

**Clackamas County Cultural Plan for
Arts, Heritage, Humanities: Growing the Cultural Assets of Clackamas
County**

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Clackamas County Cultural Coalition

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Land Acknowledgement

We honor this land and its original inhabitants from time immemorial, the Clackamas and Clowwewalla band of the Chinookan people, the Northern Molalla, and the Pudding River Band of Kalapuya. Signers of the Willamette Valley Treaty of 1855, they were removed from their homelands to the Grand Ronde Indian Reservation. Their descendants live on as Grand Ronde Tribal members today, carrying on the traditions and cultures of their ancestors.

About the Coalition

The Clackamas County Cultural Coalition is one of 45 county and tribal-based local networks in Oregon whose primary function is to re-grant an annual appropriation from The Oregon Cultural Trust (culturaltrust.org). The trust was established in 2002 to support arts, heritage, and humanities across Oregon, and is currently the only funding mechanism of its kind in the United States.

Mission and purpose

The mission of the Clackamas County Cultural Coalition is to grow the cultural assets in the County. The Coalition's immediate responsibility is to distribute funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust to local arts, history, heritage, humanities organizations and cultural creatives.

Vision and values

We envision a Clackamas County that embodies the following ideals:

Culture is highly recognized for its inherent values and ability to support community needs including education, health and both economic and community development

Arts, heritage, history and humanities in all forms are highly visible and accessible

Social, cultural, and ethnic diversity create pride. Diversity is visible and valued as creating essential vibrancy for communities.

People from all parts of the County are actively participating in cultural activities and organizations. This may be as creatives, makers, volunteers, board members, donors, teachers, students, legislators and more. We are demonstrating that access to local cultural resources strengthens communities

Including arts and culture in all forms of community development is the norm, not the exception. Arts and cultural centers and gathering places are prominent and popular in every community

The Coalition is composed of local members who support local arts, heritage, and humanities interests. 57 people representing a broad range of cultural disciplines have served as members of the Coalition. The Coalition has awarded 375 grants totaling approximately \$642,370 since 2005. The coalition receives approximately \$60,000 a year from the Trust. The intention is to see this amount grow as contributions to the Trust increase. The Clackamas Arts Alliance provides administrative staff support to the coalition.

The Coalition's website details its work: clackamasculturalcoalition.org.

Definitions

In our definition of culture we include the arts, history, heritage, and humanities. These are the primary areas of culture supported by the Oregon Cultural Trust:

History and Heritage define who we are and inform our future through preservation, interpretation, access, and sharing what holds collective meaning.

Art Forms of All Kinds grow our expressive minds, skills, and encourage creativity and compassion.

Humanities, including literature, dialogue and critical thinking help to deepen understanding of what it means to be human.

Local Culture means cultural interests and activities that are rooted in Clackamas County. Cultural assets are the cultural organizations, individuals, facilities and activities unique to Clackamas County. This includes the native ancestry from whom Clackamas County gets its name, as well as all other cultures who now call Clackamas County home.

Underlying these definitions is the understanding that we are a product of and participate in culture: we inherit parts of our culture and are continually making, changing, and transforming other elements of our culture.

Funding priorities and indicators of success

The Coalition is focused on building the capacity of local cultural organizations and supporting individuals to enrich the cultural life of the County. This plan guides the Clackamas County Cultural Coalition and builds upon prior plans and community engagement. Our work is informed by the latest relevant learnings to better advocate and align with community needs. These include the findings from the tri-county cultural assessment, Arts & Economic Prosperity (AEP6).

Funding priorities support projects that specifically build cultural infrastructure, sustain and grow local assets, and remove barriers to cultural participation. Under-valuing of our cultural assets is seen as a primary barrier to supporting and sustaining local culture. These priorities will specifically implement the

Coalition's vision by:

1. increasing public recognition and valuing of local culture;
2. acknowledging the vibrancy that social, cultural and ethnic diversity bring;
3. increasing public participation in local culture and cultivating projects that might otherwise be overlooked;
4. supporting the inclusion of arts and culture in every community; and
5. growing communications capacity for cultural groups, organizations, and artists/creatives

Projects and organizations directly address one or more of the following funding priorities and result in measurable outcomes. The Coalition supports innovative approaches to projects.

1. Increase how local culture is valued and supported

Indicator of success:

- Increase in cultural support from local businesses or governments
- Increase in contributions to the Oregon Cultural Trust from county residents
- Increase in local media coverage for cultural success stories illustrating public recognition for the value of arts, heritage, and humanities
- Increase in projects which specifically recognize and celebrate the diversity within communities

2. Support the creation of, or participation in, cultural projects and activities

Indicators of success:

- Increased attendance at events and other cultural activities
- New volunteers are leaders and are engaged in cultural activities
- Improved access to cultural assets and activities
- Increased investment to support and sustain cultural facilities and gathering spaces
- Arts, heritage and humanities are integrated with learning experiences (e.g., schools, workshops, mentoring, etc.)

3. Stimulate partnerships and collaborations that grow capacities to support assets and remove barriers. We include here partnerships that support cultural tourism

Indicators of success:

- Cultural tourism projects which attract people from at least 50 miles away or encourage people to linger longer
- Increase in cross-sector collaborations between cultural and non-cultural organizations
- Partnerships that engage diverse groups, leverage resources and expand investment in cultural assets and activities

4. Work closely with local governments, businesses, and others to embed local culture in community development

Indicators of success:

- Culture is clearly prioritized within civic plans for development, and creatives serve in civic leadership positions
- Cultural assets are solidly embedded in community
- Increase in cultural supporters assuming leadership roles
- New initiatives are reaching underserved audiences
- Art in public spaces and historic interpretation/preservation is prevalent

5. Grow communications capacity for cultural groups, organizations, and artists/creatives

Indicators of success:

- New cooperative marketing strategies which increase awareness of cultural activities and assets
- Initiatives reach new or expanded audiences

How to access coalition funding

1. Project Grants
Up to \$3500
Annual application process

2. Operating Support Funds

Up to \$3500

Annual application process alongside project grant application process

Project grant application guidelines

Who is eligible to apply for a project grant from the Coalition?

Nonprofit tax-exempt status is not required

Organizations physically located in Clackamas County with a Clackamas County mailing address

Organizations located in Oregon with a project that clearly benefits Clackamas County residents, and demonstrates strong community support and county partnerships may be eligible to apply. If you have questions about your eligibility, please contact us before applying.

Individuals located in Oregon with a project that clearly benefits Clackamas County residents who plan to create a project with a Clackamas County-based organization, business, venue, or entity.

Prior Clackamas County Cultural Coalition grant recipients who are current on all agreements and have submitted all required reports

See the Coalition website for specific information about how to apply for a grant, clackmaasculturalcoaliton.org.

Operating Support funds

Who is eligible to apply for an operating support grant from the Coalition?

Nonprofit tax-exempt status is not required

Organizations physically located in Clackamas County with a Clackamas County mailing address

Organizations located in Oregon with a project that clearly benefits Clackamas County residents, and demonstrates strong community support and county partnerships may be eligible to apply. If you have questions about your eligibility, please contact us before applying.

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What does operating support cover?

Operating Support grants aim to provide general financial support to arts organizations in Clackamas County based on their arts and culture focus and administrative/operational need. Operating support does NOT cover costs related to a project, but may cover:

- Program supplies
- Professional development
- Building or office supplies
- Rent costs
- Utility costs
- Technology
- Marketing
- Wages

Other operating support needs deemed appropriate by the Cultural Coalition