

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

Reporting for FY 2017 (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018)

Your name and role:	Margaret Rice, President of the Board; Marilee Thompson, THS Treasurer
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:	\$40,000
Date(s) levy funds were received:	\$20,000 – July 2017 \$20,000 – January 2018
Details for how levy funds have been spent and/or budgeted for:	<p> \$2,310 Barn Museum Office Electrical Improvements \$ 210 Barn Museum Outdoor Lights \$1,476 Past Perfect Upgrade \$ 727 Barn Museum Security System \$2,324 Office Equipment – Library computers, scanners, and Color Printer \$ 460 Miscellaneous Office Equipment/Furnishings \$ 420 Fire Extinguishers \$1,069 Archival Supplies \$2,035 Museums Alarms \$2,889 Telecommunications \$4,811 Museums Utilities-Heating and Electricity \$ 889 Office Supplies \$ 727 Advertising, Displays, Signage \$2,367 Printing \$ 957 Postage \$ 55 Reference Material \$1,147 Facility and Equipment Maintenance \$1,557 Professional Services \$13,570 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)

The Troutdale Historical Society (THS) maintains three museums: Harlow House; the Depot; and the Barn Exhibit Hall – Byway of the People. During FY 2017. The Levy helps in funding our alarm systems, heating, electricity, and telecommunications for these three museums.

Collection - THS embarked on an ambitious collections management plan to improve the accessibility, organization, and availability of our photos, objects, documents, and books. Computers and Past Perfect were upgraded, scanners and supplies were purchased. This enable us to network three computers and begin the digitization process; which includes 50 years of historic research by Sharon Nesbit. Seven volunteers share three networked computers to update and improve the data on the Photo and Objects Collections.

Safety and Security - A surveillance system was installed at the Barn Exhibit Hall to improve the security and safety for the employee and volunteers. Fire Extinguishers were tested and replaced as needed in all three museums. Increased outdoor lighting to improve safety and visibility was added to the Barn Exhibit Hall.

Improved Office Occupational Safety – Museum office required electrical improvements with the increase of office equipment. An ergonomic office chair and keyboards were added to reduce physical injury/fatigue to office personnel.

Building Maintenance – Ongoing maintenance is required on the Harlow House, a farmhouse built in 1900. Levy funds helped maintain the Harlow House Museum through insulate/fix/paint windows and shutters, repair rotting porch, and remove moss from walkways.

Grant Funds – The Levy helped raise matching funds to secure grants from Metro’s and Troutdale’s Community Enhancement Project to install a new sign at the Barn Exhibit Hall. This sign, designed to reflect the rock work of the Historic Columbia River Highway, improved visibility and awareness to the Barn Exhibit Hall.

Community Outreach Programs – The Levy funds allowed THS to provide monthly programs of speakers on local history. Three additional programs were provided in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of THS. These programs brought awareness of the history of THS and its contributions to Troutdale and its surrounding community over the past 50 years. Three summer outdoor Barnyard Concerts featured local musicians were provided free of charge to the community

	<p>during the Troutdale First Friday Artwalk.</p> <p>In these and many other ways, the levy funds help THS to continue its mission to "...to stimulate interest in the knowledge of the locality's past."</p>
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<p>Summary of how levy funds are being spent in a manner reflective of Multnomah County's diverse cultures.</p>	<p>THS is active in protecting and researching Native American sites in and around Troutdale. Presentations are given to local schools on the history of Native Americans from this area. We preserve, through oral histories 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. Such tours are offered without charge. Many groups are predominantly low income, representing a multitude of cultures, and opportunities such as visit to our museums are rare in their lives. We are visited by senior centers and adult foster care tour groups offering accessibility for ease of navigating our museums and special attention to their needs. THS volunteers vary in age from High School/College students to retired citizens. Male and female volunteers contribute to the success of THS.</p>
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Anything else you want the Levy Oversight Committee to know?

The volunteers at THS are very grateful and appreciative to the Multnomah County taxpayers for this levy, and for its renewal in 2016.. With funding like this, more volunteer hours and energy can be spent on educational programs and projects. In addition to the items listed above, THS raises funds, including dues and donations, which cover other expenses including, producing our newsletter (Bygone Times), communication expenses, maintaining a website, and paying for an Executive Director (36-40 hours/week).