["Guide to Resistance,"](#) how visitors of color can use museums in times of oppression and social injustice for personal empowerment.
- The American Alliance of Museums featured a conversation at their Virtual Annual Meeting on ["Racism, unrest, and the role of the museums field."](#)
- Museums and Race offers a [Statement of solidarity including three things museums can and SHOULD do now](#).
- The National Museum of African American History & Culture offers ["Talking about Race."](#)



What is OMA doing?

The OMA Board of Directors has been working with a consultant to revise our mission and vision and create a new three-year strategic plan, with a goal to embed diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion (DEAI) more holistically into the fabric of OMA.

We are in the final stages of completing the strategic plan, and look forward to sharing the complete plan along with specific action steps with our members in the July newsletter. We are excited to share with you now the latest draft of our new mission and vision for OMA.

Mission

The Oregon Museums Association empowers Oregon's museums to thrive. Valuing ties of friendship and inclusiveness, OMA strengthens connections throughout the Oregon museum community through:

- Lively discussion and networking at in-person events and via on-line media;
- Insightful programming and training at our annual conference and workshops;
- Targeted advocacy to advance the museum field.

Vision

Museums reflect, enrich, and engage Oregon's diverse communities as essential drivers of economic and cultural vitality. OMA envisions a world where museums across Oregon:

Reflect. Reflect, celebrate and respond to diverse populations; honor and demonstrate excellence in diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility; and practice community-based models of collecting, preserving and exhibiting that are accountable to historically marginalized communities.

Enrich. Are a source of joy; provide experiences that catalyze dialogue and positive social change; promote scholarship and access to museum resources; and are supported and abundantly funded.

Engage. Inspire communities through meaningful encounters with objects, displays, interactives, living stories and programs; engage audiences to expand their knowledge of history, art, culture, science and nature; and become conveners of community.

Help us grow

OMA is committed to representing the communities we serve and currently seeking two additional members for the [board of directors](#). If you or someone you know is interested in joining our efforts to advance DEAI work in the museum field, please send us an email at connect@oregonmuseums.org.

OMA news

Results from OMA survey

In April we opened a survey for OMA members and friends to provide input into post-COVID-19 program planning. The survey was hosted by SurveyMonkey, and announced in the April newsletter, on the OMA facebook site, and on our website.

We received 13 responses. For programming, respondents suggested: webinars on federal grants and reopening; a survey of layoffs; and job opportunities. One plea: "Please don't forget independent consultants amidst all of this. Even though we don't have an affiliated institution, we still need support. Thanks!"

[See the survey results.](#)

Webinar on reopening museums

OMA, Cultural Advocacy Coalition, and Oregon Heritage Commission hosted a webinar on Monday, June 8 to discuss the official statewide [reopening guidance for museums, zoos and outdoor gardens](#). The webinar provides insight on the guidance, legal issues, practical issues and resources.

See the [recording, slides, and transcript of the webinar](#).

***This webinar is ASL interpreted.*

News

Museum Hue and American Alliance of Museums partner

[Museum Hue](#), an organization that has become a force in their advocacy for people of color in the museum field, and the [American Alliance of Museums](#) (AAM) have created a strategic partnership focused on racial equity in the field. The partnership recognizes that the greatest chance the museum field has of increasing racial equity requires a combination of diverse methods and tactics.

[Find out more.](#)

June is Pride month

Pride parades across Oregon have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but you can learn about the [Gay & Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest LGBTQ History](#). Founded in October 1994, it was the only gay and lesbian organization of its kind in the Pacific Northwest, with the stated purpose of “advancing the visibility of queer cultural history within the Pacific Northwest.” The Oregon Historical Society hosts their collection in the digital archives.

[View the collection.](#)

Put Oregon women's history on the map

The Oregon Women's History Consortium has started the "Help Put Oregon on the Map map-a-thon" for Oregonians to share historical documents, names and places, and complete a nomination to the [National Votes for Women Trail](#).

- [Join the map-a-thon.](#)
 - [Submit a suffrage site](#) to the National Votes for Women Trail.
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Preservation graphic stories

The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training offers short graphic stories on preservation techniques.

[Find out more.](#)



COVID-19

Making virtual events accessible for persons with disabilities

Since the start of the current COVID-19 crisis, arts and culture organizations have been proactive in reaching out to their audiences and communities through webinars, online classes, and virtual visual art collections and museum tours. Cultural organizations should remember to ensure that these invaluable resources are fully accessible to people with disabilities, including those with vision, hearing, and learning disabilities.

The National Endowment for the Arts [offers resources and suggestions for accessibility](#).



Photo courtesy Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education (OJMCHE)

Project ideas for persons working remotely

After a few months of social distancing, museum staff who are still working remotely might be finding it hard to think of new tasks to do without access to the physical site. Some tasks are better suited to working on from home than others, and some of your coworkers may have more to do than others.

The American Alliance of Museums (AAM) has compiled a [list of tasks museum workers from across the field can do while teleworking](#).

Recursos culturales y El COVID-19 **Cultural resources and COVID-19**

From the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training

[Este documento](#) explora cómo el COVID-19 persiste en las superficies y cómo se puede desactivar eficazmente el virus mientras se preservan valiosos recursos culturales.

[This document](#) explores how COVID-19 persists on surfaces and how you can effectively deactivate the virus while preserving valuable cultural resources.

Jobs

Part-time fabricators - OMSI

The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) is hiring fabricators to develop interactive exhibits and experiences. **Positions open until filled.**

[Find out more.](#)

Grants

National Endowment for the Humanities grants

[Humanities Collections And Reference Resource Grants](#) are for planning, assessments, digitization, rehousing, and conservation treatment leading to enhanced access. **Deadline is July 15, 2020.**

National Endowment for the Arts grants

[Grants for Arts Projects 2](#) offers grants of \$10,000 to \$100,000 for project support. **Deadline is July 9, 2020.**

[Our Town](#) offers grants of \$25,000 to \$150,000 for creative placemaking projects. **Deadline is August 6, 2020.**

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grants

[Grants for community-based archives](#) support operational costs, collections care and programming. **Deadline is July 1, 2020.**

Support OMA

[Become a member](#), [renew your membership](#) or [donate](#).

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