



**OREGON  
MUSEUMS  
ASSOCIATION**

January 24, 2024

**Board of  
Directors**

Peter Kukla  
President

Stacy Nalley  
Vice President

Heather  
Christenbury  
Secretary

Janice Crane  
Treasurer

Natascha  
Adams

Val Van Alstyne

Rebekah  
Averette

Lydia Heins

Jessica  
Hougen

Eleanor Sandys

Kathryn Sinor

Dear Washington County Commissioners and Administrator,

I am writing today to urge you to support Five Oaks Museum by providing emergency supplemental funding to allow them to re-open their doors, which have been closed since December 29, 2024. This act would be vital to the continued operation of an important historical institution contributing to heritage and cultural education throughout Oregon.

The economic value of supporting Oregon's heritage institutions cannot be overstated. The report of Economic Impacts and Value of Oregon's Heritage Organizations and Events found that, in 2019, heritage organizations supported \$196.3 million in total economic activity. Heritage tourism acts as an important contributor for local economic development by supporting jobs in Oregon's leisure and hospitality sector and shaping the social and cultural landscape of communities around Oregon. In 2019, the nearly 3 million heritage visitors spent \$137 million, with a higher share of the visits being overnight. The Portland region led in visitor spending. During the 2020-2021 closures, Five Oaks Museum reached a national audience and has directly contributed to the region's tourism landscape since.

While recent data for 2022 suggests visitation and expenditures are returning to historical levels similar to before 2020-2021, economists working with the Cultural Advocacy Coalition estimate that recovery for these organizations will take 5 years; much longer than other businesses. **Now, more than ever, Five Oaks Museum needs county support.** Support they will return to the county through bringing visitors, providing jobs, and contributing to the shared purpose and identity that binds a community together.

We urge Washington County to support their county's museum in reopening as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Sinor  
OMA Board Member & Advocacy Committee Member

P.O. Box 8604  
Portland, OR  
97207  
oregonmuseum.  
org