

Report form for east Multnomah County historical societies' annual report to the OHS Levy Oversight Committee

Reporting for FY 2014 (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015)

Your name and role:	Len Otto, President of the Board of Directors
Historical Society you represent	
Name of organization:	Troutdale Historical Society
Contact information for organization:	(503) 661-2164 - www.troutdalehistory.org
Reporting for levy funds	
Total levy funds received:	\$37,500
Date(s) levy funds were received:	\$18,750 – July 2014 \$18,750 – January 2015
Details for how levy funds have been spent and/or budgeted for:	<p>\$2273 archival supplies \$684 programs \$2022 website upgrade \$3287 telephone/communications \$1289 printing \$1,731 museums alarms \$3,868 museums electricity \$1676 museums natural gas \$16830 Total levy funds allocated in FY2014 \$20670 reserved for sustainability</p>
Summary of how levy funds are helping your organization “protect the collection of Oregon history documents and artifacts, and public access to those.” (taken from ballot language for Measure 26-118)	<p>The Troutdale Historical Society (THS) maintains three museums: Harlow House, Depot Museum, and the Barn Exhibit Hall.</p> <p>Levy funds have materially assisted the Society in digitizing our photo collection, an irreplaceable repository of local historical images.</p> <p>Our photo archive now numbers more than 5,000 pictures. Among our recent work: preparation of a public presentation on an early woman photographer in East Multnomah County, Mary Bourgeois Wright; continued study on burial customs, this time focusing on our cemetery trip to Astoria with Scandinavian/military/maritime burials; updating of all current curatorial work on artifacts, completed in January 2015 by Mary Bryson; preparation for a series of programs relating to how World War II changed East Multnomah County, set for 2016, including great changes in the diversity of population, the creation of Reynolds Metals, and setting a Reynolds Metals workers' reunion and program in Oct. 2016; continued research on the everyday individuals who hand built the Historic Columbia River Highway for our <i>King of Roads</i> exhibit opening July 18; creation of a monthly and seasonal display in the Depot Museum.</p> <p>THS endeavors to reserve a substantial portion of the levy funds to cover future operating expenses. The levy funds are helping THS to continue its mission to "...stimulate interest in and knowledge of the locality's past."</p>

Summary of how levy funds are being spent in a manner reflective of Multnomah County's diverse cultures.

THS is active in protecting and researching Native American sites in and around Troutdale, including a newly-rediscovered Native American trail researched and documented by two THS members, Larry McGinnis and Dave Wand.

We preserve, through oral histories, photos, and artifacts, information about the lives and contributions of Japanese-Americans in our community.

We encourage visits to our three museums by local school groups, entertaining and educating hundreds of students each year. Many groups are predominantly low income, representing a multitude of cultures, and opportunities such as visits to our museums are rare in their lives.

Once our newest exhibit, *King of Roads ~ Byway of the People* opens July 18th of this year, all Multnomah County residents will be admitted free for as long as we have levy support. Since our opening is timed with the annual Summerfest Parade in Troutdale, exposure to all cultures should result in a diverse mix of visitors to the exhibit.

Anything else you want the Levy Oversight Committee to know?

As a society that depends on volunteers for most of the work that happens within the society, we are very appreciative of the Multnomah County taxpayers for this levy. Volunteer hours and energy are spent on educational programs and projects.

THS raises funds as we are able, namely dues and donations, to help cover other expenses such as producing, printing, and mailing our quarterly eight page newsletter (*Bygone Times*), other communication expenses, maintaining a website, and paying for a part time director.

A fundraising campaign has enabled us to build a new exhibit, *King of Roads ~ Byway of the People*, celebrating the centennial in 2016 of the Historic Columbia River Highway. It is by far the most ambitious exhibit THS ever has mounted.

No levy money went to the creation of this exhibit, but the levy ensured THS's financial stability while exhibit fundraising was occurring. The exhibit is due to open in less than a month, and is rich in visual, auditory, and kinesthetic experiences for all age groups. Closed captioning will be added to the video portions at the earliest opportunity to enrich the experience for auditorily impaired individuals.