

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

(Reporting for FY 2018-19, July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019)

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|---|---|---|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|------------|------|----------|---------------------|----------|------------------------|-------------|
| Your name and role: | | Evan Smiley, Museum Director, and Leslie Radke, Treasurer | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Historical Society you represent | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Name of organization: | Gresham Historical Society 410 N Main Avenue Gresham, Oregon, 97030 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Contact information for organization: | director@greshamhistorical.org | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reporting for levy funds | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total levy funds received: | \$40,000.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Date(s) levy funds were received: | August 3, 2018 \$ 20,000.00 January 25, 2019 \$ 20,000.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Details for how levy funds have been spent and/or budgeted for: | <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Balance forward 7-1-2018</td> <td>\$ 2,426.10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Levy funds August 3, 2018</td> <td>20,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Levy funds January 25, 2019</td> <td>20,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Payroll and Payroll Services</td> <td>-35,868.84</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SAIF</td> <td>- 211.62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Collections expense</td> <td>- 846.46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ending balance 6/30/19</td> <td>\$ 5,526.93</td> </tr> </table> | | Balance forward 7-1-2018 | \$ 2,426.10 | Levy funds August 3, 2018 | 20,000.00 | Levy funds January 25, 2019 | 20,000.00 | Payroll and Payroll Services | -35,868.84 | SAIF | - 211.62 | Collections expense | - 846.46 | Ending balance 6/30/19 | \$ 5,526.93 |
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| 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>As mentioned in previous years, the levy funds primarily fund the museum’s one full-time paid staff position. Having a full-time staffer allows the museum to be open consistently, five days a week, which includes weekends and Fridays until 8PM. The Museum Director is responsible for day-to-day operations, collection management, and research assistance for guests. Since receiving levy funds, the Gresham Historical Society’s visitor count has increased by 1,000 visitors each year, with a total of 5,830 visitors in 2018 and expectations to surpass that count in 2019.</p> <p>In January of 2019, the GHS completed a multi-goaled accessibility project in its Research Room to ensure: 1) digital accessibility of all archival materials, 2) ADA-access and equal services to all guests regardless of physical ability, 3) to better house sensitive archival materials, 4) process backlogged archival materials. The GHS has begun tracking Research Room usage in 2019 and has served 55 researchers this year.</p> <p>The GHS is also using levy funds to better preserve its artifact collection. Funds have been used to purchase appropriate boxes and packing materials, and staff time has been used to write two successful grants totaling \$12,500 to improve its collection storage room. The grant projects will begin July 2019 and be completed April 2020.</p> <p>In 2019, GHS also implemented three necessary committees that are managed and coordinated by the paid museum staffer. These committees include: Collection Committee, Facilities Maintenance, and Development & Outreach. The creation and facilitation of these committees allows the museum to be a better steward of its collection and historic building, and better its efforts to share its work with the community through new events and promotional materials.</p> <p>Lastly, staff time has been used to upgrade the Gresham Historical Society website, which will be more accessible and provide more online information for folks who are interested in learning about Gresham-area history.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Summary of how levy funds are being spent in a manner reflective of | In December of 2019, GHS staff time was used to improve upon and existing exhibition that covered the history of | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Multnomah County's diverse cultures.

Gresham's Nikkei and Japanese American population. The exhibition now includes context of Gresham's Nikkei's positive influence on Gresham's agrarian economy, as well as addresses the unflattering history of race relations in Gresham before and after Japanese incarceration in WWII. The museum has received much positive feedback from guests for tackling an important though troubling history.

After completion of its grant projects, the museum intends to create more diverse exhibition content regarding other communities that have greatly contributed to Gresham's history.

Anything else you want the Levy Oversight Committee to know?

The Gresham Historical Society would like to emphasize the positive impact levy funds have had on the organization and our ability to fulfil our mission. The support from the Oregon Historical Society, the Levy Oversight Committee, the Multnomah County Commissioners, as well as the support from our other East County Historical Societies is indispensable for our success.