

Tribal Cultural Trust Aims To Cash In On State Funding For The Arts, Humanities And Cultures

By Ron Karten

The state of Oregon has never been a leader in funding for culture and the arts, but with the establishment in 2001 of an Oregon Cultural Trust, the state has embarked on a 10-year plan that it hopes will raise \$218 million to keep Oregon culture alive.

Recent months have seen the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR) begin to look at ways to work with the Trust to expand the awareness of Tribal culture in Oregon.

The Trust is raising money in three ways. It encourages tax deductible contributions from businesses and individuals. It benefits when the state sells surplus lands. And the Department of Motor Vehicles has designed Oregon Cultural Trust license plates to be sold to the public. A portion of each sale goes to the Trust.

On the other end, the Trust is distributing the funds to grant organizations, to counties and Tribes, and to the Oregon Council of Arts and Humanities. Last December, the Trust made its first distributions — \$214,000 to 27 organizations throughout the state.

Twenty thousand dollar top

awards went to the Bandon Public Library, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Oregon Symphony Association of Portland and the Portland Opera. On the other end of the scale — \$1,675 went to the Gilbert House Children's Museum in Salem for development of a Slavic exhibit, \$2,000 went to the Umpqua Valley

Arts Association, "Fishtrap" a sponsor of writing conferences and the Chetco Tribe of Southern Oregon for an exhibit called, "Foot Prints of Oregon's First People."

The funds will be allotted to counties and Tribes in amounts still to be determined. "We have no idea

right now what dollars are going to be available," said Grand Ronde Tribal member Greg Archuleta, facilitator of CTGR's Cultural Coalition Planning Committee.

Still, it was with confidence that significant funds would be made available that the Tribal Planning Committee held community meetings in Grand Ronde, Portland/Vancouver and Eugene in the last month to determine the Tribal priorities for distributing however

many dollars ultimately become available.

For CTGR, the process looks back to 2000, when the entire membership was polled about their cultural interests. The recent meetings focused on further narrowing the priorities.

Tribal member Bob Watson, Chairman of the Tribal Planning group, empathized with those involved in the process.

"How do you prioritize a list?" he asked. "It's all important."

According to Archuleta, as a result of the surveys in 2000 and the meetings last month, the following three broad funding priorities were identified:

- ◆ To "provide opportunities and access for all members to learn and practice Tribal specific ceremonies and life ways for living today."
- ◆ To "support the construction of facilities to preserve, share and educate Tribal members and the public about the culture, traditions and history of the Tribes."
- ◆ To "identify and protect Tribal cultural and traditional use areas in Western Oregon."

Tribal members and departments with projects that fit within these broad themes will be eligible to seek a share of the available funds, said Archuleta.

Funding from the Oregon Cultural Trust will "supplement not supplant" current funding that comes from CTGR, according to June Olson, Manager of the Cultural Resources Department.

Creating research positions with this funding may draw those beyond the Reservation, she added.

In support of the effort, the Planning Committee has developed drafts of vision and mission statements, still to be approved by the Tribal Council.

Vision Statement: "A Tribal membership with knowledge, pride and respect of the traditional lifestyles of the many Grand Ronde Tribal cultures and a community who preserves, practices and adapts this unique way of living generation to generation."

Mission Statement: "To promote access to the arts, heritage and humanities for all Tribal members through involvement, communication, partnerships and building a strong, sustainable foundation of financial and other resources."

The planning process, on going since June to develop a five-year plan, has been funded with \$3,180 from the state Trust.

In addition, members of a permanent Tribal Cultural Coalition remain to be chosen. All Tribal members may apply for or nominate others for the Cultural Coalition through the form provided in the 9/1003 issue of *Smoke Signals*. The Planning Committee will use those applications and nominations to create and submit to the Tribal Council a list of recommended members, said Archuleta.

Tribal Council approval for both the new Cultural Coalition members and the five-year plan are due by October 1, said Archuleta.



Photo by Peter Tvede

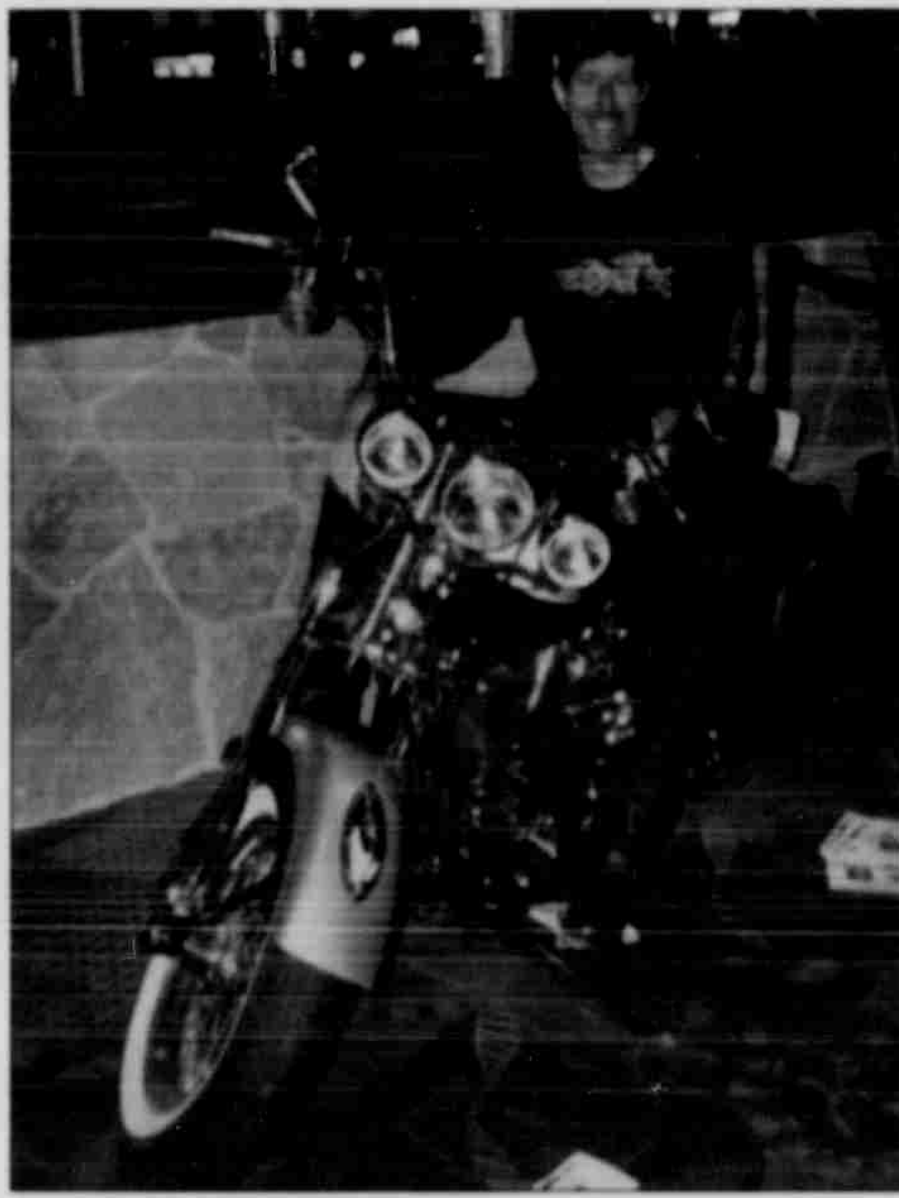
Knowledgeable — Grand Ronde Tribal Member Greg Archuleta, the first Editor of *Smoke Signals* in the mid-1980s, is the facilitator of the Tribal Cultural Planning Committee.



JIM & JULIE G
VAL GROUT
CARL LAMBERT

Photos by Justin Phillips

New Names — Kelly Breeding of Oregon Memorial engraves four new names — Carl Lambert, Brad Kowig, Mente Holmes and Tom Leno — on the Veterans' Memorial Committee bench.



Ready To Go Cruisin' — Jack Erickson, of Beaverton, was the lucky winner of a new Harley Davidson motorcycle, recently at Spirit Mountain Casino.

Photo by Peter Tvede