



2020 (what a) year in review

OMA 2020 year end review

This year has been difficult—2020 has been filled with hardships for us as individuals and as members of Oregon’s museum community. The board of the Oregon Museums Association (OMA) has endured many of the same experiences you may have—layoffs, closures (and openings, and closures again), forest fires and smoke, vandalism, and endless uncertainty of the future. We are hopeful that the new year will bring us together in person again, happy and healthy with a renewed sense of purpose in our work.

We are thankful for the support of our members and the opportunities we have had to connect with you.

We created a new Strategic Plan

In April of 2020 we began our strategic planning process, switching to our first board Zoom meeting. By June, we had our [final plan for 2020-2023](#). Below are our four main goals:

- Goal 1: Embed values and practices of diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion(DEAI) into OMA’s internal operations and program offerings
- Goal 2: Strengthen and expand OMA’s leadership in order to increase

organizational capacity and sustainability

- Goal 3: Build financial stability as a foundation for sustainability and future growth
- Goal 4: Strengthen partnerships to build OMA program offerings and member benefits

As part of our strategic planning, we revised our mission and vision.

Mission

The Oregon Museums Association empowers Oregon's museums to thrive. Valuing inclusion and friendship, OMA strengthens connections throughout the Oregon museum community with:

- Lively discussion and networking at in-person events and via online 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.* 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.

We created an equity statement

The OMA board created this statement to become a more equitable and inclusive community-serving organization. We will look to our statement to guide us in developing new programs, recruiting new board members, and ensuring that our membership is reflective of Oregon's diverse museum community.

The Oregon Museums Association (OMA) is committed to advancing diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion. For Oregon's museums to build stronger connections with community members and support a more educated and culturally vibrant society, museums must address historical and contemporary systems of oppression. OMA pledges to use our platform and resources to dismantle systems, celebrate diversity, and amplify the voices of underrepresented communities.

We welcomed and said goodbye to board members

We welcomed three new board members.

- Zachary Stocks. Zachary is the Executive Director of [Oregon Black Pioneers](#) and lives and works in Astoria.
- Stephanie Craig. Stephanie is the Collections Specialist at the [Grand Ronde Chachalu Museum and Cultural Center](#), and is a Grand Ronde Tribal member.
- Janice Crane. Janice is the Executive Director of the [Friends of the Cascade Locks Historical Museum](#) in the fabulous Columbia River Gorge.



Zachary Stocks



Stephanie Craig



Janice Crane

We said goodbye to three board members.

- Randall Melton. Randall is the Exhibits Coordinator at the Tamástslikt Cultural Institute, and was OMA Treasurer for 6 years.
- Lynn Federle-Orr. Lynn was the Executive Director of the History Museum of Hood River County and was chair of OMA's Workshop Committee.
- Deana Dartt. Deana is the Principal of Live Oak Consulting, and presented "Decolonize and Indigenize Now" at OMA's 2019 annual conference.



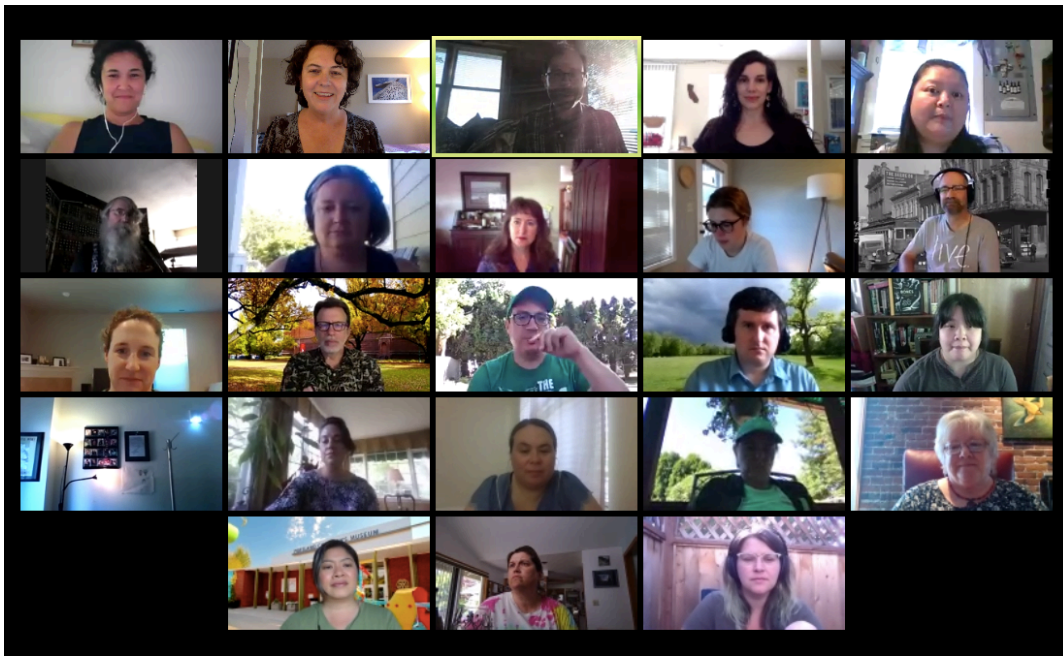
Randall Melton



Lynn Federle-Orr



Deana Dartt



We shifted (like everyone else) to online programming

Thank you to this year's presenters who stepped in to support and engage our members, and help OMA learn about Zoom webinars!

- Cultural Advocacy Coalition (Ginger Savage, Dana Whitelaw, Paul Cosgrove) and Oregon Heritage (Beth Dehn); OMA (Tim Hecox) and Seth Rao. Webinar on reopening guidelines for museums. June 2020.
- Kyrie Thompson Kellett. Webinar on interpretive planning. August 2020.
- Taline A. Kuyumjian. Webinar on COVID-19-friendly adaptations to evaluation. September 2020.
- Deana Dartt, Robert Kentta, Pam Endzweig and Dana Whitelaw. Workshop on NAGPRA. November 2020.
- Oregon Heritage (Kuri Gill), Matt Brown and Robert Parker. Workshop on disaster preparedness and resilience. December 2020.

And thank you to Katie Williams, our Programs Committee chair, who organized and introduced our new OMA virtual meet ups.

We offered accessibility options for our webinars such as:

- ASL interpretation (for the reopening webinar in June)
- Written transcript (for the reopening webinar in June)
- Recordings (of all our webinars, available for attendees)

We focused on partnerships

- Western Museums Association - We were to co-host the 2020 WMA Conference in Portland. The conference was cancelled, but further collaboration is in the works.
- Oregon Heritage - We co-hosted webinars on Reopening and Disaster preparedness.
- Cultural Advocacy Coalition - We co-hosted Reopening webinar.

For 2021, we have more exciting plans

Bi-monthly OMA networking meet ups. To keep you connected, entertained and learning from each other, we will be offering informal OMA meet ups every other month. We've already scheduled a lunch meet up for January.

- [OMA Lunchtime Meet Up](#). Thursday, January 21, 2020, 12:30-1:30 PM. Register now!

Bi-monthly webinars/workshops. We will be offering professional development webinars every other month, providing education and support with a DEAI lens. We will partner with state and regional organizations to extend our reach and exposure. Our first webinar of the year will be in February 2021, details coming soon.

2021 Conference. Stay tuned for some exciting news about our 2021 Annual Conference.

Thank you to our sponsors!

Thank you to all our sponsors this year.

- [Art Work Fine Art Services](#)
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Thank you to [Oregon Cultural Trust](#) who awarded us a grant for our strategic planning, and who administered the CARES funding that OMA received.



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