

LANE  
COUNTY  
HISTORY  
MUSEUM



ANNUAL REPORT 2021 - 2022

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*Our Mission:  
To spark  
learning,  
reflection, and  
inspiration  
through  
diverse cultural  
programming  
that promotes  
historical  
understanding,  
equity, and  
empathy.*

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Looking inward was the prevailing theme of this fiscal year in many ways. The Lane County History Museum responded to challenges and opportunities related to pandemic safety, staffing, the needs of our ever-diversifying community, a need for more intensive community outreach to inform our strategic planning, an unplanned hiatus of our historical journal, and a planned leadership succession as our long-time Executive Director, Robert Hart, retired June 30, 2022. Our organization met each of these challenges with a high degree of skill and optimism, with an eye toward lasting and sustainable change.

With our community taking necessary steps to be safe during the pandemic, we shifted to offering programs and projects online when possible, and planned to remove barriers to in-person visitation when it was safe to welcome the public back into the building. In April 2022 we modified our hours to be open fewer days in exchange for being open later, outside of regular business hours. We also committed to eliminating all admission fees for twelve months and to evaluating the financial feasibility of remaining admission-free permanently. While we have experienced a slow return to normal as our community has become more comfortable being in public venues like museums, it is clear that not only are people returning, but many are coming for the first time.

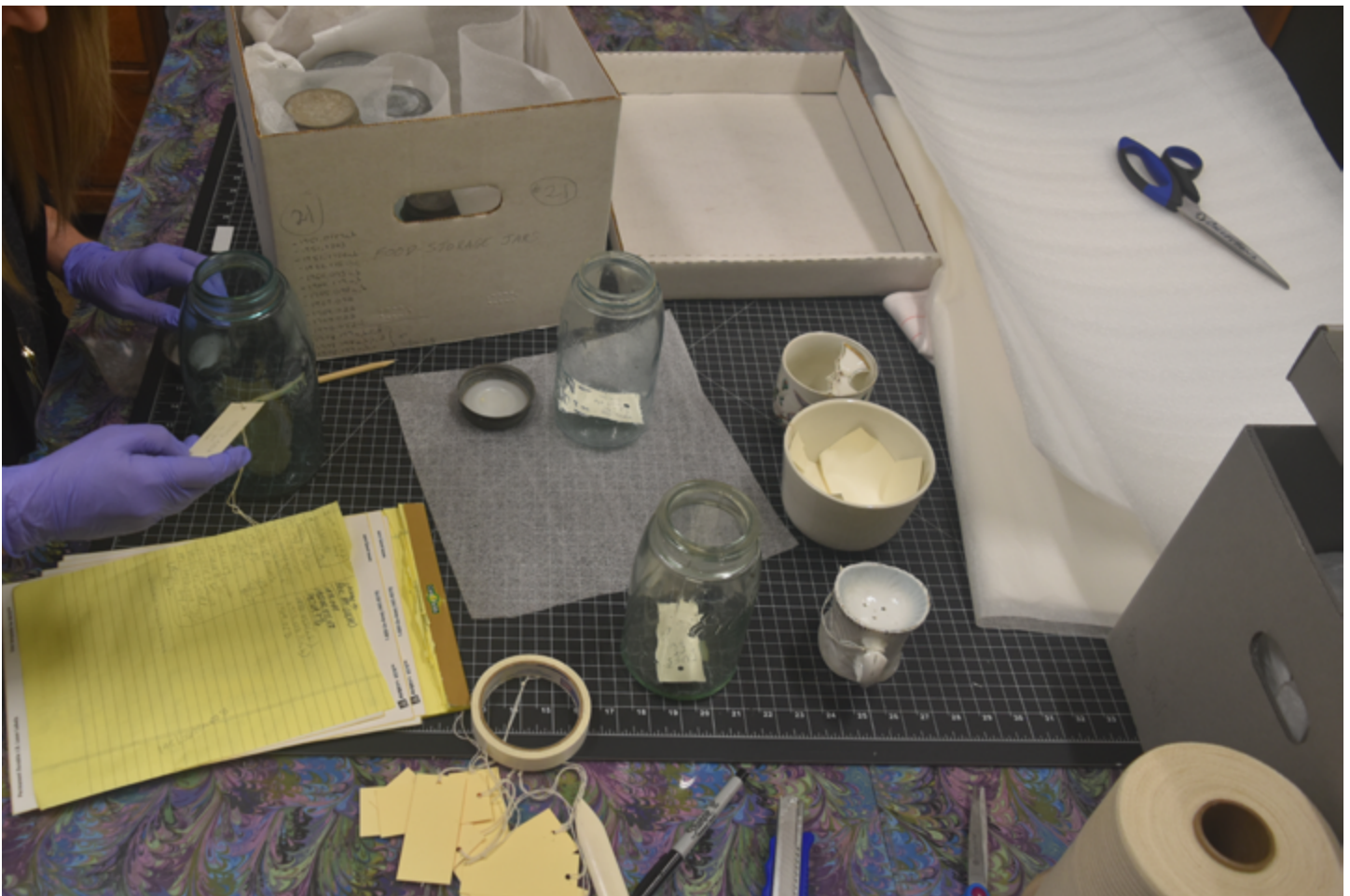
Of all of our progress and accomplishments over the last fiscal year, this time was used to its fullest potential on completing an organizational diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion (DEAI) assessment process that culminated in a DEAI Action Plan. Available to the public on our website in its entirety, this plan lays out actionable steps and goals toward becoming a resource that best serves and is accountable to all of the diverse parts of our county community. Related to this work, the Museum staff also planned an intensive outreach effort to include our community as we reflect on what it means to be a history museum, heritage organization, and an educational resource in Lane County today. We plan to continue this process through the next year.

As the new leadership of the Lane County History Museum, we look forward to continuing our organization's role in preserving the history of Lane County. Our Museum is a community resource that strives to meet the needs of residents, researchers, visitors, volunteers and students by both welcoming people inside of our physical space and reaching out into the communities we serve. With the lease on our building ending in 2025, it is more important than ever that we consider immediate needs and long-term goals and sustainability as we do important planning. We hope to grow our relationship with Lane County because together we can ensure that our collective history is preserved for generations to come and accessible to those who want to remember where we come from.

Sincerely,  
Allison Fischer-Olson & Jennifer Yeh

# COLLECTIONS

The priority for LCHS's work in collection management during this period has been to complete a full inventory of all artifacts, which has never been accomplished. LCHS is pleased to have been awarded a \$56,276 grant to fund this effort as a subrecipient from the American Historical Association as part of the Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan (SHARP) grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The funded project, The LCHS Artifact Rescue, continues inventory work already accomplished but significantly delayed as a result of staff turnover and the COVID-19 pandemic and is planned for completion in March 2023. A full inventory will bring LCHS closer to being in line with industry standards and best practices, increase accessibility to the artifact collection by staff and the public, help us assess the state of our collections from a diversity and inclusion perspective, inform a collection building plan that better reflects our community today, and help us prepare for an potential upcoming relocation on account of LCHS' lease for our current facility ending in 2025.



Because the collections in the Research Archive and Library have been well maintained, the priorities for this period were to reduce the backlog of unprocessed accessions and to work toward broadening the diversity of perspectives represented in the material through increased community collecting campaigns, notably a COVID-19 Pandemic Collection Campaign and a more general Share Your Story program. In terms of public access, LCHS staff received 91 research requests which were responded to by setting up an in-person research appointment, providing remote research services by staff, or referring researchers to resources online or other repositories. In this time frame, there were 64 in-person research appointments.

See appendix #1 for all accessions in FY 2021-2022.



## EXHIBITS



During this fiscal year, LCHM partnered with the Oregon Black Pioneers on a new traveling exhibit, "Racing to Change." Open through April 1, 2023, this exhibit focuses on Black experiences in Lane County. This exhibit was first showcased at the Oregon Historical Society and has traveled through various Oregon museums since. For our iteration, we focused on the story of early Lane County's racial prejudices, the story of the Mims family, and acts of resistance among Black community members.

This exhibit showcased not only the history, but also the cultural impact of the Black community in Lane County with two listening stations featuring local Black artists and activists, and an area where visitors could listen to Mr. Mims recount his experiences growing up Black in Eugene.

While we have received some community pushback on highlighting Black history, reviews of the exhibit have been overwhelmingly positive, and we hope that this is just the start of sharing more diverse stories within our museum.

# VISITATION

In-person engagement has been challenging as our community continues to adjust to the health and safety needs regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. LCHM reopened to the public in mid-June 2021, making Fiscal Year 2022 our first full year open to the public since FY19. Visitors were understandably slow to return to venues like museums, and school classes ceased taking field trips, decreasing our visitation even more. The museum welcomed 1,841 visitors during FY22, compared to nearly 8,000 in 2019. Programming and events outside the museum moved online, including our popular History Pub Lecture Series, a partnership with the UO History Department. While these changes did reach some in our community, there was a considerable drop in History Pub attendance on Zoom, and our other regular programs and outreach were suspended during this time.



## LCHM.ORG

Users: 8,132

New Visitors: 86.9%  
Returning: 13.1%

Pageviews: 19,940

Sessions: 10,477

Average Session Duration: 1:41

Total Visitor Time:  
12 Days, 5 Hours, 56 Minutes, 17 Seconds

## LCHM.PASTPERFECTONLINE.COM

Users: 3,328

New Visitors: 83.6%  
Returning: 16.4%

Pageviews: 68,864

Sessions: 5,201

Average Session Duration: 6:43

Total Visitor Time:  
24 Days, 6 Hours, 13 Minutes, 23 Seconds

# OUTREACH

With the reopening of the museum, we started to welcome back our volunteers as they were comfortable. Thirty-two volunteers assisted with collections care, archives, digitization, education, and docenting. Our volunteers truly give the museum so much and make many of our long-term projects possible, including our Don Hunter slide digitization project and the current full inventory of our artifact collection.

In May 2022, we suspended our admission fees for the duration of the “Racing to Change” exhibit in order to lower barriers to access. At the end of this period we will assess how this affected our visitation, as well as the financial feasibility of keeping our museum admission free permanently. We also adjusted our hours to fewer days of the week and extended hours into the evening. Our new schedule is Thursday-Saturday 10AM-6PM. Staff are still onsite Monday through Wednesday to accommodate research appointments, meetings with community members and partners, tours and events, and internal work in all departments. With our efforts to lower barriers and the communities increased comfort going to venues like museums, we anticipate both an increase in onsite visitation and offsite programs and outreach engagement for FY23.



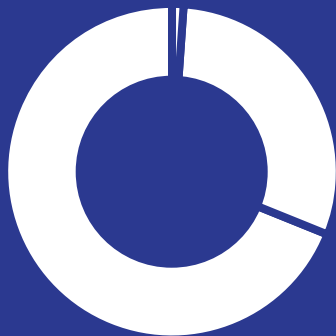
Lane County History Museum recognizes the history of injustice against the diverse peoples of our community by the perpetuation of racist ideologies and by omission from the activities and collections of our organization.

As stewards of history-related collections, we must work to be inclusive and equitable in all aspects of our organization, or otherwise we will be complicit in systemic prejudice. Lane County History Museum is committed to uncovering local history that confronts internal biases and includes what is absent in order to expand our understanding of Lane County's past.

For more information on our diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion goals and the actions planned to meet those goals, read our action plan available at [lchm.org](http://lchm.org).

## FINANCIAL

### INCOME



ADMISSION AND SALES 1%  
PRIVATE SUPPORT 30%  
PUBLIC SUPPORT 69%

### EXPENSES



FACILITIES 10%  
OPERATIONS 11%  
GENERAL 14%  
PERSONNEL 65%

## DONORS

*\$101,000*

*Special thanks to the*

**Larson Family Foundation**

*\$5000 and up*

**American Historical Association**

**Three Rivers Foundation**

**Bart Aikens**

**Heritage Research Associates, Inc.**

**Robert and Linda Hart**

*\$2000-4999*

**Lane County Cultural Coalition**

**Ted and Stephanie Coopman**

*\$500-\$1999*

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Allan Kluber and Jane Souzon

Susan Little

Graham Parker

Lawrence Williams and Patricia Pride

Dick and Ty Zeller

Bill Barrett

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Patricia Krier and Thomas Connolly

William and Carolyn Neel

Natalie G. Newlove

Rowell Brokaw Architects

Keith and Kathy Wolf

*\$200-\$499*

Diane DuVal Dann

Donna Dial

Doug DuPriest and Rogena Degge

Adrienne Gaudette

Steve Graves

Elizabeth Hall

The Lane County History Museum values our members and donors whose support makes our public programs, projects and exhibits possible. We gratefully acknowledge the following supporters who made contributions during our 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Lee Harrison  
Dennis and Patricia Hyatt  
Marsha Klosterman  
Verna Kocken  
William McCleary  
Theodore and Laramie Palmer  
John Parman and Kathryn Snowden  
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David and Catharine Rainwater  
John and Carole Rutledge  
Jane Scheidecker  
Jay Swofford  
Jim and Barbara Walker

*\$1-199*

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Tom and Carol Williams  
Samuel Williams  
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Patricia Wilson

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Bart Poston

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Heritage Research Associates  
Swezey Holdings  
Bohemia Gold Mining Museum  
Oregon Genalogical Society  
Oregon State University  
Radio Redux  
Springfield History Museum  
Wisconsin Historical Society  
Willamette Resources & Education Network  
(WREN)

### *Individual Memberships*

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Jennifer Chambers  
Alice Christianson  
Robert B. Coleman  
Dorthy Davis  
Katya Davis  
Donna Dial  
Dottie Dougher  
Lawrence Dunlap  
Nancie Peacocke Fadeley  
Anne Fidanque  
Stanley Finn  
Bernard Fischer  
Chelsea Fletcher  
Annetta Forrer  
Randy Gudeika  
Tom Hafferty  
Elizabeth Hall  
William Henry  
Dorlon Hlamber  
Trudy Hughes  
David Igl  
Kim Kelly

David Klute  
Verna Kocken  
Sherrene Kulm  
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JoAnn Zinniker

*LCHS Board of Directors*

Bart Aikens: President, Treasurer

Alison M. Christianson: Secretary

Steven King

Karen Olsen

Jared Swezey

*In Memory of Bill Barrett:*

*As a commercial broadcaster serving on his first nonprofit board, Bill brought a public relations panache that encouraged us to always aim higher.*

*LCHM Staff*

Co-Executive Directors:

Allison Fischer-Olson & Jennifer Yeh

Lead Historian and Curator:

Marin Aurand

Office Manager:

Adrienne Gaudette

Digital Assets Manager:

Stephen O'Brien

Collections Technician:

Robin Myers

Reception:

Cathy San Filippo

*Cover:*

*GN11109. Southern Pacific Railroad locomotive 2947, ready to roll on tracks through a snow-covered landscape, perhaps at a stop called Cochran, on February 13, 1922.*