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June 2021 newsletter



OMA June webinar - Sins of omission: Addressing the legacy of the Oregon Historical Society as a pioneer memorial association

June 23, 2021, 11 am - 12:30 pm

The roots of the [Oregon Historical Society](#) (OHS) stretch deeper than most cultural heritage institutions in the Pacific Northwest. OHS' legacy of acquisition and description is skewed and narrowed by its origins as a pioneer memorial association. It is incumbent on OHS leadership and staff to confront and address the various expressions of this legacy. Staff members from several departments will discuss ways they incorporate radical empathy in the work they do to address the issue.

Presenters:

- Laura Cray, [Digital Services](#) Librarian at OHS
- Eliza E. Canty-Jones, Editor of the [Oregon Historical Quarterly](#) and Director of Community Engagement at OHS
- Nicole Yasuhara, Deputy Museum Director at OHS
- Erin Brasell, Managing Editor of the Oregon Historical Quarterly and Managing Editor and Co-founder of [Dear Oregon](#), OHS's blog
- Dana Miller is Collection Management Librarian at OHS

Registration is open.

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

[Register now](#)

OMA webinar and workshop recordings now available

The following OMA virtual webinars and workshops are now available for OMA members in our [online store and archive](#).

- Talking with your museum community: COVID-19-friendly adaptations and considerations. September 2020
- Moving Forward with NAGPRA Virtual workshop. November 2020
- Listening to help integrate values-based equity: Guest curator Stephanie Littlebird in conversation with Five Oaks Museum. February 2021
- Will the last person leaving please turn off the lights? How to properly disband a museum and liquidate its assets. April 2021

[Visit our program archive](#).

Not a member, but interested in viewing a webinar? [Join us now](#)! Memberships are only \$25 for [Individuals](#) (\$15 for Students and Volunteers), \$100 for [Businesses](#), and start at \$75 for [Institutions](#).



OMA Board meeting, January 2021. From left to right. Top row: Janice Crane, Pamela DeCarlo (OMA admin), Stephanie Craig, Kyle Weismann-Yee. Middle row: Zachary Stocks, Tim Hecox, Eleanor Sandys, Katie Henry (Oregon Heritage). Bottom row: Sarah Baylinson, Katie Williams, Nicole Yasuhara, Dan Ruby.

OMA seeking board members

Would you like to contribute to a vibrant, connected museum community in Oregon? We invite current OMA members to apply for membership on the [board of directors](#). Board members help run OMA programs and serve on at least one committee, with a time commitment of 3-6 hours a month.

- [Read the board member description.](#)
- [Fill out the volunteer application.](#)

OMA-WaMA Joint Virtual Conference 2021



Submit a proposal, become a sponsor, apply for a scholarship

Submit a proposal by June 10

Call for proposals deadline is two days away (June 10, 2021)! Submit a proposal for presentation, workshop, interactive session, or panel. [Read the full Call for Proposals](#) to learn more, then fill out the [submission form](#).

Sponsor the conference

[Sponsoring OMA](#) will show your support of museums, as well as showcase the variety and excellence of the museum community in Oregon and Washington. [See the sponsorship flyer](#) for opportunities from \$250 to \$2500.

Apply for a scholarship

OMA is offering a limited number of [scholarships for no-cost registration](#) to the OMA-WaMA Joint Virtual Conference 2021. To apply, fill out the brief [online application form](#) by **June 21, 2021**

Questions or concerns about any of this? Email us at connect@oregonmuseums.org.

Museum news



High Desert Museum wins national honor

The [High Desert Museum](#) in Bend, OR is one of six recipients of the 2021 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries that make significant and exceptional contributions to their communities.

[Find out more.](#)

Civic Season hopes to form a new "more perfect union"

[Made By Us](#), the engine connecting history museums and sites with Millennials and Gen Z, and [Civics Unplugged](#), are kicking off the inaugural "Civic Season" this summer, and invite state and local history organizations to be a part of it. The tension between our nation's promises and practices calls us all to dig deeper into our traditions, our history, and our role in forming "a more perfect union" going forward. Today, amid a groundswell of interest about America's future, how might we imagine a new kind of tradition that goes beyond hot dogs and fireworks?

The Civic Season, held between Juneteenth and the Fourth of July, mobilizes us all to engage with our past, take action in the present, and shape the future, through activations in our neighborhoods, cities, towns and social spaces.

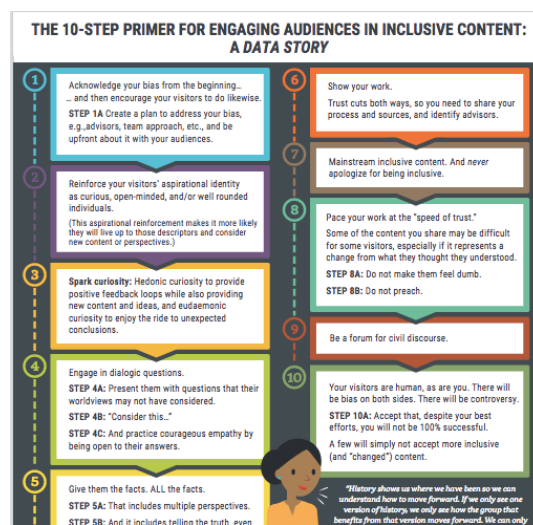
[Find out more and register.](#)

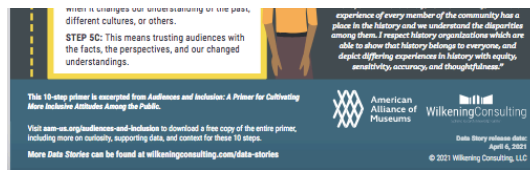
Can historians be traumatized by history?

Whether collecting items from a recent mass shooting or reading first-hand accounts of brutal military conflict, public historians can be more affected than they know by their research subjects. James Robins writes in an article in *The New Republic*, "The phenomenon of the historian traumatized by history remains unstudied and is not widely known. Yet anyone who has documented depravity knows the symptoms."

[Read the article.](#) *Warning:* This article contains graphic violence and suicide, and may be harmful and difficult to read.

Inclusion and accessibility





Cultivating more inclusive attitudes among the public

Audiences and Inclusion: A Primer for Cultivating More Inclusive Attitudes Among the Public uses new research to examine how museums can effectively employ one of our superpowers—the ability to spark curiosity—to cultivate more inclusive attitudes. Published by Wilkening Consulting and the American Alliance of Museums, the [10-step primer](#) offers a roadmap for museums to use radical curiosity and courageous empathy to crack open museum-goers' worldviews and effect critical societal change while maintaining and broadening our audiences.

Northwest Digital Heritage offers access and support for digitization

The Oregon Heritage Commission, State Library of Oregon, and Washington State Library have partnered to launch [Northwest Digital Heritage](#) (NWDH), an online platform for Oregon and Washington based libraries, museums, and cultural heritage organizations to digitize and make accessible cultural heritage materials.

NWDH features two primary digital efforts. One is a central point of access for online users looking to discover primary source materials and other resources related to Oregon and Washington history. This offers easy access to a variety of collections which currently includes nearly 80,000 records from over 60 institutions. The second is to support organizations in digitizing their collections following best practices and make them accessible through the online service hub.

NWDH provides cultural institutions the following services:

- Metadata “harvesting.” Records are copied from their home systems, standardized, and then transferred to DPLA.
- Digital collection hosting. Offers smaller institutions an online platform to host their digitized items including historical documents, photographs, oral-history recordings, and more.
- Training and support. Service hub staff, composed of teams at both state libraries and the Oregon Heritage Commission, train cultural heritage organizations to digitize collections, edit and preserve digital files, and catalog material to archival standards.

[Find out more.](#)

Museum accessibility survey results

The results are in from a museum accessibility survey promoted by the Western Museum Association. The survey revealed that there is strong support for implementing accessibility but there is much work to be done. Most of the institutions represented in this survey have yet to fully deal with the basics. Every museum needs an accessibility leader, someone with passion, to lead an accessibility advisory group that includes persons from the disability communities. The accessibility leader and group must be empowered to develop policies and procedures, provide training to employees and volunteers, involve the local disability communities as strong partners, and structure effective communication (web and direct) with visitors.

[Find out more.](#)

Making historic properties accessible

Historically, most buildings and landscapes were not designed to be readily accessible for people with disabilities. In recent years, however, emphasis has been placed on preserving historically significant properties, and on making these properties-and the activities within them-more accessible to people with disabilities. With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990, access to properties open to the public is now a civil right.

The [National Park Service's Preservation Brief](#) offers guidelines and suggestions, including a list of readily achievable accessibility solutions, including these for restrooms:

- Installing grab bars in toilet stalls.
- Rearranging toilet partitions to increase maneuvering space.
- Insulating lavatory pipes under sinks to prevent burns.
- Installing a higher toilet seat.
- Installing a full-length bathroom mirror.
- Repositioning the paper towel dispenser.

Jobs

Facilities Director - Oregon Historical Society

The Oregon Historical Society is searching for a dynamic, hands-on Facilities Director to head the Facilities Department.

[Find out more.](#)

Volunteer & Program Coordinator - ScienceWorks Hands On Museum

ScienceWorks seeks a Volunteer and Program Coordinator to coordinate volunteer services and event participation.

[Find out more.](#)

Grants

State Library of Oregon

State Library of Oregon is now offering [American Rescue Plan Act grants](#) that can fund a variety of projects related to connectivity, digital equity and inclusion, EDI and antiracism, workforce development, and needs arising from the pandemic. **Deadline June 30, 2021.**

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

[IMLS American Rescue Plan grants](#) are for museums, libraries, and Native American and Native Hawaiian communities to address community needs created or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and in assisting with recovery. **Deadline is June 28, 2021.**

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

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