

Oregon Cultural Trust looks to record grant-making

By STEVE FORRESTER
Capital Bureau

Nineteen months after the blood-letting at the Oregon Arts Commission and Oregon Cultural Trust, new initiatives are apparent, and the Trust anticipates a record high in grant making.

The OAC is a low-budget, high-impact agency. The Trust — created by statute in 2001 — was an offshoot of the Arts Commission. No other state has an arts and culture funding program like the Oregon Cultural Trust, whose revenue comes from tax credits and cus-

tom license plates and whose giving is spread across the state.

The December 2013 drama within the two organizations concluded with the firing of Chris D'Arcy, the OAC executive director of 19 years. Two commissioners resigned in protest — the late, renowned artist Royal Nebecker of Gearhart and Henry Sayre of Oregon State University.

D'Arcy's replacement, Brian Rogers, was a Pennsylvania



Brian Rogers

arts administrator.

Under Rogers' aegis the OAC has held 14 listening sessions around Oregon. He has the commission on what he calls "a fast and aggressive time line" to produce a strategic plan that will be out in June. The Arts

Commission has also rolled four grant programs into two: Arts Tourism and Arts Build Communities are now one grant concept, and Capacity and Operating Support are now one concept. Operating support

grants now will be made on a two-year cycle, instead of asking an organization to apply every year. The commission's membership has also become noticeably more culturally and racially diverse.

Governors are critical to the direction of arts and culture in state policy. John Kitzhaber signed the statute creating the Cultural Trust. Ted Kulonogski's wife Mary Oberst, was especially supportive of arts and culture. Gov. Kate Brown inherits Kitzhaber's budget, which makes no increase in funding for the OAC. In a statement to Oregon Capital Insider,

Brown reasserts her support for arts and culture and her appreciation for what they do for the economy. Kendall Clawson is Gov. Brown's liaison to the OAC and Cultural Trust.

During a period of budget distress, the Cultural Trust became target. Eight years after creating the Trust, the Legislature swept \$1.8 million from the Trust's principal. That theft still rankles state Sen. Betsy Johnson who says: "Had I not been a legislator, I would have sued over violation of donative intent." Johnson adds: "We have a moral obligation to give it back to the Trust."

Johnson said that bills in the Legislature would give the Trust "more administrative flexibility."

The Trust's corpus stands at \$25 million. ODOT has issued 124,757 Cultural Trust license plates.

Giving to the trust has grown by 4 percent over the past few years (last year \$4.3 million). As a result, the Trust board will increase its giving by 4 percent over the \$1.8 million it gave last year.

This story first appeared in the Oregon Capital Insider newsletter. To subscribe, go to oregoncapitalinsider.com

National park visitors bring \$19 million to our local economy

By The Daily Astorian

Lewis and Clark National Historical Park visitors in 2014 spent \$13.7 million in the Lower Columbia region, and supported 221 local jobs to total an overall benefit of \$19 million, according to a recent report released by the National Park Service.

Superintendent Scott Tucker said National park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy, returning \$10 for every \$1 invested in the National Park Service, which is a larger factor in the Lower Columbia economy as well.

Earlier this year, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park welcomed the 9 millionth visitor.

"Lewis and Clark National Historical Park welcomes visitors from across the country and around the world," Superintendent Scott Tucker said. "We are delighted to share the story of this place and the experiences it provides. We also feature the park as a way to introduce our visitors to the Lower Columbia region and all that it offers."

The NPS' peer-reviewed visitor spending report was conducted by U.S. Geological Survey economists Catherine

Cullinane Thomas and Christopher Huber and National Park Service economist Lynne Koontz.

The report shows \$15.7 billion of direct spending by 292.8 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. The spending supported 277,000 jobs nationally; 235,600 of those jobs are found in these gateway communities.

The cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy was \$29.7 billion, according to the report.

Most park visitor spending was for lodging (30.6 percent) followed by food and beverages (20.3 percent), gas and oil (11.9 percent), admissions and fees (10.2 percent) and souvenirs and other expenses (9.9 percent).

To download the report, which includes information for visitor spending at individual parks and by state, visit <http://bit.ly/1dkKjP5>.

For more information on National parks in Oregon and Washington, visit www.nps.gov/Oregon and www.nps.gov/Washington.

"We appreciate the partnership and support of our neighbors and are glad to be able to give back by helping to sustain local communities," Tucker said.



ERICK BENGEL — EO Media Group

Cannon Beach's version of Hands Across the Sand took place April 19 in front of Haystack Rock, Day No. 9 of the city's Twelve Days of Earth Day celebration.

Hands Across the Sands of Cannon Beach

CANNON BEACH — In front of Haystack Rock on April 19, North Coast residents joined hands for 15 minutes of pro-ocean solidarity during Cannon Beach's "Hands Across the Sand," one of the city's Twelve Days of Earth Day events.

Their statement: to draw a line in the sand, physically and metaphorically, against offshore oil drilling, deepwater drilling, offshore seismic

testing and other practices viewed as environmentally unsafe.

Nothing of that nature has taken place off of Cannon Beach's shores, and Cannon Beach-ers want to keep it that way.

Hands Across the Sand — an international observance where people gather to support renewable energy and energy independence — began in 2010 after the BP Oil spill in the

Gulf of Mexico. Cannon Beach has observed it for the last few years.

This month's event was led by Christen Allsop, owner of Cannon Beach Yoga Arts, who instructed the 12 participants on ujjayi breathing.

Another Hands Across the Sand in Cannon Beach is scheduled for May 16, as part of the worldwide Hands Across the Sand event.

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70 HELP WANTED

Daily Astorian

The Daily Astorian is seeking a **Customer Service Rep / Relief Driver** to work in our circulation department. You will help customers in person plus answer calls and emails in order to provide outstanding service to our readers. You will need to have the ability to communicate well, coordinate projects and use a computer for detailed data entry and reports. Accuracy and can-do attitude are very important. Accounting and sales skills are helpful in this position. Must be able to lift 50 pounds and have experience in or be willing to learn to drive a delivery van or box truck. CDL is not required. Driving and criminal background checks will be completed pre-hire. Hours are generally 9 am to 6 pm, Monday through Friday. Benefits include Paid Time Off (PTO), insurance and a 401(k)/Roth 401(k) retirement plan.

Pick up an application at 949 Exchange St., Astoria, or send resume and letter of interest to EO Media Group, PO Box 2048, Salem, OR 97308-2048, by fax to (503)371-2935 or e-mail hr@eomediagroup.com.

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