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Committed to Cultural Diversity

More Funds Needed to Restore Billy Webb Elks Lodge

By BEVERLY CORBELL

It's been almost three years since the Billy Webb Elks Lodge was extensively damaged by fire. Much work has been done since then to restore the 98-year-old building, but more funding is needed for the work to continue.

The fire on Sept. 11, 2021 started by trespassers, began on the building's rear deck, then spread to adjacent walls and roof of the lodge's ballroom, leaving gaping holes in the roof along with water and smoke damage. The building has been inhabitable ever since.

Deborah Roache, Daughter Rule of the lodge, said that thanks to Restore Oregon and the help of students at Clatsop Community College in Astoria, the first phase of reconstruction should be complete by September.

But the second phase can't begin until more funding is in place. Contributions are greatly needed and can be made at www.gofundme.com/f/help-restore-the-historic-billy-webb-elks-lodge.

Roache said the first phase was somewhat delayed because the wrong size trusses, beams that hold up the roof, weren't the right size, so they had to be reordered, delaying work by about three weeks, and much more needs to be done.



Deborah A. Roache and Carla Stanlick stand before the Elk's Lodge (Mark Washington/The Portland Observer)

The building has been "completely torn apart," Roach said. "The ballroom is completely stripped and the building has been wrapped in plastic" to protect it from the elements.

Several windows were knocked out

by firefighters to let smoke escape, she said, but thanks to the help of Ryan Prochaska and his students at Clatsop Community College, the windows were not only replaced, but were made to replicate the original 1920-era windows.

Prochaska, program director for the school's historic preservation program, said it's one of only four community colleges in the country that offers the

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Explore Local Entrepreneurship at the MESO Makers Market



(From Left to Right): MESO Makers Dijenair Crijuan, owner of DC RingZ, Dorie Horne, owner of Midnite Oils and Tralice Lewis, owner of Callie's Custom Hat Wigs.

New Business Opportunities for Local Makers

Local makers are gaining more visibility and growing their customer bases thanks to a new partnership between Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon (MESO) and OnPoint Community Credit Union. The micro business incubator, recently renamed MESO Makers Market Empowered by OnPoint, showcases handmade local products from a diverse group of makers from the Portland metro area. With OnPoint's support, these small businesses can show their products for longer hours to make shopping more convenient.

"This partnership with OnPoint represents more than just a new name for the market," MESO CEO and Executive

Director Cobi Lewis said. "It represents a shared commitment to supporting local talent, providing new opportunities, elevating the maker experience, and celebrating the spirit of entrepreneurship."

Small and micro businesses are vital to Portland's economy. According to a Portland Metro Chamber report, small businesses in Multnomah County reached over 25,500 total establishments and micro businesses increased by 10% between 2017-2022. Located at 376 N.E. Sumner St., MESO started the market in 2022 as a place for clients with small businesses to sell handmade items.

In the past, the MESO Makers Market operated monthly with rotating themes and limited hours. This year, the MESO Makers Market Empowered by OnPoint is open Tuesday through Saturday,

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