

**Oregon Historical Society (OHS) compliance with promises made in voter-approved Measure 26-118 as assessed by the Oregon Historical Society
Levy Oversight Committee (LOC)**

Ballot language from voter-approved Measure 26-118	LOC assessment of OHS compliance in FY <u>2015</u>		
This Multnomah County local option levy will keep the Oregon History Museum open 40 hours a week	Museum Hours: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change from 2014 		
and the Library open to the public 32+ hours a week	Library Hours: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change from 2014 • In addition to the 2014 library programs, the library is now presenting small series of library collection exhibits, not only in the library but throughout OHS. • 		
Avoiding closure and restoring cuts to service.	<p>In 2015, several promotions and new hires continue to restore cuts to services and improve our outreach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Library Technical Services Manager was promoted to Library Deputy Director in response to the needs of staff and continued excellent service to our patrons. • A Reference Specialist has been hired to assist patrons of the library for reference materials, information, and guidance. • Oral History project cataloger has been hired to clean up, organize and catalog our sound recording collections. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The levy funds have also made it possible for OHS to not make any further cuts to its services, and have given OHS the opportunity to look at ways to increase and improve its services to the public.		
It supports curation for the museum so that exhibits can be rotated and the collection and protection of Oregon’s historical artifacts and documents can continue	<p>Curation and Collection/Protection of Artifacts and Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Levy funds have allowed OHS to promote our Registrar to Collections Manager in charge of preservation and access of our 3-D artifacts and the work of the staff in preserving and protecting our collections.• To assist the Collections Manager, a Curator of Collections has been hired to prepare artifacts for proper storage.• The two new collections positions will greatly improve the desperately needed clean up, organization and cataloging of our museum exhibit collections which is also loaned out to other museums.• To continue to showcase relevant rotating exhibits, a Curator of Exhibits and Special Projects was hired for accuracy of content and exhibit display work.• Since everything in this world is digital, except a lot of historical collections, a Digital Archivist has been hired to lay the ground work on how our collections, once digitized, and be cataloged and stored in a “digital vault” that can be accessible to staff, other organizations and the world at large. This is a must if historical societies are to be relevant to the computer generations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•	

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	<p>This project will take a minimum of two years to lay the foundation of the vault before any digitization or storage can happen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through grants, an Archives Specialist was hired to process and catalog the Oregon Journal photographs. • The Library Deputy Director is working with the Chinese-American community to preserve their documents. 		
<p>Levy funds will also protect the collection of Oregon history documents and artifacts, and public access to those, at four East Multnomah County Historical Societies which together will receive \$150,000 of the levy each of the five years.</p>	<p>The four east Multnomah County historical societies have received their portions of the levy funds. Please see their individual reports on how they're utilizing the levy funds to protect and make their documents and artifacts accessible to their constituents.</p> <p>OHS continues to assist not only the four East Multnomah County Historical Societies, but to all museums across Oregon, known as OHS affiliates, with OHS staff knowledge and expertise, partnerships in programs, and collection loans.</p>		
<p>OHS levy funds shall be allocated in a manner that represents Multnomah County's diverse cultures.</p>	<p>This issue is of the utmost importance, not only to the LOC, but to OHS.</p> <p>Representation of Diverse Cultures: Diversity continues to be a focus for OHS in every aspect of its operations; from Board selection, employee hiring process, to exhibit displays and programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OHS is proud of its efforts to diversify the 		

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	<p>Board. Depending on whether you take the percentage of white only from the Census of 87.9% or white only, non-Hispanic percentage of 77%, OHS exceeds the diversity percentage of Oregon with 24% of its Board members as ethnic minorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We have also improved the aim of geographic diversity of the Board, with representatives from the Coast, Eastern Oregon, Southern Oregon, and Central Oregon.• We continue to improve the gender diversification of the Board, which currently is 25% female.• Every effort is made to diversify the ethnicity and gender of OHS staff. The Executive Team is 67% female, with 11% minority ethnicity. OHS staff is also representative of Oregon’s population with 15% of its staff of minority ethnicity and 60% females.• OHS’ rotating exhibits, along with its programs and events, have embraced all aspects of the Multnomah County population, and will continue to focus on diversity:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Wine Industry was represented in the <i>Clink! A Taste of Oregon Wine</i> exhibit from June 7 – September 20, 2014○ Men, women and machines that shaped our region’s geography and trade routes were featured in the exhibit <i>Working on the River: A</i>		
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	<p><i>History of Dredging</i> from May 1 – October 30, 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Utility industry was represented with an exhibit from PGE of <i>Powering Oregon: 125 Years of PGE</i> from December 15, 2014 – May 1, 2015.○ Photographers were showcased in <i>Place: Framing the Oregon Landscape</i> exhibit from November 8, 2014 – May 17, 2015.○ The third exhibit series at OHS produced by the Oregon Black Pioneers was on display from February 1 – October 4, 2015. OHS works in partnership with the Oregon Black Pioneers for exhibits and programs.○ OHS' programs and events have covered the multi-ethnic diversity of Oregon with programs such as <i>OHS Welcomes The Skanner Archive</i>, <i>Civil Rights Act of 1964</i>, <i>Oregon's Racial and Gendered Exclusions Compared to Contemporary Standards</i> are just a few examples.○ OHS' <i>Teddy Roosevelt Show</i> was taken around Oregon cities of Salem, Jefferson, Bend, Prineville, Rainier, Hood River, Madras, Beaverton, Tualatin and Lincoln City as a fundraiser or special program for the historical Societies. This was their program supplied by OHS for which the Societies did all the		
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	<p>planning and organizing for their community, with a little support from OHS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ OHS' famous lecture series, the Hatfield Historians Forum, was presented at Bend and Ashland in partnership with the historical societies as their fundraiser or special event. Again, they did all the organizing and promoting, with little support from OHS. ○ OHS is currently working with the Chinese-American community for a Chinese-American exhibit to be on display from January – June, 2016. 		
<p>The levy supports continuation of educational programs including free admission for every schoolchild to visit the museum and for all county residents - providing access to those previously unable to visit due to cost.</p>	<p>Free Admission: The Levy specified free admission to Multnomah County residents and to all Oregon school groups, effective July 1, 2011.</p> <p><u>Multnomah County Residents:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From January 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015 admission numbers for Multnomah County Residents saw an increase of 65% over the same time period in 2014. • 2010 total was 10,606; 2011 was 14,471; 2012 was 19,136, 2013 was 21,334 and 2014 was 23,109. <p><u>School and Other Group Tours:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From January 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015 OHS had an increase in K-12 school students with chaperones of 5% 		
<p>Free admission to Multnomah County residents</p>			

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	<p>compared to the same time period in the previous year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• College/Adult Group attendance fluctuates, depending on the subjects covered in college. No effort is put into promoting to the adult groups, hence the swings in numbers from one year to the next. For the same time period of January 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015, college group tours numbered 283 students and adult/senior group tours numbered 302 people. <p><u>Library Admissions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• From January 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015 admission numbers to the Library had an increase of 48% from the same time period in 2014.• Library admissions in 2010 was 1,391; 2011 was 1,516; 2012 was 2,067; 2013 was 2,086 and 2014 was 1,826. <p>Promotion of Free Admission to Multnomah County Residents: No change from 2014.</p>		
The Multnomah County Chair will appoint an independent citizens oversight committee – representative of Multnomah County’s diverse communities - to	The Levy Oversight Committee has met regularly.		

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review all levy expenditures and ensure dollars are spent as promised.			
In addition, Multnomah County will select an auditor for which OHS will pay to conduct annual audits of levy funds that will be made available to the public.	OHS has an annual audit that clearly represents levy funds and is made public. OHS' 2014 audited financials are available on line.		
This levy will fund nearly one-half of operations at OHS facilities.	Levy Funds as Percentage of Operations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In OHS' calendar year 2014, the levy funded 26% of operations 		
Other funds come from admissions, grants and private donations.	Fundraising Efforts: The Oregon Historical Society continues to look at every avenue for funds. We continue to fundraise through the annual funds appeal, annual History Makers Dinner, exhibit campaigns and planned giving programs that have been mentioned in the report for the last three years. We have also received grants from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collins Foundation of \$200,000 to implement the digital vault. National Film Preservation Foundation of \$14,600 for preservation of motion pictures. Murdock Foundation of \$210,000 plus \$150,000 from the Institute of Library and Museum Services (ILMS) for a new, 		

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	<p>permanent exhibit called History Hub aimed at all age of patrons displaying both low and high tech interactives showcasing content and displays of Oregon’s various ethnic groups. OHS is currently working in partnership with the Oregon Black Pioneers and Southern Oregon Historical Society. But partnerships will change as the display changes to focus on other diverse populations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Oregon Department of Education of \$44,000 for <i>Oregon Studies</i>.○ Spirit Mountain of \$5,000 for a digital history project.		
<p>To consistently provide the services promised to the voters, the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners will consider termination or reduction of the levy if the State of Oregon restores funding to OHS.</p>	<p>While OHS has received support from the state of Oregon, sustainable funding has not been restored.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● OHS will be receiving \$1.125M from the State of Oregon for the 2015 – 2017 biennium in six quarterly installments.		