

**Department:** Nondepartmental **Program Contact:** Eric Arellano  
**Program Offer Type:** Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Proposed  
**Related Programs:**  
**Program Characteristics:**

### Executive Summary

The Oregon Historical Society (OHS) is a private not-for-profit entity founded in 1898. Since 1899, it has received appropriations from 1) state government (except 2002-6) in recognition of its operation of the state history museum and a large Oregon history research library; 2) Multnomah County (\$335k per year, 1999-2003) as a participant in the county library levy; and 3) Multnomah County special purpose levy 26-118 in November 2010 that provides for levy support at the rate of \$0.05 per thousand of assessed value and renewal of the second five-year period at the same rate. The County plans to request renewal of the levy for another 5 year period through 2025-26.

### Program Summary

OHS operates the Oregon History Museum, the Davies Family Research Library, and educational programs for adults, families and school groups (and also serves as the Multnomah County history repository). After nearly a decade of cuts in appropriations, programs, and service hours, the levy funding (which started in 2011) has provided basic operational support, as well as funding to underwrite the improved hours of service in the library, free admission to residents of Multnomah County, improved collections development and care, and new and compelling exhibits and programming. OHS is committed to serving the diverse communities of Multnomah County and the State of Oregon, and it reflects that commitment in every aspect of its operations.

Four east Multnomah County historical societies-- East County Historical Organization, Gresham Historical Society, Troutdale Historical Society, and Crown Point Country Historical Society--will together receive \$160,000 annually from the levy proceeds. These funds are critical to the continued operation of these four organizations. The levy allocates the balance, estimated at \$3.2 million in FY 2020-21 to the Oregon Historical Society for its programs and operations.

In 2019, OHS opened a new 7,000 square foot permanent exhibit, Experience Oregon. The exhibit has received wide praise for how it honestly addresses all of Oregon history, including the mistreatment of minority populations. The new exhibit, Never the Less They Persisted: Women's Voting Rights and the 19th Amendment, was to open on March 13, 2020 but was subsequently closed due to the pandemic. We are the Rose City! A History of Soccer in Portland is another exhibit viewing that was cut short due to the pandemic. However, both exhibits are being held over to 2021 in the hopes OHS can be open to the public. Thanks to the levy funding, virtual public programs and events continued to serve our mission and engage a wide audience.

### Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer
Output	Multnomah County citizens admitted free of charge	31,298	35,000	907	1,500
Outcome	Improved library hours per week	32	32	32	32
Output	Increased number of public programs	326	330	152	200
Quality	Care of Collections through additional curator/registrar	3	1	0	0

### Performance Measures Descriptions

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and protests in downtown Portland the OHS saw unprecedented drop in attendance numbers and drop in programs and events. OHS was able to pivot to virtual programs and events once the decision was made to utilize the features available in the zoom program. Logistics and training took approximately month and a half after closure for virtual programs and events to begin.

## Legal / Contractual Obligation

Measure 26-174 provides the Oregon Historical Society with a five-year property tax levy at the rate of \$0.05 per thousand dollars of assessed value. Four east county historical societies (Fairview-Rockwood-Wilkes, Gresham, Troutdale, and Crown Point Country) will together receive \$160,000 per year from the levy proceeds.

This levy will will expire at the end of FY 2020-21. The County will be referring a 5 year levy extension through 2025-26.

## Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
<b>Program Expenses</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2022</b>
Contractual Services	\$0	\$3,403,091	\$0	\$3,436,940
Internal Services	\$0	\$7,500	\$0	\$7,500
<b>Total GF/non-GF</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,410,591</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,444,440</b>
<b>Program Total:</b>	<b>\$3,410,591</b>		<b>\$3,444,440</b>	
<b>Program FTE</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

<b>Program Revenues</b>				
Taxes	\$0	\$3,385,430	\$0	\$3,403,655
Interest	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000
Beginning Working Capital	\$0	\$22,161	\$0	\$37,785
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,410,591</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,444,440</b>

## Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$7,500 in indirect revenues.

This is a dedicated local option property tax levy collected by Multnomah County on behalf of the Oregon Historical Society (OHS). OHS receives no other County funding.

## Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2021: 10023 OHS Local Option Levy