

LANE
COUNTY
HISTORY
MUSEUM



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

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*Our Mission:
To serve as stewards
of our community's
historical assets
while implementing
forward thinking
and more inclusive
collecting, educational,
and community
engagement policies.
We strive to augment
and strengthen our
already rich resources
by seeking out stories
and points of view
that more accurately
represent all aspects of
our unique, diverse and
multi-faceted county.*

REOPENING

At the beginning of the 2023-24 fiscal year, we were in the middle of a complete interior upgrade of our public spaces. All of our exhibit areas were changed out or repositioned. We also de-installed all of the large objects that were previously mounted to our upper walls to create a safer environment, and repainted most of the inside of the building. We created seven new exhibits, reconfigured/refreshed all of our long-term displays, and added a permanent kids' area for our younger visitors.



COLLECTIONS

Library and Special Collections (Archives & Artifacts)

The museum was closed to the public from April 2023 until the end of August, 2023. When we reopened after those five months, we welcomed back a variety of researchers, visitors, and well-wishers who were eager to see all of the new changes. The LCHM library and archives has been engaged in a major digitization effort, scanning and creating electronic versions of some of our most valuable collections. This will allow researchers and information seekers to access our resources from anywhere, at the press of a button (or two).

The Lane County History Museum received close to one hundred research requests between October 2023 and June 2024. The library and archives also accessioned approximately 24 new donations of books, historic documents and primary source material. This valuable area of our organization is also in the middle of a major inventory/reorganization project. Materials are being rehoused and readdressed in order to make them more accessible and to ensure that they exist in an optimal, preservation-based environment.

SEE APPENDIX 1 FOR ALL ACCESSION INFORMATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024



EXHIBITS



The museum staff, along with our community partners created a number of new exhibits in 2023-2024. They include:
 The Eugene Friends of the Farmworkers (EFFW),
 Western Migration (The Oregon Trail),
 Home in the Valley (Early Lane County),
 Cal Young ("Mr. Lane County"),
 Esther Mae Ralph (first female Lane County sheriff's deputy),
 Maude Kerns: The Blue Vesper, and
 Black Progress in America--the Late 19th Century.



VISITATION

After our hiatus in 2023, we welcomed approximately 2000 onsite visitors, including many tourists from all over the globe. We also interacted with thousands of people at our offsite events, hosted hundreds of elementary school students that participated in our Assistance League-run Oregon Trail early education program, and partnered with the University of Oregon on the History Pub lecture series at Whirled Pies in Eugene.



LCHM.ORG

Visitors: 9,349

Pageviews: 59,731

Sessions: 11,574

Average Engaged Time: 1:52

LCHM.ORG is our website, showcasing general information, how to visit, events and more.

PASTPERFECT ONLINE

Visitors: 3,819

Pageviews: 98,332

Sessions: 6,412

Average Engaged Time: 6:00

Our online database shows collections relating to Lane County, with over 40,000 records available.

OUTREACH

The museum participated in a number of large community-based events this year, including the Scottish-American Festival, the Lane County Fair, Bark in the Park, and Eugene Pride. We are also continuing to collaborate with the Black Cultural Initiative, providing research services for the prospective monument in Alton Baker Park that will serve as a tribute to Eugene's Black families that called the "Across the Bridge community" their home in the 1940s. In addition, we provided a number of community and history-based educational talks and lectures throughout the county.

In the fall of 2023, our curator and public historian, Marin Aurand, appeared in the PBS documentary "Oregon's County Poor Farms," as part of Oregon Public Broadcasting's Oregon Experience series.



At present, Lane County is striving to establish itself as a place where all individuals have equal opportunities to live, work, contribute, and exist without prejudice. Our museum is working to identify and dismantle the systemic and cultural barriers that have perpetuated unfair collecting and interpretive practices in the past. In order to function as a responsible and trusted steward of the county's history, we have adopted policies that better foster diversity, equity, belonging, and more accurately represent our multi-faceted community.

We are currently working with tribal historian Dr. David Lewis, on our next permanent exhibit centered on Lane County in the 19th century, from a Native and environmental perspective. Its objective will be to educate visitors on local tribal histories and their relationships with the land (pre-European American emigration, post-settlement and after removal).

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.

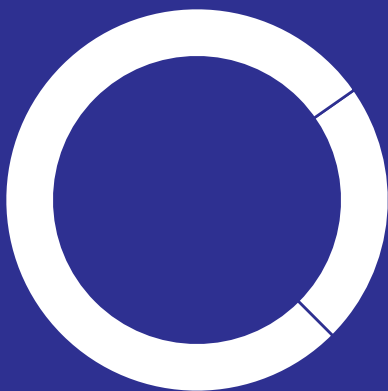
FINANCIAL

Income

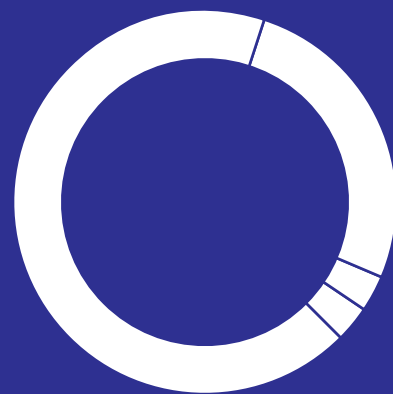
Close to 78% of the 2023-24 fiscal year's annual budget was funded by Lane County. The remaining 22% was income received from grants, donors, memberships, store sales, photographic orders, and research fees. The museum continues to offer free admission, which has increased accessibility for those community members who would otherwise be deterred by an admission charge. LCHM received a \$30,000 grant from Senator Jeff Merkley's office that will allow us to expand and enrich our Robert L. Hart public reading room, giving it a more permanent appearance with the addition of custom shelving and adding much-needed technical features for educational programs and museum events.

Expenses

In the fiscal year 2023-24, personnel costs (wages, health care benefits, and a SIMPLE-IRA match) were approximately 67% of the organization's overall budget. Collections care and exhibit expenses totaled just over 3%. Programs, publications and outreach totaled 3%, facilities and general operating costs were 26% (this includes the interior improvements made during our temporary closure).



Income
Lane County: 78%
Private Support: 22%



Expenses
Personnel: 67%
Operation: 26%
Collections and Exhibits: 3%
Programs and Outreach: 3%

DONORS

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 2022-2023 fiscal year.

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