



## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Oregon Heritage Commission Meeting

The Oregon Heritage Commission is a group of leaders from across the state that works collaboratively to champion resources, recognition, and funding for preserving and interpreting Oregon's past. Founded in 1995 by the Legislature, the Heritage Commission is comprised of nine gubernatorial appointments and nine ex-officio members. The Commission is designated in [ORS 358.570-595](#) as the primary agency for coordination of heritage activities in Oregon.

### Commission Members:

Laura Ferguson (Chair); Rosemary Johnson (Vice Chair); Maureen Flanagan Battistella; Kerry Savage; Matias Trejo de Dios; Anne Levant Prah; Randall Melton, Libby Provost; Chrissy Curran, State Historic Preservation Office; Ross Fuqua, State Library of Oregon; Amit Kobrowski, Department of Education; Larry Landis, Higher Education Coordinating Commission; Mary McRobinson, Oregon State Archives; Kerry Tymchuk, Oregon Historical Society; Michelle Woodard, Travel Oregon

**Monday, Nov. 27, 2023**  
**10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

### Minutes

#### Virtual Meeting

#### Business

- a) Introductions
  - a) Commissioners in attendance: Laura Ferguson (Chair), Rosemary Johnson (Vice Chair), Maureen Flanagan Battistella, Anne Levant Prah, Randall Melton, Ross Fuqua, Larry Landis, Matias Trejo de Dios, Michelle Woodard, Kerry Savage. Staff in attendance: Katie Henry, Kuri Gill
- b) Agenda Approval (**Action item**)
  - a) Henry asked to delay the Oct. 20 joint meeting minutes approval agenda item to the January meeting. Trejo de Dios moved to approve with the amendment, Levant Prah second, motion passed.
- c) Oct. 19 Oregon Heritage Commission Meeting Minutes Approval (**Action Item**)
  - a) Levant Prah noted document is misnamed, there are two members of the Commission with the same last name of Johnson and that needs to be clarified in the minutes, and that Levant Prah needs to be added to attendees. Savage moved to approve with adjustments mentioned, Levant Prah second, motion passed.
- ~~d) Oct. 20 Joint Commission Meeting Minutes Approval (**Action Item**)~~
  - a) Note: this item will be moved to the January Commission Meeting.

#### 1. Public Comment

- a) none

#### 2. Oregon Heritage Grant recommendations, Kuri Gill

- a) Gill presented the 2023 Oregon Heritage Grant recommendations
- b) Johnson expressed appreciation for the process Kuri communicates to make it easier for reviewers. Flanagan Battistella said it was good to look at the full picture for each grant during the process and evaluating it. Chair Ferguson thanked the committee for their work. Henry

commented that this grant in particular challenges the definitions and intersections of heritage, art, culture, and humanities.

- c) Landis expressed concern for the two newspaper digitization projects
- d) Gill called for any conflicts of interest to be aware of in the voting process. Flanagan Battistella indicated a conflict of interest with the Big Butte Historical Society projet.
- e) Anne motioned to approve recommendations minus the Big Butte Historical Society application, Savage second, motion passed.
- f) Savage moved to approve Big Butte Historical Society, Levant Pahl second, motion passed with Flanagan Battistella recusing herself.

### **3. Commissioner Reports**

- a) Flanagan Battistella – no report
- b) Levant Pahl – no report
- c) Melton – no report
- d) Trejo de Dios – no report
- e) R. Johnson – Related to including more voices goal, Blocked Out: Race and Place in the Making of Modern Astoria exhibit at Clatsop Historical Society.
- f) Savage – no report
- g) Woodard – Travel Oregon awarded 3.6 million to 56 projects across the state. Projects focused on accessibility and inclusion. High Desert Museum and the Four Rivers Cultural Center Museum received funding.
- h) Fuqua – State Library of Oregon is funding half of a position that will be dedicated to managing newspaper digitation focusing on tribal newspapers and newsletter and Indian boarding school materials.
- i) Landis – happy to see two higher ed. projects on the grant recommendations list, would like to see more.
- j) Ferguson – no report
- k) Henry – sending out press release with announcement of the two new Commissioners and recruitment for Southern Oregon vacancy. Asked Commissioners to push out excellence award announcement.