

**East Multnomah County Historical Societies' Annual Report
OHS Levy Oversight Committee**

Reporting for FY 2016-17 (June 1, 2016 – May 31, 2017)

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| Your name and role: | Danielle Utter, Executive Director | |
| Historical Society you represent | | |
| Name of organization: | FRW Historical Society, dba an East County Historical Organization (ECHO) | |
| Contact information for organization: | dutter@echohistory.org 503-806-2868 | |
| Reporting for levy funds | | |
| Total levy funds received: | \$40,000 | |
| Date(s) levy funds were received: | 1/17/17 \$20,000 7/26/16 \$20,000 | |
| Details for how levy funds have been spent and/or budgeted for: | Archival | \$101 |
| | Outreach/Education | \$321 |
| | Repairs & Maintenance | \$1326 |
| | Staff | \$37,729 |
| | Storage | \$336 |
| | Website | \$120 |
| | Grand Total | \$40,000 |

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| <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> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECHO’s is in the process of renewed strategic planning, which incorporates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ infrastructure improvements to our garden and outbuildings to bring ADA access and community event space to the Zimmerman Gardens ○ increases to outreach/marketing efforts by heightening the awareness of the society, it’s historic homes, and its community education assets ○ mobile education units to bring history to area schools, as our current facilities are unable to accommodate large learning groups ○ and much more. • We are in the process of hiring part-time staff to increase public access to the Zimmerman House. Starting in late September/early October, our 1874 home will be open every Saturday and daily during most of the holiday season, weather permitting. • We are working with our current website developer to overhaul our current site and create a more user-friendly donations portal, plus more interactive member, volunteer, and educational pages. • We are also collaborating with City partners and the other historical societies in East Metro on projects such as the City of Gresham’s Heritage Summit, School Celebration Committee (preserving the history of soon to be demolished elementary schools), Fairview’s Festival on the Green and other City of Fairview events, plus we joined the Gresham Chamber of Commerce to connect with their local business community. • We also plan on joining the West Gorge Chamber this year to increase our tourism opportunities. |
| <p>Summary of how levy funds are being spent in a manner reflective of Multnomah County’s diverse cultures.</p> | <p>ECHO’s primary focus is the preservation and education of East Multnomah county history, and we recognize and value all cultures that contribute to this history. The levy funds are, and always will be, spent in a manner reflective of Multnomah County’s diverse communities.</p> <p>This includes ECHO taking steps to reimagine our exhibits to tell the stories of everyone who lived and worked on the Zimmerman farm, plus highlight the founding women of our area, e.g. Fairview is one of the few cities in Oregon that was founded by a woman.</p> |

Anything else you want the Levy Oversight Committee to know?

ECHO and its stakeholders are incredibly grateful to the Oversight Committee for their guidance in renewing the Levy in May 2016. We also cannot thank the residents of Multnomah County enough for passing the measure. They recognized the value of preserving local history by such a wide margin, it is nothing short of astounding. We want everyone to know that we are striving to be good stewards of not only the funding, but of that good will.

We are focusing on becoming Oregon storytellers with a local lens. We hope to show how our area connects with the larger themes of our state/region. Our stories include, but are not limited to, the Oregon Trail, the Vanport Flood, women's rights, and the changing socio-economic climate of the Metro area. We have interesting history to tell, and we are excited to share them with your support.

So far, this year, ECHO has attained several key achievements we would like the committee to know:

- We invested in our full-time staff person to ensure ECHO's future of becoming more community relevant.
- This commitment to relevancy allowed us to grow our board from 3 to 7 people within six months.
- We strengthened and grew relationships with community stakeholders, most notably with our city partners (Fairview and Gresham) and business communities (Gresham Chamber of Commerce and Friends of Fairview) creating new opportunities for outreach, marketing, donors/donations, volunteers, members, and project funding.
- Access to offsite storage, which we plan on increasing to better protect our society's collection and create meeting/work space to begin crafting our new exhibits.
- Protecting our collections is paramount and we enhanced our security system at the Heslin House.
- ECHO is embracing more technology to engage a wider audience. This will hopefully create a pipeline of future volunteers, members, and visitors to our historic structures.
- In addition, our new board is beginning to overhaul our bylaws, policies, planning, and processes to solidify our foundation and create our amazing future.